

## *Raising Children God's Way*

# **Session 1: The Parent's First Responsibility**

### **Ephesians 6:4**

*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

### **Where to Begin**

God's instruction to parents does not begin with what to do; rather it begins with what not to do. The first requirement for parents is "provoke not your children to wrath."

### **Colossians 3:21**

*Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

God's instruction to parents begins with what not to do; so, obviously there is a wrong way to do this.

### **A So Called "Enlightened Approach"**

The modern wisdom of this world misrepresents, abandons, and condemns God's loving method for raising children. Increasingly, the belief that an adult should control a child is in itself considered wrong, as well as all practices that attempt that end.

### **Child Neglect**

Faced with the uncontrolled and destructive behaviors of their children, and feeling inadequate and unequipped for the role, parents increasingly abdicate the real responsibility of parenting to teachers, child psychologists, governmental agencies, and other designated experts in the field of child development. However, God did not give that responsibility to those people. He gave it to parents. And it is a responsibility that no parent should ever neglect.

### **Ephesians 6:4**

*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

As believers we need to realize just how vital our responsibility to train our children is. It is more than just their academic education, or even their physical health; it is their eternal life that may be affected.

### **The Image of Abuse**

For the majority of people in our society today, spanking is synonymous with child abuse. Who can blame them? They have repeatedly been shown the image of the parent who is totally out of control; enraged, screaming and beating the living daylights out of their child. That kind of frustrated, angry retaliation misrepresents God's method to the point of convincing most people that any use of the rod is wrong. It is a very wrong application of the truth and it will do harm. It will provoke a child unto wrath.

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 1: The Parent's First Responsibility**

**James 1:19-20**

*19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:  
20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*

For most people, when it comes to child abuse, the greatest danger is not in their hand, but their tongue.

**James 3:8-10**

*But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.  
10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

**Good Children = Good Parents**

In order to do no harm; in order to not provoke a child unto wrath; the real starting point for a parent is not with their child, but rather with their Father.

**Ephesians 5:1**

*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*

To the degree that we are good children, imitating our Heavenly Father and walking in His steps, we will be good parents. Someone once said, "I can't hear what you are saying, because your actions speak so loudly." We strive to live the truth and share it with our children.

**SERMONS WE SEE**

**by Edgar A. Guest**

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good out in action is what everybody needs.  
I soon can learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.  
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

## *Raising Children God's Way*

# **Session 2: Nourish to Maturity**

As a good Father, after warning of what not to do, God tells us what we should do.

### **Ephesians 6:4**

*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

## **Nourish**

The words “bring them up” in this verse are translated from the one Greek word *ektrepho*. **It means to raise, or nourish up to maturity.**

Good Christian parenting is a matter of understanding and ensuring that our children are receiving all that they need to grow into mature Christians.

The Greek word *ektrepho* is also used in Ephesians 5:29

### **Ephesians 5:29**

*For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

Nourishing includes taking care of children's physical needs: Nutrition, rest, exercise, health. Nourishing or raising children goes far beyond attending to the physical needs, though. It is bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

## **Training Children**

The word “nurture” in Ephesians 6:4 comes from the Greek word *paideia*..  
“Nurture” means **instruction through disciplined training**

This is the word found in various forms in Hebrew 12.

### **Hebrews 12:5-11**

*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 2: Nourish to Maturity**

**The Heart of the Matter**

Verse 6 states, “For whom the Lord **loveth** he chasteneth,” or instructs. The foundation for training a child is love. Good parenting is more than just having knowledge of a particular set of skills. Raising good children is more than just getting them to follow the rules. Romans 12:10 tells us, “love is the fulfilling of the law.”

**Love is the motivation, the means, and the ends to raising children.**

You will never train your child to obey you out of love, if you are not acting out of love yourself.

In order to be the kind of example and the kind of parents that we want to be, we must receive the training up, the disciplined instruction that our Father has provided for us.

Communicate love to your children. It is not enough that you do love them; they need to know it.

