

**What's the purpose of this class?**

- Encouragement.
- Give parents practical instruction based on the Bible for raising their children.

***Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.***

**- Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)**

**Are we really following this proverb?**

- 70% of kids raised in the church do not attend church regularly as adults.  
*George Barna*

1. Who is responsible for training the child?
  - a. Not the Pastor, Clint, Paul, or the schools.
  - b. God has given you, the parent, the responsibility of training your children.
  - c. Parents are the biggest influence in a person's life.
  - d. But God has given each person a unique personality. Psalms 139:13-16
2. What does "the way he should go" mean?
  - a. There are only two ways to go: the way of the wise or the way of the fool.
  - b. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. (Prov. 9:10, 14:27, 15:33)
  - c. It's more of an art than a science.
  - d. There's no "one size fits all" formula.
  - e. It's more caught than taught.
3. OK, so what does "train a child" mean?
  - a. "Train" literally means "dedicate." It means much more than simply bringing your child to church once a week. *Deut. 6*
  - b. A "child" literally means someone who has not reached the age of majority.
  - c. Start now!
    - The younger the child, the better.
    - Most people develop their worldview by the time they are twelve years old.
    - It's never too late to start.
4. Is there money-back guarantee?
  - a. Proverbs is a practical book dealing with the art of living.

- b. A proverb is a brief statement of a general truth.
  - c. It's not an iron-clad promise but rather a statement of probability.  
(see Prov. 10:4, 10:27, 12:21, 16:31)
  - d. Interpretation supported by Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. James Dobson
  - e. Example from scripture – God the Father with Adam & Eve
  - f. Implications of iron-clad promise view (humanistic determinism)
    - Children do not have free will.
    - Extreme guilt when child turns from God. "It's the parents' fault!"
  - g. There is not a money-back guarantee.
5. Your children are learning. Are you teaching?
- a. Be intentional.
  - b. Set goals.
  - c. Develop a strategy.
  - d. Think ahead. Stay one step ahead of your kids.

***If you're child thinks he's the center of the universe, where is there room in his life for God?***

**Psalms 139:13** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

**Prov. 10:4** Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

**Prov. 12:21** No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble.