



**Leader Note:** While Sunday's message was specifically about parenting, it can apply to those who aren't parents as well. For those in the group who may not be parents, these themes of surrender and dependence on God can still apply to other areas where someone is trying to "grow" something.

1. Share with the group about who you are parenting. Tell them a bit about your kids. Or, for those who are not parents, share what area of your life you will use as the lens for this discussion.
2. In the message we said that parenting is not a "risk-free 100% satisfaction guaranteed" endeavor, even though we might treat it like that sometimes. In what ways have you subconsciously applied a formula that says "If I do X, my child will definitely be Y"?
3. Hannah made a verbal commitment to give Samuel back to God before he was even born. What is one specific area of your child's life (their health, their faith, their future, their personality) that you find hardest to unreservedly surrender to God?
4. We list children as dependents on our taxes, and they are certainly dependent on us, but parenting is actually a training ground to make us more dependent on God. How has a recent parenting challenge forced you to rely on God? Or, what parenting challenge are you facing in which you are struggling to depend on God?
5. Here is the excerpt from Naomi Aldort's book *Raising Our Children, Raising Ourselves*. What feels relevant to you in this parenting season? Why? What do you think God wants you to notice about yourself?

**"When a child pushes your buttons, he is showing you where you are not yet free. He is providing you with a map of your own emotional healing. If you feel a surge of anger or a need to control, that is your signal to stop looking at the child and start looking at the thought that is causing your pain. The child is not doing anything to you; he is merely reflecting the war going on inside of you."**

- 6. Parenting often sits at the intersection of grief and gratitude. Where are you feeling "the ache" right now, and where are you finding "the sweet"? How do these two coexist for you today?**
- 7. If we stop measuring our success by how the kids turn out, and start measuring it by who we are becoming, how does that change your perspective on what you have maybe characterized as your failures as a parent?**
- 8. Read Hannah's prayer together. (1 Samuel 2:1-10) What stands out to you and how might you hold onto this phrase or concept with a heart toward surrender and dependence on God as you parent in this season?**