

# Small Group Study Guide

Your Pain, Their Gain |

John 17:1-7

From Sunday June 21, 2020

## Appetizer:

**Question:** Share with group something that you almost accomplished... but then didn't because it was too hard.

**Question to any parents in the group:** If you knew then what you know now, would you still have kids?

**A couple questions from the passage:**

**Have someone read John 17:1-7**

**Questions of curiosity (not necessarily having to do with parenting!).**

According to the passage, what is eternal life?

What did Jesus reveal to his disciples? How?

## Main Course:

It's not easy being a parent. In fact, there is a lot of personal sacrifice that goes into parenting, and often it can be seen as a thankless job. And kids never stop being kids, even when they are adults with kids of their own. And so the sacrifice is still there. And yet, there is a great reward that comes with parenting: the pain in sacrificing our personal ambitions is worth the gain that comes from influencing our kids in the ways of God.

It was suggested in this week's sermon that we can follow Jesus' example as dads by participating in His mission that his father gave him. The mission was to (1) Glorifying God and (2) Reveal God to his followers.

**Question:** What is Jesus referring to when he says, "The hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."?

**Question:** In this context (although we are not Jesus), how can a parent glorifying God as they parent their children?

**Question:** How do we reveal God to our kids as parents?

It was mentioned in the sermon that we can continue to show our kids the ways of God by giving "dad advice" that includes personal sacrifice and putting God first. These five suggestions are common practices that many cultures around the world use for male initiation. These lessons when learned help a boy become a man (but I imagine it works just fine for female initiation as well).

**Discussion:** Mention each lesson and then ask the group why these lessons would be life-giving for a child to embrace. Also ask for each lesson: how would a parent teach this principle to their kids?

1. Life is hard
2. You are going to die
3. You are not that important
4. You are not in control
5. Your life is not about you

## Dessert:

**We never stop praying for our kids. Take time in the group to share your hopes and dreams for your children (or children in your circle of influence: grandchildren, nephews or nieces, neighbourhood kids, the church's children, etc). Assign the names to different group members and have the group pray for all the kids mentioned.**