

March 16th, 2025

## **Ephesians 6:1-4 - Redeeming Parenting (Sermon Transcript)**

I was told a story this past week by one of our church members, and so if you tell me stories, it could end up in the sermon, so just prepare yourself.

This was a good story though, okay? About a four year old boy in Wisconsin who called the cops. And said, I need you to come and get my mom. She's being very bad. And of course, the cops are going to take this seriously. And they're like, okay. Or the dispatcher. And finally, mom got on the phone and was like, he did not call the cops.

Did he? And so here was the issue. She ate his ice cream, which I think might warrant a phone call. If that happened to me, I don't know. The, obviously the police go and just, just to double check. And that was the case. He had called because mom made his ice cream. And even while they were there, he said, She needs to go to jail.

Just trying to she has done a bad thing. Parenting is not for the faint of heart. The emotions that mama went through in that moment, right? Like you have got to be kidding. I don't know what happened to that four year old boy after that and the police officers left But I bet there may have been a come to Jesus moment in that household It's not easy and no one tells you how difficult it's going to be I mean they tell you parenting is hard but I It's an understatement and it's not just because you don't sleep you never sleep again after you have kids, right?

but there's so much you're trying to navigate. You have to help them fend for their selves. You have to help them regulate their emotions. You have to help them navigate life. Everything they're learning is because of you, and so it makes it difficult. And then once you get through one stage of life and you're like, oh, this is starting.

We're starting to get in our groove here. You know what happens? On to the next stage of life and you've got a whole different phase of things you've got to navigate and it just keeps going. How do you teach them to learn skills? So that they can survive. There's just a wide spectrum of life that you have to help them navigate.

And then, one day, one day way too soon, you're saying, alright, go fly, you're on your own. For those who follow Jesus, In the teachings of the Bible, parenting in



God's design is to teach children how to submit to authority in obedience and out of love. It is intended to be a child's first glimpse of the love and authority of the God who created them.

This text in Ephesians chapter 6, 1 through 4, is something that as parents we can and must hold very near to our heart. So as we read through these verses, I'm going to provide some practical some, I'm going to, we're going to look at three truths from the, this verse, from these verses, and then provide some practical parenting helps to help you accomplish those biblical truths in your household.

So let's read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 1 through 4, and then we'll respond to the reading of God's Word. Children, obey your parents in the Lord. For this is right. And all the parents said amen. All right Honor your father and mother. This is the first commandment with a promise that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the lands Fathers do not provoke your children's anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord This is the word of the Lord Father open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word Thank you for giving us our children and grandchildren.

Help us to steward this responsibility well, to always point them to you. It's in your name we pray, Amen. This passage is written to two people, children and fathers. It's not to say that the mothers are Not important, because all the moms was like, of course the moms aren't mentioned here, right?

But no, the mothers were going to make this application as well. But you'll see the significance that this is written to children and to fathers in verse 4. Now, the kids have been dismissed. So your parents are like, why didn't we not keep them in for family service? So they can hear that they need to obey, right?

I don't actually believe that's the full purpose of this text, because how do children learn to obey their parents? By parents teaching them how to obey and so the response Ability here that we even see fathers do not provoke your children to anger But bring them up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord is how you accomplish And in the life of the child verse 1 so if we want to see our children obey Then it first begins with us as parents and what that looks like.

Okay and teenagers You just get the blessing to be in here And while you are at home, your parents are your authority, and you should obey them, alright? And I will say that for all the teenagers here, and honor them and respect them as God's, God given authority in your life. And they love you, and yes, they, maybe the rules are a little are not right in your opinion, but they are, alright?



So I'm just gonna help reinforce the parents here a little bit. But I'm thankful for our teenagers and how even, They're serving the Lord here and my heart for you is to continue just growing in the Lord. And if you're an empty nester and the kids have, they're gone and they've had kids on their own or gonna have kids here soon, you still play an important role in the life of your children and your grandchildren and especially the kids in this church.

Every kid here matters and it's not just kid life that's serving them. The more godly men and women That are influencing our children. It is the greatest impact on their faith. So if you do not have kids here But little kids, say hi to them, welcome them, love them. In fact, I was told a story right before this this morning of a church that is merging.

