

**GOODLY**

**ANDREW LINDER**

**GOODLY  
PARENT**

**ING**

How To Raise Not Just Good  
But Godly Kids Through  
Heart-Driven Grace-Based  
Parenting

**SMALL GROUP WORKBOOK**

Copyright © 2023 by Andrew Linder.  
All rights reserved.

This workbook is designed to be used in a small group setting in conjunction with the book, *Godly Parenting In An Ungodly World*.

A book for each small group participant can be purchased on Amazon...  
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BX7J7HT6>

Bulk orders can be placed at a discounted rate by reaching out to [andrew@godlyparent.com](mailto:andrew@godlyparent.com).

This is a free resource.

Permission is granted to make as many copies as needed for your small group.  
Download print files of this resource can be found at [GodlyParent.com/resources](https://www.godlyparent.com/resources).

House To Home Books  
20231 State Route 9  
Pekin, IL 61554  
[www.housetohomebooks.com](http://www.housetohomebooks.com)

***To Small Group Leaders specifically:***

*This 30-page workbook serves as both a leader guide and participant guide.*

*It is designed to equip you with the tools needed to connect with your small group participants in a meaningful and effective way. It is also designed with flexibility to help you facilitate healthy conversation that goes in the direction most helpful for the parents in attendance.*

*Don't feel pressured to get all the content in with each session. Meet the parents where they are with each topic. And allow the conversation to stay fluid so long as it stays on track of genuinely benefiting parents.*

*Your goal is simply to lead a discussion that helps parents succeed in their current parenting situations, while at the same time shaping and shifting their parenting mindset toward a godly and biblical perspective.*

*Have your own highlights from each chapter and section to help direct the conversation. The more you can share personal stories and examples of how these principles have been (or have failed to be) used in your own life and parenting, the better.*

*Be real. Be transparent. Be vulnerable. And it's more likely that the people in your group will be as well.*

*Don't forget to utilize the additional free resources at [GodlyParent.com/resources](https://www.godlyparent.com/resources). There are many supporting articles and tools for each chapter that will help parents dive deeper into each session's topic.*

*If you need anything or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Praying for you as you start this journey of helping dads and moms become the godly parents their kids deserve!*

Andrew



# Godly Parenting | Session #1

*Godly Parents Raise Godly Children*

**Prep: Read Introduction & Chapter 1**

## **Group Kick-Off (start with any or all of these as desired)**

### **Break the Ice:**

- What is something your family enjoys doing that is somewhat unique to you? (travel, sports, food, recreation, hobbies, traditions, etc.)
- What is one takeaway that you highlighted or that stood out to you in this chapter?

### **Key Verse:**

*My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. Proverbs 23:26*

### **BIG IDEA:**

The key to GODLY PARENTing is very simply this: a godly parent.

### **Identifying your goal:**

If you're looking to get your car fixed, you're going to find a good mechanic. But if you're having health issues, you're probably going to go to your doctor, not your mechanic. Why? Your choice is a reflection of your goal. If your goal is to raise godly children, it starts by choosing personal godliness yourself. Because you will rarely ever lead your children beyond your own level of spirituality. A parent's consistent, godly life could possibly be the most powerful and compelling reason for why their children choose to follow faith more than anything else. Because more than your children will become what you say, they will become who you are.

## **What does a godly parent look like?**

Discuss these qualities of a godly parent from the book's introduction and what you think each should look like practically:

- A godly parent is a growing parent.
- A godly parent is a grace-based parent.
- A godly parent is a God-like parent.

Of these three, which one is the greatest struggle for you personally and why?

In the introduction, we discuss some of the differences between traditional Christian parenting (rules-based) and true Christian parenting (relationship-based).

- If you were raised in a Christian home, which type of parenting were you raised under?
- How do you feel this affected you *then* and how has it shaped your own parenting *now*?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- God commanded the Israelite parents to take what was already in their hearts and transfer it to their children's hearts and lives. In other words, God wanted change to start in the parents first, before he expected change in the children. More often than not, kids don't change unless parents do.

On page 2 of the book, it discusses Andrew & Charity's parenting epiphany:

"Like most new parents, in the beginning, we thought our goal was raising the right kid. But come to find out, godly parenting is actually the opposite—it's more about being the right parent. Most parents naturally think "My kids really need...XYZ", or "If my kids would just change, things would be different." But the reality is that good parenting is not so much about the kids; it's about the parents. We humorously, yet mistakenly, think that if our kids would just behave, we could be good parents. This is getting the cart before the horse. *The success of godly parenting is not about your kids. It's about you.*"

**"The difficult reality is that many Christian parents want godly children without the pain of discipline. These are the parents who want to change their children, but they don't want to think about having to change themselves."**

## Growth = Sanctification

A godly parent is a growing parent because God is always trying to sanctify you through your parenting.

- *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification."* I Thessalonians 4:3
- *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son."* Romans 8:29

I remember an elderly man in our church years ago who carved a detailed little boot out of a piece of wood. When asked, "How in the world did you know how to make that?" He replied, "Oh, it's easy. I just chip away anything and everything that doesn't... look like a boot." This is what God is doing with us through the sanctifying process of our parenting... chipping away at anything and everything that doesn't look like Jesus in our lives.

- What are some practical ways God uses parenting to sanctify us and make us more like Jesus?
- Read the Tripp quote on page 7. How does parenting sometimes bring out the worst in us by causing us to have to face our own selves and shortcomings in the mirror that need attention?

Discuss this quote from page 7...

*"Growth is a sanctifying process. We are always becoming more like Christ as we grow in grace and renew our minds through truth. This requires regular change. Godly parents are always growing and changing into more of who God wants them to be both as parents and as people. This process of sanctifying change*

inevitably spills over onto our children. As we grow closer to Christ, we naturally lead them to do the same.”

## Addressing the Invisible Suitcase

A huge part of allowing God to sanctify you through your parenting is addressing your “invisible suitcase” — all the stuff that you brought into your marriage and parenting from your own story of how you were raised, whether good or bad.

*“You cannot escape your own story. The parent you are today is due much in part to your story. Your parenting style, habits, and tendencies have all become a part of you based upon your own upbringing, childhood experiences, and parental influences. If we only operate by default, we will become our parents to our own children. Let that sink in.”*

- How has the way you were parented affected your own parenting currently, for either good or bad?
- Why is prioritizing your own marriage (as a part of your child’s future story) so important to the success of your parenting?

If you haven’t already, take time to do the self-evaluation on page 12 and 13 of the book before proceeding.

.....

Like all parents, yours most likely fell into one of three categories of parenting styles, and chances are that you will too. Here are the three categories:

- Authoritarian: over-parenting (“I’m the parent, so that settles it.”)
- Permissive: under-parenting (“I just want my kids to be happy.”)
- Authoritative: balanced and biblical parenting (“I am called to steward these lives well.”)

Identify which parenting style you were raised under.  
Now identify which parenting style you naturally lean towards.

Discuss this statement: The success of godly parenting is more about you than it is about your kids (The key to godly parenting is a godly parent).

As time allows, finish by discussing any “Heart of the Matter” questions on page 14.

### EXTRA NOTES:

---

---

---

---