

Lutheran Women in Mission

BIBLE STUDY

Train Up a Child

by Louise Liffengren Hullinger



Opening

Sing "Our Father, by Whose Name" (LW 465) or "Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd," verses 1, 2, 4 (TLH 627).

From the moment the newborn utters his first cry, parents come to the realization that they have taken on a great responsibility. Christian parents are anxious to teach this precious child right from wrong. Unfortunately, babies do not arrive with little instruction booklets.

However, we don't have to look far to find sound advice. What about the Bible? The book of Proverbs contains concise truths about human behavior.

Read Proverbs 1:2-7

The Proverbs (and all Scriptures) were given for a purpose. What is that purpose according to these verses?

Where does true knowledge begin?

How can you instill the fear of the Lord in your children or grandchildren?

Read Ephesians 6:4 and Deuteronomy 11:18-20

How are parents to bring up their children?

When and where are parents to talk to their children about the Lord?

Think of one specific way you can nurture the faith of your children or grandchildren within the context of daily life.

Training and Discipline

Read Proverbs 22:6

What might "training up" a child involve?

What do you think "in the way he should go" includes?

What does Proverbs 13:24 say about the link between discipline and love?
(Note: A footnote in the Concordia Self Study NIV Bible says "rod" is probably a figure of speech for discipline of any kind.)

What are the benefits of godly discipline and training? (See Proverbs 6:20-23, 22:15 & 29:15, 17)

Is punishment the same as discipline? (Look these words up in a dictionary.) When might the results of punishment be negative?

Love and Reassurance

Read John 15:12-13

What is to be the basis of all that we do as parents?

Why is love so vital?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

From the qualities of love listed, which do you most desire to demonstrate to the children in your life?

How can you do this in practical ways?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11

What insight does this verse offer about training up children?

Read Proverbs 22:6 again.

What comfort and reassurance does this verse give you?

Conclusion

We train children best by example, by modeling moral behavior and sincere faith, with all instruction and discipline rooted in love. Never underestimate the benefit of affection and the value of prayer! And trust Proverbs 22:6.

Close by singing "How Shall the Young Secure their Hearts" (*LW 474, TLH 286*), "Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds" (*LW 472, TLH 629*) or the children's song "The B-I-B-L-E" (*The Other Song Book #56*).

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