



## PART 1: WHAT ARE MY BOUNDARIES?

Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

### INTRODUCTION

Whether you have a 5 year old child or a 25 year old child, they all want to know the answer to this question. They don't ask it, but they want to know it. Boundaries are what define us. Think of it as lines or fences. They define what is me and what is not me. A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins. It helps me to know what is my responsibility and what is not my responsibility.

A child needs to know where they begin, what they need to take responsibility for, and what they don't need to take responsibility for. If they know that the world requires them to take responsibility for their own personhood and life, then they can learn to live up to those requirements and get along well in life.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you grow up under strict parenting or loose parenting? How did that shape you as a person now?
2. People with unclear boundaries often take responsibility that is not theirs or don't take responsibility for their own life. They say things like "I don't have a choice, She made me feel bad, etc..." Imagine playing your favourite sports but without boundary lines. It wouldn't be much fun, would it? Why do people cross boundary lines in life?
3. Read Ephesians 6:1. This is the only command directed specifically for children.
  - a. What does this verse tell you about the main responsibility of parents?
  - b. If children don't learn to obey their parents, who else won't they learn to obey?
  - c. We, as parents, are commanded to obey God. But kids have to obey their parents. Which means that until they are 'of age', we, the parents sit in God's place for our children. Does this scare you?
4. Ps. Daniel shares 3 ways to discipline your children: (1) Model the behaviour you want to see - 1Cor 4:15-16 (2) Discipline in love - Hebrews 12:5-6, 11 (3) Separate the behaviour from the child, guard their heart - Proverbs 4:23.
  - a. Read the above verses. What is God saying to you through those verses?
  - b. Which of the three things above is easiest for you to do? Why?
  - c. Which of the three things above is most difficult for you to do? Why?
5. Parenting is not for the faint of heart. We are often overwhelmed by the task. James 1:5 says "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." As a group, pray for each other and ask for God's wisdom.

### MOVING FORWARD

Major Goal of Parenting: To love your child and develop their character for the future. Don't just parent in the present but for the future as well.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

"My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." (Hebrews 12:5-6 NLT)