



RAISING WARRIORS

A **BtoZ Parenting Conference** by Steve & Kathleen Nelson
September 25 - 26, 2015

Session 1: Being a Faith-Filled Parent

Parenting Commitments

- It's not a competition. I will try not to feel threatened if someone holds a standard that is stricter, more conservative, or seems to be working better than mine.
- It's not a competition. I will try to not be snobbish and judgmental if someone holds a standard that is more permissive or that doesn't seem to be working as well as mine.
- Even if everyone does something different, I will do what God calls me to.
- I will strive to be united with those around me not because we see everything eye to eye, but because we have the same Father and are in the same family.
- I will pray for struggling kids and will fight against an I-told-you-so attitude if another family experiences trials.
- I will only give parenting input where it is requested or where I feel a pressing responsibility to do so.
- I will try to humbly receive any input I am given on my parenting, realizing that most people will not say anything unless they feel a critical need to do so.

1) Have faith that parenting _____ to _____.

Matthew 6:1 “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” NIV

Giving: Matthew 6:4b “Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” NIV

Prayer: Matthew 6:6b “Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” NIV

Fasting: Matthew 6:18b “and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” NIV

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. NIV

Matthew 18:14 In the same way, your Father in heaven does not want any of these little children to be lost. (NCV)

Malachi 4:6 “He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

2) Have faith that parenting _____ the _____.

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 [An elder] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

1 Timothy 3:12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

3) Have faith that your parenting _____ the _____.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. NIV

Exercise: The magic bullet in parenting is: _____

Exercise: Steppin' Stones rules

4) Have faith to _____.

Step up and be the _____!

We must _____ that parenting is a _____ that God has planned for us.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

We must _____ the _____ with which God has entrusted us.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. NIV

Living out Faith in the Home

The following is a set of recommendations given to the parents of kids who are returning home after being at Steppin' Stones home for troubled girls. Obviously, each home is unique, but it seems that the home for troubled teens might see some common denominators with the families of many of the girls.

Generally speaking, what can the parents of troubled teens do to help their kids? Or in other words, what picture does this paint of the family dynamics?

Do these things relate to the parents of 2-year-olds as well?

WHEN YOUR DAUGHTER COMES HOME:

WHAT NOT TO DO

- Don't rescue by blaming others for your daughter's behavior.
- Don't make decisions based on the short look: keeping the peace, for convenience, or because of guilt.
- Don't require a rule if you will not enforce it.
- Don't lecture or shame based on past or present failures.
- Don't expect your child's emotional support (appreciation, respect, or understanding). Enjoy it when it comes, but don't NEED it.
- Don't immediately give her a car, phone, beepers, etc. as a reward for completing this program. The reward is COMING HOME. Pre-set a minimum time (three months, six months) that requires completion of measurable outcomes after coming home before considering any of the above. Always require some financial responsibility on her part. Remember children learn to feel entitled or they learn to be responsible.
- Don't reward whining—this should bring an automatic NO!
- Don't change your daughter's boundaries in order to grant a favor. Don't ask for other authority figures to grant you a favor by changing your daughter's boundaries. You are doing your daughter a favor by teaching her that the world does not revolve around her "special needs".
- Don't say, "Just do your best." Have a minimum standard.
- Don't act like a victim or treat your daughter like a victim.
- Don't compare her to others.

WHEN YOUR DAUGHTER COMES HOME:

WHAT TO DO

- Provide structure. (She has been in a structured environment; it works.)
- Provide consistency, yes is yes, no is no. Follow-through, keep your word, and make the effort to enforce.
- Communicate. Ask questions caringly, not accusingly.
- Go to church.
- Use empathy and reality when correcting, then consequences. Empathize with her feelings without changing the boundary.
- Require certain standards of behavior—not because you need it, but because your daughter needs it.
- Get your emotional needs met from other people in your life instead of from your daughter.
- Spend time together, one on one, also as a family. Pay attention when your daughter is doing well. Don't wait for a crisis.
- Set goals, control resources, and manage consequences.
- Evaluate your own life and model boundaries.
- Practice honesty.
- When you are wrong, admit it, correct it, and move on. This will show your daughter what you want her to do when she messes up.
- Make decisions free from manipulation. Don't make decisions based on your emotions.
- Expect your daughter to test the limits. Be strong and encourage your daughter to apply the skills that she has been taught. Don't allow yourself to give in to feelings of discouragement.
- Be patient and allow repeated trials.
- Show confidence and look your child in the eye.
- Expect her to be responsible, she has been taught a lot.

