

You Asked For It!
Week 3: How Do You Raise Up Kids in
Christ in This Difficult World?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



RECAP

In this third sermon tackling some of the most pressing questions Christians ask, Josh looked at Ephesians 6:4 and discussed how to parent kids in Christ when the world seems to be making it more and more difficult.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about your childhood. What were some of the fondest and most difficult memories for you? What are some things you learned from your parents that you definitely want to pass onto the next generation? What were some things you learned from your parents that are examples of what not to do?
2. The question Josh answered today was “How do you raise up kids in Christ in this difficult world?” What makes it difficult to raise up Christian kids today? How has it changed since you were a child? Did Josh’s comparison to first-century Christians give you any context about parenting in a difficult culture?
3. Read Ephesians 6:4. Josh spent time talking about what it means to exasperate, to drive someone to rage and rebellion. In your own life, what are the things that produce wrath in you? What has driven you to rebellion in the past? How do parents exasperate their kids and drive them to rebel?
4. Josh walked through 7 Ways to Raise Your Kids in Christ in This Difficult World (message notes). Walk through each of the seven ways and share examples from your own life. Which one stands out to you the most? Which one has been the most difficult for you to implement?

NEXT STEP

Take some time as a group and pray for each other’s kids. Talk through any difficult situations you may be going through and don’t leave until you have a plan for how your small group (the body of Christ) can come together in support in a practical way.

For more information (training and support) on how to start a small group, contact steve.lizzio@cbcva.org



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019
WEEK 3: HOW DO YOU RAISE UP CHILDREN IN CHRIST IN THIS DIFFICULT WORLD?
EPHESIANS 6:4

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

7 WAYS TO RAISE YOUR KIDS IN CHRIST IN THIS DIFFICULT WORLD

1. Parenting is a _____.
2. Don’t be the _____ why your child _____.
3. Don’t make your kids an _____.
4. Show them how to _____ this world.
5. Shape their world with your _____.
6. Parent with _____ in mind.
7. Teach them to _____.

Bonus Content

Sunday (This Handout) - 7 Questions on Ephesians 6:4 and Discussion Questions for this message
Monday (Blog) - You Think It’s Tough Raising Kids Today? Try Asking First-Century Christians!
Wednesday (Blog) - 7 Ways to Raise Your Kids in Christ in This Difficult World

For bonus content and much more, visit: joshdaffern.com

Ephesians 6:4

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Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?

If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.

Paul here provides some of the only New Testament instruction on how to parent children in the Lord. It's interesting to note that this instruction comes in the midst of the great passage on submission that Paul starts in Ephesians 5:21 when he says "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Paul then goes to describe what mutual submission looks like in a marriage and how children are to submit to their parents. Paul finishes this train of thought with an exhortation for slaves to submit to their earthly masters. Tucked in the middle of all this is the instruction of fathers towards their children. Fathers are not commanded to submit to their children, but they are commanded not to provoke them to wrath through injustice or severity.

The words for "training" and "instruction" are two sides of the same coin, "training" meaning discipline and correction through action and "instruction" meaning discipline and correction through the spoken word. An image that relates to Paul's instruction would be how a personal trainer works with you, motivates you, guides you and corrects you to get in shape at a gym. Parents are "personal trainers" for their kids, preparing them through word and action to grow in the Lord and to make a difference for Jesus in the world.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

παροργίζω (parorgizō) is the Greek word for "exasperate" in Ephesians 6:4 and is often hard to grasp because it is not a word commonly used in English conversations. It literally means "to rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger." Scholars describe the word this way: *"The parental duty is given first negatively, as avoidance of all calculated to irritate or exasperate the children— injustice, severity and the like, so as to make them indisposed to filial obedience and honor."* This is not describing a short-term loss of temper but a long-term injustice or severity that will cause a child to rebel.

2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT? *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

Raising Christian kids in the first century would have been a difficult task, especially in the city of Ephesus. When Paul wrote this letter there were no organized children's ministries, Sunday schools or summer camps. If they came from a Jewish background they would have been ostracized from their extended family. If they came from a Greek background they would be considered way out of line with contemporary Greek culture. Seven years before this letter was written a riot almost broke out in the city of Ephesus because of Paul's ministry in the area. So, no matter how difficult it might seem to raise kids in today's rapidly changing culture, it wouldn't have been any more difficult than raising kids in Christ in the chaotic and persecution-heavy first century.

3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?

Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.

- Fathers are called to take an active role in the parenting of their children. When fathers are absent, children suffer.
- Through how we live our lives, through how we discipline our children and through the words we speak to them, we are preparing them to serve the Lord.
- The ultimate goal for parents is not to prepare their kids for academic and financial success but to prepare them to serve the Lord.

5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY? *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- Parenting is a team sport. God has roles for both males and females to pour into the life of a child, whether that is a husband and a wife (ideally) or biological or church family members. Either way, parenting was never designed to be a solo operation.
- The ultimate goal of parenting is teach your children to love Jesus, not just to prepare them for college and a lucrative career. If you are only preparing your kids for success in this life with no thought for eternity, you are doing your children a huge disservice.

4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THIS? *The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.*

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still **angry**, and do not give the devil a foothold. *Ephesians 4:26-27*

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training** in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as **warnings** for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. *1 Corinthians 10:11*

6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY? *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- What was your childhood like? What role did your father and mother play in your upbringing? What are some of the biggest life lessons (positive or negative) that they instilled in you?
- Who are the young ones in your life that you have a platform to be a positive force for good in their training and instruction in the Lord? What can you do to be more intentional to parent children in the Lord?

7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES? *If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?*

When we are intentional to parent children God's way, our children will be prepared to engage this world and make a difference for Jesus. When we take their training and instruction seriously, making sure that there is nothing in our own lives that is driving them to rebel, we will help them successfully navigate this difficult world. That means making sure that we as parents are living a life of integrity and not hypocrisy. That means we are parenting with eternity in mind and making sure that their emotional and spiritual maturity is on pace with their physical and mental maturity. And that means that church families band together and support one another when needed. If Christians in the first century could raise children that eventually changed the world, so can we!