Show them affection. Touch is vital to communicating love; it is vital to the development of a child.

Instruction seeks to **communicate** love so that their response will be **motivated** by love. It is not enough that we simply take the right action; we must do it with the right motivation. Rewards and consequences in some way play a role in training a child, but must be handled within the context of instruction through disciplined training. With either you can inadvertently train your child to act only out of what is in their own best interest, rather than the desire to simply do the right thing out of a heart of love.

Love begets love. It is the natural response. We love because He first loved us.

**Nurture is Instruction**

The Greek word *paideia*, translated “nurture” in Ephesians 6:4, is also found in II Timothy.

**2 Timothy 3:16**

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Bringing up a child in the nurture of the Lord requires

- 1. Doctrine**
- 2. Reproof**
- 3. Correction**

which is “**instruction**” (*paideia*) in righteousness

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 2: Nourish to Maturity**

***Doctrine***

**Deuteronomy 6:4 - 9**

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

God's Word pertains to all of life, so in every situation, teach your child the Word. Share with your children what God has done for you. Then take the time to also open the Bible with them.

***Reproof***

Reproof is always done with love. It seeks not retaliation nor punishment but rather restoration.

Example: Nathan saying the one thing that would get through to David's heart.

A child must absolutely know how much you love them if they are going to be able to receive reproof. Must know that you love them unconditionally. Nothing they do can ever make you love them less. We want our children to be their best, but we love them as they are. Always think the best and say the best about your children.

***Correction***

Especially as children get older, there is a need to correct doctrinal error. Direct attacks on truth happen thru outside instruction, and indirect attacks will come from the wrongly accepted standards of the world. Just because you have taught them well, don't assume that they are immune. When those occur, take the time to again reestablish the truth from God's Word.

Doctrine, reproof, and correction make up the instruction in righteousness, which is the profit of God's Word. Bringing up children requires that disciplined instruction in order to direct a child's heart to the Lord. That is what the parent's responsibility is all about. It is much greater than simply controlling unruly children.

## **Session 3: Nurture is Disciplined Training**

Raising a child in the nurture of the Lord requires **instruction**, but it also involves **disciplined training**.

### **Proverbs 22:6**

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

There is a difference between teaching and training. Training involves not only instruction, but also the practice of a skill to acquire proficiency. It involves repetition, like the sharpening of a knife on a stone.

### **Training: How and Why**

Training always involves preparing the trainee for all aspects of what they will be dealing with. The military would not send troops into battle without training. The same thing is true in athletics or business. A child needs to be trained to follow the Lord. That begins with being trained to obey.

### **Ephesians 6:1- 3**

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise; 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

Out of ignorance many parents have skipped over training, and expected correction alone to affect proper behavior. No amount of correction alone can compensate for a lack of training. Just as the athlete conditions his body before the competition, the child must be trained before the crisis arises.

### ***Why do children need training?***

### **Proverbs 22:15**

*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*

Children need disciplined training because foolishness is bound in the heart of a child. . The fool is one who lacks wisdom. Proverbs teaches us that the fool does not intentionally seek to do evil, but lacking wisdom, he falls into the snares of the wicked.

In Proverbs, the fool is known for four things: anger, pride, their mouth, and rejecting reproof.

## *Raising Children God's Way*

# **Session 3: Nurture is Disciplined Training**

### ***How Do We Train Children?***

God's Word tells us that foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; it also tells us how to deal with it. The rod of correction will drive it far from him. What is the rod?

The word "rod" comes from the Hebrew word *shebet*. Biblically, it is used representing walking sticks, a shepherd's staff, a royal scepter or rod of authority, a diving rod, measuring sticks, threshing sticks, and the rod of correction used in training children. It is also translated tribe, either to signify the branches from one, or the use of a rod as a symbol for a tribe.

When used in the context of children, it denotes a physical instrument used as a tool for correction. It is an instrument of instruction not a weapon for inflicting pain. Its form should fit its function.

