

*Bring Them Up***I. Announce:**

- A. **Welcome** those online.
- B. **Slide1 Single Moms:** We have a fellowship called *She Is Worthy* for you. Our desire is to find strength in God, build lasting friendships, and grow in purpose as women and moms. Meet the 2nd & 4th Wed every month from 6:30-7:45 in Agape Rm. Calvary Kids and youth groups are available for all ages during that time.
- C. **Slide2 Harvest Festival:** Food available for purchase. Only 4 more volunteers needed our 6:30 time slot. Sign-up online or on app. We received all of the candy needed! In need of **baked goods** you can bring them to event, or from Oct 29-31.
- D. **Slide3 Food Pantry Drive:** Collecting non-perishable items for the pantry to help with their holiday outreach. See list. Please bring to church next 2 Sundays, or drop off in the office during the week. no glass jars or expired items.
- E. **Slide4 Christmas Choir:** will sing in all 3 Christmas Eve services — at 1, 3, and 5 p.m. Rehearsals: Nov.13th, Dec.12th and 23rd with the full band, at 6 p.m. Attendance is required for all services and rehearsals. You can sign up online. Quick info meeting next Sun, right after 3rd service, in the Mercy Room.
- F. **Slide5 Missions Prayer** Sunday at 1:30pm in the Agape Room.
- G. **Prayer:** God **You're too kind** to do anything cruel. **You're too wise** to make a mistake. And often, **You're too deep** to explain yourself ... but we **Trust** in you.

II. Slide6 Intro:

- A. **Slide7** What was your family life like growing up? (awkward fam photo's)
 - 1. We have been *dysfunctional* since Adam & Eve.
- B. **Let's start with:** where we've been, **then** where we're going.
 - 1. **Been:** Paul explained *we've been made worthy* (ch.1-3) **then** *how we walk worthy* (4-6).

2. Going: read 6:12 about **spiritual warfare**. Most of our spiritual battles seem to come from these 3 areas: in the Home (marriage last week, raising children this week), **next week on the Job**, **then on the Battlefield** (this world is a battleground, **not** a playground). [how do we manifest christlikeness in all 3?]

C. **Slide8 Title:** *Bring Them Up:*

Children, bring your parents up by obeying and honoring them;

Parents, bring your children up by disciplining and instructing them.

D. We're talking about **parenting** this evening, **but** I want you to know from the start that there's going to be **meat on the bones** for everyone. You're either *a father or mother, son or daughter*. It applies to all of us, both physically, and spiritually.

E. **Parenting is sanctification** in real time - *a two-way discipleship!*

1. Let's be reminded upfront, that **we're all children of God first**.

III. **Slide9a OBEY - The Right Response (1)**

A. **Children**, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is **right**.

B. Principle: **Obedience** is the first classroom of discipleship. **Before** a child learns to **obey God**, they learn to **obey parents**. [Proverbs is a parenting manual. 1st 7 ch's start w/*my son*]

C. **In the Lord** - shows obedience is **not blind**, it's **relational** and rooted in **trust** in Christ

D. **For this is right** - **Do it** just because it's **right**. God's moral order **isn't arbitrary**, it's woven into creation.

1. **Slide9b** Keller, *The Reason for God* - "**Real freedom is not the absence of restrictions, but the presence of the right ones. A fish is only free when it's in the water; a child is only free when living within God's order.**"

2. J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* - "**To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.**"

E. **2 Illustrations:**

1. **Train Tracks:** A train is most free when it **stays on the tracks**.
So are **children** when they live **within** God's boundaries.

2. **Even Jesus**, was obedient to His parents (Luke 2:51 *And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them*). God Himself grew up under parental authority.

- F. **Application to adults:** C.S. Lewis captures the idea that **obedience** forms **character** - something both children and **adults** continually need.
1. *“The **process** of shaping the child, shapes also the parent himself.”*
- Elisabeth Elliot

IV. Slide10 **HONOR - The Lifelong Attitude (2,3)**

- A. **Honor** your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), *“that it may go well with you **and** that you may live long in the land.”*
- B. **Live long** - It doesn't mean *there will never be a child tragedy*. (it's more of a *proverbial blessing* **rather than** a promise that you're untouchable).
- C. **Obedience** may fade with age, **but Honor** never expires. It's the **ongoing posture** of *gratitude, respect, and care* toward those who **gave us life**. [even when parents **age** or **fail**]
- D. **Illustrations:** Honor isn't expensive, it's **attentive** (it maybe a simple phone call to your parent/s).
1. **Eg.** Soldiers salute not the person necessarily, **but** the position. We **honor** our parents' God-given role even when their performance *wasn't perfect*.
- E. **Application to adults:** Many of us are still children in some way, **honor and gratitude** toward parents *never expire*.
1. For those who had difficult parents: **honoring** may look like *forgiveness, releasing bitterness, or praying for them*.
 2. **Spiritually**, **honoring our heavenly Father** produces the same promise: *“that it may go well with you.”*
 3. **Even as grown believers**, we're still called to **obey** our Heavenly Father, *to live under His loving authority with a teachable, responsive spirit*.

