

Point the Path — Who Am I Bringing Along?

Proverbs 22:6 | November 8, 2026

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

1. BE REALISTIC

- Kids make mistakes - and so do we. Their choices do not define our worth or determine whether we have succeeded as parents.
- Lead with love, not shame - Luke 15:20 | Romans 2:4

2. BE RELATIONAL

- As our kids grow, our role changes:
  Caregiver -> Cop -> Coach -> Consultant
- Steward the relationship so the door remains open.

3. BE RELIANT

- Eventually, our kids will go places we cannot follow and make choices we cannot control.
- God loves our kids more than we ever could - Romans 8:32

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Point the path; don't try to control the outcome.
- Choose relationship over shame or constant correction.
- Allow your role to change as your kids grow.
- Trust God in the places your influence cannot reach.
- "Just because it's not going according to plan, doesn't mean there isn't a plan."

Point the path toward Jesus - and trust Him with what happens next.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CIY Parent Workshop: November 8 at 11:30 AM
Youth & Kids Ministry Joy Drive: November 14 at 10:00 AM
Thanksgiving Dinner: November 18 at 4:30 & 6:30 PM

Download our WCChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!

STUDY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED:

Have you ever had to face the tension of holding on or letting go of something? How well did you handle the tension?

A DEEPER DIVE:

» Parenting is 'pointing a path' rather than programming or controlling outcomes. In what ways does this reframe how you think about your own role in the lives of those you are responsible for leading or nurturing?

» God is portrayed throughout Scripture as a parent whose children rebel, from Isaiah to the image of Jesus longing to gather Jerusalem like a hen gathers her chicks. How does knowing that even God experiences the pain of a child walking away affect the way you process your own grief or disappointment as a parent?

» A child's performance or behavior cannot fix a parent's heart or justify their identity. In what areas of your life might you be placing too much of your sense of worth or calling on someone else's choices?

» The father in the parable of the prodigal son runs toward his returning child rather than waiting with arms crossed. What would it look like practically for you to lead with love and compassion rather than shame when someone in your life fails?

» Romans 2:4 tells us that it is God's kindness, not his condemnation, that leads people to repentance. How might this truth reshape the way you respond when the people you love make choices you disagree with?

» Unsolicited advice is usually taken as criticism. How does this challenge you to rethink the way you express care and concern for the people you love most?

» How does meditating on Romans 8:32 specifically change the way you pray for or release someone you love?

NEXT STEPS:

» Ask, don't tell. Identify one conversation you have been waiting to have with a child or young person in your life. Instead of leading with your opinion, try leading with a question and listening fully before you respond.

» Pray specifically. Choose one child or young person in your life and commit to praying for them by name every day this week, specifically asking God to do in them what you cannot.