

Date: November 17, 2019

Text: Proverbs

Title: Family Matters

Big Idea: The parent-child relationship is to be an intentional training of children to walk in the way of wisdom.

1. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT

Godly Parents are a Gift **Read Proverbs 14:26, 17:6, & 20:7.**

A wise child brings joy, gladness, and honor to his or her parents: **Read Proverbs 10:1a, 15:20a, 23:24-25, 27:11, & 29:3.**

2. PARENTS ARE TO TEACH AND TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN.

Read Proverbs 22:6

Do you feel that this verse is making a statement that is *a/ways* true? What is the main point that we should be getting out of this verse?

3. PARENTS ARE TO TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH DISCIPLINE

Read Proverbs 13:1, 15:5, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, & 29:17.

What are some of the terms used in Proverbs to describe godly discipline? What is the goal of godly discipline? According to Proverbs, what two forms does discipline take?

Godly Discipline is a Good Thing

Read Proverbs 3:11-12, 12:1, 13:24, & 19:18

Godly discipline is a rescue project

Read Proverbs 20:20, 22:15, 23:13-14, & 30:17.

What does it mean to see discipline as a rescue operation and approach it with our children in loving and appropriate ways?

Godly discipline targets the heart

Proper discipline doesn't mainly target *behavior*, but the *heart*. Remember how important the heart is in the book of Proverbs? God doesn't just want right behavior from us. He wants our hearts.

Godly discipline is empathetic

Because it targets the heart, godly and loving discipline is undergirded with this bare fact: *I am more like my child in his or her folly than I am like God in his holiness and wisdom.* We can identify with our children because we know—first hand—the destructive folly of sin, and we love our children too much to allow them down that path! This allows us to discipline empathetically—and, when we mess up, to ask for their forgiveness.

Godly discipline is highly relational

- **Read Proverbs 10:1b, 17:21, 17:25, 19:13a, & 19:26.**

4. BELIEVERS ARE PART OF A NEW FAMILY

In the end, I want to call us to Jesus, because with all this talk about the family, it's easy for us to begin thinking family is the most important thing. But this simply isn't the case:

- **Parenting is a daunting task...but God gives abundant grace.** Parents will reflect God to their children, and the main thing they can communicate in their example is relying on God's grace in *everything*. And remember: our children ultimately belong to *God*, not to us.
- **Godly parents are a gift...but we didn't all have godly parents or good families.** So God provided a way, through Jesus, for us to have a new family. We have a new Father, a new inheritance, a new name, and brothers and sisters who are not blood relatives. (Romans 8, Ephesians 1, etc.)
- **Families are important...but they're not the most important thing.** *Devotion to Jesus and his Kingdom is the most important thing—and good families will point us to him!* Jesus said “whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother” (Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21), and “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26).