



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Toph & Samantha Elkins
Guiding Our Children: A Journey of Faith and Love

OPENING & PRAYER:

Parenting is a profound journey filled with both blessings and challenges. As we navigate this path, it's crucial to remember that parenting begins with us. Our children absorb everything from us, the good and the bad, like sponges. Therefore, it's essential to look within ourselves and align our hearts with God's Word. We are created in His image, fearfully and wonderfully made, and loved unconditionally. As we embrace these truths, they will naturally overflow into our children, shaping their understanding of themselves and the world.

"Father, I thank you for the gift of having children. I thank you for entrusting us with raising them up in a way that makes you proud. I ask that you continue to provide guidance and understanding as I continue to pour into them and help them learn to hear your voice when you speak to them. IN Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. *Psalm 127:3-4 NKJV*

Don't you see that children are God's best gift? the fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children! Your enemies don't stand a chance against you; you'll sweep them right off your doorstep. *Psalm 127:3-5 The Message*

What the Bible says about you

Created In God's Image *Genesis 1:27*

Fearfully And Wonderfully Made *Psalms 139:14*

Loved Unconditionally *Romans 8:38-39*

Forgiven *Ephesians 1:7*

Filled With The Holy Spirit *Ephesians 3:16*

More Than A Conqueror *Romans 8:37*

Free From Condemnation *Romans 8:1*

Strong In The Lord *Ephesians 6:10*

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, *Galatians 5:22 Amplified Version*

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. *Ephesians 6:1-4 NKJV*

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV*

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

Proverbs 29:18 NKJV

GO DEEPER:

Training and equipping our children is another vital aspect of parenting. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to "train up a child in the way he should go," ensuring that they carry these teachings throughout their lives. This involves instilling godly character, discipline, and boundaries. Children thrive when they know the limits and feel secure in their environment. Our role is to guide them, not just through words but through actions, modeling the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Relational health within the family is paramount. Building strong, healthy relationships with our children requires unconditional love, focused attention, and meaningful communication. It's about being present, sacrificing our desires for the sake of our children, and creating an environment where they feel valued and understood. This relational foundation is crucial for their development and well-being.

Finally, creating a strong family culture is essential. We must be intentional about the atmosphere we cultivate in our homes, prioritizing values that align with God's principles. A strong family identity provides a sense of belonging and security, helping our children resist negative influences and peer pressure. By establishing a clear family identity, we equip our children to navigate the world with confidence and purpose.

In all these aspects, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is our guide, ready to lead us as we seek to raise our children in a way that honors God. It takes a village, and the community around us plays a significant role in shaping our children's lives. Let's embrace this journey with humility, grace, and a commitment to grow, trusting that God will fill in the gaps and make up the difference.

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. The sermon mentions the fruit of the Spirit as a model for parenting. How does Galatians 5:22-23 describe the characteristics that should be evident in a parent's life? [\[18:43\]](#)
2. How does the sermon interpret the promise in Proverbs 22:6 about children not departing from their training? What hope does this offer to parents who may feel they have fallen short? [\[18:43\]](#)
3. Reflect on your own upbringing. How did your parents or guardians model the fruit of the Spirit, and how has that influenced your parenting or interactions with children today? [\[18:43\]](#)
4. Consider the current culture in your home. What are some intentional changes you can make to strengthen your family identity and align it more closely with God's principles? [\[35:46\]](#)
5. Choose one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit to focus on this month. What specific action could you take to cultivate it as part of your interactions with your family? [\[18:43\]](#)

CLOSING PRAYER:

“Father, I ask for guidance as I continue down the path of parenting. I pray that the spirit overflows in me, into those children we are raising up. Please help us to create a culture at home that puts you first and we hope our children take this culture into their homes when they are grown. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen”