SPARE THE ROD, SPOIL THE CHILD
Rev. Jeff Burnett—9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
1. If you were a talk-show host discussing spanking children, how does your three-generation panel (your grandparents, your parents, and parents your age) each react to “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.” Proverbs 13:24?

2. Read Proverbs 22:6 and 15. What child-rearing principle and promise do you see in these verses? Does this general rule offer an absolute guarantee? What about the child’s freedom to choose, despite “perfect” parenting?

3. How do you think a parent feels when a child “turns out good”? How do you think a parent feels when a child “turns out bad”? How much responsibility do you think the parent feels in both situations?

4. Read Ezekiel 18:1-32. What does this passage say about the relationship of a son’s sin to a father’s sin? Who is responsible for a person’s sin?

5. Read Genesis 1-3. Adam and Even were whose “children”? What kind of an environment did they “grow up” in? Who was responsible for their sin? What does this story tell you about the environment someone grows up in and their later success/failure with the temptation of sin? How about their relationship with God?

6. Read Proverbs 21:30-31. Who is held accountable for the outcome of the “battle”? Who is responsible for the preparation for the battle? What does this mean for parents? What will they be held accountable by God? What will they not be held accountable before God?

7. List some ways parents can make it easier for their kids to know God. If you are a parent, which have you used? Which did your parents use with you? Which will you use in the future with your children? Grandchildren? Nieces and nephews?