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February 15, 2026: **“A Discipling Home”**

Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

Hello Church Family! Below, you'll find notes for this Sunday's message. We'll be talking through Paul's message to kids and dad's (mom's don't worry). Your role is very much assumed and appreciated (Paul is addressing the social structure in that time). But Paul is working from a model noted in the Old Testament, which was Paul's scripture in that day. I hope that this week's message will be helpful as we continue to move forward as a church that matures as disciples and makes new disciples!

See you soon!

Ed

***Follow Jesus, Be Changed by Jesus, Commit to the Mission of Jesus***

✨ Congregational Notes

A Discipling Home — Ephesians 6:1–4

### 1. The Big Idea

God is forming a new kind of people in Christ — and the first place that new humanity shows up is in the home.

A discipling home is a place where:

- Christ is the center
- Love is mutual
- Authority is gentle
- Children are disciplined
- Parents are shepherds
- Hearts are shaped over time

### 2. The First-Century Picture

When Paul's letter was read in a home in Ephesus:

- Wives, husbands, children, masters, and slaves were all present
- Children were rarely addressed in moral teaching
- Fathers held absolute authority
- Paul reshaped the home around Jesus, not Roman culture

### 3. The Home as a Living Picture of the Gospel

Before Paul speaks to children or parents, he speaks to husbands and wives.

Kids learn by watching:

- Repentance
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Humility

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- Obedience to Jesus

Children learn obedience to the Lord by watching their parents follow Jesus.

#### 4. Children: Obey & Honor (Eph. 6:1–3)

- “Obey” = willing responsiveness
- “Honor” = lifelong respect
- Outward obedience without a willing heart misses the point
- The promise (“that it may go well with you”) is about flourishing, not just long years

#### 5. Parents: Do Not Provoke (Eph. 6:4a)

- Paul limits harsh, shame-based parenting
- “Provoke” = irritate, crush the spirit, stir anger
- The gospel dismantles harsh parenting

#### 6. Bring Them Up (Eph. 6:4b)

“Bring them up” = nourish

- Feed
- Care for
- Protect
- Nurture

“Training” = structure, guidance

“Instruction” = counsel, encouragement

This is long-haul discipleship, not quick fixes.

#### 7. The Shepherding Picture

A shepherd’s rod is for:

- Guidance
- Protection
- Presence
- Correction
- Comfort

Christian parenting is:

- Not control
- Not perfection
- Not domination
- Shepherding

#### 8. Reflection Questions

- What kind of home shaped me?
- What kind of home am I helping create now?
- Where do I need to grow in gentleness or willingness?
- How can I model obedience to Jesus for the next generation?

#### 9. A Simple Prayer

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“Lord, shape my home into a place where Your love is seen, Your voice is heard, and Your character is formed in us.”

*Other passages for study:*

Genesis 1:28

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Proverbs 22:6

Proverbs 13:14

Proverbs 29:17

Psalms 127:3