



## CWT Ministry Bible Study Series

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# Bible Study: “Train Up a Child in the Way He Should Go”

## Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

*“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

## Introduction

*Parenting is one of the most profound callings God gives to His people. Every child is a unique gift, created in the image of God and entrusted to parents for a season of shaping and nurturing. Within the home, God establishes the first place of worship, instruction, and love. It is there that children first see faith in action and experience the character of God through their parents’ example. Scripture reminds us that our children do not truly belong to us—they belong to the Lord—and our task is to lead them toward Him with humility and devotion.*

*Proverbs 22:6 offers both instruction and promise: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” This verse calls Christian parents to intentional, consistent training—not through force, but through faithful teaching and living. It challenges every believer to model the truth they profess, creating an atmosphere in which the Word of God shapes behavior, decisions, and priorities. Training in the Lord involves heart work, not just behavior correction; it is a lifelong process of guiding children to know, love, and serve God.*

*This Bible study explores what it truly means to “train up a child” in the light of Christian theology. It examines the divine responsibility of parents, the spiritual pathway of obedience, and the moral foundations that sustain a godly home. Each section provides Scripture, explanation, and practical application for daily life. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, mentor, or teacher, this study will help you understand how to build a legacy of faith that endures through generations and glorifies God.*

# 1 Parenting as a Divine Responsibility

## Scriptures

### **Psalm 127:3 (ESV)**

*“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”*

### **Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)**

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*

### **Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)**

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

## Explanation

Parenting is a sacred calling. God entrusts parents with the souls of their children not merely to provide for them, but to shape their hearts toward righteousness.

Children are “a heritage from the Lord”—a trust, not a possession. Parents are **stewards** who will answer to God for how they nurture and guide those lives.

Deuteronomy 6 shows that faith should be part of everyday living—when sitting, walking, resting, and rising. Every conversation is an opportunity to reveal God’s character.

Paul reminds fathers that godly authority must be gentle and purposeful. Discipline should mirror God’s heart: consistent, patient, and loving.

**Key truth:** Parenting is holy work; each prayer, correction, and example plants seeds of faith that the Spirit will water over a lifetime.

## 2 Understanding “The Way He Should Go”

### Scriptures

**John 14:6 (ESV)**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

**Psalms 119:105 (ESV)**

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

### Explanation

“The way he should go” refers to God’s divine path—the way of truth, righteousness, and obedience. Parents are called to lead their children to Jesus Christ, who is *the Way*, and to train them in the light of God’s Word.

This training is both spiritual and practical: teaching Scripture, praying together, and applying biblical principles to real-life decisions. When a child learns that God’s Word guides every step, they gain stability and wisdom that lasts for life.

**Key truth:** To train a child in “the way” is to lead them to Christ and teach them to walk daily in the light of Scripture.

### **3 Core Morals and Values to Instill**

#### **A. Reverence for God**

**Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)**

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”*

**Explanation**

Reverence is foundational to wisdom. To “fear the Lord” means to honor Him with humility, obedience, and respect. Parents foster this by praying with their children, reading the Bible together, and demonstrating dependence on God. Children who learn to revere God early will carry that respect throughout life.

**Key Truth:** True wisdom begins with reverence for God; when children learn to honor Him first, every other virtue finds its rightful place.

#### **B. Honesty and Integrity**

**Proverbs 12:22 (ESV)**

*“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.”*

**John 8:32 (ESV)**

*“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

**Explanation**

God delights in truth because He Himself is truth. Honesty builds integrity and trust. When parents model truthfulness—by keeping promises, admitting mistakes, and practicing transparency—children learn that integrity honors God and brings peace.

**Key Truth:** A life of integrity pleases God and brings freedom, for truth builds trust, while deceit destroys the soul.

#### **C. Respect and Compassion**

**Matthew 22:37–39 (ESV)**

*“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

**Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)**

*“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*

**Explanation**

Respect and compassion are rooted in love. Children must learn that every person bears God’s image. Acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service help them understand what it means to love others as Jesus loves us.

**Key Truth:** Teaching children to love and respect others reflects God’s heart and builds character rooted in kindness and forgiveness.

**D. Obedience and Self-Discipline**

**Ephesians 6:1–3 (ESV)**

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is 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 land.’”*

**Hebrews 12:11 (ESV)**

*“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

**Explanation**

Obedience helps children recognize God’s order and authority. Loving discipline, paired with encouragement, builds character and self-control. The fruit of discipline is peace, wisdom, and a life that honors God.

**Key Truth:** Obedience and discipline develop inner strength and humility, preparing children to submit to God’s authority with joy.

**E. Purity and Righteousness**

**1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)**

*“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”*

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)**

*“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*

**Explanation**

Purity encompasses heart, mind, and body. God calls His people to holiness. Parents help by setting standards for media, friendships, and speech. Purity is not about rules—it's about reflecting God's holiness with joy and freedom.

