

# Are You Failing Your Children?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# Are You Failing Your Children?

Learn about five ways parents can fail their children and how you can avoid making these mistakes

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ [www.godsaidso.com/dgw157](http://www.godsaidso.com/dgw157)

## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW157

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @  
[WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM](http://WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM)**

# Are You Failing Your Children?

Life is precious. And, because of our limited opportunities in life, we often think about whether we are succeeding or failing. But, there may not be an area in life that we fear failing in more than with regard to our children. After all, no one is more dependent on us *not* failing than our children. For, we are responsible for giving them life and helping them to live their lives in a way that will make them successful in life.

It is common for parents to seek assistance and guidance as they try to make decisions about raising their children in a way that will be successful. Fortunately, God has not left us guessing about how to be successful as parents. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” We do not need the writings of worldly-minded people, their experiences, their experiments, etc. in order to know how to succeed as parents. Instead, God tells us everything we need to believe, do, and change in order to please Him – in the pages of the Bible. And, this includes how we can please Him as parents!

Therefore, let’s consider a few ways our perfect Heavenly Father has taught us that we can fail our children – so that we can avoid making these mistakes with them. For, we will certainly fail our children if we do not follow what God instructs us to do for them. And, if we will follow God’s pattern for how we should raise our children, we do not need to be afraid of failure. Although our children do possess

free will and will (ultimately) make decisions for themselves, we can find comfort in the Scriptures if we will simply do the best that we can do in following the perfect pattern for raising children!

## *Failing To Love*

---

Love should be seen, felt, and expressed in every home. This seems simple enough. But, there are many homes in which children do not experience love. As a result, they have no idea what it means to show love in a home. And, the consequences of this are far deeper than many want to recognize. So, one way that you can fail your children is to fail to show love in the home.

### **God’s command to love**

God commands love in the home. Now, as you consider the love that God commands in the home, we should recognize how truly deep it is! It is not just a “love” that involves saying, “I love you.” And, it is not just a “love” that involves infatuation. Instead, it is an all-encompassing kind of love that begins with tender affection toward the other members of the family and extends to a selfless and sacrificial kind of love that always acts in the best interest of others.

First, true love in the home must begin with each member of the family having love for God. Jesus taught that the greatest commandment in all of God’s law is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). A sacrificial kind of love for God is required of every member of our families. Those who have reached the age of moral accountability should all possess such a love, and those who have not should be trained to have such a love. The Bible teaches that loving God in this kind of way involves keeping His commandments, and His commandments must not be burdensome (see John 14:15 and 1 John 5:3). Unfortunately, there are too many parents who are providing homes for their children in which there is a hatred of God (Romans 1:30) fostered rather than a love for God. And, remember that this is done by merely not keeping

God's commandments or by viewing God's commandments as being burdensome.

Second, true love in the home must involve love that is demonstrated between husband and wife. God expects husbands and wives to love one another. Ephesians 5:25 commands husbands to "love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." And, Titus 2:4 instructs older women to teach the younger women "to love their husbands." But, the love that must be shown in the home is not just of husbands and wives saying, "I love you" (though that ought to be heard). But, this love includes a selfless love that seeks to serve and do good for the other, coupled with a warm affection. So, children ought to see their parents acting in the best interest of the other – not fighting, bickering, and acting like they hate each other. Then, children should have no doubt that the thing their parents love most about one another is their souls! Children should always see their parents conducting themselves in ways that will be the most spiritually beneficial for the other.

Third, true love in the home must involve love that is shown between parents and children. For instance, Titus 2:4 says that young women should be taught to "love their children." Unfortunately, there are many parents and children who do not show love to one another. Some children are abused and mistreated. Some children are used by their parents. Some parents are despised by their children. However, God wants parents and children to love each other in this same kind of selfless way that we are to love all people. For, Jesus said that the second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). This would certainly include those who are members of your household. So, every member of the family should be treating all the others in the same way that they would want to be treated. And, once again, parents and children should learn to love each other's souls most of all! Children and parents should have no doubt that the greatest wish any member of the family could have for another is that each one would go to Heaven – and act accordingly.

Fourth, true love in the home must involve showing love to everyone. Love in the family should never be reserved only for the members of the family.

Although there is a special bond that should exist between members of a family, children should be raised in a home that shows selfless and sacrificial love to everyone – even those who are enemies (see Matthew 22:39 and Matthew 5:44)! Children should be raised in a home that always acts in the best interest of others, as often as there is opportunity. Therefore, this home will be involved in serving others, giving to those who are in need, showing hospitality, teaching the gospel to the lost, encouraging the saints, etc.

