

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Raising children with eternity in mind brings clarity as to how we live toward the target.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

We steward the next generation so they can fulfill the purpose for which God created them.

TEACHING SUMMARY:

This teaching starts with the foundational understanding that God owns everything and we are His stewards. Children belong to God and are best seen as gifts from God for us to steward. Our purpose as stewards of our children is so they can fulfill the purpose for which God created them. The way we steward our children involves at least four ways: we discern the path on which they are to go; we understand their uniqueness; we identify their strengths; and we call out of them what God sees in them.

TALK IT OVER (DISCUSS ONE OR MORE):

What ... roles of your life / things that you own / relationships that you have ... do you struggle with to release control of to God? What about releasing control of people to God that you are upset with?

What is your dream for the children who are in your life? How are your dreams consistent or inconsistent with God's plans and path for them? What are ways you can release your dreams in order to embrace God's dreams?

How do you compare the children in your life with children in other families? What are the challenges of understanding the uniqueness of children when their uniqueness directly challenges your own comfort?

When children seem to consistently fail, how can you identify the strengths of your children?

When you struggle with your own calling, how can you call out of children what God sees in them? What can you learn about this struggle after reading 2 Chronicles 1:7-12?

After reading the teaching big idea (see above) what are your thoughts regarding the purpose for which God created your children? What about your thoughts regarding the purpose for which God created you?

OTHER SCRIPTURES TO READ:

Matthew 25:29

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Matthew 19:13-15