

September 3 & 6, 2026
Battlefield
Ross Harvey



Let's Talk About... Week 5 "Provoke or Nourish?"

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

- Children obey their parents because God has placed them under their parents' care. All of us honor our parents by treating them as valuable and worthy of respect.
- Honoring a parent does not mean participating in sin, hiding abuse, or pretending that harmful behavior is acceptable.

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- Exasperation is when repeated, needless treatment cultivates anger, bitterness, or discouragement.

Colossians 3:21 (NIV)

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Two Paths – Provoke vs. Nourish:

1. Provoke: Use authority as control.
Nourish: Use authority to serve.

- You cannot nourish your children with the love of Jesus if you are constantly asking them to prove that you are a successful parent.
- Jesus had the greatest authority, yet served.

John 13:13-15 (NIV)

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

2. Provoke: We punish to make them pay.
Nourish: We correct to restore.

- Punishment looks backward and asks, "How will you pay for what you did?"
Discipline looks forward and asks, "How can this help you grow?"

The CLEAR Parenting Grid:

Clear: Was the command clear?

Level: Is my response proportionate to the behavior?

Emotions: Are my emotions under control?

Address the Heart: Have we discussed what is underneath the behavior?

Restore: Will this end in restoration?

3. Provoke: Love dependently.
Nourish: Love unconditionally.

- Teach them about Jesus.
- Give them your presence.
- Practice grace.
- Build godly community.

The key to parenting is resting in God's love for me.