

DISCIPLINE

"May we seek him, asking him to be at work in our children's hearts." James 1:5

Did you know that the root word for discipline is **discipleship**? In Hebrews 12:10 the bible tells us that it is God's will for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all. Discipline is the thought process that recognizes the imperfections of our children and their need for a savior. Discipline comes from the root word Discipleship. We are called by God to Disciple our children in God's truth for their lives.

What does the Bible say about Discipline?
"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die." Proverbs 23:13

When we hear the words "strike the rod" we instantly think of an object used as a weapon. I want you to think of the Rod as a Shepherd's Rod. A Shepherd uses his rod to lead his flock, protect them from danger, correct their course and offer an extension of the hand. We are to Shepherd our children in the truth of God's word. We are to lead by example; a life that glorifies Jesus, having a fervent prayer life that prays protection over children. When distractions come, we bring them back to the course and offer that extra grace when needed. Just as Jesus, our heavenly father who is our good shepherd disciplines us, we as earthly parents have the opportunity to shepherd our children and disciple them. In Deuteronomy 6:7-8 it tells us to write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.

I challenge you to change your view of discipline, from punishment because of a behavior to the thought of disciplining your children in the love and grace of Jesus. We want to disciple our children from the inside out, we want to change the heart of our children not just the behavior.

Disciplining and training our children is a process and long term goal. We are conditioning their hearts. It's easy to focus on wrong behavior but we want to help the child grow into the likeness of Jesus.

TIPS

Tip 1 | Teach Proactively Instead of Reactively:
 Let the children know your expectation before you encounter the situation.

Tip 2 | Enforce the rules you give:
 Let your YES be YES and your NO be NO. Make sure to follow through when given a consequence or reward.

Tip 3 | Speak Directly to your child:
 Get down to the child's level and speak in a firm, calm manner. This is a great time to discipline the child to the truths of God's Word.

Tip 4 | Grace over Discipline
 "Change is a response to love, not a condition for it." Grace tells them how you feel about them, and who they are in Jesus. Discipline tells them how you feel about the way they chose to behave and what consequences come along with that action.

Tip 5 | The 3 P's
 Practice the way I speak to my kids. Let my every day talk be positive and uplifting. Plan what the consequence are. Give yourself time to cool down and plan what the consequence should be. Patience, Children make lots of mistakes. Show them unconditional love and safe place to learn from their mistakes.

RESOURCES

Websites:
<https://imperfectfamilies.com/5-ways-christians-can-embrace-positive-parenting-and-spare-the-rod/>
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-principles-disciplining-children>
<https://www.cornerstonesforparents.com/effective-discipline-tools-christian-parents>
<https://www.dannyzacharias.net/blog/2015/5/7/dont-spare-the-rod-recovering-the-biblical-perspective-on-disciplining-your-children>
https://www.openbible.info/topics/discipline_of_children

Books:
 123 Magic
 Grace Based Discipline
 Loving yours kids on Purpose
 Moms Set Free Bible Study
 Love Dare For Parents

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith." Galatians 6:9-10