

May 11, 2025
Discussion Guide: – Sent Successfully

SUMMARY: In this heartfelt Mother's Day message, we celebrate moms and all women who invest in the next generation, recognizing their tireless work and immeasurable value. It is important to understand Scripture in context, especially Proverbs 22:6, a verse often misused as a guaranteed promise rather than a guiding principle. While this verse encourages parents to train up a child in their unique, God-given purpose, it does not ensure that every child raised in faith will embrace it. Instead, it's a call to intentional, dedicated parenting that focuses on understanding and cultivating a child's individual wiring in a God-honoring way. The sermon emphasizes that spiritual development cannot be outsourced to the church, schools, or camps—it's the consistent responsibility of parents. Vivid analogies stress that exposing children to Christian culture is not enough; true training requires relational depth, consistency, and effort. Parents are called to see their children as handcrafted by God, each with distinct gifts and temperaments, and to lovingly guide them to discover their identity in Christ. Proverbs 22:6, paired with Ephesians 2:10, forms the foundation for viewing parenting as a stewardship of God's workmanship in their children's lives. Some ways to intentionally raise children include prayer, celebrating effort over outcomes, valuing leadership, and engaging with Scripture as a family. Grace is central to a healthy home, offering hope to those whose children may be walking away from faith. Ultimately, parents are to rely on God's wisdom and grace, trusting that He is at work in both them and their children.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- **Principles, Not Promises:** Proverbs 22:6 is a principle, not a guarantee. It encourages intentional parenting but doesn't promise that children will always choose faith. Each child must make their own decision to follow Jesus.
- **Intentional Daily Training:** Training a child takes consistent, focused effort. Just exposing them to church or faith-based environments is not enough. Spiritual growth requires purposeful engagement in everyday life.
- **Discover Their Design:** Every child is uniquely wired by God. Parents are called to identify and nurture each child's specific gifts and personality for God's glory. We're not molding replicas but stewarding God's workmanship.
- **Parents Are Primary:** Parents hold the primary role in discipling their children, not the church, school, or camp. These can help, but the day-to-day influence belongs to mom and dad. Spiritual leadership starts at home.

- **Grace-Filled Homes:** A home rooted in grace mirrors God's love. Grace doesn't eliminate consequences but reminds children they are loved for who they are, not just what they do. It creates a culture where faith can flourish.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURAL TEXT: Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 2:10

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

1. What does Proverbs 22:6 actually say word for word?
2. What is the format or structure of this verse (e.g., command, promise, principle)?
3. Who is the implied audience of this proverb?
4. What words stand out or need defining (e.g., "train," "way," "depart")?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS:

1. What does "train up a child" mean in the cultural and biblical context?
2. What does it mean to train a child "in the way he should go"?
3. Is this verse guaranteeing a result or guiding toward a pattern? Why does that distinction matter?
4. How does understanding this as a proverb (wisdom literature) change how we interpret it?
5. How do other scriptures support or clarify the meaning of this verse?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Am I taking time to intentionally train my children in spiritual truth each day?
2. Do I know how each of my children is uniquely wired, and am I parenting with that in mind?
3. How can I make space for more grace in my home this week?
4. What specific step can I take to shift from outsourcing spiritual leadership to owning it?
5. Are there patterns in my parenting that reflect fear, control, or comparison instead of trust in God?
6. How do I handle disappointment when my child doesn't follow the path I hoped for?
7. What rhythms or routines could help make discipleship more natural in our daily family life?

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL:

Day 1: God's Design for Parenting: Parenting begins with God's vision, not ours. Proverbs 22:6 calls us to intentionally guide our children, not control outcomes. It's a principle of direction, not a promise of perfection.

"Start a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not depart from it." — Proverbs 22:6 (CSB)

Am I parenting with God's long-term vision, or reacting to short-term behavior?

Day 2: Grace over Guilt: Parenting often comes with guilt, but grace reminds us that we're not alone. God doesn't expect perfection—He calls us to faithfulness. His grace covers every missed moment and every wrong word.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." — Romans 8:1 (CSB)

Where do I need to release guilt and receive grace in my parenting today?

Day 3: Every Child is Unique: Each child is uniquely crafted by God. Our role is not to mold them into our image but to guide them toward God's calling on their life. Wise parenting pays attention to how God wired each child.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." — Ephesians 2:10a (CSB)

How well do I understand the unique strengths, struggles, and spiritual shape of my child?

Day 4: Spiritual Leadership Starts at Home: The church supports spiritual growth, but discipleship starts at home. We are the first pastors, teachers, and prayer warriors for our kids. Ordinary moments become sacred when we bring Jesus into them.

"These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children." — Deuteronomy 6:6–7a (CSB)

How can I bring spiritual conversations into the everyday moments of family life?

Day 5: Trust the Process, Trust God: Parenting is a long journey, not a short sprint. Results may not be visible today, but God is always at work. Trusting Him with your child's story brings peace in the unknown.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding." — Proverbs 3:5 (CSB)

Where do I need to release control and trust God more fully in my child's life?