

A Father's Instruction
Proverbs 4
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A Father's Instruction

I. A job description for Fathers

- a. Shape the eternity of those under your care
- b. Prioritize your own growth in Christ

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• Matthew 22:36-39 - 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' 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.'

- c. Love your wife

- i. Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

- d. Shepherd Your Home

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD your God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates"

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and **instruction** of the LORD."

II. A wise father has a godly vision for his children (Proverbs 4:1-9)

- a. He gives good instruction (Proverbs 4:1-2)

- **Instruction:** "The Hebrew word means "discipline" that is instructive and corrective in nature. The word... has to do with both the **reception of knowledge** through hearing and **the application of that knowledge** in daily life."

“Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,
and be attentive, that you may ¹gain insight,
² for I give you good precepts;
do not forsake my teaching.”

b. He invests in the next generation

(Proverbs 4:3-4a)

“When I was a son with my father,
tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me...”

Psalm 78: 5-7

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,⁷ so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

- c. Holds fast to wisdom and encourages others to do the same.
- **Don't FORSAKE** her (vs. 6)... she will keep you
 - **LOVE** her... She will guard you
 - **PRIZE** her... she will exalt you
 - **EMBRACE** her... she will honor you and bestow on you a graceful garland

III. A wise father teaches with his words and leads with his life (4:10-19)

a. Be an example to follow.

- “A gospel faith that is joyfully and seriously embraced, and lived out by loving and faithful parents, is much harder to ‘chuck’ than one that is perceived to be fake, inauthentic and sporadic.” (John Neilson, *Faith that Lasts*)

b. Warn against the wicked path (vs. 14-17, 19).

- “Avoid it;
- Don't go on it;
- Turn away from it
- And Pass on” (Proverbs 4:15)

IV. A wise father sees what his children cannot (Proverbs 4:20-27)