



Parenting with Grace

Raising children who love God,
get the Gospel
and live extraordinary lives

Mark and Melissa Medley

Introduction to *Parenting with Grace*

Two questions to start with:

What is the first calling in a parent's life?

What is the most important calling in a parent's life?

In our experience with parenting, we believe that the answer is the same for both of these questions: receiving God's grace. Being a disciple of Jesus, and a parent, is best thought of as a journey with our Father. He is lovingly raising, teaching, instructing and disciplining us even while we are doing these same things with our children. Before we can love our spouse or lead our children well, we must encounter the love of the Father in our hearts. We cannot give what we have not received.

Receiving the grace of God is not a one-time event. It needs to become a daily habit. Our quest is to habitually receive the grace of God for ourselves and pass that grace on in our marriages and our parenting. Receiving grace for our own souls enables us to establish our households as a place of grace. It gives room for failure and growth, for repentance and forgiveness and the love of what is right.

Our children need to learn grace, not just rules. Our children will fall short of our expectations. We parents will fail too, this we must face — we are not going to do this job perfectly. Let's just throw that expectation out right from the beginning. We will make mistakes, we will have terrible days... but there is grace. Establishing our homes as refuges of grace is what makes us different from other families. It is what makes us followers of Christ. Our households exist, as our bodies do - with continual breathing. We inhale God's love and grace, and we exhale that grace in the form of discipline and instruction to our children. Inhale... exhale... inhale... exhale...

Husbands and wives are the primary disciplers of their children. Each of our children are unique and need to be handled uniquely. We use the same guidelines but we may use different methods. Because of this, we have to learn to hear God's voice, to lean into our relationship with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to speak wisdom in the moment.

Within every father is a son; within every mother is a daughter. We have to approach our parenting from the perspective of our relationship with our heavenly Father (no matter what the circumstances of our upbringing might have been).

There is a beautiful picture of this in church history. For over 1500 years, whenever Benedictine monks would make their vows, they would recite the words of Psalm 119:116 "Receive me, O Lord, as you have promised and I shall live." The first words a novice monk would utter are the words "Receive me". The Latin translation, *suscipe me*, are the words for a Roman father taking up a newborn infant from the ground and thus recognizing it as his own, to care for and support for life.

This is a great mental posture for us to approach this workshop with: an attitude of humility and dependence on our heavenly Father to empower us to be the fathers and mothers that he calls us to be. I am first a loved child of my Father, then I am empowered to be a loving spouse and parent to my children. By His grace we can do this well!

Introduction to *Parenting with Grace*

Proverbs 3:11-12 holds a key progression for parenting:

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Notice the progression:

Delight in my children --> Instruct my children --> Discipline them to correct their path

- 1) Most of my time with my children should be spent enjoying them. Children are a blessing and parenting is a positive experience!
 - 2) I must make clear to them the standards of conduct I expect from them (instruction).
 - 3) I must inspect what I expect - I must discipline them - bring them to the standard.
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Three points to hang on to:

