



# **FAMILY DISCIPLE-MAKING**





## Parents Make Disciples - "It Starts at Home"

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1. Parenting is God's call to disciple his most precious gifts to us – our children.
2. Parenting involves casting a vision for our children that reflects God's vision.
3. Parenting is training our children to embrace Truth and choose to follow God as responsible adults.

Psalm 127  
"The Gift"

Proverbs 29:18  
"The Vision"

Proverbs 22:6  
"The Training Process"



A well built house (= family)  
is built on Godly foundations.

## Children are a Gift from God – Psalm 127

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- Parents partner with God as “coaches” for the life and future of their children.
- Children are born into the parent’s story. Thus, parents train their children to write their own story, to build their “house” properly.
- Parents point, prepare and release their children in the proper direction. They provide a heritage to build their “life-story” on. . . . And the gift goes on.



## Parenting Involves Casting Vision - Proverbs 29:18

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Without vision the people perish

But blessed is he Who keeps the Law

Our Vision is based in the  
Revelation of God as found in the Bible.



The vision of your  
parenting and training  
grows out of your  
life values.



## The Biblical Principle - Proverbs 22:6

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*Train up* your children in the way  
they should go

So that when they are older, they  
*will not depart* from it.

*(to choose the right path)*



## The Process “Train Up” – Proverbs 22:6

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The Hebrew word translated “Train Up” has all the nuances listed here. Together they describe the essence of parenting or mentoring.

- **Dedicated (Parent)**
- Cast Vision/Strategize
- Initiate/Cultivate
- Motivate/Inspire
- Correct/Refocus
- Coach/Discipline
- Educate/Prepare
- **Dedicate (Child)**





## How Our Children Learn

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1. When training, parents often confuse their children with mixed messages.
2. Training involves two ways of learning: *What is Caught* and *What is Taught*.
  - a. That which is taught involves studying and practicing; that which is caught involves watching and imitating.
  - b. One is more formal and involves a classroom; the other is more organic and involves modeling.
  - c. Most life lessons are *caught* rather than *taught*.



## What Our Children Learn

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1. Parents, you are always training or discipling your children to become like you – the way you think and live.
2. What you as a parent are dedicated to is what you are actually training your children to become. They'll catch it; probably imitate you.
3. Parents, if you do not practice what you teach, you will confuse your children – create tension.
4. Children tend to imitate their teacher's lifestyle, not their teacher's lectures.



"...in the way he should go"

## The Biblical Focus – Proverbs 22:6

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### TRAIN

1. In accordance to God's way . . . [word and vision of God]
  - Direct/prune the vine to bear fruit
  - Till the soil
2. In accordance to your children's God-given uniqueness
  - Age/maturity/child appropriate

TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH



"...and when he is old..."

## The Long Term Commitment

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- From "child" → "older": Guiding the growth process from directed childhood to responsible adulthood.
- The goal is to produce an adult who embraces the vision, takes hold of the responsibility, completes his task, and continues the process.



## What Parents Focus on in Their Training

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- Developing good character and integrity
- Forming Godly values to guide our decision-making process
- Guiding their children to find their true identity in Christ, their unique gifts and their place in life
- Learning where and how to invest one's heart & faith
- Demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in our relationships
- How to think, and keep one's mind focused
- Learning life skills that form mature lifestyles
- Understanding the value of choices – our actions and attitudes – and their consequences
- A worldview – a framework to interpret life, find meaning and purpose, and embrace its challenge



“successfully passing  
on the torch”

## The Goal of Parenting – Proverbs 22:6

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He does not depart from it.

- He will maintain personal integrity.
- He will walk in purity/love with God.
- He will not adopt the attitudes or activities of the world system.
- He will train his children accordingly.

He makes God’s vision his own.

- He believes. He carries the torch of truth.



