

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FATHERS Ephesians 6:4

ICEBREAKER: To what extent are you an argumentative person? Explain.

OVERVIEW: In view of Father's Day, this week at Church Acadiana we are talking about parenting in general and fatherhood in particular. Dad's are important. Parents are important. In this discussion we will go deeper with how parents can effectively fulfill their responsibility to lead their kids to full devotion.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Do you have a good relationship with your Father? Explain.
3. How has your relationship with your dad impacted your relationship with God?
4. What are one or two important things you learned from your father?
5. Read Proverbs 22:6 and answer the following questions.
 - a. This verse is a proverb. What is the difference between a proverb and a promise, and how does that affect the way this verse should be interpreted?

- b. According to this verse, what is a parent's responsibility?
- c. If a child doesn't turn out right, whose fault is it?
- d. Do you think God holds parents responsible — at least partially — for how their children turn out?
- e. What did your parents do right to train you up in the way you should go? Without being disrespectful, what might your parents have done better/differently to more effectively train you up?

6. Read Ephesians 6:4 and refer to the sermon for the rest of the questions. What is the purpose of fatherhood? How can parents guard against mission-drift?
7. According to Ephesians 6:4, what is the peril of fatherhood, and how can parents avoid it?
8. List the three practices of fatherhood in Eph. 6:4 along with a brief description of each.
9. In the sermon Pastor Andy described his personal strategy for applying Eph. 6:4 in his own home. What is your strategy (or what will it be)?

The Last Word: "Let everything take second place to care for our children, our bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." John Chrysostom—Fourth Century A.D.