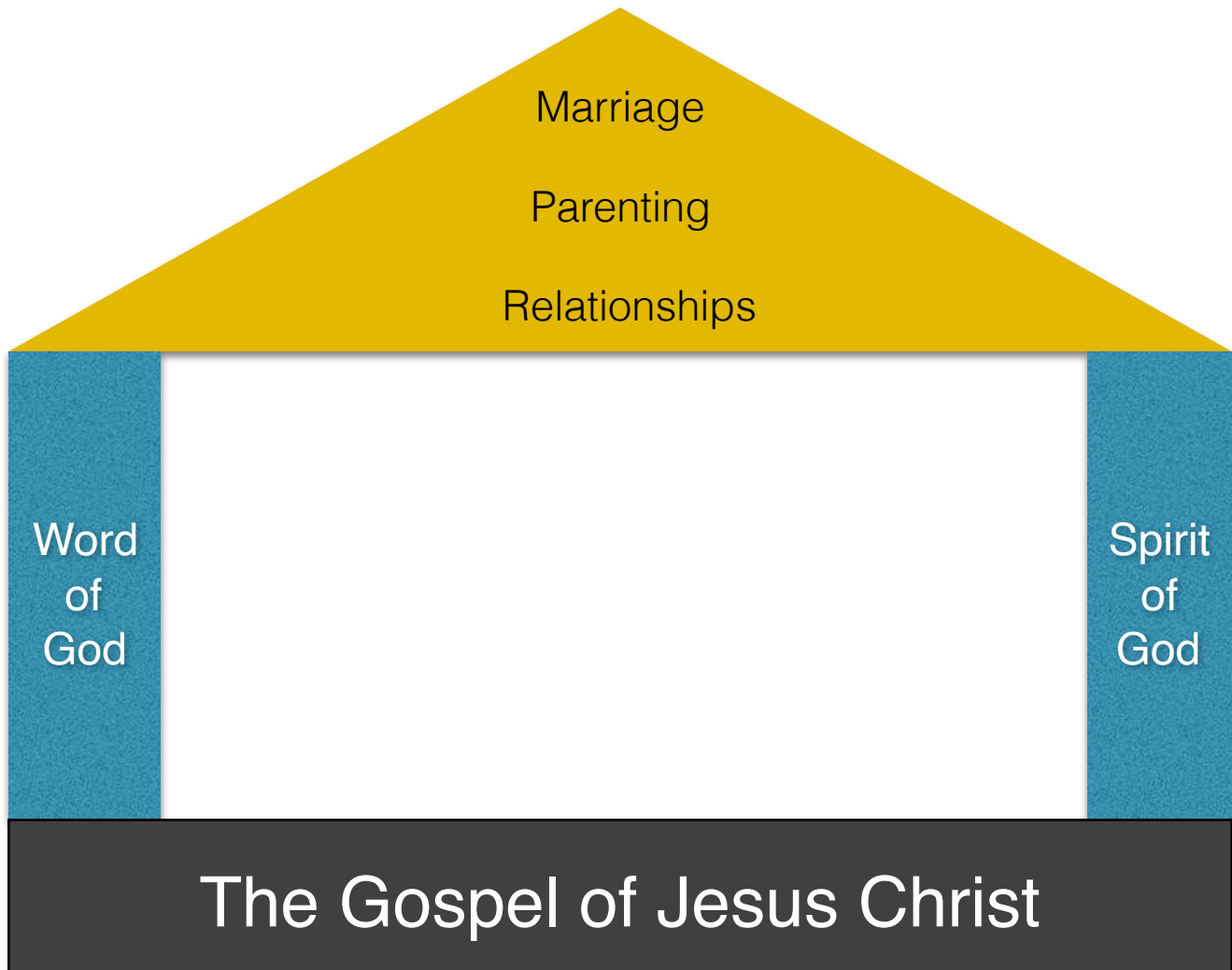
Trust the Sovereignty of God: He gave you your children because you have what it takes to raise them into the adults He has destined them to be.

Trust the grace of God: He will give you the ability, the strength, the wisdom to raise them as they ought to be raised.

Parenting is a life-long relationship: If you have older children and have not done some of the principles we will discover from the scriptures during this workshop, do not despair. It is never too late to move toward biblical discipline and instruction.

***Biblical parenting is not normal in today's world:** there is a cost to parenting this way. Our four children are now old enough to realize that the world is often very different from our household was - people don't always act the way that our children were trained to act. But they have the security, principles and foundation to be able to respond well and deal with what they face everyday. And they can talk to us about it... and they can shine as lights.*

Session One -- Foundations



Parenting is a Kingdom Issue

Parenting is close to the heart of God. It takes wisdom, discernment, walking with God daily. Your children are unique and so your parenting is not a “cookie cutter” project.

Parenting must be Intentional

- 1) If you don't have a plan, you will be overwhelmed
- 2) If you don't have principles to guide you, there will be no consistency
- 3) Dad and Mom must be on the same page and have a united front (support each other)

Developing a Biblical Mindset for Parenting

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

*These words, which I am commanding you today, **shall be on your heart**. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you **sit** in your house and when you **walk** by the way and when you **lie down** and when you **rise up**.*

- 1) It is the parent's duty to train children (not the church or the state)
- 2) The principles of God must be in our hearts first
- 3) We impart them to our children as a lifestyle

Why do children need to be trained?

- 1) Because of Jeremiah 17:9 — *The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?*
- 2) Because of Galatians 5:19-21 — *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*
- 3) Because of Proverbs 22:15 — *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

Our children need to be born again, not just to act right!

Two Key words in parenting:

Ephesians 6:4 — *And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the **discipline** (nurture) and **instruction** (admonition) of the Lord.*

- 1) Discipline
- 2) Instruction

Our goal is to raise a child who understands the gospel of grace, who has the ability to know right from wrong and guides his/her heart by biblical principles.



