

flourish

GROWING IN GOD'S GARDEN OF GRACE

DATE: May 7, 2023

RECAP: In this week's sermon, we focused on the topic of parenting and what it looks like to flourish as a parent. Whether you are a biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, or spiritual parent, it is helpful to understand what it looks like to parent in alignment with the grace and example of God. Through the Spirit's enabling power, we are invited to walk in who God has created us to be as parents and allow Jesus to live in and through us.

As with all seasons and life stages, we flourish in parenting when we live upward, inward, outward lives. First, we learn to parent by God's example when we lean into His love as our Father and learn to love Him completely. From there, we are graced with the ability to love ourselves correctly as parents. This helps us see our children with the compassionate love with which Jesus sees us.

When we model the love of Jesus, we can flourish in our various roles and spaces of our lives. As we see God the Father as the perfect parent, we can rest in His love as imperfect parents.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Some of us walking through this conversation guide may already be parents, some may be hoping to be parents, and some may be currently parented by our moms and dads. Regardless of the season you're in, how does seeing God the Father as the perfect parent change the way you live today?
- For those of us who are already parents, what is the most rewarding part of parenting your children? What is the most challenging part? What does it look like to invite God into both of these aspects of parenting?
- For those of us who are not parents or who are desiring to be parents, what does it look like to live as spiritual parents to those around you?
- Read Romans 12:18. What does it look like to parent with peace as the goal?
- How have you seen God meet your needs as your Father?