

—Session One—
Raising Children of Character

OVERVIEW

- ‡ The parent's task is to develop a little person into an adult. The issue along the way is not simply about the child's being good, but about having good character.
- ‡ Character is *the sum of our abilities to deal with life as God designed us to.*
- ‡ As a child grows up, parents transfer more and more freedom and responsibility from their shoulders to their child's.
- ‡ Growing character in children always involves the elements of development and internalizing.

FOUR FUNDAMENTAL FACTORS IN EFFECTIVE PARENTING

- We provide a road map for creating *character* in our children—the ability to function as God designed them to function in the world.
- There are four fundamental factors in effective parenting:
 - *The value of love.* Relationship is central to parenting. To develop, your child is going to need to be deeply related to you and others, and you are going to have to keep relationship as a goal of her development.
 - *The value of truth.* Children cannot be loved too much, but they can be disciplined too little. As a parent, you are a dispenser of truth and reality. The goal is to have your child become a person of truth, living in wisdom.
 - *The value of freedom.* You must require responsibility from your children. Then you'll be helping them grow into free people who have learned how to use their freedom to choose good things—things like love, responsibility, service, and accomplishment.
 - *The role of God.* Character is never complete without an understanding of who one is before God. God gave parents the assignment of bringing up children to understand him and to take their proper place before him.
- Because children have free will, there is no guarantee that children will turn out right. You are responsible for the process, but God is in charge of the results. This series is designed to help you with the process.
- God's plan for parenting is outlined in the Bible. If you violate any of God's principles, both you and your child will pay.
- Pray hard, get lots of support, implement suggestions you'll find in *Raising Great Kids*, and enjoy your kids.