And one of the church that's merging into this other church has no children at all. I hope that's never the case here. But it's a church effort to encourage, be a joyful encourager for the kids. And we'll talk more about what that looks like later on. This text also does not mean, parents, that you have the authority in your kid's life for their entire life.

Remember, at marriage, there is a leave your father and mother, and cling to your wife. Which means, if they've left the house, they are not your responsibility anymore. You don't have authority. In fact, if you try to level that authority on your grown adult children, what happens is you push them

Now, that doesn't mean that as we get older, we don't stop honoring our mothers and fathers. In fact, I believe that text, honor your father and mother, continues on as long as they are alive and even after that. And I see that more, more so as my parents get older, to honor them and thank them. The point of this text is that parents have been entrusted with a significant responsibility by God.

Therefore, we must be indeligent. managing it wisely. 18 years is not a lot of time. I'm coming up on my 20th high school reunion, which I'm not old enough to do that, okay? And how quickly time goes by. You have 18 years, Lord willing, with your children. Are we going to take this responsibility that the Lord has given us?

Seriously. Jeremiah 15 says, God says before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born I consecrated you. I appointed you to a prophet to the nations. Now obviously not all of our kids are prophets, okay? This is written for Jeremiah, but the application there is that God forms our children in the womb.

Before they were born we see throughout Scripture that God knows our kids. God knows our kids more Then we do and he's gifted us their lives to steward them and



raise them up in him I think of the disciples and Jesus is teaching and these little kids just running up to him and they're like no Get away.

Don't bother him. And for one, I hope we never do that at grace life If a kid wants to hold the door they want to help We're gonna do everything we can to just steward that as best as we can But even at home, are we unintentionally pushing them away from Jesus without even realizing it? When Jesus says, bring them to me, bring them to me, because Jesus knows them, he formed them.

The way they look, their personalities, their interests, their loves, all designed by a good creator. We have two babies on the way in our church. I love getting to hold a newborn baby. Just love it. We have no idea what God has in store for those babies. There's babies over there, okay? Just crawling around.

We have no idea what God has in store for them. Do we not want to be a part of shaping them and pointing them to Jesus? The significant responsibility that God has entrusted to parents is to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This is the end of verse 4. Fathers, do not provoke your kids to wrath but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

That word, bring up, it's a raising up. It conveys the idea of providing for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of someone. Ensuring their growth and development. Yes, we teach our kids all about life as much as we can. I plan to change the brakes on my car tomorrow night. And guess who's gonna be there helping me?

Colton. I don't know if he's just finding this out probably. Okay. But Hey, this is something my dad taught me. I'm going to teach him. We're going to do it together. For one, we're getting really close where he might be stronger than me here soon. So you got, someone's got to have to do my breaks, right?

We're going to teach them, like how you cook and do your laundry and all these tasks that we do all the time. Mow the grass, load the dishwasher, caring for the things that we've been given. Those are good things that we should be teaching our kids. But if they leave the house with accolades and know how and can have a successful life and they do not know Jesus at all, then we as Christian parents have failed.

This does not mean that we are responsible for the salvation of our children. I wish that were the case. I wish I could walk up and put my head on every kid back there and say, Be saved! Be saved! Be saved! That for one, we would be a completely different church than we are. Okay? But two, I don't have that power.



It's Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, that will transform their little hearts. But it does mean we have an instrumental role. And they're coming to know Jesus Christ. You are to be a bold missionary at home. A bold missionary at home.

One of, Every kid loves this toy and parents absolutely love it as well. It's Play Doh. Yeah ah.

I stole this from the nursery. Borrowed it, I'll bring it back. This Play Doh, What is the purpose of it? Get in the carpet, right? Like you, you mold it, you make something out of it. What do you could do anything, right? You can, muscle memory is coming back. I haven't played with Plato in years and I'm like, I can get, I can roll into a ball, turn it into a snake, put some eyes on it, right?

