

“THE TURNING POINT OF PARENTHOOD”
Series: Turning Points

- What are the joys of having children? What are the hardships?

- How do you think your mother’s life changed when she had you?

- What other kinds of relationships with children present some of the same challenges as parenting, creating some of the same opportunities for spiritual growth (or backsliding)? (Teachers, foster parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc.)

- What were the good things that came out in you as a parent? What were the bad things that came out?

- Read Luke 2:33-35. What sorts of things do you think pierced Mary’s heart with a” sword?”

- Read Matthew 12:48-50. How did this event affect Mary? How could she have responded negatively to this event? How did she eventually respond?

- How is parenthood (having children) a spiritual journey that helps us as parents grow to spiritual maturity? How might God be using parenthood as a part of our sanctification (spiritual growth – being set apart for Him)?

- Read Romans 7:15-20. How does this passage describe parenthood? What are the temptations?

- Read Galatians 5:16-25. How might we foster the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us during the stresses of parenthood?

- What positive spiritual changes have you experienced through raising your children?