



"Parenting by the Book"

Pastor Jason West | September 14, 2025

Ephesians 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.' Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

I. Resist _____ to Sin

Ephesians 6:4a "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger"

A. _____

Genesis 37:3-4 "Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him."

B. _____

C. _____ With No Encouragement

D. Harsh Words and Anger

E. Neglect

1. Absent _____

2. Absent _____

1 Samuel 3:13b "his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them"

II. Practice _____

(Hebrews 12:9-11)

Ephesians 6:4c "but bring them up in the discipline ... of the Lord."

Proverbs 13:24 "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."

Proverbs 3:12 "for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

Hebrews 12:7-8 "It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons."

A. Have Clarity and _____

B. Remain _____

C. Know the _____

D. Methods Should _____

E. Connect the _____

F. Encourage and _____

G. Maintain _____

H. Teach _____

I. Train Toward _____

III. Instill _____ Within

Ephesians 6:4b "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

A. _____ Your Kids to Know Jesus

Matthew 19:14b "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

B. _____ Them Daily

Deuteronomy 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

C. _____ Your Faith Tangibly

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

D. _____ God's Word Deeply

Deuteronomy 11:18a "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul"

E. _____ for Them Continuously

3 John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."



September 14, 2025

BACKGROUND:

Children are a gift from God and He cares about how they are raised (*Psalm 127:3; Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 23:13-14*) Being a parent is one of the most challenging yet rewarding opportunities one will ever experience. Thankfully, God gives us instructions how to parent well. Last week Pastor Tom looked at *Ephesians 6:1-4* through the lens of how children should relate to their parents. This week Pastor Jason focuses on God's design for parenting.

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Being a good parent is all about raising children who will follow your example in obeying and worshiping the Lord.

- a. Children can learn a lot from direct teaching. They learn even more by observing and imitating others. How can parents model obedience and worship of the Lord for their children to imitate?
- b. What kind of models were your parents? How did that affect your views on parenting?

2. Godly parents are to raise their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

- a. How would you describe the difference between discipline and instruction?
- b. Paul was intentional to combine discipline and instruction. How might this combination change a parent's view of their role?
- c. God disciplines His children (*Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:5*) and expects earthly parents to do the same (*Proverbs 23:13; Psalm 94:12*). How can disciplining our children conform them into the image of Christ?

3. Read Deuteronomy 6:7-9 and Proverbs 22:6

- a. How can a parent's lifestyle, and lifetime of teaching, edify the child in their faith?
- b. We don't always instruct alone. We also rely on others to teach our children about God. What are some Godly resources we can utilize to teach our children well?
- c. How can you encourage your children that they serve and honor God by honoring you?

4. In both the Old and New Testaments, God makes it clear that His children are to honor their parents and care for them. This may include caring for our aging parents.

- a. How does providing physical, spiritual and emotional support to our aging parents demonstrate God's love and grace to our own children?
- b. As an adult child yourself, how can you honor your parents? (If your parents are deceased, how can you honor their memory and legacy?)

5. In *Ephesians 6:4* and *Colossians 3:21* Paul instructs fathers (parents) not to provoke their children.

- a. To provoke means to arouse feelings of irritation, aggravation, or exasperation. What would be some reasons why parents should avoid provoking their children?
- b. What behaviors by a parent can provoke a child to anger?
- c. How has God demonstrated for us the type of parent He wants us to be?

TAKING IT HOME:

Psalm 127:3 reminds us that children are a “heritage from the Lord.” God places them in families and gives parents guidance in how they are to be raised.

- a. What is your goal within parenting?
- b. What can you do as a parent to equip your children to know God and honor Him with their lives?
- c. If you have a strained, broken, or estranged relationship with your child, how can this group or we as a church be praying for you?