You could do all sorts of things with it. And as parents, we have the responsibility of molding our kids. And here's what happens with Play Doh. It never stays the same color. Like I even went and looked. I fully expected there to be other colors mixed in with the Play Doh. And so what are we as parents taking and for, helping mold our kids with?

Is it things of the world or is it things of Jesus? Because the more you mold it together, what happens to those colors? Starts to spread out. And so this is the responsibility we've been given by the Lord to steward well, to mold our kids, to raise them up, to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

In fact, how I read that verse is if my kids fell at everything in life, but they love the Lord with all their heart and all their soul and all their might, that is a win. Jeremiah 18

1 through 6

says the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord says arise and go down to the potter's house and there I will let you hear my word so I went down to the potter's house and there he was working at his will and the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand and he reworked it into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to do then the word of the Lord came to me Oh house of Israel can I not do with you as the potter has done declares the Lord.

Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. This beautiful illustration is seen a couple times throughout Scripture. That God, our lives, are like clay in the hands of the potter. That God is forming us and making us into exactly what He desires us to be.



And when you look at pottery, this is not a hobby that I have, okay? But what happens when someone is learning how, for the very first time, to mold up something? It's messy. It's not right. So what does the instructor usually come alongside and do? Help. They, you'll see them put their hands around the other hands and help shape this.

This is what the Lord is doing in our lives. He comes along, He doesn't leave us on our own and say, good luck. I hope you do exactly what I want you to do with your children that I've given you. Through Scripture, He tells us exactly what this is to look like, and we're not gonna do it perfectly.

Moms and dads you're going to make mistakes. You're gonna look back and say, I wish I'd have done that differently. But by God's grace, we adapt, and He continues to mold us as we long to mold our kids, and to bring them up in Jesus. So here are three truths. from this text. One, God has entrusted you, the parent, to be the authority to your children.

Hearing that word authority is not it's not something we love, right? It does not take your kids long for them to start butting up against you. In fact, the word no is usually one of the first five words a child learns to say. Mama. Dada. No.

Now, no is a boundary word. And I'm not saying they can never say no. There are things that you need to say no to. And so we're not saying you never say no to me, alright? But what they are often doing is you need to lay down. No. That is a pushing up against your authority because here is the reality that we don't like to talk about.

Our cute little baby kids waddling through on the floor falling down, giggling. They're dirty, rotten sinners. Like they, they may look all cute and at church, but at home we know the heart of that child is desperately wicked. As scripture says, they are born into the same sin that we have. And so yes, they are going to tell you no because this is their nature apart from Christ.

They're going to push against your authority. Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. That obey is a response to the authority that God's placed in their life. Remember the whole context here in Ephesians chapter 5 and 6. At the end of, in verse 21, Paul is going to write about responding in Christian love to the authority in our lives.

Wives, submit to your husbands as the church submits to To Christ. This is authority. We see this here and the parents and children. Children, your authority is your parents. Next week, we'll see how you respond to your, the authority your boss has.



So when you tell them to go to bed, or to clean their room, or to get off the device, or mow the yard, or take out the trash, and they turn around and say, No.

As that, they get older, that turns to, nah, they are testing and pushing against your authority. So parents, you are a child's first glimpse of God's authority in their life. God and his design did this on purpose. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

You know how we say, We don't negotiate with terrorists. Now I'm not saying our kids are terrorists, okay? But negotiating with them does not serve them well. They are not in charge of your house. If they are in charge of your house, then you have an inverted order that's outside of God's design. They are the authority, which does not help them in life.

You are in charge, parents. Obedience is an acknowledgment of authority. So for the kids to obey and submit to their parents, the text says is to obey and submit to the Lord. To not obey and not submit is to not obey and not submit to the Lord. How we can read Ephesians 6:1 is how they treat you is how they are treating God.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Other translations will say, as to the Lord, that the obedience that they have towards the parents is how they acknowledge that God is the sovereign authority over all things. An acknowledgement of, not out of obligation, but out of a good posture, that in God's good design, he has given us good authorities in our life.

So here's a couple of, two practical helps for this. One, let your yes be yes and your no be no.

