

## No Days Off

### Proverbs 22:6

“**Train up** a child in **the way** he should go, Even when he grows older he will **not abandon it.**”

Proverbs 22:6 (NASB)

#### A. Training our children is to happen often. But how often?

“Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NASB)

1. There are no days off when it comes to spiritual training.

Why is it so important?

“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and **that from childhood you have known the sacred writings** which are able to give you the wisdom **that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for **teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness**; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NASB)

**Life Application:** We must be diligent! You must show that you care. Your kids will know if you don't. This training is not physical; it's spiritual. There are no days off!

2. Yes! You do have a team. What are the roles? (Ephesians 5:22-6:4)

#### The Wife:

“**Wives, subject yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”

Ephesians 5:22-24 (NASB)

Wives are to submit to the husband, but not all men. This is directly opposed to some kind of tyranny or oppression.

- a. Allow the husband to lead well.
- b. God gave this leadership authority to the husband. However, if he isn't leading you in a Godly way, then he isn't leading you at all.

#### The Husband:

“**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her**, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. **So husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself**; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and

cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are parts of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. **Nevertheless, as for you individually, each husband is to love his own wife the same as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.**" Ephesians 5:25-33 (NASB)

Husbands, love your wife just as Christ loved the church! You are to give yourself up for her. Your kids are watching you! You are setting the example for your sons to be a great husband someday. You're also displaying the qualities your daughter will look for in a husband one day.

### **The Children:**

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may turn out well for you, and that you may live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3 (NASB)

Children, obey your parents! It's how God designed it. They are your biggest fans and want nothing but the best for you.

**Life Application:** Focus on being a more godly son or daughter and let them focus on being better moms and dads. Both of you will be better off, especially you kids!

### **The Fathers:**

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)

**LEAD WELL**, Dad! God commands it. Raise them to be Godly kids. You aren't to be your kid's best friend; you are to be their dad. Sometimes it takes discipline; other times it takes instruction. **Are you ready to lead well? Could you start being a better leader today?**

*Lifeway Research Statistics:*

*Percentage chance the entire family will come to know Christ if...*

*-The child comes to know Christ first = 3.5%*

*-The mom comes to know Christ first = 17%*

*-The dad comes to know Christ first = 93%*

Dads, this should be enough motivation to become a good leader.

**B. All training has a reason. Usually, it is for a game or activity. What exactly is the game plan for this game of life?**

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14:6 (NASB)

Fathers, you are to lead His way, not yours. God has a game plan for all of us. Step one of this game plan is to follow Jesus. **Are you pointing your kids to Jesus?** We must set our children on a trajectory towards Heaven. Children crave direction and vision. Give it to them!

**Life Application:** If we aren't careful, our direction and vision for our children can focus more on earthly things than heavenly things. Sports and other extracurricular electives/activities can take the place of our

most prized priority, which is spiritual training. These things all have their place in life, but they should never take priority over our relationship with Jesus.

*NCAA Statistics:*

*A high school athlete has a 5.8% chance of making it to college. The college athlete has a 1.8% chance of making it to the pros. The high school athlete has a 0.08% chance of making it pro.*

*Biblical Statistics:*

*There is a 100% chance your child will meet Jesus someday.*

**What path are we more focused on?**

**C. How will we know if our training works if we never put them in the game?**

Parents, don't be afraid to release them into the real world. It is scary, but we can't expect them to be perfect without getting some real reps.

So many scary questions!!!

What about.....relationships? college? work? moving out?

How do we know we did it right? Are they truly ready? Has their faith been tested? What if they are tempted with worldly things?

1. How did Jesus respond to being tempted by Satan? (See Matthew 4:1-11)

He quoted scripture 3 times! **Have we trained our kids to respond the same way?**

2. What if they abandon "the way"? (See Luke 15:20-24)

**Life Application:** Proverbs 22:6 is a proverb, **NOT** a promise. When our children abandon God's way, there is no worse feeling for a parent...lots of sadness and anger. However, our role is to love them, pray for them, and be patient while waiting for them to return. **And when they do, we should run to them and celebrate because God has brought them home.**

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Share a favorite memory of your dad from your childhood. What did you admire about him while growing up?
2. Maybe you didn't have a dad growing up. Was there a father figure in your life? If so, what impact did they make in your life?
3. Has the impact of your earthly father impacted your view on your Heavenly Father? If so, was it negative or positive? Explain.
4. Did your dad provide you with spiritual training? Was he a leader in the home? How so?
5. For Dads: Did you realize the importance of being a godly leader before today? If not, what are you waiting for?
6. For Wives: Are you encouraging your husband to be that godly leader in the home?

7. For Kids: Do you view your dad as a spiritual leader? Are you respecting the authority that God has given him?
8. Chances are, your earthly father was/is not perfect. What is your idea of a perfect father? What would the character traits be of a perfect father?
9. How could knowing that God is a perfect father change your relationship with Him today?

**Challenge:**

**For everyone:** If possible, let your dad know how much of an impact he has had/is having on your life. Don't wait until it's too late!

**For dads:** Start leading well today! Don't wait until it's too late!