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Ephesians 6:4
Title: Wisdom for Families pt 2
8/18/24

Sermon Recap

In "Wisdom for Families Pt 2," Pastor Jason stresses the critical role of wise leadership in a godly Christian family. He explains that parenting requires wisdom, and while there's no manual for raising children, God offers guidance. The message advises parents to understand their children's boundaries, offer instruction, correction, and discipline lovingly, and prepare them for freedom and future responsibilities.

Discussion Questions

What can wise leadership look like in a godly Christian family?

- Pastor Jason bases his teachings on Ephesians 6:4 and highlights fathers' responsibility to understand and respect their children's limits, give instruction and correction, and plan for their freedom and thankfulness.
- How can you implement wise leadership in your own family or future family?

What are some ways that fathers can avoid provoking their children to anger and frustration?

- Pastor Jason suggests not creating expectations beyond children's capabilities, respecting their limits and boundaries, and focusing on building a solid relationship built on love and trust.
- Can you think of a time when your father or someone in authority over you respected your limits and boundaries? How did that make you feel?

How should parents approach instruction, correction, and discipline based on the sermon?

- Pastor Jason emphasizes that correction should not humiliate or hurt the child, but be in line with the offense and under control. Consequences should be reasonable, and parents should teach their children the value of making wise choices.
- What is an example of a time when you experienced a reasonable consequence for your actions? How did it help you understand the importance of making wise choices?

Why is planning for children's freedom and future lives important in a godly Christian family?

- Parents should gradually give children appropriate freedom as they grow and mature, ensuring that it keeps them safe and does not lead to harm. The long-term goal is for children to be thankful for their parents' training and correcting, seeing it as something that made them better people, parents, or followers of Christ.
- How have your parents or guardians helped prepare you for future freedom and responsibility? What lessons have you learned from them?

How can parents show their children what God is like through their actions and treatment of them?

- Parents should strive to reflect God's character by modeling love, patience, kindness, humility, and self-control, while also providing discipline and guidance when needed.
- In what ways have your parents or guardians shown you what God is like? How can you do the same for others in your life?

Prayer

- • Ask God to help us lead our families with wisdom and love.
- • Pray for strength and patience in training and admonishing children.
- • Seek guidance in building loving and trusting relationships within our families.

Teaching Notes:

We know from the beginning God had a plan for families.

Big idea: A godly Christian family requires wise leadership.

...It takes wisdom to lead a godly marriage and a family.

Kids were meant to hear his letter...

...They were not ignored or entertained, they were disciplined...

...Children were part of the church.

It is ultimately a child's decision to trust & follow Christ...

...but it's the most important decision we **HELP** them with.

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Roman families were ruled by “paterfamilias.”

Paul’s direction is Do not **Provoke to wrath.**
...the Greek word *parorgidzo* is used 2x.

Don’t anger to the point of them being angry.

1. Understand & respect their limits.

After being upset, do they return soon to a loving connection?

A physical work out may make you a little sore...
...but an injury hurts longer & hinders the rest of your life.

Exodus 6:7 I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt.

When struggling with an issue...

- Why do you *really* want them to do whatever it is?
- Is this really going to matter in 5 hours, 5 weeks, or 5 years?
- Am I obeying God’s call for me?

Train: **pahee-di’-ah**: nurture, correct, chasten, discipline.

Admonition: calling attention to, mild rebuke or warning.

This is what God does for us as well, it is discipleship.

Hebrews 12:7

If you endure **chastening**, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our **admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

2. Give instruction & correction.

All children do what is wrong morally, socially, & physically.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 22:15

A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away.

A consequence actually keeps them safe & keeps from the bigger...
...natural consequences of the behavior.

Consequences should be...

...understood, reasonable & in line w/ the offense.

Similar to a referee.

3. Plan for freedom & thankfulness.

5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the wisdom required for leading a godly Christian family and how to apply biblical principles in our daily lives.

Day 1

Ephesians 6:4

The foundation for a godly Christian family begins with understanding the roles and responsibilities that God has given us. In Ephesians 6:4, Paul instructs fathers to bring up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord, without provoking them to wrath. This involves a delicate balance of discipline and love, guiding children with wisdom and care.

God desires His children to grow in relationship with Him. Similarly, a Christian parent's goal is not just to enforce obedience but to foster a loving, respectful relationship. This means understanding and respecting a

child's boundaries, helping them grow in faith and character, and using our authority kindly and wisely.

- How can you balance discipline and love in your leadership?
- What are some ways to respect your a person's boundaries while guiding them?
- How can you demonstrate God's love and wisdom to those who follow you?
- Pray for the wisdom to guide your children with love and respect.
- Ask God to help you understand your child's needs and boundaries.

Day 2

Exodus 6:7

In the scripture, God emphasizes His relationship with His people, promising them that they will know Him as their God who has freed them from oppression. This relationship is built on trust, love, and understanding—principles that are essential in a godly family as well. Christian parents are called to reflect this relationship through their actions.

As parents, our goal is not to provoke our children to wrath but to guide them lovingly into a relationship with Christ. This requires patience, understanding, and a commitment to modeling God's love. When children see God's love reflected in their parents, they may be more likely to develop their own personal faith.

- How can you model God's relationship with His people in your parenting or leadership?
- Are there ways you can better build trust and understanding?
- What steps can you take to avoid provoking your children or others to anger?
- Pray for God's guidance in building a strong, loving relationships.
- Ask God for patience and wisdom in your journey.

Day 3

Hebrews 12:7

The process of training and admonition involves both instruction and correction. Hebrews 12:7 makes it clear that God disciplines us as His

children, which means there is a place for correction. Christian parents are responsible for guiding their children through both teaching and correction, helping them grow in godliness and wisdom.

Correcting a child in a godly manner is about more than just punishment; it involves guiding them towards better behavior and understanding. This requires explaining the reasons behind rules and consequences, showing them love, and ensuring that correction is done in a way that respects them as a person and is not humiliating.

- How can you balance correction with love and respect in your leadership?
- What are some effective ways to explain the reasons behind rules to those you lead?
- How can you ensure that your correction is consistent and loving?
- Pray for the wisdom to correct with love and respect.
- Ask God for guidance when teaching about His ways.

Day 4

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 22:15 highlights the importance of driving away foolishness through correction. In a Christian home, discipline should be administered not out of anger but out of a desire to help children grow in wisdom and understanding. This involves setting clear boundaries and consistently applying appropriate consequences.

Effective discipline helps children understand the importance of their actions and guides them towards making better choices. It's crucial to tailor discipline to the individual child, ensuring it is just, understandable, and in line with the offense. This approach helps maintain a loving relationship while teaching important life lessons.

- How can you ensure that your discipline is fair and appropriate?
- What are some ways to explain the importance of boundaries to those you lead?
- How can you maintain a loving relationship while administering discipline?
- Pray for the strength to administer discipline fairly and lovingly.
- Ask God for wisdom in setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries.

Day 5

1 Corinthians 10:11

Planning for your child's future freedom and fostering an attitude of thankfulness are key aspects of godly parenting. 1 Corinthians 10:11 reminds us that the events recorded in the scripture serve as examples for us. Just as God planned for the freedom and well-being of His people, we should plan for our children's future independence while teaching them to be thankful for God's blessings.

Helping children understand the value of freedom and thankfulness means gradually increasing their responsibilities and freedoms as they mature. It's important to guide them in making wise choices and to recognize the significance of thanking God for His provision. This prepares them for a future that honors God and reflects His love and wisdom.

- How can you help people you lead understand the importance of freedom and responsibility?
- What are some ways to cultivate thankfulness in those you lead?
- How can you plan for future independence in a godly manner?
- Pray for guidance in helping people understand the value of freedom and thankfulness.
- Ask God for wisdom in planning for your children or other people's future independence.