

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

Ephesians 6

We need God's help to be moms and dads. Just as we need help with our marriages, we need God's help as parents. We live in a culture that is largely hostile to the family. It certainly does not support the role of mother and father. In fact, in many ways, culture—music, movies, television and other things—tends to undermine the role of the parent. So we are to bring our children up in the training and the admonition of the Lord, but sometimes they go astray.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Even when raised in godly homes, sometimes kids rebel.** This doesn't mean you have failed as a parent. Jesus told a story we call the parable of the prodigal son. This boy was raised in a loving home but he still rebelled. This can happen. Don't feel that you are a failure if your children rebel.
2. **If you have a child that goes prodigal, stay true to your beliefs.** The father of the prodigal never compromised. He stood his ground. Hold your course. Live as a good example. Lovingly teach the Word and continue doing it!
3. **We should never give up on our kids.** Maybe you haven't talked to them for a while. They don't want your faith. They don't want your life. Don't give up. Keep praying. Your children can escape your presence but they can never escape your prayers. Keep praying for them.
4. **Always keep the door open.** The prodigal son knew that he could come back no matter what. Make sure your child knows there is an open door of connection and love waiting for him or her.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Children are a gift from heaven. They are not ours to possess. They are not ours to mold, but to unfold and to nurture and to point to Christ.
- Don't provoke your children to wrath by showing favoritism or by never complimenting them or affirming them.
- We cannot lead a child any further than we ourselves have come, so we need to be walking closely with God.
- Kids need time and lots of it. Try to find teaching moments throughout the day to point to the Lord.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

You as a parent have a very important purpose in the life of your child. You are there to teach them right from wrong. You are there to provide for them. You are there to prepare them. You are there to lay a foundation in their life. Most importantly, your job as mothers and fathers is to lead your child to Jesus Christ—not to be their best friend, but to be their parents. What a great privilege it is to have children.