

Study Guide: Biblical Fatherhood: A Guide to Leading with Character and Discipline

Sunday PM-June 21, 2026

This study guide examines the challenges of modern fatherhood and the divine solutions provided in Scripture. By analyzing the experiences of a father who grew up with hard-working but often absent role models, the text provides a path forward based on Ephesians 6:4. The focus is on moving beyond the role of a simple "provider" to becoming a spiritual leader who models emotional self-control and instructs children in the ways of the Lord.

Student Quiz

1. Describe the role models the narrator had for fatherhood while growing up and how they influenced his early parenting years.
 2. In what way can a father's hard work to provide "stuff" for his family sometimes become an excuse or a "vice"?
 3. Why does the narrator suggest that fathers often feel "nervous" and prefer to hand complex emotional issues off to the mother?
 4. According to the text, what is the primary job of a father when it comes to raising children?
 5. Explain the concept of modeling "emotional self-control" based on the Greek understanding of the word "provoke."
 6. How does the narrator describe the relationship between worldly success and the training of children for eternity?
 7. What does the example of Eli from 1 Samuel 3:13 teach fathers about the consequences of failing to restrain their children?
 8. Explain the analogy of the "hot stove" and how it relates to the way a father should administer discipline.
 9. Why does the narrator believe that Satan has made it more challenging for families to live in obedience to God's ways in the modern world?
 10. What are the two specific qualities the narrator says a man needs to be a "real Christian" and a good father?
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Answer Key

1. The role models were men who worked every day, including dairy farmers and the narrator's own father, who was always in the food business. This led the narrator to repeat the pattern by working two factory shifts and driving a milk truck on weekends, often leaving little time for his children.
 2. Working hard can be used as an excuse to avoid the difficult work of parenting or to overcome a sense of incompetence in dealing with children. Fathers may prioritize work because it provides a sense of personal satisfaction and competence that parenting sometimes lacks.
 3. Fathers often lose the memory of being children themselves and feel they do not have a clue what to do when alone with their kids. Society reinforces the idea that Dad is simply the provider or disciplinarian, making it feel "normal" to avoid complex emotional issues.
 4. The primary job of a father is to build good character and values in his children. This involves modeling a God-centered life and correcting or warning them according to the Bible.
 5. Fathers are instructed not to model violent passion or "extreme passion" (wrath) beside their children, which would discourage them. Instead, they should model emotional self-control and lead with a calm, loving manner.
 6. While there is nothing wrong with seeking success in the world, a father's more important duty is to train his children for eternity. Worldly success and popularity must not override the importance of following God and His standards.
 7. Eli faced judgment that fell upon his family forever because he knew his sons were making themselves contemptible and he failed to restrain them. This serves as a warning that fathers have a responsibility to stop their children from engaging in sin.
 8. Discipline should be like a hot stove: immediate, quick, and providing painful feedback without being "angry" at the child. It is meant to teach a clear lesson through consequences so the child learns not to repeat the behavior.
 9. Satan has influenced the world to make effective disciplinary methods illegal and has created a society that does not abide by biblical principles. This causes children to doubt if God's way is truly the best way because it goes "against the grain" of the culture.
 10. To be a real Christian father, one must have the desire to live by God's Word and the courage to do it despite opposition from the world.
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Essay Questions

1. **The Shift in Perspective:** Contrast the traditional role of a father as a "provider" with the biblical mandate for a father to be a spiritual leader. How does shifting this focus change the way a father spends his time?
2. **The Role of Fear and Love in Discipline:** The text suggests that effective discipline is based on immediate consequences and a healthy fear of punishment. Discuss how this can be balanced with the command to discipline in a "calm, loving manner" as described in the study.
3. **The Legacy of Eli vs. the Covenant of Courage:** Analyze the narrator's warning regarding Eli's failure to restrain his sons. Compare this to the "covenant" mentioned at the end of the text. What does it mean for a father to take "responsibility for our children's character and souls"?
4. **Overcoming Cultural Norms:** The narrator states that society makes it "normal" for fathers to be absent or emotionally distant. How can a father use Scripture to resist these societal pressures, and what are the specific biblical warnings for those who fail to do so?
5. **The Eternal Perspective:** At the end of the document, the narrator asks what a person will be most proud of on the day they die. How does the "eternity" perspective change a father's daily priorities regarding his children's choices in clothing, friends, and entertainment?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Admonition:** A firm warning or counsel against a fault; the act of calling attention to the Lord's ways.
- **Character:** The mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual, which the narrator says is a father's primary job to build.
- **Chasten:** To correct through punishment or discipline, often to improve someone's behavior.
- **Contemtable:** Deserving of scorn or considered low and worthless; used to describe the behavior of Eli's sons.
- **Discipline:** The practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience.
- **Provoke:** To incite anger or exasperation in someone; specifically, to push a child to their breaking point.
- **Reproof:** An expression of blame or disapproval; a "rebuke" that, along with "the rod," provides wisdom.

- **Tutelage:** The act of providing protection, guidance, or instruction; training.

Greek Language Study

This section provides details on the original Greek terminology used in the study of Ephesians 6:4.

Greek Word	Transliteration	Pronunciation	Definition
παροργίζω	<i>parorgizo</i>	par-org-id'-zo	To provoke to wrath, exasperate, or anger alongside; to push someone to a breaking point. [¹]

[¹]: *Parorgizo* is a compound word formed by the prefix *para-* (beside or near) and *orgizo* (to provoke or enrage). In a biblical context, it conveys the idea of modeling violent passion or "extreme passion" beside a child, which leads to their discouragement.