

The Bible and the Family's Role in Discipleship – 12/1/12 Men's Study
Handout Supplement to Voddie Baucham, *Family Shepherds*, chapter 1

The opening line of this chapter states that “parents” are the ones God holds responsible to disciple their own children, and that is the right answer. However it’s interesting that this “unquestioned premise” does not have many (if any?) Scripture verses that mention explicitly or specifically “parents” or “mothers” or “fathers and mothers” in commands to instruct or disciple their children. Instead there are commands to children, to Israel or the church in general, or especially to “fathers” to spiritually instruct their own children. Of course a “mother” is to help her husband as a help-mate, and children are commanded to heed teaching of both parents in Proverbs 1:8 and 6:20. It’s true that *parents* are given a responsibility by God to their children, but it’s even clearer *the father is most responsible*.

I. Verses Commanding the Mother to Instruct/Disciple Her Children

No explicit commands that single out mothers (that I can find, can you?) but there are examples of motherly instruction (ex: Proverbs 31, Timothy’s mom)

II. Verses Commanding God’s People in General to Instruct/Disciple Their Own Children (where the father is not clearly specifically singled out in context)

Exodus 13:8, 14 (but might be argued there that the father did the sacrifices);
Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 6:4-9 (though some might argue Paul’s quoting 5:16 in Ephesians 6:2 has in mind those passages especially for fathers in Eph. 6:4)

III. Verses Commanding/Calling for a Father to Instruct/Disciple His Children

Genesis 18:19
Exodus 10:1-2
Exodus 12:24-27 (note v. 3-4, 21)
Deuteronomy 32:7, 45-46
Joshua 4:21-24
Psalm 78:2-8
Isaiah 54:13
Isaiah 59:21
Jeremiah 35:14
Joel 1:2-3
Ephesians 6:4

IV. Verses Commending Fathers who Instructed/Disciplined Their Children

Genesis 22:7-8, 14 (Abraham)
Genesis 27:26-28 (Isaac)
Genesis 49 (Jacob)
1 Chronicles 22:6-13, 28:9-10, 20, Proverbs 4:3-9 (David to Solomon)
Proverbs 1:10, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1-2, 10, 20, etc. (Solomon to his son)
Psalm 34:11 (David to his children)
Psalm 44:1 (sons of Korah)
1 Thessalonians 2:11-12
Discipleship by others? Titus 2, Matt 28:19-20, Col 1:28, Eph 4:11-15, etc.