



STUDY GUIDE

ENCOURAGED 06.11.2017

[set up]

Who is your Spiritual Parent? If you are a Christian, who led you to Christ? Who was formative in seeing you grow up in Christ?

Have you ever led someone to Christ? Have you been a Spiritual Parent to someone? Can you share that story?

Should our LifeGroup intentionally invite a more mature/older person into our group? Should we intentionally invite a less mature/younger person into our group?

[digging deeper]

Read through this introduction to 1 Thessalonians found in the ESV Study Bible:
<https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-1-thessalonians/>

Of the seven aspects to avoid in a Spiritual Parent, what are you the most susceptible to? Which are you strongest in?

They are:

- 1) Error,
- 2) Impurity,
- 3) Deception,
- 4) People-pleasing,
- 5) Flattery,
- 6) Greed,
- 7) Glory-seeking.

This week Pastor Josh talked about being a Spiritual Parent – both what to avoid and what to strive for. Elsewhere, Paul lays out the qualifications for elders. These are similar but not the same.

Break into two groups. Each group will need one big Post-It note or a piece of paper. One group is to read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and list the qualifications of a Spiritual Parent. The other group is to read Titus 1:5-9 and list the qualifications.

What are the similarities and differences between the two lists? What is distinctive about the list in Titus?

Being an elder or pastor is both a spiritual responsibility and an “office” or biblical role. Ultimately everyone is called to be a Spiritual Parent, but not everyone is called to be an elder. Spend five minutes right now praying for the elders of CVC (Chad Allen, Doug Back, Tim Brooks, Ted Chase, Larry Domzalski, Wayne Douglas, and Duane Myatt).

[living it out]

Hand everyone a small sheet of paper and give everyone five minutes of private time to pray and ask God this thing: Who should I be a Spiritual Parent to? And who should be my Spiritual Parent? Write down a name if one comes to mind. If a name does not, then pray that God will show you the proper steps to take to become or find a Spiritual Parent.

How can you be a Spiritual Parent as a LifeHouse?