### **Consequences of failing in this way**

Are you failing your children by failing to show love in the home? Maybe you are not showing love in the home to someone who is outside of your family. Maybe you are not showing love to your children. Maybe you are not showing love to your spouse. Maybe you are not showing love for God.

Just consider what happens when parents fail to show love in the home. Some children are trained only to love those who show them love. Some children are never trained to give of themselves in order to do good for others. Some children are trained to use their relationships for their own advantages or pleasures. Some children are trained to hate God.

And, consider how such a failure sets children up for future failure in their own homes. Many children who are raised in these kinds of environments will make the same (or similar) mistakes their parents made. So, children who do not see their parents show genuine love to one another may not know what it means to show love to their future spouses. They may not know what it looks like to truly love their children. And, they may never learn how to show God the kind of love that He deserves and to love others like themselves.

## ***Failing To Provide A God-Structured Home***

---

God is the Creator and Designer of the home. And, as such, He knows exactly how the home ought to be arranged in order for it to function at its best.

But, there are many homes that are structured and operate in a way that is completely foreign to God's design. And, the consequences of such a failure are devastating! So, one way that you can fail your children is to fail to provide a God-structured home (though it is sometimes outside of one parent's control).

## God's pattern for the home

God is the one who has created the home. Whenever God had created man on the earth, He saw that it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). In response, He determined to make a suitable companion for the man. So, He created the woman, brought her to the man, and they became "one flesh" as husband and wife (Genesis 2:19-24). From this union, God intended for them to bear children. Then, within the home that God has designed, God has assigned each member specific roles to fulfill. Surely, He knows that fulfilling these roles will result in a home that is pleasing to Him.

First, consider God's pattern for marriage. Today, it is common for "homes" and "families" within this society to have suffered from *at least* one divorce (and sometimes several more). It is common for "families" to be formed without mother and father being married. It is common for children to be raised without a mother, father, or both. It is becoming increasingly more common for homosexuals to marry and have families. It is common for children to endure adultery and sexually promiscuous activity from their parents. Yet, God's pattern for marriage is simple and effective: One man and one woman, who are married for life. God says that these two are bound to one another until one of them dies (Romans 7:2-3). And, the only acceptable cause for divorce is because of fornication (Matthew 19:1-9). *Only then* may the one who is innocent of the fornication divorce and remarry another who also has the right to marry!

Second, consider God's pattern for the husband and father. God's pattern plainly states that the husband and father is to be the head of the home. Ephesians 5:23 says, "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body." But, he is not to lead as a cruel dictator. Instead, he is to love his wife as Christ

sacrificially loved the church and gave himself for her. His leadership of the home must be in the same selfless kind of way that Jesus Christ leads the church. So, he is to nourish, cherish, and honor his wife (see Ephesians 5:25-33 and 1 Peter 3:7). This involves the specific responsibility of providing (materially) for his family (1 Timothy 5:8). And, he has the specific instruction to bring up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Third, consider God's pattern for the wife and mother. God has given every wife the responsibility to submit to her husband. For instance, Ephesians 5:24 says, "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." The only exception is if the husband instructs something that is contrary to God's will (Acts 5:29). 1 Peter 3:1-6 says that she is to be "submissive to your own husbands" that she may even win her husband to Christ by her godly conduct – including her "incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God." Then, Titus 2:4-5 says that younger women are to be taught "to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed."

Fourth, consider God's pattern for children. Ephesians 6:1-3 identifies the role that children have in the home. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.'" God demands that children obey their fathers and mothers. But, it is not enough to merely *obey* them. Instead, children are also expected to show honor to their parents. Then, 1 Timothy 5:3-16 teaches that children and grandchildren are to help their parents and grandparents in their times of struggle.

## Consequences of failing in this way

Are you failing your children by failing to provide a God-structured home? Maybe you have decided to live with your boyfriend/girlfriend without getting married. Maybe you have divorced your spouse for a reason other than fornication.

