



## **LEAD LIKE CHRIST AT HOME: PROPHET**

*Ephesians 6:4*

**Main Idea:** To lead like Christ at home, we must serve as a prophet for our household to love, nourish, discipline, and instruct our families.

### **Lead Like Christ at Home by Loving Your Family (4).**

Paul gives clear instruction not to provoke your children to anger, but why did Paul say this? In the ancient world fathers had absolute control over their children, and were sometimes harsh. Reports show that fathers sold their kids and could even kill them without being charged with a crime, and many abandoned their children in the cities. Obviously, a mother can provoke a child to anger as well. But given the dominant nature of the father, it seems he had a particular tendency to do this. This is not the example of a father that we see in the Lord. But rather, the father must be fair, loving, and consistent in attitude toward his child. Proverbs 23:26 shows us what a loving Father asks of his children, "My son, give me your heart." This is what God desires of us, to give him our heart. But for us to be willing to give our hearts to God, God demonstrates his love for us. He wins our hearts with his great love, patience, and attention. And if we want our families to give us their hearts, the first step is to give them ours.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some common ways that fathers provoke their children and wives to anger? How can we avoid provoking them to anger, and rather love them as Christ loves us?
2. Why is leading by loving so essential in the home? What are some long-term benefits of leading by loving well?

### **Lead Like Christ at Home by Nourishing your family (4).**

The phrase "bring them up" does not do the actual Greek word justice in verse 4. It is the same word that was translated in Ephesians 5:39 as "nourishes." It can mean to nourish, to provide or to feed. Leading like Christ in the Home in the role of prophet carries with it the idea that we are to feed or provide for the spiritual nourishment of our families. We can do this in multiple ways, but there are two simple ways for fathers to nourish their families. First is take your family to corporate worship. It is important for the father to lead his family to attend church and learn from the word together. The second way is for fathers to lead their families in family worship, opening the word together at home, learning from God's word, praying together and singing praises to the Lord as a family.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Psalm 23:1-2. What does this teach fathers about nourishing our families as the shepherds of our family?
2. What are some other ways that we can nourish our families?



### ***Lead Like Christ at Home by Disciplining Your Family (4).***

Let's make sure we read that point carefully, in the church world the word discipling has become a buzz word. But Paul tells us to bring our families up in the discipline of the Lord. The word used here (paideia) can mean to discipline or to train your family in the ways of the Lord. When I think about training someone, I think about working with them to not only learn something, but to practice doing it. Part of the work of the Father as the prophet in the family is to train your family to do the work of the Lord. Train them to read the bible, train them to pray, train them to sing praise to the Lord, train them to repent of sin and to surrender to the Lord. But how does a father train his family to do these things? By practicing them with his family, modeling how to do these things. The father should let his life be an example to his family. Proverbs 23:26 that we mentioned earlier about asking the child to give you their heart, the second half of that proverb says, "And let your eyes observe my ways." We must win the hearts of our children and then let their eyes observe our ways as we follow Jesus. This word also carries with it the idea of discipline in the context of punishment concerning wrong actions. We must be willing to lovingly correct the actions of our families when they need to be brought back to the Lord and his ways.

#### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. Read Psalm 23:3. How does this relate to training and modeling the ways of the Lord to our families as the shepherd?
2. Read Hebrews 12:5-6. What does this teach us about our need to discipline our families?

### ***Lead Like Christ at Home by Instructing Your Family (4).***

Paul calls fathers to instruct our families in the Lord. The word in the original language (nouthesia) means to teach, to counsel and to warn (admonition). Just like the word used for training (paideia), this word also carries the idea of giving correction, especially with respect to what we must believe. Christian fathers are required by the Lord to instruct their children in what the Bible teaches doctrinally as well as what conduct the Bible requires morally. Fathers must teach their children the Word of God and truth that is in it. Fathers must talk about values, beliefs, feelings, and motives. Talk about sin, repentance, grace, and the cross. Talk about becoming a new creation in Christ Jesus. Talk about the end for which they were created: to glorify God. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 commands us to teach these things to our children diligently, when we sit in our houses, when we walk on the way, when we lie down and when we rise. In modern language, we should talk with them as we walk with them, as we drive them places, when we play with them, share meals together. We should talk about Jesus, his incarnation, his death, his resurrection, his Lordship. We lead our children to the truth that is in Jesus, ultimately so that they may submit to the Lord Jesus.

#### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. What is the biggest hinderances to fathers teaching and instructing their family in the Lord? How do we overcome these hinderances?
2. Why are fathers so excited to teach their children about sports or hunting? How can we get fathers to be that excited about teaching their children about Jesus?