

RAISING GIANT- KILLERS

L E A D E R ' S G U I D E

RELEASING YOUR CHILD'S DIVINE DESTINY
through INTENTIONAL PARENTING

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While the daily lessons in each session of the *Participant's Guide* contain the author's insights that follow and complement those in the book, please note that this *Leader's Guide* material, and also the discussion questions in the *Participant's Guide*, have been prepared for you by Trish Konieczny and the editorial team of Chosen Books to assist you in your group study of *Raising Giant-Killers*.

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Organizing a *Raising Giant-Killers* Group

FROM THE EDITORS of Chosen Books: As you get ready to lead a group study of *Raising Giant-Killers* (RGK), you can organize your group in a number of ways. This section details several approaches you can take. Choose the approach that will work best in your situation. Whatever approach you choose, the goal is to guide your participants through the book, participant's guide and video segments in such a way that both as individuals and as a group, you finish this study with a better understanding of how to help release your child into his or her divine destiny through intentional parenting.

The *Raising Giant-Killers Curriculum Kit* contains all the materials you need to make that end result a reality for your group. By the end of your time together, your participants will have a solid biblical foundation that will help them intentionally parent their children to become giant-killers for the Kingdom of God.

It is one thing to understand parenting biblically and theologically, but it is quite another thing to engage in it effectively. Let your prayer be that those who go through this study with you will then pass on their values to the next generation through their parenting practices, so their children will go out and continue to do the things that Jesus did: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons . . ." (Matthew 10:8).

Parents who engage in that kind of intentional parenting in response to this RGK study will require an essential component—the presence of the Holy Spirit working in them and through them to help them accomplish all God has called them to in parenting their children with eternal perspectives in mind. Make sure to invite the Holy Spirit into your group meetings, and give Him room to work in you and through you as you lead the group through this study. Also make sure your participants know that their success in parenting is not about following formulas or being up on the latest child development theories. It is about their own relationship with their heavenly Father, who raises them up to become the very parents their children need so that they can grow up into all they are meant to be in Christ.

Let's take a look at the different ways you could organize and lead a *Raising Giant-Killers* study. If you have used any other Chosen Books curriculum kits, the pages ahead may seem somewhat familiar to you. If this is your first time

using such materials to lead a group, however, you will find these important details very helpful. As you formulate a plan, ask the Lord for His creativity and direction. Ask Him to show you the best way to put your group together, and then follow His lead.

Church Small Groups or Life Groups

Often a church will have small groups or life groups that meet regularly, typically in someone's home. Such groups provide an ideal setting for a *Raising Giant-Killers* study. If your church already has such groups in place, you could schedule this study as the topic for the next round of meetings. If small groups are not organized already, you may want to suggest forming some for the purpose of this study. Each group would meet for a total of ten or eleven sessions (usually once a week) to focus on the material presented in the RGK book and videos.

To facilitate group discussion, it works best to have at least four or five people in each small group, with a maximum of ten or twelve. Groups larger than a dozen make it hard for everyone to participate actively by giving input and receiving feedback. You should divide large groups into smaller groups or move toward a church class model (which we will discuss next). Here are the essentials for leading a small group study:

- A place to meet, which could be your home, another home or a meeting place that the church provides.
- Access to appropriate technology in the form of a DVD player/TV/computer large enough and loud enough for everyone to see and hear. (Not everyone will get the most out of the video segments if you play them on a small laptop at the far end of a big room.)
- A committed leader/facilitator who is familiar with the material and who will follow the Holy Spirit's lead as the group moves through the study. This could be an individual or even a team—perhaps husband/wife hosts or two church leaders working together. The leader(s) will direct the session meetings and perhaps call ahead to group members or send them online reminders about the meeting dates and times.
- A schedule for the group meetings to keep them flowing smoothly through the elements that will make up your time together—fellowship, worship, prayer, a video teaching, discussion and ministry time. (Two sections ahead, in “Planning Group Sessions,” you will see a sample schedule that would work well for group meetings.)

