



## Equipping Hour

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### The Duty of Parents

#### Key Verse: Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

#### Overview

In our last lesson, we saw the duty of children in the family. The one duty that children have is to obey their parents. Along with obedience they are to show honor to their parents as well. However, children are not born ready to obey their parents. In fact, the opposite is true. Children are born with a sin nature which is on display in their actions and their words.

How do children learn obedience? From their parents. It is the duty of the parents to teach them. But this requires parents to be available to their children. In our society today, there are many passive parents who want their children to turn out well, but who are not willing to put in the time and devotion it takes to raise their own children. Many parents have turned their children over to day-care centers, grandparents, television screens, peers, and other forms of social media and entertainment. Sadly, these have become more influential in a child’s life than the child’s own parents.

When President Woodrow Wilson was president of Princeton University, he received letters from parents who wanted to know why the university did not make more out of their children when they were sent off to Princeton. President Wilson told the parents, “The reason is that they are your sons, reared in your homes, blood of your blood, bone of your bone. They have absorbed the ideals of your homes. You have formed and fashioned them. They are your sons. In those malleable, moldable years of their lives you have forever left your imprint on them.” The most influential people in a child’s life are parents, yet many parents today want someone else to have the duty and responsibility of raising their own children. In the formative years of their children’s lives, parents will either steer their children in the right direction or the wrong direction.

Psalm 127:3 says, “Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” Along with the gift of a child comes great responsibility. God lays the responsibility of raising children on the parents. Child-rearing is a full-time job which takes hard work from both a father and mother. Children are constantly absorbing information and ready to be molded and shaped by their parents. While children have the easy duty of obeying their parents, the parents have the rigorous duty of raising their children. It is the parent’s duty to train up their children in the Lord and give them the kind of discipline and instruction that only faithful parents can provide.

## Do Not Provoke Your Children

1. Ephesians 6:4. Who is this command given to? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Colossians 3:21. What is Paul's command to parents? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Ephesians 6:4. What are parents not to provoke their children to? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How can parents provoke their children?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Colossians 3:21. What happens when a parent exasperates their child? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Bring Up Your Children

1. Ephesians 6:4. What does “bring up” mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What ages are parents responsible for? \_\_\_\_\_

## Discipline Your Children

1. Ephesians 6:4. What does discipline mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How is discipline done? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Proverbs 13:24. What is included in this discipline? \_\_\_\_\_
4. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of education which could also be translated as *training*.

## Instruct Your Children

1. Ephesians 6:4. What does instruction (*nouthesia*) mean?
  - a. *nous* = \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. *tithēmi* = \_\_\_\_\_
2. What three words describe “instruction”? \_\_\_\_\_
3. This refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ counsel that is given to a child and includes exhortation towards proper behavior.

## Evangelize Your Children

1. Ephesians 6:4. Where does this discipline and instruction come from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Deuteronomy 6:4–7. What is the responsibility of parents? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a child’s greatest need? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How can parents best reach a child? \_\_\_\_\_

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“When the Supreme Court handed down its ruling against required prayer in the public schools, the famous editorial cartoonist Herblock published a cartoon in the Washington Post showing an angry father waving a newspaper at his family and shouting, “What do they expect us to do—listen to the kids pray at home?” The answer is: Yes! Home is the place where the children ought to learn about the Lord and the Christian life. It is time that Christian parents stop “passing the buck” to Sunday School teachers and Christian day-school teachers and start nurturing their children.”

—Warren Wiersbe

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### **Application**

1. Parents, are you taking responsibility in raising your children?
2. Parents, are you reaching the heart of your child?
3. Church, are you praying for parents who have the duty of raising their children?

### **Ten Principles for Parents**

1. Teach them to fear the Lord. (Proverbs 1:7)
2. Teach them to obey their parents. (Proverbs 1:8)
3. Teach them to guard their heart. (Proverbs 4:23)
4. Teach them to be content. (Proverbs 23:4–5)
5. Teach them to work hard. (Proverbs 6:9–11)
6. Teach them to speak the truth. (Proverbs 4:24)
7. Teach them to choose wise friends. (Proverbs 13:20)
8. Teach them to practice self-control. (Proverbs 7)
9. Teach them to enjoy marriage. (Proverbs 5:18)
10. Teach them to love others. (Proverbs 3:27–29)