

Date: January 22, 2012

Name: Rob Hogendoorn

Talk Title: "Somethin's Not Workin'...with My Family"

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### 1. Sunday Summary:

The word "family" evokes a wide range of emotions and thoughts in us. For many of us, family is a wonderful, nurturing and positive setting in our lives. For others of us, family is a place of dysfunction, disappointment and conflict. A huge responsibility for creating healthy, life-giving families rests with parents, and so this week we'll be discussing and exploring what the Bible says about raising kids in an environment of health, wisdom and love.

### 2. Connecting Questions:

- What were your thoughts during the drama in this week's service? How do you think you would have responded in the moment the drugs were found, and the son was giving his version of what happened?
- Looking back, what was one of the strengths of the family in which you grew up.

### 3. Truth Questions:

- Rob's lead off verse in this week's talk was (Proverbs 24:3) "*It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong.*" Tonight we'll reflect on the wisdom perspectives Rob spoke about.
- If you are a parent, share with the group which of the four parenting tasks Rob talked about comes most naturally for you. If you're not a parent, which one do you think would be most natural for you?
  - #1 Prepare Your Kids for Life
  - #2 Protect Your Kids in Storms
  - #3 Play with Your Kids for Fun
  - #4 Point Your Kids to God)
- Now the harder one: Which one comes least naturally to you?
- Have someone read Ephesians 6:1-4. What core principles of family life and parenting do you see being communicated?
- The Bible commands Christ-followers to be intentional about values formation and spiritual formation in our children. Take some time and share ideas on how families can do a better job of this important task.

### 4. Transformation Question: (1-2 Taking it Further, Life Application Questions)

- Close by considering again the verse in Luke about Jesus's upbringing: "*Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and with man.*" (Luke 2:52). Even though none of us is raising a Jesus!,
- End with a prayer for the parents represented in the group to be raising their kids with a view to their intellectual, physical, social and spiritual growth.
- Pay attention to which of these four functions you feeling most convicted about through this discussion. Pray for clarity and strength in improving in this area in the coming weeks.

