



LIFEGROUP **STUDY GUIDE**

May 12



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FORMING FAITH AT HOME: THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO

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MAIN POINT

Starting children off with a walk with Jesus gives them the best chance to follow Jesus all their lives.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 22:6 is a Bible verse that has become largely radioactive. Many Christians don't want to touch it because it seems too dangerous. It seems to be a verse that says children who are raised correctly in the Lord will continue to walk with him.

But, if that is true, then what is going on with children who grow up in Christian homes and then abandon Christ? Did their parents just not do things correctly? Are we guaranteed that the children will come back to Christ? Is the proverb simply untrue? This verse has been a source of angst and—sometimes—guilt.

And yet we find this verse in Scripture, and all Scripture is God-breathed and useful (2 Timothy 3:16). So, as we reflect back on several months of emphasizing the habits related to Forming Faith at Home, we'll look at this one verse and reflect on what it tells us about the calling for both parents and the church in the lives of children.

GETTING STARTED

1. What are some unique challenges facing children who are growing up in Southern California in 2024?

2. What do you think are some of the reasons why children of Christian parents don't always choose to follow Jesus?

DIGGING IN

Read Proverbs 22:6.

6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

4. Proverbs are not the same as iron-clad promises. Proverbs are generally true statements about how the world works. How might Proverbs 22:6 be used wrongly if we treat it as an iron-clad promise?

5. How should we define "the way" a child "should go?" For help, look at the key verse in Proverbs 1:7.

6. Look at the following proverbs that relate to parenting. Briefly write out what each says about what a parent can do to start children off on the way they should go.

Proverbs 14:26

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 20:7

7. Why do you think the way people start off is so significant to how their lives end up?

TAKING IT TO HEART

10. When you reflect back on the five habits that we've been emphasizing, how would you incorporate them in your various engagements with children as a parent, grandparent, relative, or brother or sister in Christ?

Habit #1: Eat 4-5 meals together as a family each week.

Habit #2: Serve together as a family.

Habit #3: Have at least one spiritual experience in the home each week.

Habit #4: Give children spiritual responsibilities.

Habit #5: Have children have a spiritual influence outside of their family.

11. What are some specific ways that you feel led to pray for the children who are a part of LBF Church?

WRESTLING WITH ISSUES

8. If only God can save children and bring them into his family, why does it make any difference how parents conduct themselves toward their children?

CONNECTING TO THE GOSPEL

9. Read Ephesians 2:1-5, which speaks about how God saves us. How does this passage guide parents to start their children off on the way they should go?