



Blessed Sons and Daughters

Robert Morris

Focus God calls us to train our sons and daughters as children, teach them when they are adolescents, and trust God with them when they are adults.

Fun What are your favorite Thanksgiving traditions? Which new traditions (if any) do you plan to start this year?

Review Key Scriptures: Ephesians 6:1–4

1. Training Children

The Bible is clear about the importance of training a child in the way they should go. When children are young, the Bible says in Proverbs 13:24, “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” As a parent, be clear, be convincing, and be compassionate when you train your children.

2. Teaching Adolescents

Adolescence describes the years between ages 13 and 19 and is considered the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood. At the age of 12 or 13, we move from training to teaching. When Jesus was in the temple at the age of 12, he was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. At this age, parents must guide their children through the process of teaching, so they are prepared to think for themselves.

3. Trusting Adult Sons and Daughters

When children grow up and become adults, parents must trust them and trust God to guide them. They are no longer children but are adult sons and daughters. In Christ, they are considered brothers and sisters. The parenting role changes to a mentoring role. Adult sons and daughters should come to you

for advice, but every decision is up to them to pray about and decide. Some adult children need to grow up and step into adulthood, and some parents need to trust God more with their children's lives.

Group Dynamics Idea As we come into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, this is a great time to gather your group around a fun activity and a giving activity. Many groups will do a fun celebration together and also plan a time to serve the community. There are several organizations in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex where your group can go together and make a difference. For ideas, visit outreach.gatewaypeople.com.

Discuss

1. Pastor Robert discussed the different ways parents should relate to sons and daughters during the different stages of their lives. Why is it important for parents to change their approach with sons and daughters as they get older?
2. Read Proverbs 22:6 and Proverbs 23:13–14. Why do you think the Bible says spanking a young child can save them from something worse than death?
3. Spankings can be controversial because of people who have crossed the line to abuse—the Bible is clear that abuse is not okay. How does being clear, convincing, and compassionate help spankings be constructive?
4. Why is it important to ask your adolescent sons and daughters thought-provoking questions as you teach them? What are constructive ways to help them think about the effects of their decisions, so they become responsible adults?
5. Why is it sometimes hard for parents to trust God with their adult sons and daughters?
6. If adult sons and daughters are making poor choices, or not living for Jesus, what are some of the ways we can respond?

7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message? If you are a parent, in what areas do you need God's wisdom? If you're a young-adult son or daughter, have you stepped fully into being a responsible adult?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Train young children in the way they should go.
- Teach adolescent sons and daughters so they are prepared for adulthood.
- Trust God with your adult sons and daughters.

Prayer Heavenly Father, thank You for being such a good Father to us. Thank You for training us and teaching us. Help us as parents to raise our sons and daughters properly. Help us to train our children, teach our teenagers, and trust You with our adult sons and daughters. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Now is the time to identify people in your group who might be good leaders for next semester. Many leaders step into that role because somebody believes in them, encourages them, and asks them. Be intentional about calling out leadership gifts in people.