



What Children Need and Good Fathers Do

EPHESIANS 6:1-4; PSALM 128:3b

BIBLICAL REMINDERS ABOUT THE FATHER/CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Children are always a blessing! (No matter what they struggle with.) (Ps 127:3-5)

A healthy parent/child relationship is a command from the Lord. (Ex 20:12)

Grandparents are called by God to stay involved with the grandchildren. (Prov 13:22a)

GOD'S GUIDELINES FOR FATHERHOOD

Dad, your child needs to ...

1. Learn to be _____ to both you and to God. (v. 1)

A. Obedience and submission to authority are qualities of a child who is "in the Lord."

B. Obedience is normative and "right behavior" in God's eyes.

2. See honoring parents as high _____. (vv. 2-3)

A. Life is predictive for those who show honor to their parents.

B. A child who is not obedient to his/her earthly parents will not be obedient to heavenly parents.

Dad, you need to ...

3. Avoid _____ your children to anger. (v. 4a)

A. Constant provocation always causes bitterness.

Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. v. 4, THE LIVING BIBLE

"The plague of youth is the 'broken spirit'—the discouragement which comes from continuous criticism and rebuke with too strict a discipline." JOHN BENGEL

B. They will lose heart, give up, and look for love somewhere else.

4. "Discipline and instruct" them, molding them with _____. (v. 4b)

A. Dad, you are the disciplinary ruler of the home.

B. Training in godliness is highest priority for the Christian father.

"Dad, what I really need is ..."

To be blessed by your unconditional love

To have realistic boundaries with consequences

To feel your confidence in me as a capable person

To have your encouragement and affection when I do something right

To see your authentic faith in Jesus Christ

... your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Psalm 128:3b

A FATHER'S DAY PLEDGE

- I PLEDGE never to say *no* when I can say *yes*.
- I PLEDGE to remember that it takes a lot of love to make good children.
- I PLEDGE to be fully present whenever I am with you.
- I PLEDGE to look at things from a child's perspective.
- I PLEDGE to be a patient waiter.
- I PLEDGE that I will do my best to put your hand into the hand of the Father.



SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

1. Which points in the sermon were particularly meaningful for you? What challenges do Christians face in applying this sermon as we live in the culture around us?

2. What's the difference between success and fruitfulness, and why is this distinction important in raising a child?

3. How can a father who feels inadequate get started in leading his family spiritually? How can his family encourage him to do this?

4. What are practical examples of *provoking children to anger*? How can fathers set boundaries that have consequences, yet also bless their children?

5. Does the phrase *honor your parents* imply never confronting their sins? How can we know what to accept and what to confront? How can one honor a parent while not accepting sinful behavior at the same time?

"A godly life does not mean a life exempt from trials. In fact, fruitfulness often comes only through trials. Joseph was the most godly of Jacob's sons, and yet he suffered the most. And yet Joseph came through it all with a lack of bitterness toward God or toward any of those who had wronged him because he trusted in the sovereign, loving God. Our kids need to know that while following God has its benefits, it also has its trials. We don't follow the Lord just because of what we get out of it. We follow the Lord because He is the living God and His Word is the truth. We communicate this through our example. Are we committed to the Lord as long as everything is going well, but we fall away when problems hit? Do we complain about people who have wronged us and gripe about the trials we encounter? If so, our kids aren't going to learn to trust in our sovereign, loving God. To bless your children, help them to interpret all of life, including life's trials, from God's perspective."

—STEVEN J. COLE

*"Do you have but one blessing, Father?"
asked Esau of his father, Isaac.*

*"Please, Daddy, is there not a blessing for me, too?"
And Esau broke down and wept. Genesis 17:38*

"It's one of the most heart-wrenching scenes in all the Old Testament. Esau, first-born son of Isaac, was looking for his father's blessing. Isaac's stupidity as a father, blessing one child and not the other, set in motion a conflict between these two brothers, Jacob and Esau, the effects of which are still being felt in the present. What you do or fail to do for your children ... what you say, or don't say ... what you do, or don't do ... has eternal consequences. For the most part, your children will grow up to be just like you. So, take a hard look at yourself in the mirror. And remind yourself that just as you needed your father's blessing, so your children need yours."

—STEVE MCSWAIN

Close in prayer for fathers or grandfathers in your life who come to mind. Ask God how He would have you apply the elements of this sermon in your life.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.cbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

FIND A CONNECT 2 SUMMER GROUP! If you're looking for a way to meet more people at Christ Chapel or just have fun this summer, head to the Link Bridge today to find a fun summer group. Remember: Connect 2 Summer groups only meet twice, so the commitment is short. And, with over 20 groups doing all kinds of activities from play dates and game nights to museums, running and breakfast meet-ups for veterans and active duty military, there's sure to be something you love. We'll see you over on the Link Bridge!

THERE'S A TA ETHNE MISSIONS LUNCHEON TODAY. Come have lunch with pastors from all over the world! Starting at 12:15 p.m. in the Oak Room, church leaders from 25 different countries will be telling stories of how God is working, the gospel is spreading and people are meeting Jesus across the globe. It's going to be a fun hour!

FEEL LEFT OUT, LONELY, LESS THAN? "UNINVITED" BEGINS THIS THURSDAY, JUNE 21. This new Soul Care group for women digs deep into God's Word to help you overcome the damage done by past hurts and fully grasp what it's like to live knowing you're fully and completely loved by Jesus. Sign up today at www.cbcfamily.org.

MARRIED COUPLES, DON'T MISS "FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE." We all know that marriage has its ups and downs, but it's another thing to experience it. Whether happily married or taking it one day at a time, this new class is all about reminding you of God's good agenda through the highs and lows of marriage. You'll be encouraged and equipped to love your spouse with a devotion that can only come from God. Sign up at www.cbcfamily.org/events. The class begins Sunday, July 1 at 10:45 a.m. in the Oak Room.

READY TO BE BAPTIZED? If you recently made the decision to follow Jesus, we want to celebrate! Take the plunge and sign up for the next baptism class, happening on Sunday, July 1. You'll learn why getting baptized is both awesome and an important step to take in your relationship with God, plus we'll help you get ready! The class will meet at 6:15 p.m. in the Link Conference Room. Sign up at www.cbcfamily.org/baptism.

MAKE IT FACEBOOK OFFICIAL. From encouraging sermon clips and Coffee Talks to event info and looks behind the scenes, we're always posting something new on Facebook. Search "Christ Chapel Bible Church" to follow the page today. Prefer Twitter or Instagram? Find us by searching @christchapel_fw.

DON'T TRAVEL WITHOUT THE CCBC APP THIS SUMMER. As you head out of town for vacation, be sure to pack the Christ Chapel App! Available from the App Store and Google Play, our app keeps you in touch while on the go with sermon archives, staff contacts, a way to submit prayer requests, Bible reading plans and more.