

HBC Lifegroup Pulpit Curriculum

Fathers and Mothers in the Image of Christ—Ephesians 6:4

This week Pastor Kurt preached on Fathers and Mothers in the image of Christ and he began by using illustrations of Eli from 1 Samuel with his wicked sons and the father of missionary John G. Paton.

Both men had children and desired to follow the Lord yet in the end their children left very different legacies. **How do both of these stories inspire you to be a better parent for Christ? If you don't have children or your children are grown then how can this message relate to you?**

Read Ephesians 6:4. Pastor Kurt began with a profound statement "Effective Christian parenting is simply to mimic God's parenting of us." **In what three ways did our pastor share that we can imitate God?**

Why did the Apostle Paul use the term "fathers" at the beginning of verse 4? Are you, moms, including in this verse too?

At the heart of this week's sermon were "four gifts in Christ that parents can give their children."

What were they?

In order to model "selflessness" Kurt encouraged parents to "see things" from what vantage point? Christ exemplified selflessness in Philippians 2. Did the Lord have His vantage point in mind or ours? Please discuss and then have someone read Mark 10:45.

How can you use your imagination or memories in a positive way to assist you in your parenting? What valuable lesson can you remember from your childhood from your parents?

Kurt listed 10 ways to promote children to anger. What were some of them?

1. Inconsistency
2. Physical / Verbal Abuse
3. Favoritism
4. Overprotection
5. Failure to sacrifice
6. Expecting too much too soon
7. Discouragement
8. Unwilling to apply God's method
9. Pushing achievement

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10. Hypocrisy in your parenting

Share at least one way that you have failed from this list.

Gift number two is “to nourish your children in the gospel.” God’s Word shares that “the essential thrust of Christian parenting is evangelism and discipleship.”

Have different members of your Lifegroup read Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3; Proverbs 10:23; Job 15:6.

What do these verses say about children? How does this relate to behavior change versus heart change?

Read 1 Timothy 4:16. On a scale of one to ten how would you rate your home’s focus on the gospel? What can you do to improve it and why is it important?

Gift number three is “training in character.” Remembering the illustration that Kurt gave about training to be an Olympic snow-boarder, what was his admonition? How should this impact our role as a parent? Training almost always involves discipline. Read Proverbs 13:24 and 29:15 then discuss them.

Just for fun read Proverbs 23:14! 😊Who might this Proverb help?

Gift number 4 is “instruction in the truth.” Parents need to bring their children’s minds in a right relationship with the truth. **How does John 17:17 relate to this reality?** Why is listening and allowing for appeals so important when parenting your children?

Never expect something in your children that you are not willing to “champion” in your own life. List some ways you would like your kids to change? How might you model this for them?

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE CHURCH:

- **Please pray for the leadership of our church including a Worship Pastor and a second Associate Pastor**
- **Please pray for our church body and it’s spiritual growth**
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