

## Teaching children how to relate to God

Ephesians 6:4

### I. Beware of discouraging your child as you relate to him or her (Ephesians 6:4a).

- Dads (and moms) must realize how their way of relating can have a negative impact on their children.
  - *Exasperate/provoke to anger* – Parents can be partly responsible for their child's attitude.
  - *Embitter/provoke* (Colossians 3:21) – Parents can be responsible for disheartening children

#### **A Parent's Authority**

1. Authoritative – Firm, gentle leadership – motivated by love, godliness, grace and humility
2. Authoritarian – Harsh, unbending control – motivated by anger and pride

### II. Train your child how to relate to God (Ephesians 6:4b).

- Dads (and moms) must realize the positive impact they can have by teaching children how to relate to God.
  - *Bring them up* – Feed, nourish your child spiritually.
  - *Training* – Teach them what God says to do.
  - *Instruction* – Warn them of what God says to avoid.

#### **A Parent's Plan**

1. Walking with God – Is my heart committed to loving and following God (Deuteronomy 6:1-6)?
2. Talking about God – Will I commit myself to teach and share spiritually with my children what I know and experience with God (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)?