## Is Proverbs 22:6 a Promise/Guarantee?

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- NO! It is an encouraging guide that gives hope for a task that seems impossible. A proverb is a tool of wisdom. It can feel like a promise when it works.
- God created his image bearers, or people, with the gift of choice. Proverb 22:6 guides the parent to prepare their children to make successful life choices. However it does not guarantee that the children will make the right choices. **You cannot force your child to believe.** The Prodigal Son parable is a good illustration of this. However, the Father never quit looking for his lost son.
- Proverbs 22:6 is a word of hope, that we believe in and commit ourselves to. It calls us to:

**PRAY HARD; WORK HARD; TRUST GOD.**



Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4

## Train Up Your Children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord

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- **Parenting starts with a vision.** The vision for your children always grows out of your own life vision. You have to grow up with God before you can help your children grow up. One of the biggest problems in parenting is that the so called parents are still prodigal children. Vision involves goals, lifestyle choices, and character development. These are all parts of God's disciple-making vision.
- God calls parents to **make disciples of their children.** How? By coaching them through the disciplines necessary to reach the goals God has established. The parent is the leader. God has appointed parents to take control of the process and fulfill their task. **Discipline is the pathway to success** as defined by God's vision.



Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4

## Train Up Your Children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord (cont.)

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- There is no better time than NOW to begin. **It's never too late to show love.** Parenting is not easy. It requires patience, a forgiving heart and a grateful attitude – ever mindful and thankful for what God in Christ has done for us.
- You are the parent. Your child is the gift of God, the gift of love. Your child needs your love, wisdom and discipline. **Fulfill your God given task.** And hopefully you will someday become a grandparent.



# What Disciple-Making as Parenting Is All About

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## Discipline:

- Involves positive aspects, guiding toward godliness and peace
- Involves negative aspects; Admonishing and correcting with God's word and goals in mind

Are you discipling  
your children?

## Discipleship:

- Geared to gender, age, and maturity
- Geared to gifting and personality
- Geared to level of commitment and obedience
- Focused on learning, growing, serving
- Goal: Developing followers of Christ



## The Process & Goal of Discipling One's Children – Proverbs 22:6

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- “Train up” = proper preparation and successful mentoring  
**This assumes we have something worthy of passing on and will be effective in doing so.**
- “Will not depart” = believes in and accepts responsibility to continue the cycle  
**This assumes our children will trust our heart and embrace our goals.**



## Train Them to Think, to Choose Wisely

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- Everyone makes their own choice about how to live their life and invest their faith.
- Choice reveals itself very early in a child's life.
- It is very self centered from the womb, becoming out-right selfish. The Bible calls it, "the way of the flesh" or "the sin nature."
- God created us with the ability to make choices, so that we could choose to love Him and walk with Him in the adventure of life. Without choice, life would have no meaning for us. We would have nothing invested in it. Because of choice we can be creative. We can establish friendships and enjoy relationship with others. We can think and make decisions to transform and build things. God loved us and created us to love him in return - freely.



## Train Them to Think, to Choose Wisely (cont.)

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- Choice is one of the attributes of God. It is related to his sovereignty. God chose to create us in his image. As his children we have the gift to make choices, free choices that affect and change the future. That's why our choices make a difference. A good choice brings joy, solves a problem, restores love. But we can also choose to make selfish, rebellious choices. We can even reject God and choose to walk away from Him to follow our own pathway.
- God risked the beauty of his creation for the loving relationship that could be experienced with his children and his family. The possibility of Love is so powerful. God so loves. And out of his love we were fashioned and created to walk with God, and to accept the responsibility of leading all of creation in the journey of life.



## Train Them to Think, to Choose Wisely (cont.)

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- The first children of God, named Adam and Eve, grew under the supervision of God and were trained in the skills to lead creation. However, they chose not to follow God and build a relationship with Him. They acted out of selfishness, and being deceived chose to believe a lie.
- They rejected God and his love for them. And shortly thereafter, following the way of selfishness, Adam and Eve began to destroy their relationship with each other. At first the rebellion was individual, but soon it grew into cities and empires like Nineveh Babylon or Egypt. It became a world system, an organized chaos that ruined life.



## Train Them to Think, to Choose Wisely (cont.)

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- God's heart was broken, yet in the face of disobedience and sin, God demonstrated his grace and love as our heavenly Father. He showed us how parents respond in the training process. (Remember the parable of the Prodigal Son. It is about parenting and how love acts.)
- Every parent goes through the same process as God did with his children. The Story of God parenting his children is an overview of the parenting process in general.
- Here is what we learn: Your children will try you, your rules, and your patience. They will disobey you and rebel many times during their childhood journey. They may even choose to reject all you have taught them and walk away from God. You cannot control their choices. But you can remain faithful to model and guide them in truth.



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