

# PROVERBS: Wisdom for Living

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## Study 16: Does Godly parenting guarantee Godly children?

READ Proverbs 22:6 and LISTEN to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

Every believing parent's greatest desire is that their children would grow up to love the Lord and follow in His ways. But is that guaranteed? Can we be assured that if we "train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it"? (Prov 22:6). Or is it simply a case of doing our best, but in the end there is nothing we can do that can contribute to the spiritual outcome of our children? In this lesson we explore this crucial question.

**Main lesson:** Parents are instructed to train up their children to know, love, and obey Christ from their infancy while prayerfully and peacefully leaving the outcome to God

### Questions:

1. Why do so many Christian parents feel guilt when their children don't follow Christ? What aspect of that guilt is well founded and what is not?  
  
A. Are parents responsible to God for how their children turn out, or the choices their children make? Explain.  
  
B. What do the following verses tell us about a parent's responsibility regarding the spiritual development of their children? 1 Kings 1:5-6; 1 Sam 3:13; Eph 6:4.
3. Does a child come into being neutral to sin? See Ps 51:5; Prov 22:15a; Eph 2:3. What does this say about their nature and the need to train them in God's way?

4. In what ways are we called to "train up" our children in the Lord's way? Provide scriptural references if possible.
5. A. From Heb 12:3-11 explain God's view of discipline toward his spiritual children and why do you think it is important.  
  
B. In what ways does God discipline you and do you enjoy it?
6. A. What forms of discipline does Proverbs prescribe and why may discipline be considered loving and missional? Prov 13:14; 19:18; 22:15; 23:12-14; 29:15-17.  
  
B. Practically speaking, what might loving discipline look like and how should discipline of your children change according to their age and temperament?  
  
C. What might it look like to have a gospel conversation with your children when you discipline them? Why is this important?
7. What from this lesson has been the most impactful to you and why?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Praise:** God that He disciplines His children and does not leave them in their rebellion  
**Thank:** the Lord now for times when He disciplined you though you didn't like it then  
**Pray:** that you would have wisdom to train your children to know, love, and obey God