If you tell your kid no and they ask you again, which is very rare, they never ask twice, right? Okay. And they ask you again and you respond with, okay sure, because you're annoyed, you're tired. What you are doing is you are setting them up to say they can actually make decisions around here, and there's no regard to my authority.

My dad always said, and I hated it then, but I love it now, okay? No means no. And this is the, if you, let your yes be yes and no be no. So if you tell your children no, Jesus says, then it's a no. If you tell them yes, And then you regret it later, like me and I did not make a wise decision there, and we do not, I do not want to go to the park, but I've told them yes.

What do we do? We go to the park, let your yes be yes, and your no be no. By flip flopping undermines your authority. Now what happens if you tell your kid no, and



they respond well, okay? And you realize, man, I wish I would have said yes to that. You've been in that spot? Like they say, Dad, can we go get ice cream?

And you're like, no, not tonight. And they walk away and then for one, I never say no to ice cream, okay? So that's, but then I'm sitting there and I'm like, you know what? I wish I'd have said yes, okay? Here's how I try to handle this. Because if I go back and say, you know what? Yes, let's do it.

I want to make sure that they still know that, Hey I, in this household. There are only two people in charge here, okay? Given to us by Jesus. So I'll come alongside and just say, Hey, I had said no to ice cream. And I thank you for just responding well to that. I appreciate your obedience and saying, how you handled that.

But after further thought, you know what, I really want to go get ice cream. Let's go. And so this is just joy and you, you can still reiterate the authority aspect there. in a way that honors their honoring of their parents, which means when they do obey and show honor, I think it's a thank you.

You did a great job. You glorified the Lord here. You did a great job on your room. You glorified the Lord. You were kind, the manners, all of it. You glorified the Lord by showing honor. Second practical help here. It's healthy and consistent discipline is good for your child. Disobedience should never go unpunished.

God never lets disobedience go unpunished. He doesn't sit back and say, you know what, I'm tired, it's been a long day, that's really not that big of a deal, I'll let it slide. Disobedience should never go unpunished. Now, I am NOT the parent of your child. I am their pastor and I love them. And I'm going to care for them, and I'm going to give them as many high fives and hugs as possible.

And I want them to know that their pastor loves them. That way, when they're 40, my goal is that whatever pastor they have down the road, they long to serve, and then they tell them, you'll never be as great as my first pastor though, okay? That's my prayer, right? I've learned I love your kids.

I can tell them, hey let's be kind here. Let's not run through the hallway. Let's be careful. But I cannot discipline them because you are the parents and you have to make that decision what that looks like for your child. And to throw a curveball, how you discipline one child is going to be different how you discipline the other one.

And so you have to know your kids here. But healthy and consistent discipline is good for them. It's looking them in the eye and telling them why they're facing this consequence.





Oftentimes, parents will punish or discipline a child and the child has no idea what's going on. This is part of informing them, instructing them in the discipline of the Lord. Do you know why you're facing this consequence? Because you disobeyed. Remind them you love them. Help them know how to respond the next time.

Because guess what? It's probably going to happen again, right? And so instead of just saying, you've got to be kidding me, which it's so difficult, just say, hey, we're helping them along the way. This is how you respond in this situation. It is not good to do this. You're guiding them. Too often though, we punish our kids, discipline them because they annoy us after a long, tired day of work.

And they're just running around the house giggling. They're not doing anything wrong. Anybody been there? Nobody's I'm not raising my hand for that one. Whoa. You're tired, you're sitting on the couch. Here's what I do, all right? The older I get, the louder the TV has to be, okay? And so the kids are just having fun.

They're not doing anything wrong. But then that level becomes higher than the TV, which I have not told them this is the level. I'm just tired and so I let my sinful response Get involved. Fathers, do not provoke your child to wrath. So a lot of parenting is checking my own heart at times.

Am I disciplining them because they've actually disobeyed a clear command here? Am I doing this out of anger? Do I need to step back and just say, I need a moment before I deal with this? I think this is why my dad just sent me to the room, my room all the time. He needed 15 minutes.

I wish he would have disciplined my brother, but that's a different story for another day, right? You see how parenting can have lifelong effects here, right?