Learning to Rely on the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the only one who knows what to do in a given situation. He is our guide into truth, our counselor and our conviction. When faced with a situation where you don't know how to respond, remember these steps:

- 1) Stop
- 2) Pray
- 3) Assess
- 4) Respond

Say what you mean — — — Mean what you say

Parenting in Line with the Gospel

Three Types of Parenting:

- 1) **Authoritarian parenting:** We focus only on rules and punishment. If they give us the outward behavior, that is all we want. They learn that they can be right with us (and ultimately with God) by merely keeping rules (they can be their own savior).
- 2) **Permissive parenting:** We let them make the rules or manipulate us, or we make rules, but don't hold them to the standard. They learn that standards mean nothing and that they can keep control of their lives (they can be their own Lord).
- 3) **Grace-based parenting:** As parents, we don't want to merely get the outward behavior - we want them to have a change in heart and eventually govern themselves by the principles from the Word that we are putting in their hearts. Biblical ethics is based on love and is others-oriented. I don't do good because I am good. I don't do good because through goodness I can reach God. I don't do good to appease God or get His favor. I do good because God loved me first and saved me. I do good because I love God and I love others. I love doing good because it is the way to love God and others.

We parent from grace and truth. We understand the gospel and make it the bedrock of our parenting. Our children need to understand that they are sinners and that they are in need of God's forgiveness. Through the work of Jesus on the cross, they can be forgiven and made right with God - through the work of the Holy Spirit they are empowered to overcome their selfish "fleshly" tendencies and live a righteous life.



One great enemy to your parenting: legalism

How we can prevent legalism:

- 1) Parent to biblical principle
- 2) Consider the context of the moment

Action Step:

Our first step: We will define our goal(s) in parenting so that we can become intentional



The _____ family's goal(s) in parenting:

How will we both be involved in the process (what unique gifts do we bring to parenting?)

Dad: _____

Mom: _____

Session Two -- Obedience and Instruction

Psalm 119:11 - *Thy Word
have I hid in my heart that I
might not sin against Thee*



Guiding our Children

We have learned that God's Word is to be in our hearts as parents (at work in our lives) and then we are to teach these principles actively to our children through the normal course of our days. Our goal is to be proactive and positive, teaching them to love what is right instead of merely fearing punishment for doing wrong. Let's take a moment to understand how God has created us to react to right and wrong.

How does my child's moral conscience work?

The heart is a type of warehouse in which we store up moral knowledge to be used at a later time. The conscience is a gift from God which prompts us to do right and affirms us when we do it. It also warns us not to do wrong and accuses us when we do it (Romans 2:14-16). As parents, our job is to put godly principles in our children's hearts (Deut. 6). If there is no principle to stir the heart, the heart will not be stirred to right action.

Transitioning from negative to positive training

Early training tends to be negative and restrictive (restrictions, warnings, consequences) As our children grow older and comprehend more, we must make the transition into positive training (instruction, encouragement, reinforcement, giving the moral reason why)

Character Qualities: So what do we put in a child's moral conscience?

If you have children, remember this: When you finish with them, the rest of the world has to live with them, so please teach them respect.



Six Areas of Respect

Respect for Parents — Exodus 20:12 — *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

Respect for Authority — Romans 13:1 — *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

Respect for Age (elders) — Leviticus 19:32 — *You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.*

Respect for Peers and Siblings — Philippians 2:3 — *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

Respect for Property — Exodus 20:15 — *You shall not steal.*

Respect for Nature — Genesis 1:28 — *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

The Principles of Obedience

Your children will rise to whatever standard you require



- * Our children are commanded by God to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20).
- * If we allow them to disobey us, we are in fact *training them to disobey God*.
- * Obedience is absolutely essential to proper family government. If your child lacks obedience, all your parenting efforts are in vain.

We need to ask ourselves: *What is the standard of obedience we are requiring?*

True obedience must be:

- 1) **Immediate** (delayed obedience is disobedience)
- 2) **Complete** (partial obedience is disobedience)
- 3) **Without challenge** (opposition is disobedience)
- 4) **Without complaint** (whiny obedience is disobedience)

Expecting and achieving obedience is more difficult for the parents than for the children. When the parents set the standard and require it, the child alone determines when he/she will be punished.

Four ways parents undermine their efforts to teach obedience:

- 1) Threatening and repeating
- 2) Bribing
- 3) Negotiating in conflict
- 4) Misusing compassion

Principles of Instruction

- 1) Parents should expect an immediate and complete response
- 2) Never give a command unless you intend for it to be obeyed
- 3) When a child continually disobeys, he/she is in sin. When parents continually reinforce that disobedience, the parents are in sin.



What is Discipline?

Christian discipline is a **process of training in righteousness**. It is not merely a way to control a child's behavior for the moment. It is long-term shaping of the child's heart.