### **Proverbs 29:15**

*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

The rod and reproof give wisdom. It is not just the rod used alone that does it. The rod of correction needs to be accompanied by verbal reproof as well

### **Proverbs 13:24**

*He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

The Word of God says if you do not use the rod of correction, you hate your child. The world teaches exactly the opposite.

### **Isaiah 5:20**

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

The use of the rod by a parent, who loves their child enough to correct them, is an act of love

### **Proverbs 23:13**

*Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.*

### **Proverbs 19:18**

*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*

Chasten again means instruction through disciplined training.

## **The Admonition of the Lord**

### **Ephesians 6:4**

*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

## *Raising Children God's Way*

### **Session 3: Nurture is Disciplined Training**

The word “admonition” is translated from the Greek word *nouthesia*, which is the noun form of the verb *noutheteo*. Admonition is the warning of the Word.

#### **Acts 20:26-29**

*Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

#### **Acts 20:31**

*Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

A parent's job does not stop with the instruction or training. Parents need to continue to watch and warn throughout the child's life. In raising children to full maturity, you watch over their lives and confront behaviors that will lead them into danger.

#### **1 Corinthians 4:14-16**

*I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. 15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.*

Paul used the terms sons and fathers figuratively, but the same exhortation applies for us as parents with our children. We do not correct to shame our children, but rather to warn them, and to encourage them to follow our example of walking with God.

**As a parent the greatest reason we want our kids to obey us is so that they learn to obey their Heavenly Father.**

#### **Ephesians 6:4**

*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

“bring them up” – *ektrepho* - **to raise, or nourish up to maturity**

“nurture” – *paideia* - **instruction through disciplined training**

“admonition” - *nouthesia* - **the warning of the Word**



## *Raising Children God's Way*

# **Session 4: Practical Keys**

### **Mark 10:17-22**

*And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. 20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*

Sometimes people may not like the answer when it comes to the “how” of working with children, but there are no “magic formulas.” It requires work and time to build the Word into their lives.

### **The Two Great Keys**

- 1. Build Love**
- 2. Faithfulness to Train Your Child**

## **The Joy of Parenting**

### **John 10:10**

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

The rest and joy of having children is stolen from parents that fail to apply the Biblical principles of raising children.

### **Psalms 127:1-5**

*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. 3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*

**Remember, God is your partner when it comes to raising children.** Without his help, our labor is in vain. He has given us children as a reward.

Whether you are looking forward to being a parent someday, or you already are one, or just concerned about helping others; God's Word has the answers.

## *Raising Children God's Way*

# **Session 4: Practical Keys**

### **Proverbs 22:15**

*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*

### **Proverbs 29:15**

*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

### **Proverbs 29:17**

*Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.*

### **Proverbs 23:24**

*The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.*

## **Why share practical keys to raising children?**

### **Titus 2:3-5**

*The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; <sup>4</sup> That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

It is the responsibility of the older women in the church to teach the younger the practical side of caring for their families. Faithful women who have worked the Word of God and applied it to life's situations have wisdom to share.

## ***Birth***

God made a woman's body to be able to give birth. It is a natural process. Don't be fearful. Believe God to have the kind of birth experience you decide is the best for you and your baby. Become educated about birth. You may want to consider hiring a doula.

## ***Nursing***

"Babies are born to be breast fed." – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### ***Some Benefits of Breast Feeding***

- ≡ Protects against infection
- ≡ Most satisfies the baby's needs
- ≡ Releases *prolactin* - the "mothering" hormone
- ≡ Breast milk is brain food. The first year of life is crucial for brain development. At birth, the human brain is one-third of its adult size. By age one, the brain will grow to two-thirds of its fully developed size.
- ≡ Breast milk is easily digested by the baby.

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 4: Practical Keys**

***Building Attachments – Building Love***

A baby begins the bonding process from the moment of birth. Secure attachments to others equip children with the resilience they will need later to face the challenges in life. Those bonds also affect a child's early learning.

