

# Session 4: Love & Discipline

**Love is the key, not discipline.**

**We must communicate belonging, love, and pride in our children.**

Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” NIV

**Loving parents discipline their kids because it helps the kids.**

Proverbs 13:24 If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don’t love them; if you love your children, you will be prompt to discipline them. NLT

**Loving parents discipline their kids because it brings order, hope, and peace to the home.**

Proverbs 19:18 Correct your children while there is still hope; do not let them destroy themselves. NCV

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. NIV

Hebrews 12:11 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. NIV

**Our heavenly Father models loving discipline.**

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, <sup>12</sup>because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. NIV

Hebrews 12:5-11 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, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” <sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup>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! <sup>10</sup>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.

Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. NIV

Love paves the way for the acceptance of discipline.

Loving discipline exchanges a controlled amount of pain now,  
for an unknown amount of pain later.

Proverbs 15:10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path;  
he who hates correction will die. NIV

We need to encourage and reward good behavior  
and discourage and correct bad behavior.

### 3 keys to successful discipline

1) Consistent

2) Immediate

Ecclesiastes 8:11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong.

3) Memorable

Hebrews 12:11 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.

Kids will always bump up against the boundaries. But if you discipline effectively,  
their behaviors will correspond closely to the boundaries you have set.

## **The clearest discipline method the Bible talks about with our children is spanking.**

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

### **Spanking works because pain tells us to stop.**

#### **What are the benefits of spanking?**

- **Spanking is loving.**

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. NIV

- **Spanking is safe.**

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death. NIV

- **Spanking is effective.**

- **Spanking drives out folly.**

Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

- **Spanking saves their souls from death**

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

- **Spanking imparts wisdom.**

Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

- **Spanking keeps you from being disgraced by the behavior of your children**

Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

- **Spanking changes the heart.**

Proverbs 20:30 Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart. NLT

## Do not withhold spankings or use them as a last resort.

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful [diligent, or prompt] to discipline him. NIV [NAS,NKJ]

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently and punishes him early. AMP

## How do you spank?

- Privately
- Explain the offense.
- Administer discipline.
- Use a “rod.”
- Test repentance with simple commands.
- Repeat as necessary.
- Once discipline is over, it is over.

2 Corinthians 2:6-7 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. <sup>7</sup>Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. NIV

Psalms 30:5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. NIV

## Some discretionary thoughts:

- Baby phase:
- Age:
- Swats:
- Instrument:

# House Rules

- 1. Always live in a way that honors God.**  
*Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*
- 2. Treat others as you would want to be treated.**  
*Matthew 7:12 Do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*
- 3. Share with others.**  
*Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
- 4. Only tell the truth.**  
*Leviticus 19:11b "Do not lie.' 'Do not deceive one another.'"*
- 5. Don't take what belongs to someone else.**  
*Leviticus 19:11a "Do not steal.'"*
- 6. Be thankful for what you have, and what you're given.**  
*Philippians 4:11b I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*
- 7. Be kind to others.**  
*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another.*
- 8. Treat your siblings with great kindness. They are your closest "neighbors."**  
*Mark 12:31a The second [most important command] is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*
- 9. Obey your parents.**  
*Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*
- 10. Treat your parents with respect.**  
*Ephesians 6:2a "Honor your father and mother.'"*
- 11. Obey teachers, coaches, and other trusted adults.**  
*1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men.*
- 12. Always speak cheerfully.**  
*Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing.*
- 13. Do not speak with harsh words or a harsh tone.**  
*Ephesians 4:29a Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.*
- 14. When you are given a job to do, work hard.**  
*Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...*
- 15. Control your anger and frustration.**  
*James 1:19b Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*
- 16. Do not take revenge when you've been wronged. Get help from a parent.**  
*Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*
- 17. Don't talk back.**  
*Proverbs 18:13 He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.*
- 18. Have a happy heart.**  
*Proverbs 15:30a A cheerful look brings joy to the heart.*
- 19. Forgive others.**  
*Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*
- 20. Accept discipline with a good heart.**  
*Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.*

# Basic Behavioral Standards

## Speech

- Don't talk back.
- Don't cuss.
- Don't use harsh words or euphemisms that take from God's glory (OMG, gees, holy guacamole etc.)
- Speak kindly.
- No yelling or screaming in the house.
- No uncontrolled yelling outside (out of respect for the neighbors)
- Don't call people names.
- Use people's preferred names.
- Use miss, missus, and mister with adults.
- Don't lie.
- Don't deceive.
- Answer politely when spoke to.
- Don't comment negatively about or to people.
- Don't tease and make fun of others.
- No squabbling.
- Do not complain.
- Do not argue.

## Behavior

- Obey quickly, completely, and cheerfully.
- Obey the first time.
- Don't roll your eyes
- Don't run in the house.
- Don't throw things at others.
- Don't hit, kick, pinch, slap, or scratch.
- Don't take away from others.
- Don't burp loudly or impolitely.
- Don't interrupt.
- If you're not sure if something is a good idea, don't do it without asking permission.
- When your parents are not home, don't do anything you think they would disapprove of.
- Have a cheerful countenance.
- Listen patiently.
- Knock before entering.
- If the bathroom door is shut and the light is on, wait patiently. Don't knock or start a conversation.
- No stealing (including candy and treats).
- Obey all authority unless the authority is asking you to do something inappropriate. This includes older siblings when appropriate.
- Children should say "Please" and "Thank you."

- Answer the phone with "Hello, this is the Smiths. Would you like to speak to my mom or my dad?"
- Introduce yourself when phoning others.
- No running or yelling at church, even after the service.
- Keep their room reasonably picked up.
- Help with household chores.
- Ask to be excused from the table. Otherwise stay in your seat.
- Replace the used roll of toilet paper.
- Take your plate to the sink and rinse it.
- Get up when your alarm goes off or someone wakes you up.
- Cover your mouth when you sneeze.
- Don't touch the curtains.
- Don't talk with food in your mouth.
- Hold doors open for others.
- If you open something, shut it.
- If you turn something on, shut it off.
- If you spill something, clean it up.
- If you borrow something, bring it back.
- If you get something out, put it away.
- Put your clothes in the hamper.
- Serve others in need.
- Don't ask to be first or to get the biggest piece.
- Don't gamble or make bets.
- Go out of your way to make younger children feel loved and appreciated.
- Don't go behind closed doors with adults and don't allow the younger kids to do so.
- Don't eat with your fingers unless it is finger food.
- Use a napkin not your shirt.
- Thank people when you leave their house.
- Little kids: Stay in bed. Keep your head on your pillow.
- Little kids: Don't touch outlets, plants, and Christmas ornaments.
- Go to bed on time. Not a minute late.
- Take care of your toys, possessions, and pets.
- Don't climb on the furniture.
- Don't get even. Ask for help.
- Don't open or read other's mail.
- Ask permission before leaving the house or inviting someone over.
- Don't scare people (very often ;-))