Two ways to discipline our children:

- 1) Discipline with encouragement

- 2) Discipline with correction

Remember... CONTEXT -- There are four factors that parents should consider when deciding on a correction:

- 1) The frequency of the offense
- 2) The age of the child
- 3) The context of the moment
- 4) The overall characterization of the child's behavior

Session Three: The Process of Discipline (see Discipline Flow Chart)

Proverbs 29:15 - *The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

* Please note that both the rod (discipline) **and** reproof (instruction) are needed.

We are not merely talking about punishment here, we are talking about training the heart of the child, through



Instruction

We instruct in two ways: 1) talents/skills, and 2) behavior

S1 - talents and skills (practical instruction)

- * Encourage with S2 - Verbal praise (make successes and right choices really big)
- * Encourage with S3 - Goal incentives (if you learn to swimming, we will reward you)

B1 - Behavior - We instruct in moral principle and the behaviors associated with those principles

B2 - Encouragement - we intentionally train, support and stimulate our children toward godly behavior

E1 - Pre-Activity

- * We encourage right behavior by reminding our children before a behavior is expected.
 - We do this with E2 - Verbal reminders "remember that when this happens..."
 - We do this with E3 - Dialogue questions "who can tell me the rules for the store?"
 - * We can also use positive words "see how carefully you can carry your cereal"

E4 - Post-Activity

We encourage right behavior by affirming or rewarding behavior after the fact.

- E5 - Affirmation**
 - (thank you for helping with the dishes tonight)
 - ("I need your help" - elevates the other person)
- Rewards**
 - can be tangible (pack of gum); intangible (trip to the park)

- * Note: If you overuse rewards the child becomes conditioned to receiving them and they become a backdoor bribe (we will discuss bribing later).

Correction

Hebrews 12:11 - *God's purpose in discipline is precise: to bring about the peaceful fruit of righteousness*

Punishing does not automatically fix a problem. Don't expect it to be a fix-all, but view it as a God-given tool for effective parenting.

Definitions:

Punishment is the fitting retribution of an offense. In child training, it serves a moral purpose: it communicates to children a value of good and evil by the weight of punishment ascribed to a wrongful act

Correction is the act of bringing the child back from error to the standard

B3 - Correction:

- 1) The type of correction depends on the presence or absence of evil motive
- 2) The punishment must fit the crime. Punishment sets a value on behavior, so it is dangerous to over-punish or to under-punish
- 3) There is a difference between **childishness** (honest mistakes with no evil motive attached) and **foolishness** (willful, intentional defiance and open rebellion)

Correcting B4 - Childishness:

At different times, depending on the context of the moment, each of these is the right response in correcting childishness:

- 1) **C1 - Admonishment** (Eph. 6:4) warning the child; literally, "to put into mind"
- 2) **C2 - Related consequences** (Eccl. 8:11) immediate consequences that are related to the mistake
- 3) **C3 - Property** - Did not take care of his bike, therefore he is denied the privilege of riding his bike for a period of time (explanations should always accompany stewardship training)
- 4) **C4 - Privilege** - Denying the child a privilege for a period of time
- 5) **C5 - Personal responsibility** - non-rebellious accidents sometimes affect other people. The child may be required to make restitution.

Correcting B5 - Foolishness:

At different times, depending on the context of the moment, each of these is the right response in correcting foolishness:

Foolishness is rebellion, and it can show itself passively or actively. When correcting foolishness it is important to remember these four factors

- 1) The frequency of the offense
- 2) The age of the child
- 3) The context of the moment
- 4) The overall characterization of behavior of the child

Level #1 - Minor infractions that call for a **verbal admonishment** (as above)

Level #2 - **Verbal admonishment with action** (i.e. warning with a *reflective* timeout)

Level #3 - **Consequential punishment** (for routine acts and attitudes of defiance that are either active or passive; and for moral violations against others).

The point of this form of correction is **F1 - Pain**.

A word about pain:

Pain is a gift from God. It warns us that something is not right and needs to be corrected. It serves to help the child focus and gain self-control over destructive behavior. *Pain is not always physical.*

Pain can come through **F2 - natural consequences** (the natural result of the wrong behavior), for example the disobedient bike ride that causes a wreck and a scraped knee.

Pain can come through **F3 - structured consequence** (created by the parent), where the parent will structure the best method of correction for the offense, such as:

- 1) **F4 - logical consequences** (associated to the offense - coming home late from friends house results in losing the privilege of going to that friend's house for a while)
- 2) **F5 - isolation** - temporarily taking away the privilege of social contact. This is sometimes called a "time-out". The parent should consider a "reflective time out" instead of simple "time out"
- 3) **F6 - chastisement** (spanking) - to inflict physical pain with control for the purpose of amending behavior. This is reserved for offenses related to rebellion/defiance.