## ***Failing To Train For The Lord***

---

Maybe you are unscripturally remarried. Maybe you are in a homosexual relationship. Maybe you are a husband and father who is not leading your family according to how Jesus leads His church. Maybe you are a husband and father who refuses to be the head of the home and provide for your family. Maybe you are a wife and mother who refuses to submit to your husband in all things. Maybe you are a wife and mother who is more concerned with your career and making extra money than keeping the home. Now, as we consider these things, I should point out that we are talking about a willful failure to have a God-structured home. Sometimes things happen outside of our control. For instance, we do not control what a spouse does. And, sometimes a spouse dies. So, there are situations that will force us to adapt. But, this is not the focus of this point.

Just consider what happens when parents fail to structure the home according to God's pattern. Some children never understand what a God-structured home looks like and how it ought to function. So, some grow up resenting their family lives. Some children are separated from their parents and have to split their time between mother and father. Some children come home to an empty house after school and have no parental supervision. Some children are brought up by strangers or grandparents rather than by their parents. Some children have no structure to their lives and never have the proper guidance as they grow.

And, consider how this greatly hinders these children whenever they try to form homes of their own. Some decide it is better not to marry the man/woman they love in fear of divorce. Some are trained to believe that divorce and living together outside of marriage are "normal." Some are trained to believe that it is "strange" for the man to be the head of the home and for a wife to stay at home to be a homemaker. Some are simply trained to believe that "normal" for a home is the kind of chaos they experienced and observe throughout this world.

Anyone who is capable of sexual reproduction can be a parent. But, it takes someone who is committed to training to be a true father or mother. However, not all training is equal. There is much training that is focused on the things of this world. Yet, God wants parents to train their children to live for Him. So, one way that you can fail your children is to fail to train them for the Lord.

### **God's expectation for parents to train their children according to His ways**

Parents have been afforded one of the greatest ways to impact lives in the future through their children. Whether we realize and act like it or not, parents are the most influential people in the lives of their children – either for the good or the bad. But, training our children in the right ways does *not* just happen by chance. Instead, it will take great diligence in our work.

Yes, there are things that parents need to teach their children and instill values in them while they are young so that they will conduct themselves accordingly whenever they are older and make decisions for themselves. For instance, consider Proverbs 22:6. "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Although our children possess free will and can make decisions that go against what we teach them, this general principle states that the way we train our children will have a lasting impact on them. So, we should carefully consider the things that we are teaching our children (whether by word or by example). We should examine whether each one of those things is according to "the way he should go."

Titus 2:1-8 also helps us to think about the need to train our children. Specifically, this passage teaches us that the older women are to teach the younger women, and the older men should teach the younger men. Certainly, this is true with regard to parents and their children. Mothers should be teaching their daughters how to be loving wives and mothers, how to keep the home, how to be Christian women, how to obey their husbands, etc. And,

fathers should be teaching their sons how to think sensibly, how to do good works in the sight of God, how to speak in a way that pleases God, etc.

Ephesians 6:4, as we considered previously, reminds us that it is (especially) the responsibility of fathers to make sure that their children are being trained in the ways of God. He must see to it that his children are being nurtured in a way that will make them pleasing to God. So, he should take the lead in the disciplining (which we will discuss later), instructing (especially spiritual instruction), and warning his children about the ways of God.

Finally, a comparison between Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and Judges 2:10 proves very helpful in recognizing the need to train our children in the ways of the Lord. First, whenever the Israelites were about to enter the land that God had promised to give them, Moses warned them to remain faithful to the Lord, promising that there would be consequences if they failed to do so. So, after commanding them to love the Lord and keep His commandments, Moses said, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

So, the Israelites were to make sure that their children knew who God was, what God had done for them, and all that God had commanded. This was to be a regular topic of discussion. And, it was the most important element of their training and education. However, Judges 2:10 says, “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.” As a result, they “did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals” and “forsook the Lord God of their fathers” (Judges 2:11-12). Rather than listening to God, they did what was right in their own sight (Judges 21:25) – and they were punished.

## **Consequences of failing in this way**

Are you failing your children by failing to train them for the Lord? Maybe you are guilty of getting caught up in the busyness of your earthly life that the training of your children is made to take a “back seat” or is left to someone else. Maybe you believe that it is the church’s responsibility to teach your children rather than your own. Maybe you are shallow in your thinking about training your children by only training them how to do some basic things. Maybe you never consider actively training them to work hard, to be good citizens, to be kind, to exercise self-control, to think about what they say before they say it, to be honest, to forgive, to trust in God, to study their Bibles, to teach the gospel to others, to visit the sick, the help the needy, etc.

