



**November 16, 2025**

**United - Ephesians 6:4 - Family - Parenting**

**SUMMARY:** Today's sermon focused on Ephesians 6:4 and the calling of parents to raise their children in a way that honors God. Using personal stories and humor, we explored the reality that children need parents—not just friends or providers, but guides who lovingly set boundaries, train, and instruct. We discussed the dangers of provoking children to anger through unreasonable demands, inconsistency, or conditional love, and contrasted that with the biblical call to “bring them up” through clear, consistent, and just discipline and instruction. The goal is not simply good behavior, but to point our children to the awe and majesty of Jesus Christ, modeling a life of faith, prayer, and joy.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 6:4; Genesis 27, 38

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Think about your own upbringing or your current parenting. Are there ways you might be provoking your children (or were provoked as a child) through things like unreasonable expectations, embarrassment, or conditional love? What could you do differently?
2. The sermon encourages parents to regularly evaluate their motives—whether they are acting out of fear, pride, or love. What is one area where you tend to parent out of fear or pride, and how could you shift toward love and humility?
3. Pastor Matt shared that every child changes their parents, and that it's okay to admit you don't have it all figured out. How comfortable are you with admitting mistakes to your kids or others? What holds you back?
4. When it comes to setting boundaries and consequences, do you tend to be too strict, too lenient, or inconsistent? What is one practical step you could take this week to be more clear and consistent?
5. If your children (or those close to you) described your “always”—the things you always care about, talk about, or get upset about—what would they say is most important to you? Is that what you want them to remember?
6. The sermon says the goal is not just good behavior, but to point our children to the awe and majesty of Jesus. What are some everyday ways you can point your kids (or others you influence) to Jesus, even in small moments?
7. Pastor Matt talked about praying with and for your children, and sharing joy and laughter. What is one way you can make faith more real and joyful in your home this week?