** The subject of spanking is controversial today. It is very important to understand that Biblical chastisement is a very different thing than cultural spanking (see the appendix)

Biblical Chastisement:

- a. is done *for* the child, not *to* the child
- b. is used to change inward attitudes, not merely outward actions
- c. is an objective, planned form of punishment (not arbitrary)
- d. molds lifelong character
- e. is mostly done by age five
- f. helps clear the child's guilty conscience
- g. If you train the child to first time obedience you will chastise more at first, but much less in the long run.
- h. See Deut. 8:5; Heb. 12:6-7; Prov. 13:24; Prov. 23:13

Repentance, Forgiveness and Restoration

Your training is not complete until you have trained your child to repent, forgive and restore. Goal: Love for relationship puts sin in context and should produce repentance.

Repentance – the offender desiring to have the relationship restored

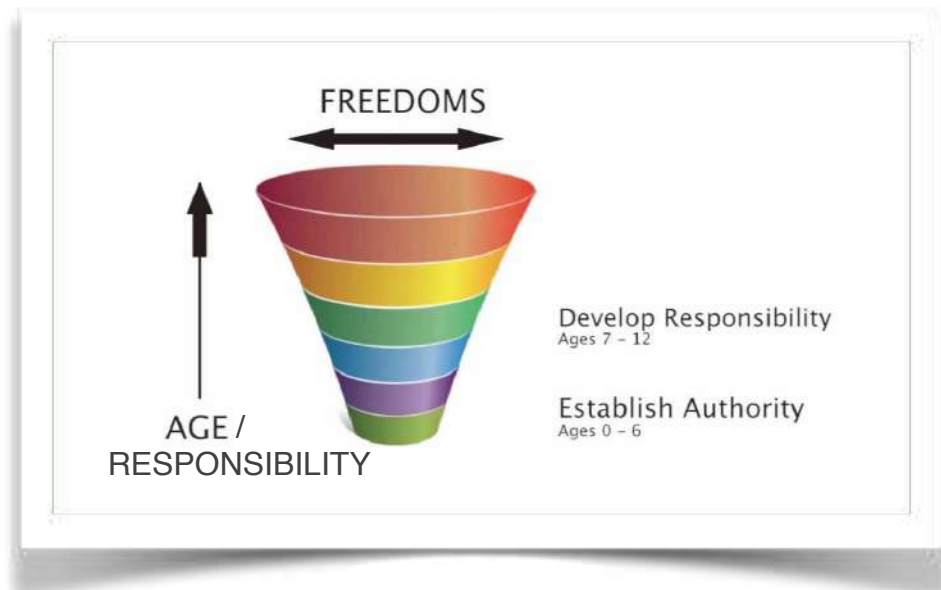
"I am sorry for _____, what I did was wrong - will you forgive me?"

Forgiveness – the offended person offers pardon (refuses to control the offender)

Restoration - Forgiveness is accepted, the offense closed and the relationship restored

If necessary, **Restitution** – restoring or repayment for what was lost, stolen or damaged to its owner

Parenting within the Funnel



Discipline Issues

- 1) What is parenting “outside the funnel?”

- 2) Whining – an unacceptable form of communication

- 3) Temper Tantrums

- 4) Frustration Tantrums

- 5) Power Struggles

- 6) Lying

- 7) Stealing

- 8) Siblings and Conflict

The Appeal Process

The appeal process bridges the gap between Colossians 3:20 (children obey your parents) and Colossians 3:21 (fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath).

