



# TRUTH & RIGHT

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**WELLSBURG**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## **FATHERS, LET GOD INSTRUCT YOU**

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers! We want you to know how much we appreciate the wonderful work you are doing leading your families and the many sacrifices you are making to be there for your children. We are especially grateful for the love of Jesus our Godly fathers are displaying in their homes and the wonderful work being done to instill the teaching of Christ into these young hearts. God recognizes the importance of this work and has left us with carefully laid out instructions, especially for fathers, to adhere to and reference to ensure they are guiding their children in the way God would prescribe.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord," Eph. 6:4. The Lord left fathers with this extremely carefully laid out balance of direction for fathers to utilize in successful training because all too often, we leave

our children in a state of confused frustration simply because we fail to humbly let the perfect Father instruct us how to do it correctly. God is reminding us to take the proper dose of humility by admitting most fathers will fail miserably when relying upon sheer instinct and prideful assumption that it is innate in them to properly develop their children without any direction from God whatsoever. Notice the warning given again when fathers fail to humble themselves and let God teach and direct them how to father their children. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart," Col. 3:21. If we refuse to accept His guidance, we will inevitably leave our children in a state of confused frustration, to the point they will eventually stop listening to the failed attempts of direction from their fathers altogether, only to attempt to direct themselves independently

resulting in inevitable disaster. "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death," Prov. 14:12. Fathers, if you want to safeguard your children from blindly and foolishly and pridefully assuming they know what they're doing on their own, then don't you make that initial mistake in front of their very eyes by assuming and giving the impression that you know exactly what you are doing independently of consulting and listening to and being led by God as a father. Read these passages regularly to your children so they know and are assured you are humbling yourself to acknowledge that without God's direction you are going to fail to lead your children correctly. Remember, fathers, that on your best day, your perfect Father in heaven rates you as "evil". "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children..." Lk. 11:13. The reminder is that while we may know how to give good gifts to our children, we are still imperfectly hindered by so many blind spots on our own when compared to the perfect nature of God. We make way too many assumptions about the needs of our children and how to properly meet them, that we are "evil", or by nature beset with so many crippling limitations we need to honestly accept our need to humbly refer to God on a regular basis for His detailed direction to ensure we do not leave our

children in a messy state of frustrated confusion. So listen to the teaching of Jesus in the context as He points out, fathers we may know how to give good gifts to our children, but the only way we will successfully be able to implement the proper direction and leadership to teach your children the proper use for those gifts and how to mature in their development, is by you humbly asking God for His Holy Spirit of direction and instruction. Ultimately it comes down to a delicate balancing act that God wants us fathers to carefully keep in mind at all times. To ensure our children are developing properly, we must be careful to implement the needed combination of discipline and instruction in the Lord. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord," Eph. 6:4. It is a careful balancing act of prescribed of two primary components, discipline and instruction. Fathers, when you think discipline, do not think merely reprimanding or punishing. The idea of disciplining your children in this context is more about the idea of training them in an effort to bring them to a state of maturity as they grow. It is the idea of equipping, which simply means putting the right tools into their hands (give good gifts to your children) that will enable them to be fully supplied with all that

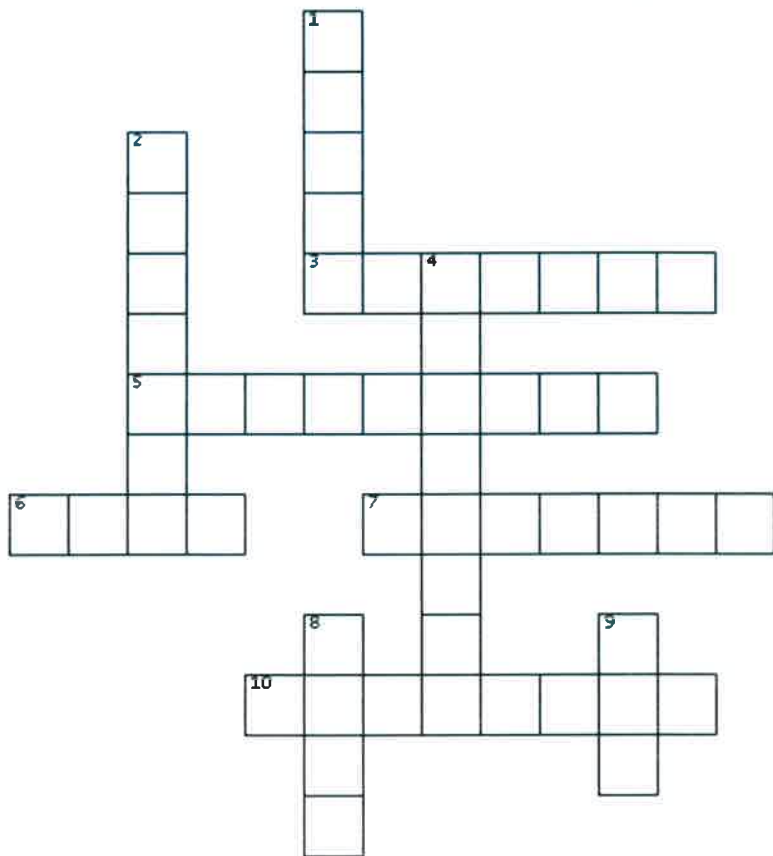
is needed for their successful development. What is inferred by this idea is also the idea of your presence in your children's lives. You are required to individually train them, equip them, provide them with all that is necessary for their varying stages of growth. The second aspect is just as important, and that is to instruct or rather to provide clear effective communication in ensuring they properly understand what you are equipping them for and how to utilize the gifts and tools you are putting into their hands. This is definitely an area most men could use some seeking training from the Lord in, in being an effective communicator. Think of the need of implementing these two directives and how most men, sadly, thinking they are able to lead instinctively on their own, often leave their children with as few moments of their presence as possible with poor chunky and garbled doses of poor communication. This is what leads to children being provoked to anger. "My child arrived just the other day, He came to the world in the usual way. But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay, He learned to walk while I was away. And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew, He'd say 'I'm gonna be like you, dad. You know I'm gonna be like you.' And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the

moon. 'When you coming home, dad?' 'I don't know when. But we'll get together then. You know we'll have a good time then.' My son turned ten just the other day. He said, thanks for the ball, dad, come on let's play. Can you teach me to throw, 'I said-a, not today. I got a lot to do,' He said, 'That's okay.' And he, he walked away, but his smile never dimmed it said, 'I'm gonna be like him, yeah. You know I'm gonna be like him.'" (Cat's In the Cradle). Let us humble ourselves and let God lead us to develop ourselves to take the time to help mold and develop our children with the utmost care and attention to where they are in their developmental stages as well as letting God teach us to be the most effective communicators to help instruct and guide our children to have the wisdom and strength of the Lord in their lives.

– Daniel Ruegg

The

C R S S W O R D



## ACROSS

3. Mary called Jesus this Hebrew word meaning "Teacher" (Jn. 20:16)
5. Mary \_\_\_\_ came to the empty tomb seeking Jesus (Jn. 20:1)
6. Jesus helped the disciples catch 153 \_\_\_\_ (Jn. 21:11)
7. Jesus asked Mary, "Why are you \_\_\_\_?" (Jn. 20:15)
10. Mary thought Jesus was the \_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:15)

## DOWN

1. John beat \_\_\_\_ in a foot race to the empty tomb (Jn. 20:4)
2. Thomas was also called \_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:24)
4. When John looked into the empty tomb he \_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:8)
8. Nathanael was from the town of Jesus' first miracle (Jn. 21:2)
9. Thomas would not believe unless he could \_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:25)