

# CURRICULUM STRATEGY

## “I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY KIDS TURN OUT OKAY.”

As we began work on *Single & Parenting*, we wanted to know, “What is the primary issue single parents want the curriculum to address?”

So we asked them.

Almost every parent we asked said something to the effect of: “I need to know how to make sure my kids turn out okay.”

We designed the *Single & Parenting* materials to address that concern from a Christ-centered perspective. Over the course of 13 weeks *Single & Parenting* helps parents Stabilize, Realize, Customize and ultimately Thrive.

Here’s a brief overview of how those four objectives relate to *Single & Parenting*’s content:

### STABILIZE (SESSIONS 1–4):

Before making huge changes in the way they relate to their children, single parents need to stabilize. This involves resetting their expectations for themselves and their children and reducing the chaos they experience. In Sessions 1–4, participants discover:

- They’re not alone; other single parents face equally challenging circumstances
- How growing up in a single-parent home affects children
- Simple steps they can take to encourage their children to obey
- The importance of taking care of themselves spiritually and physically
- How to build a strong financial foundation

### REALIZE (SESSIONS 5–8):

*Single & Parenting* also helps participants realize what God has to say about parenting and their emotions. Understanding His perspective on these issues lays the foundation for single parents to deal with the recurring challenges they face. They learn:

- What parenting goals they should have
- The importance of allowing children to learn from their mistakes
- What their emotions are trying to tell them

### CUSTOMIZE (SESSIONS 9–10):

Every child is unique. Wise parents customize their parenting to the unique needs of their children. In Sessions 9 and 10, they learn biblical parenting principles they can adapt to

## NOTES

Here are a few other ideas central to *Single & Parenting*:

- God loves our kids more than we do. So it makes sense to do what He recommends about parenting.
- There are no guarantees in parenting. We do our best, trusting God with the results.
- Despite our flaws and failures as parents, God loves us more than we can comprehend.
- God’s love for us (as opposed to feelings of guilt, fear, worry, etc.) is the best motivation for our parenting.
- God is a perfect parent. We can learn a lot from Him.
- Go after your child’s heart. The best shot we have at producing good kids is to touch what motivates them. The Bible calls this the heart.

## NOTES

suit their children. For example:

- Why giving out consequences and being consistent isn't enough
- Why it's important to address a child's heart
- Other options they have for responding to a child's disobedience
- What they can learn about parenting from reflecting upon how God relates to us

### **THRIVE (SESSIONS 11–13):**

In addition to challenges with their children, single parents face many other issues that can sap their energy or get them into trouble. The last three sessions help parents thrive in spite of:

- Conflict with another person
- Difficulties in co-parenting
- The various temptations and pitfalls associated with dating and single sexuality

Stabilizing, Realizing, Customizing and Thriving—the four stages of Single & Parenting. Understanding this progression will help you be a more effective leader.