Questions for Further Reflection

On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is “completely terrified” and 10 is “completely confident,” how encouraged are you about your parenting and the future of your kids?

In the conference we did an exercise that asked, “What do you want your teenagers to be like?” How do you think your answers may have looked different if the question was, “What does God want your teenagers to be like?”

What do you think is realistic to hope for in how our kids turn out?

Sometimes people talk about “winning with their kids” as a way of expressing the idea of raising kids who turn out well. For you personally, what do you feel would be some core behaviors you would need to see in your kids for you to feel like they turned out well or that you had done a good job raising them? Can you ever truly lose with kids, or is there always hope?

If you only looked at the teachings of the Bible and not at the example of families you know, do you think the Bible teaches that you can win with your kids?

In the conference we talked about how we need to have faith that:

- 1) Parenting matters to God
- 2) Parenting impacts the kids
- 3) Parenting changes the world

Which of these matters the most to you personally? Why?

Which of these is the hardest to believe? Why?

The one thing I would like to change about my parenting is _____.

What is your plan of action for making that change?

1 Timothy 3:4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. NIV

What does it mean that our children would obey us with proper respect (1 Timothy 3:4)? To manage our household well (1 Timothy 3:4)?

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. NIV

What does it mean that our children would believe? Not be wild? Not be disobedient?

How do you see raising our kids as being a form of discipleship and part of the Great Commission?

What do you want your teenagers to be like?

Relationship with God

Relationship with other people

Sense of identity and self-worth

Skills

Character

What do you want your teenagers to be like?

Relationship with God

- Have made personal professions of faith
- Love God
- Be involved in a healthy church
- Know the Bible and pursue reading it
- Growing in their love for God
- Developing a practice of prayer
- Live in a way that honors God
- Express their own faith. Not just following parents' faith.

Relationship with other people

- Loving
- Caring
- Compassionate
- Heart of a servant. Ministers to others.
- Well-respected.
Have good reputation with others.
- Healthy friendships.
- Doesn't look to others for purpose and fulfillment
- Reaches out to the lost
- Is in the practice of getting counsel
- Is committed to a group of fellow believers

Sense of identity and self-worth

- Value is in what God thinks of them
- Don't have to be liked by everyone
- Understand their own forgiveness
- Feel secure as children of God
- Understand their calling
- Know God has a purpose for them
- Not promiscuous
- Not dark, depressed, or suicidal
- Don't love the world

Skills – *Practical ways of serving others*

- **Wisdom:** Can apply knowledge to life
- **Ministry:** Have skills to serve at church
- **Apologetics:** Can defend their faith
- **Home life:** Have basic life skills
- **Academic:** Have skills to succeed at school and work

Character

- Self-controlled
- Trustworthy
- Control speech
- Have persevered through trial

Session 2: Being an Excellent Parent

Personal reflection

- What would make the biggest difference in your parenting?
- The very best thing we could do for our kids is _____
- I know I should _____

What dangers threaten our kids?

You must _____ in your _____.

Do what you _____ you _____ to do.

Be an outstanding _____.

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. NIV

Big picture:

Keep _____.

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

Put Jesus _____ in your _____.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. NIV

Be _____ to your _____ family.

Ephesians 4:16 From [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. NIV

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. NIV

Prioritize your _____.

Malachi 2:15 Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. NIV

You must be willing to _____ your _____.

Your own _____ is likely to _____ your parenting more than anything else.

Ezekiel 16:44 “Everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb about you: “Like mother, like daughter.” NIV

The _____ of others can help identify _____.

Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right. NIV

_____ is the _____ of parenting advice.

The _____ of _____ equips you for the work of parenting.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

Our best parenting advice is to _____ the _____.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. NIV

You must be a seeker of God _____!

You must set your _____!

You must be willing to _____ what is _____.

When you _____ with your kids.

When you are _____.

Ecclesiastes 10:18 If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks. NIV

When you don't get to be the _____ or _____.

When you "_____ " a break.

The Tale of Three Cities

- _____
- _____
- _____

Questions for Further Reflection

During the conference there was an exercise where you answered these questions:

What would make the biggest difference in your parenting?

The very best thing we could do for our kids is _____

I know I should _____

What plan can you come up with to address your answers to these questions? Try to come up with practical steps that you plan to implement.

