

The Role of a Father
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Ephesians 6:1-4 (ESV)

HOW FATHERS LEAD THE WAY TO A GODLY HOME (v. 4)

1. A father must not provoke his children into a state of **perpetual resentment (“do not provoke your children to anger”)**

- Showing favoritism
- Comparing to others
- Being controlling or overly restrictive
- Pushing achievement beyond reasonable bounds
- Abusing (e.g., physically, verbally, others)

2. A father must **discipline his children (“bring them up in the discipline... of the Lord”)**

- To discipline is to train by correction
- [See Proverbs 19:18; Hebrews 12:7-11; 1 Samuel 3:12-14]

3. A father must be his children’s **spiritual leader (“bring them up in the...instruction of the Lord”)**

- [See Deuteronomy 6:4-9]

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Going Deeper into the Message

1. Choose three words to describe your relationship with your father when you were a child.
2. How did your childhood experiences with your father affect who and how you are today as an adult? (Consider such things as your self-image, spiritual life, interests, personality, values, and others).
3. Have you been provoked into a state of perpetual resentment by your father? If so, then how? Can you move towards forgiveness and reconciliation?

These questions are for men...

4. What are or will be your greatest challenges when you consider your God-given responsibility to discipline your children?
5. What are or will be your greatest challenges when you consider your God-given responsibility to be your children’s spiritual leader? What can you do to become a more effective spiritual leader to your family?

These questions are for women...

6. What is/should be the role of your husband when it comes to disciplining your children?
7. What can you do to bring out the best in your husband so that he can be a more confident spiritual leader in your family?

Responding to the Message

8. What one insight from the message seems most personally significant to you right now and what action can you take in the next week to start putting this into practice or to cooperate with God in bringing about this transformation?
9. Pray together as a group regarding fatherhood. If you’re a male without kids, then pray for your future role. If you’re a female without kids, then pray for the future father of your children. If you’re married with children, you know what to do!

CENTRAL TRUTH:

Fathers are not to provoke their children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.