



## **WEEK ONE | MESSAGE TO PARENTS**

If you have been one, most would certainly agree that parenting well is the hardest job you will ever have. The stakes are astronomical, and the playbook seems to be ever-changing. If your children are parents themselves now or if you are just beginning your journey, like Russ said, your influence never ends. That's true even after you are gone. Good parenting will be remembered.

**Reflect on the idea of time being limited with children. How does, or did, this change your priorities as a parent?**

### **TALK ABOUT IT**

**Discuss the "marble jar" illustration. How did it affect your perception of time with your children?**

The old saying goes that you've got a limited window with your kids before your influence is over.

**How is that true?**

**How is that false?**

**Read Proverbs 1:8-9.**

**As a parent, do you tend to lean toward overcompensating, overprotecting, or overcontrolling when it comes to your kids? Share what that looks like.**

**How does your influence with your kids change as they grow older?**

**What did you think about the "Carpenter" vs "Gardener" approaches to parenting?**

**How can you learn to adjust your dreams for your children vs. reality as they grow up?**

## **APPLY IT**

**How can teachings from this message be applied to "parents-by-choice" or those without biological children?**

**As a parent, what do you think you are missing out on? God and do something about it.**

## **P R A Y**

Make this time an indispensable part of your group. It can be at the beginning, end, or wherever but don't overlook it. We have plenty to pray about.

- Pray together before you go home.
- Take requests, email them to the group, ask them to pray this week.