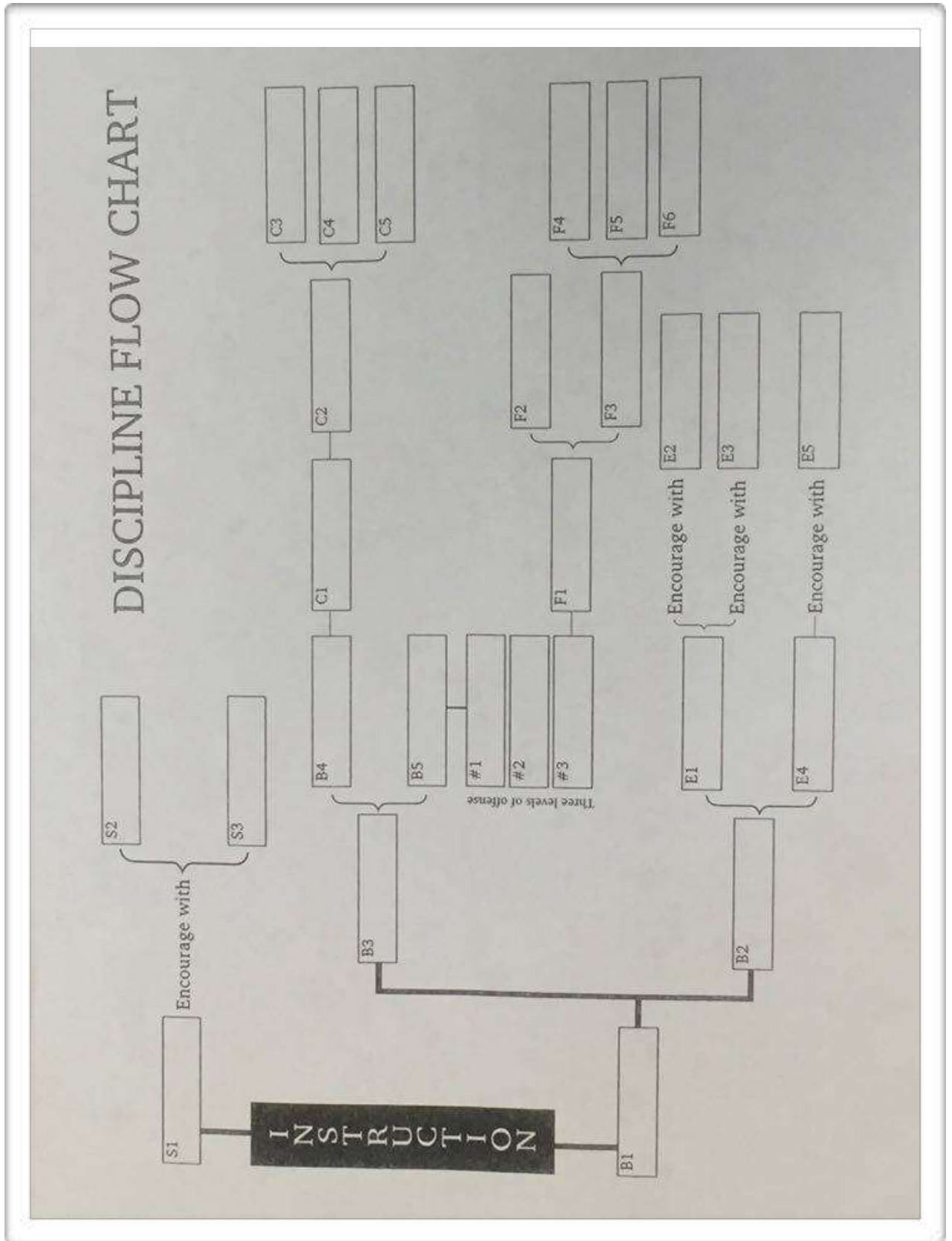
A child who is characterized by first time obedience may appeal to the parent with *new information* that may change the decision of the parent.

Appendix A: How do we hear from God?

