

Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Recipe for Parents

Life Group Discussion
July 5, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experiencelibrary.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: **Proverbs 22:6**

The job to raise children falls directly on the shoulders of parents.

Our children are going to learn about the world around them and their role in it, if they don't learn it from us, they will learn it from someone else. It is our responsibility to use our time with our children wisely.

- In 2018 a study showed parents spent an average of 37 minutes of quality time with their children in America. What is a realistic goal of time parents should spend with their child? Which is more important, quantity or quality?
- How does secular society mold the way a child thinks? How does it influence the way Christians parent?
- Who has more influence on children: TV, TIKTOK, A CHILD'S PEERS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL or THE PARENT?

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

- When we think about raising our children, what are some concerns as parents we might have for them and their surroundings?
- Think about how you acted as a child in your relationship with your parents. Were you actively rebellious or passively rebellious? (*Active rebellion* is when a child will not listen to or accept his parent's instructions. *Passive rebellion* is expressed by the child who politely listens to instructions, but who consistently fails to follow them without reminders, threats, or pressure). How did your parents impose their authority over you in order to train you? Was it bribery or a beating!?
- How does *your* parenting skills mirror how you were raised? What are the similarities and differences?

As our heavenly parent, God is thoroughly acquainted with us as His children.

He knows our make-up (He designed us), our ways, and situations, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically. He knows our weaknesses, strengths, thought patterns, motives, and habits

- How well should a parent, or how involved should a parent be in their child's daily life? Is it wrong to be intimately involved with our child's phone use, friends, dating habits, etc.

Parents often try to pour a child into some preconceived mold they've dreamed of for their child.

This is often nothing more than a parent's attempt, through the accomplishments of their child, to attain the applause or praise for whatever it was they wanted for themselves, but never received.

- What is the danger in placing pressure on children to fulfil a parent's dreams or expectations?

- What dreams, expectations and desires do you have for your child(ren)? How have you expressed this to your children?
- We often think of and witness the overbearing parent during sports events, music lessons, or academics. Does society view Christians as being overbearing when trying to raise children according to God's will and how should a parent respond to that.

Proverbs 29:15: *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."*

Proverbs 13:24: *"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently."*

Proverbs 23:13: *"Do not withhold discipline from a child; even if you strike him with the rod, he will not die."*

- Why is disciplining a child sometimes difficult?
- Some use the previous verses as an excuse for physical abuse. What is that defining line?

Discuss these five truths about training our children:

- (1) **Love without discipline** produces spoiled children.
- (2) **Discipline without love** produces discouragement and rebellion
- (3) **Teaching and discipline** without example produces bitterness, resentment, unbelief, and rebellion
- (4) **Example without teaching** produces vagueness, destroys authority, can create an attitude that everything is relative, and causes instability and insecurity
- (5) **Without dedication**, parents inevitably neglect their stewardship and responsibility