

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
THE WEEK OF
June 21st, 2009



Series 5, Number 19
Special Father's Day Edition
Ephesians 6:4

**"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up
in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."**

Ephesians 6:4 NASB

Happy Father's Day guys! We're taking a break from our eschatology series to pause and look at the role of a father and celebrate dads. All of us have one and no matter what your relationship is with your father, we all know the impact that this man has in our lives; for the good and the bad. Let's take some time this week to examine our own lives as dads and even if you don't have children, your role as an adoptive father. Imagine this scenario: A young boy is playing a game of baseball, he's up to bat and he makes a base hit. After landing safely on first base he looks to the stands, finds his dad in the crowd and yells, "I made a base hit, dad!" Immediately his dad shouts back, "Yeah, but you should have taken two more." The countenance of that young boy falls and his joy disappears. This illustration makes clear how influential a father is in the life of a child. Ephesians 6 gives fathers their marching orders. We are to "bring them up in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord." The idea here is two-fold. We first recognize that we have been given the primary responsibility. The second is that our responsibility is to nurture them. This nurturing involves the formative and corrective aspects of discipline and all for the purpose of pointing them to Christ. For those of us who don't have children, look around. There are so many young people today who need a father-like relationship in their life. Whether their real dad has died or he's just not around, the opportunity to "mentor" is plentiful. If you are a dad, take whatever relationship you have with your children and improve it. Be intentional about investing in their lives. It's really never too late to make a huge impact in the lives of your children. Guys, we have a high calling when it comes to fatherhood. Find your strength and wisdom in the Lord and don't be discouraged. Fatherhood is the best investment a man could ever make!

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What does it mean to provoke our children? How do we avoid this?
2. What does Paul mean by the discipline and instruction and instruction of the Lord?
3. What is the most difficult thing, for you, about being a dad? If you're not a father, what do you think the hardest part would be?
4. What does our secular culture think about dads? What is the image of fathers on television? Why is this the case?

PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):