

**LEADING LIKE A FATHER**

1 Corinthians 4.9-21

**GUIDES VS. FATHERS**

We live in an age of information. We have anything we need at our fingertips. Lots of information and instruction, but very impersonal. Paul recognized that the Corinthians also had many guides in life, but not many “fathers.” For Greeks, knowledge was power, but it lacked true caring leadership.

- Guides teach the mind, fathers shepherd the heart.
- Guides give information, fathers help with transformation.
- Guides tell you how, fathers come alongside.
- Guides focus on results, fathers focus on the journey.
- Guides speak as authority, fathers get on your level.
- Guides think in black and white, fathers get into the mess of life.

**We need to be less like policemen, and more like doctors.**

**PUNISHMENT VS. DISCIPLINE**

Paul alludes to a parenting analogy in verse 21. “Shall I come with a rod, or with gentleness?” Punishment points out wrongs and makes you pay. Discipline also points out wrongs, but helps you grow. One just comes with the rod, the other comes with gentleness.

Why is discipline superior to punishment? Because Christ has already been punished for us. We don’t need to “punish” our friends, spouses, or kids for their wrongs, because Christ was already punished for them. Rather than be the police, we need to be like doctors, shepherds, and more fatherly with gentleness as we correct and lead.

**Punishment is to make you pay.  
Discipline is to make you grow.**

Galatians 3.24 // John 3.16-18

The Law is given as a guide. It can’t save us, it can only point out right and wrong, and then reveals to us that we have a problem. Guides give information, but fathers come alongside to walk you toward a solution. The Law reveals our sin and points us to the Savior.

**IMITATE ME**

The church needs spiritual mothers. Women so given to the Word that they overflow with God’s truth and promises into the lives of younger women. We need more fatherly men who have a tough but tender approach to leading the other men in their lives. And not just to other believers, but serving as under-rowers and servants to even those who don’t like us.

1 Corinthians 4.9-13

**NOTES:**

**This Week’s Scripture to Memorize:**

**Hebrews 10:23**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

**ARE YOU NEW HERE?**

**WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!**

We’d love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

**WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?**

Our childrens’ ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

**JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL**

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.



## Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **1 Corinthians 4.14-21**. What stands out to you in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the difference between a guide and a father? \_\_\_\_\_

### Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Notice Paul doesn't use guilt tactics, which is common in a lot of discipleship motivation. Why can Paul not resort to guilt and threats? What truth about the Gospel from these verses can you preach to yourself when you want to beat yourself up? \_\_\_\_\_

### Repent and Confess

Condemnation and shame are bad motivators. They are slave drivers. What do you need to confess and repent of concerning this? Does your heart wrongly condemn you? Do you guilt trip others or act more like a policeman or critic, rather than be fatherly and gentle with them, even when they fail? \_\_\_\_\_

### Ask for Provision

We need a shift in how we approach the relationships God has given us. Paul says "imitate me." What specific attitudes of the heart or specific relationships do you need to ask God for help with? Do you exasperate your kids? Do you criticize your spouse? Do you judge your non-believing friends? Ask God for an increased gentleness or humility for your relationships. \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Life Mission

As "under-rowers" and stewards, God has placed us in and around the lives of many people who are currently cut off from Him. How might you become more gentle and gracious as a fatherly or motherly caring friend? Which relationships could you use prayer for to come along side them in a fatherly way rather than just a guide or a policeman? \_\_\_\_\_

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Make sure to end your time of prayer **Yielding with Thanksgiving** for God's sovereignty and plan for your life.



# LIFE MISSION

C H U R C H

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,  
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



## LEADING LIKE A FATHER

1 Corinthians 4:9-21 // May 6, 2018

## SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

