



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

FATHER'S DAY

OPENING & PRAYER:

Ephesians 6 speaks straight to fathers in a world where dads often ran the house with unchecked power. Paul flips that script. Instead of using position to press kids, a godly dad refuses to "exasperate" or "provoke to anger" and chooses to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Before that instruction lands, the contrast gets set: there are duds, there are dudes, there are dads, but the target is a godly dad. A godly dad is not just a biological male or a nice guy; he is a man whose life with God is worth following, because it actually forms sons and daughters into people who love Jesus.

"Father, please lead and guide us as we study what a Biblical father looks like. Help us to understand what Your Word says and how to apply it. In Jesus' name, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. **1 Corinthians 4:15**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." **Ephesians 6:1-3 NIV**

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4 NIV**

GO DEEPER:

Paul's charge lays out four gifts a godly dad gives. 1st, gracious understanding. "Don't light their fuse" becomes the practical translation of "do not exasperate." A godly dad gets into the child's world instead of demanding the child come into his. That looks like learning their loves, refusing to humiliate them, and knowing the difference between a meltdown and rebellion. 2nd, gainful direction. "Training" implies hands-on coaching, not one-and-done speeches. The gosling picture presses the urgency. There is a small window for imprinting. Whatever stands in front of a child early is what the child will follow, so a godly dad stands right there with a lived reason for church, worship, giving, forgiveness, and truth.

3rd, good correction. The hands are for blessing, not for harm. The Greek idea of "putting in the mind" sets the aim. Correction lands at the right time, in the right place, with the right spirit. It is constructive, not destructive, and it chases the heart condition. The goal is not to crush a kid's drive, but to turn pride and defiance into humility, because God gives grace to the humble. The "why" always gets explained, so discipline disciples. Finally, godly protection. The job is not merely to raise functioning adults, but to raise godly men and women. The emperor penguin becomes the picture. A father who gives himself up to guard the fragile thing God entrusted is not wasting time. He is making the best investment. Even if a son or daughter goes prodigal, a godly dad stays faithful to live visibly godly, lead wisely, and trust God's work in their hearts.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Aim beyond good to godly fatherhood. A godly dad is the aim, not just a biological role or a likable presence. The difference is eternal, because godliness forms a life worth imitating. The target gets named clearly so the standard is not moving. **[03:31]**

2. Give gracious understanding, not provocation. “Do not exasperate” lands as a daily posture, not a one-time warning. Understanding refuses to poke, humiliate, or manipulate, and it learns the child’s world on purpose. That mercy builds trust where truth can land. **[10:58]**

3. Train early with gainful direction. Training is sweat and time, not drive-by advice. The gosling imprint warns that early attention decides lifelong direction, so a father puts reasons in front of young eyes. The earlier the imprint, the lighter the later repair. **[28:39]**

4. Correct constructively to shape humility. Good correction aims at the heart, not at venting adult frustration. Done at the right time and spirit, it turns rebellion into humility, which is the only soil where grace grows. Explain the why so discipline actually disciplines. **[33:23]**

5. Protect and model a life in God. Protection is more than fences; it is a visible life with God that children can follow. The emperor penguin picture shows sacrifice as normal fathering, not heroics. Example is the sermon kids remember when choices get hard. **[43:51]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. How does 1 Corinthians 4:15 ("you have countless guides, but not many fathers") challenge cultural assumptions about fatherhood? **[04:29]**
2. Why does Paul specifically address fathers in Ephesians 6:4, given the patriarchal context of his day where fathers held unchecked power? What made this instruction revolutionary? **[09:13]**
3. The "training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4) includes modeling behaviors like forgiveness and worship. Why is a father's lived example more impactful than verbal instruction alone? **[43:51]**
4. The "small window" for imprinting godly values means prioritizing time with children. What daily or weekly habit could you establish to intentionally model prayer, generosity, or forgiveness in front of them? **[28:39]**
5. Identify one area where your parenting might unintentionally "light their fuse" (e.g., sarcasm, unrealistic expectations). What gentle adjustment could you make to reflect patience? **[18:33]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, help us to not only be a Biblical father, but to lead our sons to the same lifestyle. Be with us as we work towards being better at leading the next generation. In Jesus' name, amen."