

Parenting like God Does

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

We follow _____ to *raise up* godly children.

Responsibilities:

1. _____

a. _____ in God’s word and ways. 6:4
...of the Lord...

b. _____ an environment to _____ and _____. 5:29
*Nurture –
Cherish -*

Apply: What will _____ after I’ve _____? Deut. 6:1-9
Aim - *...you to _____ to _____ ...*
Godliness is not a single-_____ endeavor.

2. _____

a. Affirm _____ - _____.
God’s/godly discipline always starts with _____.
...those whom the Lord _____, He _____ ...” Heb. 12:5-11
So... *He who _____ his son!* Prov. 13:24

b. Establish _____. Gal. 4:1-6
To fail to establish _____ is to succeed in establishing _____.

How do we establish authority?

- Instruct in and follow _____.
We can’t establish any authority unless we accept _____.
- Define clear _____.
“What do they look like?” Gal. 4:1-6
- They are _____ – from
- They are _____ – for
- They are _____ – only
- Use words to _____ - not _____.
Give up _____. 9

c. Allow _____ - don’t _____.
“What do they look like?”
- Sometimes they are _____. Prov. 22:15, 23:13
- Sometimes they are _____.









Challenge: *What will _____ after I’ve _____?*
Am I passing on a _____ or _____?

Discussion Guide: Parenting like God Does

Ephesians 6:4

Opener: Share what “instruction” and “discipline” looked like in the home you grew up in. Did you follow that pattern in your own home or are there parts of that you don’t want repeat or pass on?

Read and review Hebrews 12:4-13 before discussing the following questions.

1. What are the similarities and distinctives of parenting our children of natural and spiritual birth? i.e. Compare and contrast how we can **parent** the children born in our family and those born into God’s family.
 - Do you have a role in *spiritual parenting* with anyone outside your family?
 - If so, describe what that looks like along with the joys and challenges.
 - If not, what would need to happen for you to take that role? Are you willing and would you pray for the opportunity? Do you think our world needs that?
2. We are to “instruct” the next generation: in our homes, church & community.
 - What’s the result if “instruction” is just a content-dump or a lecture?
 - What makes some “instruction” effective and some counterproductive? i.e. What has to accompany the content, teaching or lecturing? What parts of this can we do without authentic application in our own life and caring relationship with those we instruct? What parts of instruction do you struggle most to give? To receive?
3. My emotional response to discussions of “discipline” is like:
    Draw your own and explain to the group.
 - Do you think you’ve ever been disciplined by your Heavenly Father?
 - If we’re not disciplined by God, what does Hebrews 12:8 indicate?
 - What does our response to God’s discipline look like in real life? Discuss that in light of Hebrews 12:9
4. My emotional response to discussions of “authority” is like:
(if you didn’t do this when we discussed it before)
    Draw your own and explain to the group.
5. Quickly review the three initiatives to establish legitimate authority.
 - Instruct in and follow God’s authority.
 - Establish clear boundaries.
 - Use words to communicate – not punish.Which of those three is easiest for you to do when you are in authority?
Which is most difficult? What about the times you are under authority?

Prayer Target: Pray for the next generation of godly followers of Christ!

Parenting like God Does

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

We follow **God's model** to *raise up* godly children.

Responsibilities:

1. Instruction

- a. **Mentor** in God's word and ways. 6:4
...of the Lord...
- b. **Protect** an environment to nurture and cherish. 5:29
Nurture –
Cherish -

Apply: What will go on after I've gone on? Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Aim - *...you to son to grandson...*

Godliness is not a single-generation endeavor.

2. Discipline

- a. Affirm Father-love.
God's/godly discipline always starts with love.
...those whom the Lord loves, He disciplines... Hebrews 12:5-11
So... He who s pares his rod hates his son! Proverbs 13:24
- b. Establish authority. Galatians 4:1-6
To fail to establish authority is to succeed in establishing anarchy.
How do we establish authority?
 - Instruct in and follow God's authority.
We can't establish any authority unless we accept God's.
 - Define clear boundaries.
"What do they look like?" Galatians 4:1-6
 - They are written – from the Bible.
 - They are protective – for the good of those under authority.
 - They are essential – only necessary boundaries.
 - Use words to communicate - not punish.
Give up threatening. 9
- c. Allow consequences - don't enable.
"What do they look like?"
 - Sometimes they are intentional. Proverbs 22:15, 23:13
 - Sometimes they are natural.

Challenge: What will go on after I've gone on?

Am I passing on a legacy or litter?