Sometimes we see rebellious teens and we can't make any sense out of it. But sometimes there is a smoking gun. What are some of the things that you see parents do or not do that are detrimental to their kids?

Are you personally on a good path spiritually? How are your weaknesses impacting your kids?

What does it look like to seek God in your parenting?

What voices influence you the most?

How do you think your own upbringing affects you? What can you do about that?

How much of what you do as a parent is because God is leading, and how much is just what other families (or Christian leaders) are doing?

How influenced are you by the idea that your kids are more equipped than you were and you turned out okay?

What do you think about the Tale of the Three Cities? What kind of flavor do you want your home to have?

How do you balance between protecting your kids and having your kids be influencers?

How do you know when your kid is ready to handle the pressures of the world?

What can you do if your spouse is not on the same page (either spiritually or in regard to parenting) as you?

Session 3: Rocking the Dad Role

Dads make a _____.

The children of _____ homes account for...

- 63% of youth suicides
- 70% of kids in state institutions
- 71% of high school dropouts
- 75% of teens in chemical abuse centers
- 80% of rapists
- 85% of behavioral disorders
- 85% of youth in prisons
- 90% of runaways

(*Anchor Man*, Steve Farrar, Nelson Publishers, ©1998)

Kids look to dads for _____.

Church attendance of parents as a predictor of children's future attendance:

Parents		Kids	Kids	Kids
<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Irregular</u>	<u>None</u>
None	Regular	2%	37%	60%
Irregular	Regular	3%	59%	38%
Irregular	None	25%	23%	
Regular	Regular	33%	41%	25%
Regular	Irregular	38%	25%	
Regular	None	45%		

<http://www.fisheaters.com/menandchurch.html>

Dads form a child's _____ understanding of _____.

Parenting is not just for _____. God has made you
the _____ of the family and holds you _____.

1 Corinthians 11:3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. NIV

1 Samuel 3:13-14 "For I [, God,] told [Eli] that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.
¹⁴Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" NIV

Men want to be _____ to something _____. This is something _____ that you are already _____ to. and be the family _____.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 [An overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) NIV

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Practical ways to lead out:

_____ **your life such that you are _____ a _____.**

John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. NIV

Help your _____ be at _____ as much as _____.

Titus 2:3-5 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. NIV

Prayerfully _____.

Set the pace in _____.

Set the pace in _____.

Set the pace in _____.

Set the pace in _____.

Questions for Further Reflection

How can you capture your kids' hearts?

How did your dad capture your heart?

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV

What do you think it means to exasperate your kids?

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. NIV

What do you think it means to embitter your kids?

If your kids gave an assessment of where your heart is at, what things or people do you think they would say you value over them?

Kids want our hearts, not just outward efforts in spending more time with them. How can you give your kids your heart if that is not natural for you?

What do you think of the France study?

How can you lead out as a father when your wife is a naturally stronger leader, decision maker, or communicator?

Session 3: Don't Just Survive—Thrive

_____!

“But now, listen to me, Jacob my servant, Israel my chosen one. The LORD who made you and helps you says: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, O dear Israel, my chosen one. For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children. They will _____ like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank.” ~Isaiah 44:1,2

God calls us to a different _____ than the world calls us to.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. ~Hebrews 12

The path _____.

Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” ~John 21

Daily reminder: You are _____ and _____.

1 Corinthians 8:3 “But whoever loves God is known by God.”

How we see our world-

As God-followers, we see _____ worlds.

Two worlds _____

Two worlds _____

Two worlds _____ one world.

It's _____ to live on autopilot.

God invites you _____ Him, to live _____ relationship with Him!

Thrive in _____ -

Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]. ~Hebrews 4:16 (AMP)

I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am. ~Philippians 4:11(AMP)

“Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]” ~Jn 14:27(AMP)

“Stop perpetually worrying about even one thing...” ~Philippians 4: 6 (Wuest)

When we ‘ENGAGE AUTOPILOT’ we sense an _____.

Who _____ in charge?

“KEEP YOUR HAND ON THE CONTROL”

Our _____ often take the controls.
2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

There is a problem when _____ are in charge!
*“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration”
~John 16:33a*

It whittles down to _____
Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; NIV

_____ are you going to trust?

The voice of our culture:

The problem with introspection:

We have full access to _____ our natural self.
Even our _____!

A trump card - a valuable resource that may be used, especially as a surprise, in order to gain an advantage.
My personal story:

You get to choose. **Who** is in charge?
Isaiah 30:15 This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.” NIV

Isaiah 57:10 You were wearied by all your ways, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.'

