

# SERMON NOTES (Audio, video, & sermon notes are online at HBChurch.net)



Series: The Parent Trap  
Sermon: *Peer Pressure*

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**Ephesians 6:1** - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), **3** “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” **4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (ESV)

- **Verse 4** - “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by showing favoritism or indifference to any of them], but bring them up [tenderly, with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4, AMPLIFIED VERSION)

Parents feel \_\_\_\_\_ to major on minor things ... and ignore major issues.

Minor issues have nothing really to do with \_\_\_\_\_.

How to deal with minor issues? \_\_\_\_\_.

Two “majors” that parents often feel pressure to ignore: \_\_\_\_\_.

There is no \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to a parent-child relationship.

# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS (Audio, video, & sermon notes are online at HBChurch.net)

To have the best discussions, please fill out these questions *before* arriving at your Life Group.  
Remember: one of the best ways to grow spiritually is in relationship with other growing Christians.

## 1. SHARE YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS:

## 2. REVIEWING SUNDAY: What blessed you the most from Sunday's worship service and sermon?

**3. DISCUSSING THE BIBLE:** The writer of the Book of Hebrews wrote to encourage people to remain faithful to Christ even when their faith and way of life is challenged in the most difficult ways. Read the following verses as written in *The Message* version of the Bible which is a helpful paraphrase to use for discussions. Read and discuss:

**Hebrews 12:1-4** - Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls! In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry for yourselves.

- a) The writer refers to “pioneers” and “veterans” of our faith whom were listed in Hebrews 11 that faced difficult challenges, adversity, and temptations, but lived and died trusting in the Lord. Their testimony of faithfulness should encourage us to remain strong in the faith and faithful to the Lord. Who is a spiritual mentor in your life? Explain?
- b) The writer refers to Jesus' faithfulness to God through the worse adversity imaginable, including the Cross. Jesus was faithful to God's will and purpose and calling for His life. And Jesus did it all for us! When you think about all that Jesus went through for you, how does that encourage you right now to be faithful to Him?

**Hebrews 12:5-11** - Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as His children? My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. It's the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's *training*, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly *live*? While we were children, our parents did what *seemed* best to them. But God is doing what *is* best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

- c) The writer wrote, “... don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either.” Then he explains how not to be discouraged by God's discipline but how to be blessed by it. List 4 or 5 nuggets of wisdom that the writer shares with us in this passage to help us respond properly to God's discipline in our lives. And describe how you can apply it this week in your life.