Once you put these essentials in place, set a date for your first session and start signing people up to take part in your group. At the end of this guide, there is a syllabus that you can copy, fill in and hand out to participants so they will have a schedule of your meetings and will know what to cover in their book and participant's guide in preparation for each group session.

Church Classes, Midweek Meetings or Sunday School

Beyond weekend services, most churches offer church classes, midweek meetings or some kind of Sunday school sessions to disciple their membership. These classes cover different topics and change their focus from time to time, and meeting times may range from midweek services to Sunday school classes to some other agreed-upon time like a Saturday morning Bible study. Any of these models could lend itself well to a *Raising Giant-Killers* study.

Since church classes are usually larger than the average small group, the discussion time may present more of a challenge, but leaders can still encourage dialogue among the participants. And because of time constraints, you may need to extend the number of weeks to allow sufficient time to work through this study. For example, a larger class could take two weeks to cover each session. One week, the class could watch the video segment for a particular session and talk about the principles presented in both the video and the book. The following week, the class participants could discuss their participant's guide answers and the group discussion questions involved in that session.

Although this curriculum kit is based around a small group model, a class approach certainly can be an effective way to get these principles across to a larger group already accustomed to meeting at a regular time. The participants' ability to become more intentional parents does not change based on the setting or the size of the group. Do not feel that you will be limited in your effectiveness if you adopt a classroom approach. If you give the Holy Spirit room to work and follow His direction, you can teach this study well in a variety of settings.

A Church-Wide Study

When a church's pastor and senior leadership decide to take the entire church through a *Raising Giant-Killers* study, it goes a long way toward building a culture of faith for parenting the next generation well. Weekend sermons can focus on the principles presented in this study, and leaders can show some video clips in the services. Then the church's Sunday school/midweek classes/small groups can all focus on some aspect of the study, perhaps watching the entire video segments together and discussing the participant's guide and video questions.

Leadership can present the church-wide approach as *40 Days of Advanced Training in Raising Giant-Killers* (reflecting the 10 sessions of 4 daily lessons each in the participant's guide). Each congregant should be encouraged to make the most of the church-wide focus by reading the *Raising Giant-Killers* book, working through the participant's guide and signing up to participate in some form of group session. (This approach is especially effective if a small group component is added to the overall church focus.) Participants don't need to be parents or grandparents themselves to benefit from this study; everyone in a church body will have children whom they can influence and encourage.

The church-wide study is a great way to get everyone in a church body moving in the same direction. As people progress through this material and realize that the

Father's heart is to help them parent children well, we will see a dramatic increase in the number of young giant-killers who become "like arrows in the hand of a warrior," waging war on the enemy and helping usher in the reality of "on earth as it is in heaven" (Psalm 127:4; Matthew 6:10). We will see this take place both within the walls of our churches and outside them, in the secular community full of people around us who need to hear the good news that the Kingdom of God is near and see it operating in multiple generations all around them.

The Individual Study Approach

Where there is no group study, class or church-wide focus available to join, individuals can use the *Raising Giant-Killers* book, participant's guide and video segments on their own to explore the importance and power of intentional parenting. With the Holy Spirit as teacher and guide, any parent (or any person involved with mentoring children) can learn from the Scriptures and this material about the biblical and theological foundation for intentional parenting.

No matter the age of your children, it is never too late to become a more intentional parent who has eternal perspectives in mind. No matter what your parenting has looked like in the past, it is never too late to start powerfully encouraging your children to fulfill their purpose and destiny in the Kingdom of God. Again, the Holy Spirit's effectiveness is not limited to a certain group or a certain setting. But if there is a group study to join, it is recommended that you take that approach because of the fellowship, encouragement and discussion opportunities such a group provides for you.

Leading a Group

WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE LEAD of the Holy Spirit, format should never replace flexibility. Yet in a group setting, the presence of the Lord is stewarded best in the midst of organization. As the group leader or class facilitator, it will be your job to oversee the practical preparations for your group study. You will be responsible to pray for your group ahead of time, watch over time considerations as you meet, and facilitate the flow of the meeting and ministry that will take place. Here are some guidelines that will help you prepare to lead this study and minister to each participant.