Just consider what happens when parents fail to train their children in the ways of the Lord. Some children leave the home having never truly developed their own faiths. So, as they go out into a very confused world, they are likely to be swayed by the different opinions and situations they will surely confront. Some children have never experienced a home Bible study with their fathers and mothers. Some children have never worshiped God with their families in the home. Some children receive great secular educations and excel at many different extracurriculars, but do not know the fundamentals about establishing Bible authority, God’s plan for saving mankind, the church, or how they should live to please God. Some children are scolded throughout their lives to memorize certain responses to specific Bible questions in order to please their parents, but do not know what these things mean or how they should be put into practice.

And, if we do not train our children in these ways, they may never have the initiative to get a better understanding of the Lord’s ways for themselves. Perhaps they leave the home with a very shallow “faith” and never believe that God requires anything more from them. Then, they will not be able to pass along true faith in God to anyone else. Then, we will have set them up for the ultimate failure whenever they stand before Jesus Christ in Judgment.

# ***Failing To Show A Godly Example***

---

Hypocrisy is one of the main things that hinder people from listening to God. They cannot stand to hear people talk about the Bible whenever they see that the one who is trying to teach them does not live according to the Bible. And, parents should be aware of this threat to our children's faiths. For, children are excellent at spotting hypocrisy, especially in their parents. So, one way you can fail your children is to fail to show them an example of godly living.

## **Godly examples lead others to glorify God**

I want you to consider the power of a godly example from two passages. First, listen to Matthew 5:13-16. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Second, listen to 1 Peter 3:1-2. This second passage is specifically talking about the power of a godly example in the home. "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear."

Now, consider what we have learned from these two passages. We learn that our actions matter and have a tremendous influence on whether someone is obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ or not. This is especially true with regard to our children. Our children watch us every day. They see the things that are most important in our lives. They see how we interact with others. They see how we respond to difficult situations. They see how we treat our family members. They hear what we say about

other people. They see how much or how little we study our Bibles and pray. They see how much or how little we do to teach the gospel to others, to serve those who are in need, to build up our brethren, to show hospitality to others, to visit the sick, etc.

The bottom line is that they see how important God is in our lives (particularly as they get older). They know whether we choose to work rather than attend services. They know whether we choose to stay home from the assemblies to watch a ball game. They know whether we make excuses to stay home rather than to worship God. They know whether it is more important to mom and dad for them to excel at sports, music, or some other activity than it is for them to go to church services and attend Bible class. They know whether it is more important to mom and dad for them to get a good grade on their tests and do well in school or to know their Bibles and be good Christians. They know whether mom and dad would rather them be successful in physical ways or in spiritual ways.

If they see their parents who not only teach, but demonstrate by their actions that God comes absolutely first, they will be much more likely to glorify God in their own lives. On the other hand is the influence of a hypocrite. A "hypocrite" is someone who is two-faced. So, when the Bible talks about a hypocrite it speaks of one who looks like he/she is serving God at times, but is willfully negligent in obeying God at other times.

Jesus condemned hypocrisy in Matthew 23. In this chapter, Jesus specifically addressed the hypocrisy of some Jewish leaders who would command others, but not obey the commands themselves. For instance, Jesus said, "The Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" (verses 2-4).

Parents can also be guilty of this. Sometimes parents tell their children, "Do as I say, not as I do." This is hypocrisy at its finest! Parents must recognize that their children are smarter than that. And,



children will have less respect for their parents who are actively engaged in hypocrisy. What impact do you suppose it will have when a parent tells his/her child not to watch a show because it is indecent – and then watch “adult” shows with profanity, immodesty, etc.? What impact do you suppose it will have to teach your child not to talk bad about others – and then gossip and speak bad about your brethren on the way home from church services? What impact do you suppose it will have to tell your children to put God first in all things – and then stay home to watch the Super Bowl rather than attend church services?

### **Consequences of failing in this way**

Are you failing your children by failing to show them a godly example? Maybe you don’t attend every church service you can. Maybe you don’t study your Bible like you should. Maybe you don’t show love to others. Maybe you don’t watch your language. Maybe you don’t teach people the gospel. Maybe you don’t pray. Maybe you don’t act like a Christian should.

Just consider what happens if parents fail to show their children a godly example. Some children are left with the impression that “church is for hypocrites.” Some children are left with the impression that hypocrisy and serving God some of the time (when it is convenient) is what “Christianity” is about and is “good enough” for God. Some children lose all respect for their parents as “Christians.”

