

The Spirit-Filled Home: Parents
Ephesians 6:4

1. 6:4 gives clear and basic instructions for parents who desire to raise their children faithfully.
 - a. What is the first principle parents must keep in mind if they are to raise their kids faithfully? (see 5:18)

 - b. What is the negative and positive instruction given in 6:4?

 - c. Why does Paul address fathers, and not parents?

2. In a mixed congregation with individuals of various ages and experiences, it's important those who are past the age of parenting do not feel the burden of shame or regret.
 - a. How can passages like Romans 8:28 help those individuals move past those things?

 - b. Why is it important for Christians to understand that suffering and difficulty, whether it's from bad parenting or something else, is a normal part of life in a sin-cursed world?

 - c. How can we best teach new parents that their goal cannot be to alleviate suffering?

3. Paul tells parents what not to do first: "Provoke them to anger."
 - a. In your own words, what does this mean?

 - b. What are some examples of how parents can do this to their children?

 - c. What three underlying principles were mentioned in the message?

 - d. How can parents overcome those attitudes?

4. Parenting is hard work, and it's important for parents to remember they are stewards of their children, and not the owners of them.
 - a. How can a change of perspective in ownership help the parents better raise their children?

 - b. Why is it important for parents to understand God's sovereign choice of them as a mom or dad? How can a child's understanding of this dynamic serve them in their own development?

5. The two positive aspects of parenting are discipline and instruction "in the Lord."
 - a. What does Paul mean by "discipline?"

 - b. What does he mean by "instruction?"

 - c. How are these related? How are they different?