As you care for your children, think about the way Our heavenly Father cares for us.

Your child is unique, so learn your baby. As they grow, develop your understanding of their unique needs and abilities.

**Smile**

One of the simplest and most important things you can do for your child is to smile at them. Studies have demonstrated that even the youngest infants respond positively to smiles.

**They Don't Stay Babies Long**

Enjoy this special time in your life. Make the most of each day.

**Mothers and Fathers Have Different Roles**

It is the mother that bears and nurses a baby, not the father. He has a different job. As the head of the household.

*But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: (1Thessalonians 2:7)  
As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, (1 Thessalonians 2:11)*

***Training Children to Obey***

**To Obey:  
Listen  
Remember  
Do**

**When Do I Start?**

Begin to gently train your child somewhere between six and nine months old. Most people wait too long to start.

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 4: Practical Keys**

**How Do I Use the Rod?**

1. With Love
2. With Believing

**What is My Goal with the Rod?**

1. To get their attention
2. To get them to change

**Never Use the Rod in Anger**

If you are the least bit angry, walk away until you have control of your emotions.

**Temper Tantrums**

Tantrums are not an acceptable expression of emotion. Do not allow them.

**Be Diligent**

Your child is your responsibility.

**“Terrific Twos”**

Never call it the “terrible twos.” The first three years of life are most crucial time of development. If worked with early enough, children will have “terrific twos.”

**Proverbs 20:11**

*Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work [be] pure, and whether [it be] right.*

**What Do I Do Now?**

What if I haven't been doing these things and my child is already older?

**Matthew 19:26**

*But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

**Who is the Parent?**

**You.** Your child needs to obey you, not the reverse.

**Obeying the First Time**

A child needs to obey the first time you tell them something. Expect and require that standard.

**Meaning What You Say**

Say what you mean and mean what you say. Don't make idle promises; don't make idle threats. Have Integrity to your words.

**Battle of the Wills**

Every parent will find themselves in a battle of wills with their child someday. You must win it every time.

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 4: Practical Keys**

***Loving and Teaching Children***

Teaching the Word of God to our children is a joy! Have fun with it. Be imaginative in your approach.

**Act it out**

**Draw**

**Play**

Play is a great way to teach children God's Word. It is also essential to a child's development. Play is a primary way to spend time with your child and communicate love to them.

**Deuteronomy 6:7**

*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

**Music**

Choose age appropriate music. Teach God's Word with songs. Music is contagious.

**Reading**

Choose books that communicate the right message with both the words and pictures they contain. Make reading a fun activity. Build heart.

**Sleep**

Getting the right amount of sleep is essential to a child's development and behavior.

**Food**

Eat healthy foods. Choose foods close to the source. Include plenty of raw fruits and vegetables.

**Work**

Work with your child and teach them how to work.

**Guard Your Children**

Whether it is books, movies, television, friends, or anything else; be sure that everything in your child's life has your stamp of approval on it.

**Self Control**

Children need to be taught to control their emotions by eighteen months old, or it will be very difficult for them to learn this later. How well they do that is solely dependent on their parents. Teach a child how to renew their minds by helping them to change their minds.

*Raising Children God's Way*  
**Session 4: Practical Keys**

**Routines**

Children need and thrive on routines. Consistent times for waking, meals, praying, and sleeping make children feel safe. A bedtime routine is very helpful for a child go to sleep.

**Potty Training**

The current trend is for children to be much older before being potty trained, but it is available or most children to be potty trained by age two.

**Fellowship Behavior**

Train children to sit quietly through fellowship meetings. Encourage their participation in songs and prayers. Don't let a child disrupt the fellowship.

**Communication**

Talk to your child. A baby can understand far more than they can communicate back. Talk baby talk with your baby, but not your toddler. Engage your child in conversation. If you want your teenager to talk to you someday, listen to your toddler.

“Leave somebody standing when you go.”

**Psalm 124:8**

*Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*