

# Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 38 OF 52

## WHY CHILDREN REBEL

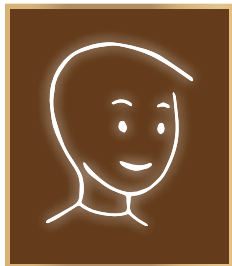
LESSON AIM: To learn why children rebel.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **EPHESIANS 6:4** The way fathers treat their children can make them \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **DEUTERONOMY 21:18** A rebellious child is not willing to obey his parents even when they \_\_\_\_\_ him.
3. **1 SAMUEL 15:23** God hates rebellion. He said that it is as bad as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **PSALM 78:5-8** Rebellion is learned from others. That is why it is so important for fathers to \_\_\_\_\_ their children right ways.
5. **EZEKIEL 2:4-5** Rebellion is a choice. Even when people are taught well, they must choose whether to \_\_\_\_\_ or not.

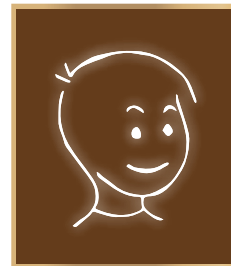
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



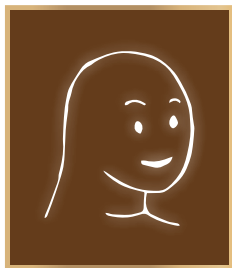
### By Yourself

Search your own heart. Ask God to show you if you have any rebellious feelings toward him or anyone else. Ask God to take away this rebellion so that your children do not learn it from you.



### With Your Children

Rebellion often grows out of disappointments and hurts. Invite your children to talk to you about things that have disappointed or hurt them.



### With Your Wife

Talk about the items listed in the next part of this lesson to see if there are things you are doing which may cause rebellion in your children.

Many fathers become angry when their children rebel. They have done a lot for their children. Now all they get in return is a rebellious son or daughter. In their anger they are harsh with their children as they try to correct them. While rebellion should be corrected, harsh punishment usually only causes more rebellion.

Before correcting a child, a father should try to find out why the child is rebelling. Children disobey for many reasons. Sometimes they have a strong will and lots of energy which they cannot control. But the truly rebellious child usually has lots of anger, which many times is caused by the father. Here are some ways in which fathers plant rebellion in their children.

1. Impatience. The father's impatience stirs up the child's anger.
2. Refusing to admit when he is wrong. The child then loses respect for him.
3. Wrong values, letting other things or people be more important. The child then does wrong things to get attention.
4. Comparing the child with others. The child rebels to prove his personal worth and power.
5. Discipline too strict. The child rebels to get revenge.
6. Broken promises. This causes disappointment, and rebellion helps the child feel better for a while.
7. Lack of trust, not allowing children to make decisions of their own. They rebel to prove they can make it on their own.
8. The father says bad things about his parents. The children may follow his example.
9. Allowing children to feed their minds with messages of rebellion from television, music, magazines, and movies. Their heroes show rebellion as a great thing.
10. Poor communication. Children do not understand the reasons why father wants them to do what he asks.

There are many causes of rebellion. Even if a father does everything right, his children can still choose to rebel. If God's children rebelled against Him (Deuteronomy 32:11-15), do not be surprised if your children sometimes do the same.

**FATHERS, DO NOT BE TOO HARD ON YOUR CHILDREN SO THAT THEY BECOME ANGRY.... (EPHESIANS 6:4)**

**A father should find out why his child is rebelling.**

**Not all disobedience is rebellion.**

**A father's insensitive actions and words can often contribute to a child's rebellion.**

**Rebellion is still the child's own choice.**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

Tommy was ten years old. He wanted to go down the river with two of his friends on a hunting trip. He had been down there last year with his dad. However, Tommy's dad told him he could not go and that he should not bother him anymore with asking about it.

Later in the day, Tommy's dad saw that his son looked angry. He knew he had been too harsh with the boy. He took his son for a walk and explained why he could not go. The river had two big rapids. The boys were not big enough to carry the boat around the rapids. The current near the rapids was very swift and might upset the boat if the boys were not careful. Also, two young boys had been out hunting alone just last year. One had accidentally shot the other. When Tommy heard these reasons, he understood that his dad was looking out for his safety. Tommy accepted his dad's reasons and felt much happier about it all.

