Raising God's Children

Ephesians 6:4
Realizing Responsibility

- Especially as parents we need to recognize that children are a heritage (inheritance) and gift from the Lord.
  \textit{Psalm 127:3}

- Parents have the responsibility of raising God’s children and will be held accountable. \textit{Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21}
What Can Parents Do?

- Parents should lead their children in the ways of godliness. *Eph. 6:4*
- Proverbs has a lot of guidance in raising children. “*My son,*” etc.
- The whole Bible is filled with instruction on this subject. *2 Pet. 1:3*
- Let’s examine a few steps parents should take to nurture their children in a godly way.
Bring Them Up…

- Teach them to obey you by loving use of Biblical discipline. *Heb. 12:7; Deut. 8:5-6*
- Teach them to fear the Lord and turn away from sin, to love righteousness and hate evil. *Job 28:28; Heb. 1:9; Ps. 119:128*
- Protect your children from ungodly influences. *2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Prov. 1:10-15*
Nurture Them…

• Make them aware that God is always observing and evaluating what they do, think, and say. *Ps. 139:1-12*

• Teach your children that God loves them and has a specific purpose for their lives. *Jer. 29:11; Lk. 1:13-17*

• Instruct your children daily in God’s Word, in conversations and daily devotions. *2 Tim. 3:15; Deut. 4:9; Deut. 6:5-7*
Admonish Them…

• By example and exhortation, encourage your children to live lives devoted to prayer.  
  Acts 6:4; Rom. 12:12; 1 Tim. 2:1-2

• Lift your children up to God by constant and earnest intercession.  Jas. 5:16; 1 Thes. 5:17
  – Use Jesus prayer for His disciples as a model for parents.  John 17; Philemon 4
Instruct Them...

• Establish them in a spiritual church where God’s Word is proclaimed, loved and obeyed. **Acts 2:38-39, 41-42**
  – Teach them the motto: “I am a companion of all who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.” **Ps. 119:63**
Guide Them...

• Encourage them to remain separate from the world and to work for the Lord. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*
  – Teach them that they’re strangers and pilgrims on this earth. *Heb. 11:13-16*
  – …That their home and citizenship is in heaven with Christ. *Phil. 3:20*
Provoke Them To Grow Up In Christ!

2 Peter 3:18

• Have such love and concern for them that you would be willing to pour out your life as if it were a sacrifice to the Lord, in order to deepen their faith and make their lives what they should be in the Lord. Phil. 2:17

• 2 Tim. 4:6; Rom. 12:1-2
  – Paul was ready and willing to do this for his spiritual children! Are you? 2 Tim. 2:10
Love Them…

• Do all you can to help your children early in life, come to a personal faith in Christ and obedience to His gospel. Acts 18:8

• Steps to salvation through Christ:
  – Hear Him Matthew 17:5
  – Believe in Him John 8:24
  – Confess Him Matthew 10:32-33
  – Be Baptized Into Christ Mk. 16:16; Gal: 3:27