Are we disciplining them and telling them why they're facing this? Are we disciplining them based on unrealistic expectations that are outside even the expectations that God may place on them? We must take our God given authority seriously. This does not mean we are domineering. But we love them the way God loves us.

God's authority is strong, but also shepherding. It's caring. It's hugging. It's comfort. It's love.

I don't have to question that God is in charge. And I also don't have to question that God loves me. And that is how we are to parent with the God given authority that we have. The second truth we see, is God has entrusted you the parent To be the main discipler of your children.



Fathers, provoke not your children, do not provoke your children to anger. But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This is discipleship at home. Teaching them all the incredible things of scripture.

This is the responsibility. They only learn what they are taught. How do they learn how to use a fork? You show them. How do they learn to do these little things, read and walk, and all of it? Someone has to teach them.

And for some reason, when it comes to the Bible and the way of following Jesus, we step back and say, no, the church can do it.

It's not the church's responsibility to be the main discipler of your children. We're going to come alongside and help, but mom and dad, you are the main discipler of your children. If we don't teach them the things of Jesus, then the world will teach them how to not follow Jesus.

What does Ephesians 6:12 say?

Everybody panicked oh it's not on the screen. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil and heavenly places. Parenting is spiritual warfare in the Christian home.

It is suit up, get the armor on, and fight for your kids time. What a, the world is going to push evil ideologies about sex and gender and everything in between. Go follow your own hearts. You see it in commercials. And what we've taught is our kids, the response is, No, that's bad!

To disciple them and teach them the ways of Jesus. We're up against the enemy that wants to devour our children.

There's a lot that can be said about this particular area.

I think we have to be careful of the content that they are taking in. Free access to YouTube is dangerous.

It's okay, mom and dad, to say your phone doesn't go in your bedroom. Why? Because porn is rampant everywhere.

It's okay. To say, hey we're not gonna watch this because it goes against the things of the Bible because it's got this and this and this in it. This is God's, what God has entrusted you to be for them. So here's two practical helps. One, teach them the incredible truths of the Bible.



Deuteronomy 6, 4 through 9. Hear, O Israel. That means listen up and obey. The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your hearts and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.

Diligently to your children. And shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.

Who is this text written to? To the parents in Israel. You shall teach them diligently to your children. Will they hear about Jesus on Sunday morning? Yes they do, and they will if they come to Grace Life. They will be loved and shown Jesus. But an hour on Sunday morning is not enough.

So how do they navigate following the Lord and trusting in him and guiding him as we teach them the truths of the Bible. Coaching baseball is a fast fascinating just social experiment. I love these kids that I coach. Some of them have never played before and so you can tell it's very awkward.

Their swings are awkward. And so you're just like, Hey, you're doing a great job. Keep going. And so here's what parents will do because they want their kid to fit in. And it happens every season. They go out and buy a 400 baseball bat. A 400 baseball bat. One that they'll probably outgrow by the next year.

Okay. And usually they buy one that's too heavy. Okay. Because someone tells them a heavier bat. Hits the ball further. Yes, but if you can't swing the bat, you're not going to hit the ball. That's, I don't know what the hell to do with it. So they buy a 400 bat, and the saying is, don't buy a 400 bat to fix a 10 swing.

And so what we do as parents is we are not equipping our kids with the right God given tool of Scripture. This is what will change their lives. This is what they need. They don't need all of this. They know what is good for them. God's Word is a sword. They need to know how to use it to fight their sin and the culture they live in.

So here's my challenge for you in this. By the end of this year your entire family can sit at the dining room table and memorize Ephesians 6:10 through 20 together. So when my kids are four and five, they can do it. Don't think they're too young. They can do it. They can. Those three year olds, those two year olds that are just mumbling, you know what they'll do?



They want to be involved. They want to sit there and just go, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Enemy! They'll throw in a random word when it's time. But this is how God shepherds them and molds them. Bring them in. Sing the Jesus loves you, this I know. For God's word has told me sing these songs at home. Tell them about the incredible truths of Scripture in the car, as you eat, when you lay them down to bed, pray for them. And I wish I could say I do this perfectly because I do not.