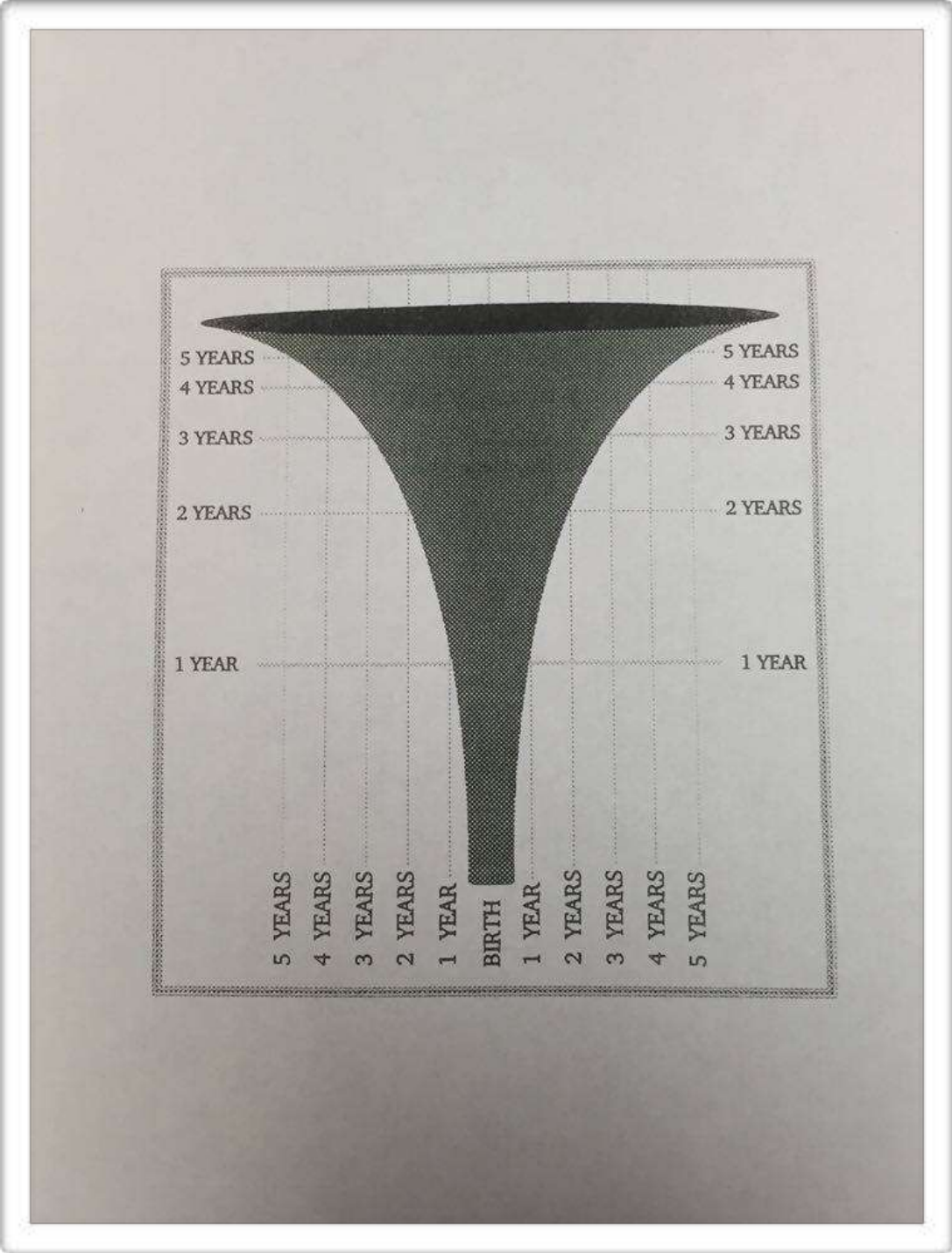
- 1) **Prayer - make consistent time with God a priority** *Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you; you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart, I will be found by you, declare the Lord.* Jeremiah 29:12-14
- 2) **Look for the answers in His Word -** *Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.* Psalm 119:105
- 3) **Trust in the counsel of the ever-present Holy Spirit -** *If you love me you will keep my commands. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper to be with You forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* John 14: 15-16
- 4) **Gain insight from other believers -** *Therefore encourage one another and build up one another.* 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- 5) **Sometimes God will give you a word of wisdom -** *For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit* 1Cor. 12:8
- 6) **Reflect on God's nature and character -** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation of shadow, due to change.* James 1:1
- 7) **Recognize sin or hardness of heart in ourselves and repent from it -** *If we confess our sins. he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9
- 8) **Maintain a posture of humility before the Lord -** *And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.* 1 Peter 5:5-6
- 9) **Relax and trust God to guide you - everyday is "With Day" -** *I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes He will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever he hears he will speak; and he will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and disclose it to you.* John 16:12-14

** Not only do this yourself, but train your children to do this also!





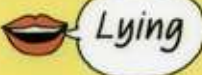





Appendix B: Discipline Flow Chart













Appendix C: The Parenting Funnel



Appendix D: The "If-Then" Chart

<h2 style="text-align: center;">THE "IF-THEN" CHART</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly." Proverbs 13:24</i></p>		
 <p>Arguing, Complaining, Whining</p>	<p>"Do all things without murmurings and disputings." <i>Philippians 2:14</i></p>	
 <p>Teasing, Picking fights, Causing trouble</p>	<p>"A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes." <i>Proverbs 18:6</i></p>	
 <p>Hitting, Biting, Kicking, Throwing</p>	<p>"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." <i>Proverbs 16:32</i></p>	
 <p>Stealing toys, books, other items from someone else</p>	<p>"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good." <i>Ephesians 4:28</i></p>	
 <p>Lying</p>	<p>"Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight." <i>Proverbs 12:22</i></p>	
 <p>Defiance, Rebellion against authority</p>	<p>"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." <i>Proverbs 30:17</i></p>	
 <p>Name calling, foolish or evil speech</p>	<p>"Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee." <i>Proverbs 4:24</i></p>	
 <p>Disobedience</p>	<p>"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." <i>Ephesians 6:1</i></p>	
 <p>Disrespect, rude behavior, poor manners</p>	<p>"Yes, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility." <i>1 Peter 5:5</i></p>	
 <p>Irreverent behavior at church</p>	<p>"You shall keep My Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord." <i>Leviticus 19:30</i></p>	

