

discussion guide for June 17th

“Prayer of a Wounded Parent”

1 Kings 17:17-24 (p. 432-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

All of us are either parent's or we had parents. (No one in your group was hatched were they?) Sometimes offspring drift away from God. If you don't yet have children, or your children are too young to reject your beliefs, lifestyle, or values, you probably remember a time when you or your sibling "wounded" your own parents.

Begin discussion today with one of the following questions:

- Can you describe a time when you or a sibling may have "wounded" your parents?
- Can you share any way your own children are currently "wounding" you?
- Do you ever take the responsibility for your children's personal decisions? Is this right?
- Did your parents ever take responsibility for your actions? How? What resulted?

**"DSB"=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Pastor Tom found several parallels in 1Kings 17:17-24 (p. 432-DSB*) to the situations hurting parents face.

1. A Parent Grieves Over a Child Who Strays

- The Bible describes life separated from Christ as a kind of death. Read Rom. 8:6-8 (p. 1496-DSB*), Eph. 2:1 (p. 1560-DSB*), and 1 Jn. 5:12 (p. 1654-DSB*). In what ways is life apart from Christ like death?
- "Bereavement" means "to be robbed." Do parents feel "robbed" if children reject Christ? Why?
- What words in 1 Kings 17:18 (p. 432-DSB*) indicate grief? How is grief expressed?

2. Religious Commitment is no Guarantee

- The widow was faithful. When bad things happen to faithful believers, they may feel God didn't keep His promises. Why is this view incorrect?
- What does God say to those who feel He has let them down? (See: Isa.43:2 (p.925); 53:5 (p.943); 59:1 (p.952); Rom.4:20-21 (p.1492); and 8:28 (p.1498-DSB*))

3. Parent's Often Play the "Blame Game"

- Pastor Tom said, "Parents should not assume the blame of a child's bad choices." Do you agree?
- Why is "if only" not a productive activity? What can you do instead?

4. Parent's Must Entrust Children to God

- Why is God better equipped to deal with those far from Him? What actions might He take? How do Elijah's actions in verse 17 symbolize God's?

5. God Can Restore a Child to Spiritual Health

- If you know someone who returned to Christ after a season of rebellion, describe that experience as an encouragement to others in your group.

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

- Is there an open wound you may be responsible for with your parents? What do you need to do to help heal that relationship? _____

- Are you habitually assuming responsibility for your child's bad decisions? What do you need to do? _____

- Has trust in God slipped because you feel He let you down? What do you need to tell Him? _____

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for any wounded parents in your circle, and for their child.
- If you need to take some action toward your parents, ask the group to pray for you.
- Prayer needs of people outside the group.
- Prayer needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving _____ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the “*Savor*” section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving a daily e-mail, [Sign up for “The Daily Cup” e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org](mailto:herb@hbcaustin.org)

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

You examined truth concerning how do deal with wounds between parents and children. These scripture passages and questions will help reinforce those truths.

Monday, June 18: Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, (p.1517-DSB*). Is there any condition of man beyond the cleansing ability of God? Is God able to draw those who are far from Him? How should you pray?

Tuesday, June 19: Read Hosea 11:1-8: (p. 1161-DSB*). Do the words of Father God through Hosea reflect a parents heart? What did God feel when Israel rebelled? What did Israel do that was so wrong? What is God willing to do to reclaim what was His?

Wednesday, June 20: Read Jeremiah 31:29-30, (p. 1016-DSB*). How does the first verse indicate the truth that people tend to want to blame others for their discomfort? What does God say that refutes that idea? What are we to do when others disappoint us? Can a parent accept the blame for the child's choices?

Thursday, June 21: Read Luke 15:17-24, (p. 1369-DSB*). What brought the son to his senses? What was the position of the Father? How did the Father respond? How should we deal with those who have drifted away?

Friday, June 22: Read Genesis 22:1-2, (p. 30-DSB*). Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son? Why is it a good thing to give our children to God's care? What is the part of the parent? What is the part of God?

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