The Question: What’s it take to raise kids who love God and love you when they’re grown?

The Answer: Ephesians 6:4 – 4

Key Words:

1. “don’t provoke” = overcorrect, be harsh, fault finding, perfectionist

2. “bring up” = nurture, rear, tenderly develop in the sphere of character and principles

3. “discipline” = nurture (KJV), chastise (RV), training (2 Tim. 3:16)
   - It’s what is done to the child.

4. “instruction” = warn, admonish, correct, reprove, implore
   - It’s what is said to the child.

Summary: We are to parent with LOVE and LIMITS

Secular research’s affirmation* – 4 kinds of parents:

1. Permissive = High love, low discipline
2. Neglectful = Low love, low discipline
3. Authoritarian = Low love, high discipline
4. Authoritative = High love, high discipline

*Reuben Hill Minnesota Report
God’s prescription for child development:

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you,
6 because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.”
7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?
8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.
9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!
10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.
11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:4-11 (NIV)

Summary: Discipline is teaching obedience to God and His Word through consistent consequences (actions) and clear instructions (words) in an atmosphere of love.

- The necessity of discipline = To deter ____________________ Hebrews 12:4
- The means of discipline = Through ________ and ________ Hebrews 12:5
- The motive in discipline = To express ____________________ Hebrews 12:6-9
- The goal of discipline = To teach ____________________ Hebrews 12:9
- The result of discipline = Short term _____________ and long term ____________ Hebrews 12:10-11
How to parent with love and limits:

**Actions** = Consistent Consequences

- Small Children
- Preteens
- Teens

**Words** = Clear instructions

- Small Children
- Preteens
- Teens

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For further teaching on child discipline, see *Effective Parenting in a Defective World* by Chip Ingram
Practical tips for balanced parenting:
1. Have a few, clear ________________ / ________________.
2. Develop written ________________________________.
3. Negotiate ________________________________.
4. Be ________________________________!
5. The older they get, the ________________________________ the rules.
6. ________________________________ them to be on their own.

➢ Develop A Game-Plan

1. __________________________________________
2. __________________________________________
3. __________________________________________
4. __________________________________________

Discussion Questions:
1. How would you classify your parenting style or tendency compared to the case study? Discuss your answer.

2. What is the difference between discipline and punishment?

3. What are your top two disciplinary problems with your children? What means of action/consequences or instruction would help your child learn obedience?

4. What specific step do you need to take to align your parenting with God’s pattern to bring out the best in your child?

Resources:  
- Parenting with Love and Logic by Kevin Lema
- Dare to Discipline by James Dobson