

La Familia de Dios Part 2

6 - How to Be a Godly Parent

Open by asking: *"How is everyone doing?"*

Introduction: *"Between men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children, slaves and masters, bosses and employees, difference in power exists. In fact, most of what we've talked about this semester so far could be summed up in terms of how people use the power they have in various relationships. People can naturally abuse whatever power they have, but in God's family people are to use their power for the good of others and the glory of God! Tonight we're going to look at what the Bible says about the relationship parents have with their children, and what God intends for it."*

Hear from the Word:

Read Ephesians 6:4. After you read it, discuss these questions:

1. What does "exasperate" mean? Why are fathers given this instruction--can't children exasperate their parents too? [The difference has to do with who has the power in the relationship.]
2. How do parents have power over their kids? In what ways does that power get misused?
3. Are there any ways you've seen this play out in your own family that you'd like to share?

God wants anyone who has power to use that power for the good of others. For parents, God's ideal is that they only use the power that they possess to protect, lead, discipline, and build their children up--never to belittle them or intentionally make them feel afraid. Let's read some more of God's instructions to parents, and parents' instructions to their children:

Use these questions to discuss the passages listed below:

1. What does this passage show about a parent's role in their children's life?
2. How does God want to use a parent in a child's life?
3. What can a parent teach their child about God?
4. What can a parent teach their child about life?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *This was God's instructions to his people the Israelites about raising their children in Him.*

I Timothy 1:1-2 and 6:11-16 *Paul considered Timothy his "son in the faith." While he isn't his biological father, he has a truly fatherly role in his life.*

Proverbs 3:1-10 *Proverbs is a whole book of fatherly wisdom and practical advice. It's a great book to read a little bit of each day to gain a fatherly, godly perspective on life.*

Apply it to life:

One day most of us will be parents, so if we become godly people, we can become godly parents. But it takes some intentionality.

1. *Of all the aspects of being a godly parent we've discussed, are there any you feel like you've experienced in your own life from your own parents?*
2. *Are there any aspects of godly parenthood you didn't experience that you want to grow within yourself and give to your own children?*

Pray Together: *"Let's wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us grow to become more like him this week."*