Prepare with Prayer

Your first step in leading a *Raising Giant-Killers* (RGK) group study involves preparing with prayer. As you get ready to meet with your group for the first time, pray for wisdom and discernment on your part about how to lead. Pray for increased understanding on the part of your participants about the spiritual principles you will be covering regarding parenting children intentionally. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you vision for what this study can accomplish in your life and in the lives of the participants and their children and grandchildren.

Session by session, pray for your meetings ahead of time, and pray for the individuals who will attend. Be ready to entertain questions, and be patient as you guide your group through these materials. For many participants, the idea that there is more to parenting than providing hugs, kisses, food, clothing and shelter will be new. Parenting with eternity in mind will be a brand-new perspective for them, especially if their mindset has been one of just trying to “survive” their children’s growing-up years. Many of the parents and even grandparents in your group will have much to learn, and the Lord is about to do a marvelous work in each of them as you work through these sessions together.

Prepare with Study

To lead your RGK group well, you should be studying this material *ahead of time*. Your first exposure to the biblical, theological and practical principles contained

in RGK should not take place in the middle of leading your group. By the time you meet for a group session, make sure you have already read the Scripture and book readings assigned in the participant's guide, watched the video segment that goes along with that session, read through the session in this guide and considered your answers to the "Session Discussion Questions." There are also "Video Takeaways" provided that you can review. Go in well-prepared. That way, rather than scrambling to catch up with the group (much less lead them), you will already be familiar with the study material, and you will be able to concentrate on hearing the Holy Spirit and following His lead.

In fact, it would be wise to work through this entire curriculum kit before taking on a leadership role, so that you are familiar with what is coming in each of the sessions. That will better prepare you to answer participants' questions, and you will also know when to direct the group to put a certain topic on hold until you reach the particular session that covers it. You will gain confidence and assurance in your leadership role when you study the material ahead of time, and you will know where you are going as a group and how you will get there. Be diligent to search out the truths contained in *Raising Giant-Killers* for yourself before you present them to your group study. When your participants see your grasp on the material and the practical skill with which you apply what you are learning, it will motivate them to be like you.

Prepare on a Practical Level

In addition to your preparation in prayer and study, you also need to prepare to lead on a practical level. While it is wonderful to focus on moving with the Spirit in a group setting, it will not benefit your group if you are so heavenly minded that you are of little earthly good in attending to the practical details of group leadership. Attending to the practical details will help things go much more smoothly in your group sessions. Having some kind of organization in mind and following it will actually help you steward the Lord's presence.

After you have chosen your approach from the previous section, determine a meeting place that has sufficient space for your group and appropriate audiovisual equipment for watching the video segments. Make your group setting as comfortable as possible. The more comfortable and practical you make the setting, the more people will look forward to the meetings without being distracted by issues such as not enough seating or inadequate, uncooperative equipment. When you take care of the practical considerations ahead of time, you minimize distractions and give yourself credibility as a leader.

Once you have your location ready, set a meeting schedule. Pick a time frame when your church calendar is not already full of other special events that will be taking up people's time. Participants, especially busy parents, will be more committed to attending your group regularly when they are not overcommitted in other areas. Check with other church leadership and the pastor(s) to make sure your RGK study does not conflict with anything else on the agenda, and then

choose a starting date. To make the best use of your group's time together, you should plan to follow the ten-session curriculum consistently and consecutively. (Or you may meet for eleven sessions, depending on whether you incorporate the optional Q&A bonus session.)

Once you establish a place and time for your study, pick a day of the week and a meeting time (unless those are already determined in a church class or the like). It is often a challenge to accommodate everyone's different schedules, so choose a day and time that will work best for the majority. You can always consider offering an alternate study at a future date for those unable to attend your current group.

