

"Proverbs for Parenting"
For the week of March 8, 2020

In A Nutshell

The book of Proverbs is a great source of parenting wisdom. Indeed, Proverbs states its overall theme right at the book's beginning (1:1-7): its goal is to describe and instill "wisdom" in God's people, a wisdom that is founded in the "fear of the Lord" and that works out covenant life in the practical details of everyday situations and relationships, which includes parenting.

Startup Questions

- What parenting wisdom were you given by your parents? Grandparents? Do you use this "wisdom" with your children? Why or why not?
- Other than the Bible, what are other sources used by parents for parenting? List them. Do these sources complement or are they contrary to the Bible? How so?

Most Famous Verse

The most famous Proverbs verse about parenting is Proverbs 22:6 "**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.**" People often use this verse as a guarantee that if you raise your children "**in the discipline and instruction of the Lord**" (Ephesians 6:4), they'll always stay on the right path. Is this true? Why or why not?

Often parents of older children (teens and 20's) will say something like this: "I raised my kid in the church, but he/she has now strayed. The church has let me down." What is wrong about that statement? What is the responsibility of the church and what is the responsibility of the parent in raising a child?

7 Themes in Proverbs on How to Raise a Child

1. Fear and trust in the Lord (read Proverbs 1:7; 3:5-6)

What does "fear" mean in Proverbs 1:7 and how does this relate to raising your child?

What are ways you can instill trust in the Lord to your child? Why is it critical to teach our kids Biblical and theological truth from a young age? Share in your community group how you accomplish this.

2. Be honest (read Proverbs 28:13)

A Gospel application for parenting is that telling the truth and being honest will be celebrated in your home. How do you cultivate this? Why is healthy communication critical?

3. Appreciate discipline (read Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17; 3:11-12)

Describe in your community group how discipline occurs in your home. What are the challenges in disciplining your child? Why is it important to provide proper and timely discipline?

4. Work hard (read Proverbs 10:5)

Is the following statement true or false? Kids and teens have a lot of discretionary time. If this is true then how do you as a parent instill responsibility (work ethic) in your kids?

5. Pursue healthy friendships (read Proverbs 13:20)

There is a saying which goes like this: "If you want to see who your child is becoming, look at the friends they keep." This can often result in your child acting one way around you and a different way around their friends. What role does a parent have in helping your child have healthy friendships? How does this role change as your child ages?

6. Avoid sexual temptation (Proverbs 7)

Here is a numbing fact: "It is estimated that up to 70% of online pornography is viewed on smartphones in the hands of kids." And here's another fact: "More than 50% of all 4th graders have a smartphone. So what to do? Discuss in your community group ways you as a parent can shield your child from sexual temptation.

7. Pursue a Godly spouse (read Proverbs 12:4)

After reading Proverbs 12:4 discuss ways a parent can help their child in choosing a spouse.