V. Slide11a **RESTRAIN - The Loving Caution (4a)**

- A. *Fathers, do not **provoke** your children to anger,*
- B. Paul specifically says **fathers**, **but** the principle includes **both** parents (note: *parents* vs.1, *father & mother* vs.2).
- C. Parents are **warned against** heavy-handed **or** inconsistent leadership.
1. **Authority** without **affection** leads to **resentment**; **Grace keeps hearts open.**
- D. **Do not provoke** - don't crush their spirit with criticism, inconsistency, or neglect.
1. **How not to provoke?** Remember that their kids. Don't compare them to others. When discipline is inconsistent. When we fail to show affection and approval even at small accomplishments. When we discipline them for reasons other than willful disobedience and defiance, like missing a basketball shot. When we pressure them to pursue our goals instead of their own. *Tony Merida* [cutting words, sarcasm, over-indulging them,]
- E. **Illustrations:**
1. Greenhouse Image: **Children** are like *plants*, **if** the climate is harsh, they **wither**; **if** it's nurturing, they **flourish**. **Parents, create the spiritual-climate!**
 2. Using **too much fertilizer**, burns the plant. **Too much correction without affection** does the same to a child's heart.
- F. **Application to adults:** You may not be raising young kids, but you are spiritually parenting someone: *grandkids, disciples, younger believers, or someone you mentor.*
1. **The principle applies to leadership:** don't provoke, **but** nurture growth.
 2. Every believer helps "bring up" spiritual sons and daughters in the Lord.
 3. **Slide11b** John Stott, The Message of Ephesians - "*Parents are not to be petty tyrants but gentle authorities, combining firmness with kindness. Their chief responsibility is not to make their children **successful**, but to make them **godly**.*"

VI. Slide12a **RAISE - The Spiritual Calling (4b)**

- A. *but bring them up in the **discipline and instruction** of the Lord.*

- B. Parenting is *discipleship*. Our mission is not merely to raise good kids, but godly ones, forming hearts and habits centered on Christ.
- C. Bring them up - nurture them with *discipline* (structure) and *instruction* (Scripture).
1. We're not *just* after *behavior change* or *sin management*, *but heart change*
 2. *Instruction*/Education: Teach them *the biblical storyline*, along with the biblical stories. *Not just the story of Noah's Ark, and then tell them to go love animals.*
 3. *Also*, have *dialogue* not just *monologue*. *Like deep water draw them out.*
 4. Don't just teach them how to be *a great athlete, student, or dancer*, *but* about being *a great giver, how to be great in prayer, about the great commission.*
 5. *Slide12b* If you have young ones, may I recommend Sally Lloyd Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible.*
- D. Here's how it opens: *Now some people think the Bible is a book of rules*, telling you what you shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done.
- E. *Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes*, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you'll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. That makes some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose) they get afraid and run away. At times they're downright mean.
- F. No, the Bible isn't a book of *rules*, or a book of *heroes*. The Bible is most of all a story. It's an adventure story about a young hero, who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave prince that leaves his palace, his throne - everything - to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful fairytales that has come true in real life! You see, the best thing about this story is - *it's true.*
- G. Application to adults:
1. *Slide12c* Spurgeon, "*Train up a child in the way he should go - but be sure you go that way yourself.*" [*Instruction* w/o *example* is like *a cloud w/o rain*]

2. Vs.4 is not just about **teaching truth**, **but** **living it**, **modeling faith, patience, and holiness**.

3. Every believer helps “**bring up**” **spiritual sons and daughters** in the Lord.

H. **Parenting is sanctification in real time - a two-way discipleship**.

I. Cultivate your own faith first, and **model that**. That **You love Jesus**.

1. **God’s blueprint for the home** is not about **control** **but** **Christlikeness**.

2. **Parenting** is discipleship. **Obedience** is training for freedom. **And Honor** builds generational blessing.

J. **Breathe: Parenting is not about being perfect**. Part of parenting is **modeling, repentance, and forgiveness**. In our failures, it’s just **more ways** that we can point our children to **Jesus**. **Good news: weak parents have a strong Savior**.

1. **For some of you**, it’s gonna be raising up **godly** kids.

2. **For others of you** it’s gonna be raising up **kids that are a challenge, that are wild and rebellious and give you sorrow. And he wants to be glorified in that situation also**. He wants you to **rely upon Him** in your weakness, **and** for people to see that. **And** God is glorified as you **depend upon Him**.

a) **Your identity** is founded **in Christ**, **not** on your **parenting performance**.

K. Keywords: children, parents, obey, honor.