Don't forget to decide ahead of time about other practical matters such as whether your group will include refreshments or will make provision for childcare. Planning ahead in these areas displays good leadership and eliminates a host of potential distractions. (The section just ahead, "Planning Group Sessions," talks more about the specifics of planning your group time together.)

Prepare to Get the Word Out

For a church-connected group study to succeed, church leadership must get behind it. Make sure your pastor and other church leaders are aware of your proposed RGK study and will endorse it. They can help you with the group launch by getting the word out. Use multiple means, if possible, to let people at your church know that a study group is forming and that they are invited to participate. See if an announcement can be made from the pulpit. Advertise the group on your church's website. Post a sign-up sheet and print flyers. Send out emails and post the event on your church's social media outlets. Make personal phone calls to individuals you sense should be involved in your group.

Prepare Co-leaders or Assistants

Often, people who are good candidates to become co-leaders or assistants will join your group. Once you have a list of the participants' names, prayerfully consider asking someone on the list who is spiritually solid and mature to back you up. He or she could help you during group ministry time or take your place leading the group in the event that you must miss a session.

Also think about which people on the list could assist with the practicalities. Is there someone who enjoys working in the kitchen? Could that person oversee the refreshments session to session or circulate a sign-up sheet for snacks so that you can attend more fully to the teaching?

Is there someone on your list who enjoys showing hospitality? Might that person open his or her home to the group meetings and take care of the physical environment for you so that you can attend to the spiritual atmosphere?

Is there someone who enjoys planning activities for children? Would that person be willing to oversee the childcare for your group, perhaps enlisting teens

or other helpers to take care of the participants' children during the two hours that you meet? This area may be particularly important to attend to in forming your group since many of the target participants will be parents. Anyone from Sunday school teachers to ball team coaches to grandparents can benefit from this study, but it is likely that many in your group will be parents with children in the home. You may have more participation if you can arrange convenient childcare as a group and meet early enough that your sessions do not last far past bedtime.

You do not need to do everything yourself to lead a successful group. In fact, it might be better if you did not do everything! There probably will be some people in your study group who simply want to come to the meetings, listen and learn, and go home, but others will be more than willing to help out if you ask them. They may even offer to help before you ask. Take them up on it. Let participants invest in the group by contributing their organizational skills alongside yours.

Prepare Your Participants

As participants sign up for your RGK study, let them know what to expect and what will be expected of them. It might be helpful before group sign-ups to fill in and copy the syllabus at the back of this guide, which can serve as an information sheet participants can take home as soon as they sign up. List on the syllabus the dates, time and location of your meetings, along with the materials everyone involved in the group will need. Participants should each have a copy of the *Raising Giant-Killers* book and *Raising Giant-Killers Participant's Guide*. They will not need to have the RGK leader's guide or the video segments/DVDs unless they plan to lead a group themselves in the future. You, however, will need each item to lead the group. You can purchase all the necessary materials together in one place in the *Raising Giant-Killers Curriculum Kit*.

If your church has a bookstore, inquire whether the staff can stock the *Raising Giant-Killers* materials during the course of your group study (and beyond). You could also make the RGK book and participant's guide available for purchase at your sign-up table, or at least have copies on hand for participants to look at so they can find and order the materials online. If you are able, it might also be a good idea to have a few copies of both the book and participant's guide available for purchase at your first meeting, in case any latecomers join who still need the materials. Get your group off to a good start by letting everyone who signs up know how to obtain the *Raising Giant-Killers* book and participant's guide quickly and easily so that they can get started with the study. With a little forethought, you can help them show up at your first meeting ready to dive into the study, with the materials they need already at hand.

As they sign up, also let your participants know that *before* the first group session starts, they should work through Session 1 in their RGK participant's guide. That is important so that everyone will be on the same page to begin with and you can

jump right in at that first meeting. The participants would then continue to work through one session per meeting, studying the material *prior* to each meeting. If you hand them a printed syllabus when they sign up, they will know exactly what to do prior to each session meeting, and they can easily stay on schedule throughout your study.