



## INTRODUCTION

We are in the second week of our parenting series *Raise Them Up!* Parenting can be fun and overwhelming at the same time. Often what parents need is more confidence. Pastor John Fuller encourages us that confidence can come by focusing on three simple principles: nail down the identity issue, actively widen the circle and keep remembering love and safety.

## DISCUSSION

- 1. Share a memory of how a parent or someone significant in your life provided love and safety for you and the impact it had.
- 2. To "nail down the identity issue" means not finding our value in the performance of our children but in what Jesus says about us (ref. Ephesians 1:3-14 & 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17). Why is this easier said than done?
- 3. To "actively widen the circle" means to pray and invite other godly influences into your children's lives. First, who impacted you outside your parents? Second, share your best strategies for widening the circle.
- 4. To "keep remembering love and safety" means for children to experience home as a refuge. What needs to start and/or stop in your home for it to feel more like a refuge?
- 5. Wrap up your discussion by praying for one another's children.

## ACTION STEPS

- 1. This week, implement an idea or strategy from the discussion above. Next week, report how it went.
- 2. Be kind to yourself as a parent. Perfection is not the goal. You will make mistakes, and when you do, offer forgiveness to yourself first, then repair it with your child. A simple repair is owning your mistake and asking for forgiveness.
- 3. Invite a godly influence into your kids' lives by finding someone who can come alongside you. God has given you other people to help you on your parenting journey.

## RESOURCES

RightNow Media has 28 parenting studies. Pick one and commit to finishing it throughout the rest of the Raise Them Up! series.