

Great privilege and joy but can seem at times daunting and depressing

1. Preparing for Life

Setting the course for adult life

*Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (22:6)*

Making something beautiful

*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
They are a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck. (1:8-9)*

Mother and Father involved – passed down through the generations

Practical and moral wisdom – showing the “what” and the “why”

2. Loving Discipline

To discipline is to love, to avoid discipline is to hate

Whoever spares the rod hates their children,

but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them. (13:24)

*A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom,
But a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother. (29:15)*

Rod must mean painful discipline with a clear purpose – to impart wisdom

Necessary at all ages – moves more towards engagement and responsibility

Same principles for step families – agreement crucial

3. Communication in relationship

My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways (23:26)

Context love parent for child looking for heart response and respect

Proverbs is mostly a parent talking with their child and adult son

Emotional calls for the son to listen to instruction and get wise –
many conversations

Questions

1. how do we prepare our children for adult life?
2. What is the role of the extended family and the church family?
3. What do you think are the best ways to discipline –
should they obey because of the consequence, because they see
the wisdom of it, or because they love you?