Appendix E: The Blessing Chart

<h2 style="text-align: center;">THE BLESSING CHART</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"But to him who sows righteousness will be a sure reward." Proverbs 11:18</i></p>		
 <p>Cheerfulness thankfulness</p>	<p><i>"A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance." Proverbs 15:13</i> <i>"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance." Colossians 3:23-24</i></p>	
 <p>Peacemaking</p>	<p><i>"And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Matthew 23:12</i> <i>"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward you." Proverbs 25:20-21</i></p>	
 <p>Truthfulness</p>	<p><i>"Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right." Proverbs 16:13</i> <i>"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Proverbs 28:13</i> <i>"Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who... speaks the truth in his heart." Psalm 15:1-2</i></p>	
 <p>Obedience</p>	<p><i>"You son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be graceful ornaments of your head, and riches about your neck." Proverbs 1:8-9</i> <i>"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they shall add to you." Proverbs 3:1-2</i> <i>"If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them... you shall eat your bread to the full... I will walk among you..." Leviticus 26:3, 5, 9, 12</i></p>	
 <p>Submissive to authority, honoring</p>	<p><i>"Therefore submit to God... Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:7-8</i> <i>"Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12</i></p>	
 <p>Pleasant words, wise speech</p>	<p><i>"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb." Proverbs 16:24</i> <i>"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Proverbs 15:1</i> <i>"The tongue of the righteous is choice silver." Proverbs 10:20</i> <i>"A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth, and from the produce of his lips he shall be filled." Proverbs 10:20</i></p>	
 <p>Reverence in church</p>	<p><i>"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him... then you shall delight yourself in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father." Isaiah 58:13-14</i></p>	
 <p>Kindness, gentleness, mercy</p>	<p><i>"Let your gentleness be known to all men." Philippians 4:5</i> <i>"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers; be tenderhearted, be courteous... knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For He who would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and let his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it." 1 Peter 3:8-11</i></p>	
 <p>Diligence</p>	<p><i>"But the hand of the diligent makes one rich." Proverbs 10:14</i> <i>"The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor." Proverbs 12:24</i> <i>"Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings..." Proverbs 22:29</i></p>	
 <p>Giving, sharing</p>	<p><i>"There is one who satters, yet increases more..." Proverbs 11:24</i> <i>"Let them do good, that be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." 1 Timothy 6:18-19</i></p>	



Appendix F: To spank or not to spank?

Biblical chastisement is only one form of corrective discipline. The biblical term *chastisement* represents God's intention for parents to use physical pain to correct a child's rebellious activities. It means to inflict pain for the purpose of amending behavior. Scriptural references include Deut 8:5, Heb. 12:6-7, 2 Sam. 7:14, Rev. 3:19, and Prov. 19:18. We do not believe that the Bible *commands* chastisement, but we do believe that it *commends* it. It is a part of the wisdom literature of the Proverbs and is used in conjunction with righteous training.

We are not talking about subjective or arbitrary hitting. Nor are we speaking about abuse here. We are talking about inflicting pain with controlled force on an individual to amend an inner attitude. It helps a child focus and gain self control over destructive or disobedient behavior. Parents who train to first time obedience will chastise more at first, but much less in the long run.

Gary Ezzo sums up the vast difference between cultural spanking and biblical chastisement:

Cultural Spanking	is something a parents do to a child
Biblical Chastisement	is something parents do for a child
Cultural Spanking	is a last resort punishment
Biblical Chastisement	is an objective form of correction
Cultural Spanking	attempts to change outward behavior
Biblical Chastisement	is used to change inward attitudes
Cultural Spanking	is performed throughout a child's life
Biblical Chastisement	is nearly completed by the age of five
Cultural Spanking	frustrates the child
Biblical Chastisement	clears a child's guilty conscience
Cultural Spanking	has no longterm positive effect
Biblical Chastisement	molds lifelong character

Proverbs 22:15 - Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will remove it far from it.

Proverbs 29:15 - The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

* Note that both the rod (correction) **and** reproof (instruction) are needed, not just the rod

* If parents choose to chastise a child, a somewhat flexible instrument that stings without inflicting bone or muscle damage should be used.

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