And, if we fail to show our children what Christian living is all about, they may never come to truly glorify God in their lives. They may forever have a “bad taste” in their mouths for “Christianity.” Or, they may never know what it looks like for someone to put God absolutely first in all things and truly submit to God and resist the devil.

## ***Failing To Discipline***

---

Discipline is part of parenting. At least, it must be if we are to train our children in the ways of the Lord. Unfortunately, many parents have

neglected the appropriate use of discipline in the home. So, one way you can fail your children is to fail to discipline.

### **God’s rules for discipline**

Discipline is a deterrent to bad behavior. It makes someone think twice about doing something that is wrong or inappropriate. And, it is a necessary part of training because training cannot just include teaching and showing what is right. It must also provide the appropriate consequences for things that are wrong.

The Scriptures provide many examples of God (as the perfect Heavenly Father) disciplining those who are His children whenever they rebelled against His ways. For instance, in the book of Judges, the generation of Israelites who did not know God and forsook Him, were punished through oppression. It was in this way that God tried to deter His children from following after other gods. Then, Hebrews 12:3-8 makes reference to the chastening (discipline) of the Lord whenever we err against Him.

There are a couple of ways parents need to think about disciplining their children. First, they need to discipline their children while they are young. For instance, Proverbs 13:24 says, “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” Proverbs 19:18 says, “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.”

So, by failing to execute the proper discipline in response to our children’s errors, we actually set our hearts on their destruction. For, if we do not provide the corrective training needed, they will continue to make the same error in the future. And, perhaps they will experience even greater harm as a result of their continued error. Then, as you consider the appropriate measure of discipline, recognize that God speaks of using “the rod” of discipline – and it should continue to be used in training our children.

Second, some parents must exercise spiritual discipline toward their children who have rebelled against the Lord after they have become Christians. For instance, the Bible commands those who are Christians to take specific actions whenever a brother/sister in Christ falls away and is not willing

to repent. These actions are certainly applicable to our own children who have fallen from Christ.

For instance, 1 Corinthians 5 commands that we are “not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner – not even to eat with such a person” (1 Corinthians 5:11). Furthermore, 2 Thessalonians 3:6 says, “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.” Then, verses 14 and 15 say, “And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

### **Consequences of failing in this way**

Are you failing your children by failing to exercise the appropriate discipline toward them? Maybe you do not believe in spanking. Maybe you do not want to make your child upset. Maybe you are unwilling to admit that your child has done anything wrong. Maybe you are not willing to cut your child off because they no longer serve God faithfully.

Just consider what happens if parents fail to exercise the appropriate discipline toward their children. Some children are trained to be spoiled and expect their parents to cater to their every desire. Some children embarrass their parents consistently because they are not restrained. Some children are never taught respect. Some children are never taught how to obey authority. Some children are never taught consequences.

And, if we do not exercise the appropriate discipline toward our children who forsake the Lord, we are actually condoning their sinful actions! If we choose not to take the steps that God prescribes, we choose our earthly relationships with them above God. And, we are actually harming their souls and demonstrating that we do *not* really love them. Once again, Proverbs 13:24 says, “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” Proverbs 19:18 says, “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his

destruction.” This is just as true with regard to spiritual discipline as with physical discipline – if not more so!

---

## **Conclusion**

Are you failing your children? Perhaps there are other ways besides these to fail our children. But, we need to be honestly evaluating this very sensitive area of our lives so that we fulfill our God-given responsibilities as parents. For, if we will simply obey what God has instructed us to do, we will succeed as parents and He will be pleased with us! Then, if you have failed your children, there is hope! Like with all sin, you must repent, confess your sin to God, and ask God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22 and 1 John 1:8). Then, confess your failure to your children and ask them for forgiveness, and bear the fruit of repentance by living a changed life! With God, you can be successful as a parent!

---

## **Study Questions**

How can you know what it takes to be a successful parent?

### **1. Failing To Love**

In what ways does God command love to be shown in the home?

What are the consequences of failing in this way?

### **2. Failing To Provide A God-Structured Home**

What is God's pattern for the structure of the home?

What are the consequences of failing in this way?

### **3. Failing To Train For The Lord**

What are God's expectations for parents in training their children?

What are the consequences of failing in this way?

### **4. Failing To Show A Godly Example**

What is the power of a godly example and the danger of hypocrisy?

What are the consequences of failing in this way?

### **5. Failing To Discipline**

How does God want parents to discipline their children?

What are the consequences of failing in this way?