

What Did I Do Wrong With My Kid? (Proverbs 22:6)
When God is Misunderstood sermon series
by Pastor David Hillis, 08.06.17

BIG IDEA: Your child's faith is guided, not controlled, by your parenting.

Properly Understanding God In This Verse

- 1. Proverbs are principles, not promises.** (Proverbs 22:6; 22:4; 22:11,29; 3:1-3) The book of Proverbs, like Ecclesiastes, is a type of writing known as wisdom literature; a collection of wise sayings meant to try to steer us to not do things in life we'll later regret. They are generally truths about the way the world normally works.
- 2. Parenting is a tough job.** The process of parenting, in general, is the process of letting go. We start out doing everything for a child, and with each year we transition from roles of control to those of influence.
- 3. God gives every person a free will, but He still relentlessly pursues.** (Joshua 24:15a; Mark 8:34; Genesis 2:14-15; Romans 10:9-10; Psalm 139:7-12) God wants us to raise our kids to know Him, but He wants them to ultimately make the choice, not us.

What can we take away from this verse to fully understand God?

- As a general rule, when we raise our children consistently, and with authenticity, to know and love God, they will do so.
- For some people, the path to faith includes more detours than others. In those moments we must rest in the sovereignty and loving pursuit of God over them.
- We will never raise our kids perfectly, but God doesn't expect us to. (Hosea 11:1-2)
- If things don't turn out quite like we plan, we keep praying and hoping. (James 5:16)

MY NEXT STEP: *Who is God calling you to hope for and pray for more consistently, that they will come to experience the crazy, incredible love of God firsthand?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Reread Proverbs 22:6 this week. Have you seen this verse in the past as a principle or a promise? Who do you know whom you can encourage through your time, your words, your prayers in this area?
2. Read Psalm 139, paying careful attention to the heart and the perseverance of God. Ask God as you read how His words can bring hope to any situations in your life.
3. Read the stories of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son in Luke 15. Read them slowly and prayerfully in conversation with God, asking God to speak with you about those who fit this description on your heart, and the role God wants you to consistently play in their lives in the future. Ask God to give you the clarity and confidence you need.
4. Next week we will be continuing this series by looking at another commonly misunderstood verse, Proverbs 23:7. We will answer the question, "Do My Thoughts Influence My Future?" How would you answer that question? Put your thoughts in the comments of the "Hello" card online this week at myGrace.church!

PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Teachers

Pray for the teachers in our congregation and community to impart Godly wisdom to help form character in their students, for needed tools and proper facilities, and for a renewed spirit as the school year begins. May God provide protection, patience, and refreshment as they endeavor to bring truth to eager minds.