

Shepherding a Child's Heart DVD Study Outline

Session 10 - Shepherding Children Ages 0-5

The training objectives for the first five years of life

1. The first five years are marked by development and radical change - Physical, Social, Intellectual, Spiritual
2. Overarching goal for the first five years: help your children be people under authority
3. The Circle of Blessing (Ephesians 6:1-3)
 - a. Obey → Long life → Honor → Go well
 - b. We must make a gourmet presentation of this truth to our kids
 - i. Negative presentation invites rebellion
 - ii. Make a presentation that is attractive
 - c. Key definitions for terms in the circle of blessing
 - i. Obey: Submission to God's authority that causes a child to do what he is told by his parents immediately, without excuse, without complaint and without question
 - ii. Honor: Submission to God's authority that causes a child to speak to his parents with respect for their role as God's agent of nurture, direction and discipline
 - iii. Go well: The natural and spiritual blessings of obedience
 1. The spiritual blessing is being where God wants you to be
 2. There are also practical, natural blessings
 - iv. Long life: The blessings of prosperity and protection, richness and fullness of life that God provides for a child who lives under His structure of authority
 - d. Note how the diagram is extended to illustrate what happens when the child moves outside of the circle of blessing
 - i. Discipline and correction—a rescue mission designed to restore the child to the circle of blessing
 - ii. Discipline and correction is not what I do to my children, but for my children

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Physical discipline in the early years

1. Illustration of little girl with her doll - What is a child's most basic problem?
 - a. Not a lack of information
 - b. The child's problem is that he is a sinner

2. Appropriate use of the rod of correction
 - a. A parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness towards his or her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured, and controlled use of physical discipline to underscore the importance of obeying God
 - b. This rescues the child from continuing in his foolishness and coming to destruction
 - c. The description broken down:
 - i. A parental exercise—all of the passages about physical discipline describe the parent as the one who is responsible for physical discipline
 - ii. An act of faith—parents must do this trusting God
 - iii. An act of faithfulness—recognizing that there is hope in discipline
 - iv. A responsibility—the parent determining to obey God
 - v. Physical discipline
 1. It is never a time for venting wrath
 2. It is a rescue mission to restore your child to the circle of blessing

3. Some distortions of physical discipline
 - a. It is not a right to sinful anger
 - b. Anger in physical discipline is always wicked and wrong
 - c. It is not a right to hit our children capriciously
 - i. Parents are not to use physical force whenever they want
 - ii. This is a violation of Ephesians 6:4
 - d. It is not venting frustration
 - e. It is not something you do when you don't know what else to do
 - f. It is not retribution
 - i. It is not a child paying for his sins
 - ii. Instead, physical discipline has the positive goal of restoration
 - g. It is not associated with vindictive anger
 - h. Your child should be restored and happy after physical discipline