God's yoke is _____.

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” NIV

God's commands are _____ burdensome.

1 John 5:2-3 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, NIV

In order to thrive in full access, it takes a _____.

Psalms 119:112 My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ~Matthew 12:35

Take time alone with God.

But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

~1 Corinthians 6:17

Find a place – a place in your _____.

To _____ to God's voice is our _____.

Proverbs 1:23 If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you."

Don't just read. _____

When you believe, you trust.

When you trust, you obey.

When you obey, you experience.

Your life has a _____.

Life is hard. _____ can make it harder!

_____ days before – STORE UP!

Remember: It's _____ legacy. It's _____ turn.

Session 4: Love & Discipline

_____ is the key, not _____.

We must communicate _____, _____, and _____ 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 _____ the _____.

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 _____, _____, and _____ 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 _____.

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, ¹²because 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, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” ⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Moreover, 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! ¹⁰Our 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 _____ of _____.

Loving discipline exchanges a _____ amount of pain _____,
for an _____ amount of pain _____.

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

We need to _____ and _____ good behavior
and _____ and _____ bad behavior.

3 keys to successful discipline

1) _____

2) _____

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) _____

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 _____. But if you discipline
effectively, their behaviors will _____ to the
boundaries you have set.

We use the following standard with obedience:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

The clearest discipline method the Bible talks about with our children

is _____.

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. ¹⁴Punish 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.

_____ works because _____ tells us to _____.

What are the benefits of _____?

- **It is** _____.
Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. NIV
- **It is** _____.
Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.
¹⁴Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death. NIV
- **It is** _____.
 - **Drives out** _____.
Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.
 - _____ **their** _____ **from death**
Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.
¹⁴Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.
 - **Imparts** _____.
Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.
 - **Keeps you from being** _____ **by the** _____ **of your children**
Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.
 - **It changes the** _____.
Proverbs 20:30 Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart. NLT

Do not withhold _____ or use them as a _____.

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. ¹⁴Punish 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 _____?

You can test _____ with simple _____.

Once discipline is _____, it is _____.

2 Corinthians 2:6-7 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him.

⁷Now 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

Questions for Further Reflection

Suppose you walk into the room as your five-year-old is standing up on the dining room table (5 minutes after you had told her not to do that again) and you yell at her to get down (in an out of the Spirit sort of way). Then you tell her that you are going to discipline her, but she says, “But you yelled at me.” What should you do now? Should you apologize? Should you still discipline her?

If you get angry at your child and yell at him (in an out of the Spirit sort of way) for leaving his shoes in the middle of the floor, how does that affect your reaction the next time he leaves his shoes on the floor (3 hours later)?

- It makes no difference
- It makes me hesitant to discipline again
- I would be even angrier
- Other: _____

What would be the ideal response to this question above?

Do you think you should ever apologize to your child?

Where does grace fit in with parental discipline?

How do we teach grace to our kids?

How do we love kids and show pride and belonging when they are in rebellion?

How do you communicate love to your kids?

Do you have a tendency to withhold discipline?

Do your kids know you are proud of them and enjoy them?

Dad, are you actively involved in disciplining the kids?

Is the flavor of the home one of love, militant structure, or something else?

What is your emotion when you discipline your kids? How does that reflect on how you feel about discipline?

What are some discipline tips that have worked well for you?

At what age do you think you think spankings should no longer be used as a primary form of discipline?

Do you expect first-time obedience? Should you?

How can I be an authority and discipline my kids and still have a good relationship with them?

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 ;-))

Standards God Has for Our Kids

Honoring

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children... ²“Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Obedient

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right... NIV

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. NIV

1 Timothy 3:4 [An overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. NIV

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. NIV

Respectful

1 Timothy 3:4 [An overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. NIV

Believing

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. NIV

Not wild

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. NIV

Bringing peace to the home

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

Hebrews 12:11b [Discipline] produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. NIV

On a good course

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. NIV

Pure and right conduct

Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right. NIV

Righteous

Hebrews 12:11b [Discipline] produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. NIV

Wise and not foolish

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

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

Well-versed in the commands of God

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. NIV

Trained and instructed

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. NIV

Sensible, self-controlled, and Sober minded

Titus 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; NASU

Titus 2:6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. NIV

Titus 2:6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, NKJV

Submitted to those who are older

1 Peter 5:5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” NIV

Under authority

1 Peter 2:13a Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men. NIV