



5. According to Colossians, why should fathers not provoke their children? Have you seen or experienced this?

REFLECT

1. Did or does your dad tell any awful “dad jokes”?
2. Summarize this week’s sermon. What convicted you most? What encouraged you most?

ENCOUNTER

Paul’s letters to both the Colossians and Ephesians begin by exploring the depths of the Gospel and then go on to illustrate how Christ changes the family. He begins with husbands and wives and moves to parents. He specifically addresses dads with a direct command. He says:

“Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (Col. 3:21).

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

Zero in on the negative aspect of the command and its implications for the home.

3. Use your phone or your growth group to compare how different translations of the Bible translate “provoke” in these verses. These are two different words in Greek. How do the various translations expand your understanding of these verbs?

4. Make a list of ways that fathers can provoke their children.

TRANSFORM

6. What excuses can fathers make to justify provoking behavior?
7. How might these commands be applied to other individuals besides fathers?

PRAYER REQUESTS