But it makes a difference the more we teach them the incredible truths of Scripture. Family discipleship at home matters. Chris Holstein, who if you look around is wearing the brightest yellow shirt in the room, okay? So you'll spot him out. Doing an incredible job leading our KidLife Elementary kids.

So a couple weeks ago we chatted through some things, and over the next couple months, I'm just teasing out what's going to be taking place. Chris and I are working together to form an intentional family discipleship at home. Not just hey, here's an idea, but something we can do together as a church that is one, not overwhelming, okay?

But also instills, hey, maybe your own family traits at home. And so we want to come alongside of you and support you. If you're having, want to pray over the kids, we'll pray over them. Your kids won't be perfect. They're gonna mess up. Sometimes we're gonna have to deal with some things that are serious.

But we're always going to point them to Jesus. We want to help you do that Monday through Saturday.

I'll say this, we Because I can't not say it. Parents, you have to begin teaching your children about God's good design for sex earlier than you think you need to. A lot earlier. You think, I'll just wait until they're 8, 9, or 10. No. 2, 3, and 4. You can do it in a way that is not just, whoa, alright, age appropriate.

About how God made us in his image. About God's design for families and marriage. As they get older, it's not a shocking surprise when you tell them maybe more of the those details. Because here's what they're learning very early on. Your body can do whatever you want it to do. It could be whatever you want it to be.

They hear this in the games they play. They see this at popular games they play on device. It looks fun. Games like Roblox. The amount of sexual content that is prevalent in these things. Either we're going to teach them what God's good design is, or the world will. And so if you want to, especially if you're thinking you got kids over here in this little room, over here, how you can begin those conversations.



Julie and I would love to sit down with you and just walk you through what that looks like. There's some great resources on this. Second practical help, is teach them to glorify God in all things. This is the discipline of the Lord. All of life is to be lived for the glory of the Lord. All of life.

Y'all may not know this, but I love baseball, alright? It's the second time I've mentioned this. I love coaching Colton's team. I love watching him play. And so we get in the car after a game, and he has a couple hits. I'll brag on him the other day, he struck out 12 in one game in four innings.

There's 12 batters. He struck them all out. And I was pretty, I'm pretty impressed and we get in the car and we remind God gave you this gift. This is God's design. Let's give him the glory for this. All of life is for the glory of the Lord. You got an A on that test. That is awesome. Praise God. Let's give him, how he wired you.

Because here's what happens when we see next week. They got to go to work someday. They better go to work someday as well, right? And what do we do with our work? For the glory of the Lord we work. So teach your children to glorify God in all things. Even in the simplest of things. When they're little and they put, that little piece of trash and they waddle over there and they put it in the trash can.

You can celebrate that thank you for just love, obeying, thank you for glorifying the God. God's given us things to take care of and steward well.

The first time they hear about these things should not be when they're 14 and 15. We raise them up, bring them up, always bringing them up in the instruction of discipline of the Lord. Finally, the last truth we see, as God has entrusted you The parent to reflect the character of Jesus to your children.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, to anger.

That is a command given to dads.

It's a reminder that our kids are watching everything we do. How we respond, how we act. I can look at both Colton and Merritt. And see the things they say, do, and act that they have learned directly from me.

Sometimes that is good and bad, alright?

I model, Julie and I, model life for them. They respond the same way I respond. Am I modeling? Are we modeling the character of Jesus to our children? Are we showing them what it means to be kind to one another, hospitable, forgiving? Have you ever



wronged your child? Maybe you yelled at them or you had some wrong information.

You punished them and realized you were wrong. Have you had to go and ask them for forgiveness? When they're little they, I forgive you. But you're modeling the gospel for them. You're modeling that Jesus loves them and died for them and rose again for them. That there is grace and forgiveness in Jesus.

Am I modeling the character of Jesus to them, or am I leading my kids to anger? When you look at the statistics, and dads, I want to level with you here, you are the greatest influence in the life of your child. This is God's design. A lot of what we see in society is due to a lack of dads stepping up. And I know we're not all perfect, and every dad here has made some mistakes and some regrets.

But where God has placed you right now is lead lead well. And lead them to Jesus.

