

COMMUNITY

Groups

The *not-so* Perfect Family

When Kids (and Parents!) Mess Up

Ephesians 6:1-4

September 24 & 27, 2026

DISCUSSION GUIDE

CONNECT

- For groups with any **new** members this session: Tell us your name, about your family, and how long you've been at New Heights.
- For groups with **all** returning members: Share a highlight from your summer.

NOTES

- Review the *Community Group Essentials* with your group - available in *Planning Center* under Resources. For new groups, this may take the entire discussion time. During this time, also decide on your Hosts ~ Leaders ~ Snack schedule.
- Each week you'll find 4 to 5 core questions designed to discuss and apply the heart of the passage & message. We'll include additional questions for groups to further their discussion or to share and apply during the prayer breakout time.

DISCUSS

1. Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and Hebrews 4:16. What stood out to you from these passages and this weekend's message?
2. Ephesians 6:1 calls children to obey their parents "in the Lord." This describes *how* we obey, not *who* we obey – our ultimate submission is to God. How does this shape the way you view authority and submission, whether as a parent, child, or in other relationships?
3. Corey said: "The heart of God must infuse my parenting more than the heat of the moment." Where in your relationships – with your children, your spouse, your co-workers, or friends – do you find yourself reacting in the heat of the moment? What does it look like to pause and let God's heart lead instead?
4. Punishment asks, "How can I make them pay?" while biblical discipline asks, "How can I help them become who God created them to be?" Which motivation more honestly reflects your response when someone under your care does wrong?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. "The goal of parenting: **Show** God's heart, **shepherd** their hearts, and **shape** our hearts." What do you like about this statement? What do you still have questions about?
2. What are some practical ways we can show honor and respect to our parents and the people who have shaped our lives?