**Key Truth:** A pure heart honors God and protects the soul, reminding children that their bodies and lives are sacred vessels for His glory.

## **4 The Christian Approach to Moral and Spiritual Formation**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)**

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

### **Explanation**

Christian character flows from a changed heart. Parents can teach and model godliness, but only the Holy Spirit renews the inner life. Instruction, example, and prayer together create an environment where transformation can occur.

The church reinforces this foundation through worship, teaching, and fellowship, ensuring that children grow in faith and community.

**Key Truth:** True moral and spiritual growth flows from a heart renewed by Christ, not mere behavior change, and is sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## 5 Practical Steps for Christian Parenting

### 1. Build a Faith-Filled Routine

#### Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”*

#### Explanation

Consistency in prayer, Bible reading, and family worship forms the backbone of a godly home. Daily habits teach children that God’s Word is relevant and life-giving.

**Key Truth:** Faithful parenting is built on consistency—teaching, modeling, correcting, and encouraging in love so that children grow strong in the Lord.

### 2. Model Christlike Behavior

#### Philippians 2:3–5 (ESV)

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”*

#### Explanation

Children mirror what they see. When parents live humbly, forgive freely, and serve others, they reveal Christ’s nature and show that faith is alive and practical.

**Key Truth:** The most powerful lessons children learn come from the example of their parents; when they see humility, love, and forgiveness lived out, they come to know the character of Christ.

### 3. Practice Loving Correction

#### Proverbs 13:24 (ESV)

*“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.”*

#### Explanation

True discipline is motivated by love, not anger. Correction shapes character and protects from

harm. Loving discipline teaches accountability and restoration, mirroring God's own correction of His children.

**Key Truth:** Discipline that is rooted in love shapes the heart without breaking the spirit, leading children to understand God's justice, mercy, and grace.

#### 4. Encourage Biblical Thinking

**Romans 12:2 (ESV)**

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

**Explanation**

Parents must train children to think biblically about every issue—identity, culture, morality, and purpose. Scripture renews the mind and strengthens discernment.

**Key Truth:** Teaching children to view life through the lens of Scripture gives them wisdom and strength to stand firm in a world that challenges God's truth.

#### 5. Celebrate Spiritual Growth

**3 John 1:4 (ESV)**

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."*

**Explanation**

Rejoice in every sign of spiritual progress—prayers, service, or Scripture memorization. Celebrating spiritual milestones reinforces faith and encourages perseverance.

**Key Truth:** Rejoicing over a child's spiritual progress reinforces the joy of obedience and helps them see that walking with God brings lasting fulfillment.

## **6 Building a Christ-Centered Legacy**

### **2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)**

*“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”*

### **Psalm 78:4–7 (ESV)**

*“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”*

### **Matthew 6:33 (ESV)**

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*

### **Explanation**

A Christ-centered legacy is faith passed through generations. Timothy’s faith began with his grandmother and mother, showing that everyday faithfulness at home can influence future generations. When parents seek first the kingdom of God, children learn to set their hope in Him, not in worldly things.

**Key truth:** The greatest inheritance is not wealth or success—it is a living faith that endures and multiplies through generations.

## Personal Reflection & Discussion

1. How can you apply Proverbs 22:6 in your family life?
2. What spiritual habits can you begin today to strengthen your home?
3. In what ways can your church community help nurture children in the faith?

## Final Thought

Parenting in the Christian life is an act of stewardship, not ownership. Our children ultimately belong to God, and He entrusts them to our care for a season so that we may guide them toward Him. Every moment—whether in teaching, discipline, prayer, or play—is an opportunity to reflect the heart of the Father. When we teach with patience and lead by example, we plant seeds of faith that, in time, the Holy Spirit will water and cause to grow. A child who witnesses genuine love for Christ in their home will rarely forget the path that love illuminated.

Training up a child in “the way he should go” is not about controlling their choices, but about shaping their hearts to desire righteousness. True success in parenting is not measured by worldly achievements or comfort, but by the spiritual maturity of our children and their willingness to follow Christ. As they grow, the truths we instill and the example we live will become the moral compass guiding them through life’s challenges. When God’s Word governs the home, His peace and order bring stability to the next generation.

Ultimately, Christian parenting is an act of faith. We teach, we model, we pray—but it is God who transforms the heart. Parents who trust the Lord’s promises can rest in His faithfulness, knowing that His Word will not return void. Even when children stray, the truth sown in their hearts continues to call them home. Therefore, let every home be a sanctuary of grace, love, and Scripture—a living testimony that glorifies God and shapes lives for eternity.

## Closing Prayer

*Heavenly Father, You are our perfect Parent. Teach us to love, correct, and guide our children as You do with us. Help us build homes that honor Your Word, raise hearts that seek Your will, and leave a legacy of faith that endures for generations. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

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