Which means the two practical helps is mom and dad, you need to make Jesus a priority in your life. If Jesus is not a priority to you, he will not be a priority to your children. He has to be a priority in your life. When you tell them, hey, you're going to memorize this verse and you're not doing it. I'm a little convicted there in that moment, okay?

They see that. Do they see that Jesus is a priority to you?

Am I prioritizing the things of Jesus? Church on Sunday morning, small groups, yes I'm tired, yeah it'd be easier to just stay home tonight, but they're watching. And so what they're learning is when I'm tired, when I'm working, when I'm older,

I can just skip out. And usually it's at a greater degree than what We did it. Make Jesus a priority in your life.

I think this means in a lot of ways It's setting yourself aside for the sake of our kids as Jesus did for us

Secondly surround your kids with other people who love Jesus as much as you do. There are some significant Statistics, I don't know how you that's the right word Studies that show, studies is the right word, some studies that show the significance of four areas in the life of your child if, that has a lifelong faith.

Obviously doing these things does not save you, okay, or save your kids. It's Jesus alone that saves your kids. Bringing them to church will not save your children, okay, but we see the gospel impact of lifelong here. A daily intake of scripture.



Prayer, singing songs about Jesus and surrounding them with other brothers and sisters in Christ who love Jesus just as much as you do.

You want to know why I love on your kids the way I do, as best as I can? It's because I want them to see that the faith of their parents isn't just something they're excited about. It's not just a parent hobby. That it's real to a lot of people. I'm gonna reinforce you. And so if you don't have kids here, you play a huge role.

To get down and just say, I love watching you sing that song. Every Sunday they're here. Tell them you, you have just encouraged me. Because you know what they do when you tell them this? They smile and it means a lot to them. Write them in cards. Hand them to them. Know their birthdays. These are things you're already doing, okay?

I love watching I know it's their birthday and there's a gift coming in, and I'm like, that's awesome. One of my favorite things that means so much to me as a dad,

so much, I'm going to acknowledge this and put someone on the spot here, okay, is for most of a baseball season, I see Julie sitting there. I'm on the third baseline coaching, yelling. All right. And there is Julie and oftentimes sitting next to Miss Judy. These are not Miss Judy's kids. But she is serving them.

And my kids love seeing her at the ball field. And I know it's not just my family she's doing that for. She's watched football and volleyball. When Colton was getting into golf for just a little bit, she was like, I'll go ride a golf cart. That sounds fun, right?

This is how you, just a simple way you can just, you hear about a competition they have or a play, go encourage them. Because it means the world to them. It means the world to them. More, more than that. Man, it means the world to us as parents. That we are not alone in this. You've navigated that. You know how difficult it is?

Don't beat down the parent. Raise them up.

The text says, children obey your parents and Lord for this is right. This is the first commandment with a promise. The promise attached here is a lifelong obedience to the Lord leads to the promised land. What a blessing to lead our Children. To faith in Jesus Christ. And to one day, Lord willing, walking them all the way through, when they watch us as parents close our eyes in death,

and when we get to heaven, and when they show up,

I say, I want to introduce you to Jesus that I shared my whole life about.



As I was writing this sermon on Friday, putting it together.

My mom texted me, and all it said was, I love you, I'm praying for you always. That was it.

The heart of a parent doesn't end when they leave the house.

I'm thankful for a mom, and I text her, I'm like, hey, just letting you know, I didn't know how I was going to close out my sermon on Sunday, but now I do, so thank you.

I don't want my kids to ever doubt that I love them. And I'm always praying for them. And I want them to know how great Jesus is. And even when they're older, they leave the house, and I ever, and I wonder if I ever taught them anything, I'm sure. My dad has said that.

That even, maybe they run from the Lord, that I will boldly point them to Jesus.

Let them know that I love them. They're not perfect, but Jesus is and encouraged them to always turn to Him.

The job of a parent, the responsibility of a parent is a weighty task.

But if the Lord did not think that He could equip us and be with us every step of the way, He would not have given us this responsibility. And yet He has, and through His strength, we stand in His power. And submit to His authority as we seek to shepherd and care for our children and point them to Jesus.

