

Family Study Guide

Sermon #3

Proverbs & the Family — “A Father’s Instruction”

Big Idea: Fathers are uniquely called to provide compassion, righteous discipline, and protection for the family.

Goal for this study: To help children see that fathers are called to reflect God’s compassion, wisdom, discipline, and protection in the home.

1. Open with Prayer

Father, thank you for the time you have given us as a family to worship you together and reflect on the blessings we enjoy in our home. Help our home be filled with your love and kindness as we learn wisdom together. Amen

2. Read God’s Word Together

Read:

Proverbs 1:8–9 (ESV) Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck

A Simple Explanation for Children

God Created the Family

God created the family, and He made each person in the family in a unique way. Every member of the family has an important role to fill. One of the most wonderful gifts God gives children is loving parents who help them learn wisdom and walk with the Lord.

In Genesis, God created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. Before they had children, God gave them responsibilities. Adam was called to keep and guard the beautiful garden God had made. But when sin entered the world, everything went wrong, and families began to need God’s grace, forgiveness, and wisdom.

Jesus Redeems the Family

But God, who is a loving and compassionate Father, did not give up on His people. He promised to send a Redeemer, and that Redeemer is Jesus. Because Jesus has come to save us from sin, families who follow Him are called to obey His Word and trust Him together.

Fathers Teach and Protect

Fathers are called to provide, instruct, discipline, and protect the family. They help children learn what is right, warn them about what is harmful, and show them how to make wise decisions. On Father’s Day, we thank God for fathers and reflect on the special role He gives them in the family.

3. Family Illustration

A Father's Discipline

Sometimes, when we don't listen or disobey our parents, we have to be disciplined; that's the part of parenting we like the least, but it is necessary if we are to grow, learn to be wise, and make good choices.

But when our parents discipline us, it is like a surgeon who has to use a scalpel, a very sharp instrument, to operate and remove something in the human body that is not supposed to be there. And if it is left unchecked, it can grow and make the person very sick. So the surgeon carefully removes the things that are harmful so the person can heal and be healthy again.

When our parents discipline us, it is much the same way. The Bible says, "A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away" (Proverbs 22:15). When our parents discipline us, they are carefully helping us remove bad attitudes and disobedience out of our hearts so we can be spiritually strong and healthy again.

4. Discussion Questions

For Younger Children (3–6)

1. Why did God give us parents?
2. What kinds of things can cause us to need discipline?

For Older Children (7–12)

1. What do you think the Bible means when it talks about compassion?
2. How can I show compassion to someone this week?

Parent Discussion

1. How can fathers and mothers work together to teach children God's wisdom with both compassion and firmness?
2. Where does our family need to grow in receiving correction as love rather than punishment?

5. Family Application

Choose ONE simple thing to practice this week:

- Thank God for one way a father or fatherly leader has shown compassion.
- Practice listening the first time when a parent gives instruction.
- Talk about one wise choice your family can make together this week.
- Pray for fathers to lead their families with love, discipline, and protection.

Remind your children:

Jesus is the perfect person, and He invites us to follow Him. But don't worry, you don't have to be perfect to follow. What matters is your faithfulness.

6. Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for giving us a home where we can be loved and learn about You. Help us this week to trust You in everything we do and to remember the wise things we learn from our parents so we can better love You and live a life of blessing. Amen