



Happy Child, Happy House

Focus Loving parents discipline their children in a biblical way, teaching them obedience so they can be blessed by God.

Open What was your favorite toy as a child?

Read As parents, it's our job to teach and guide our children to become mature and responsible adult followers of Christ. To do this, we must discipline our children as the Bible teaches. We've been given the responsibility to correct our children's foolish and disobedient behavior so they can be blessed in life. Refusing to discipline them or disciplining them in an ungodly manner shows a lack of love for our children.

When we discipline, it's important our expectations of our children are clear, our communication is convincing and our behavior towards them is consistent. We must be convicting (not condemning), chastening (not chastising), compassionate and confirm our love for them. When we follow these guidelines in our discipline, we're modeling the love of God for them.

- Talk**
1. What does the Bible's instructions about disciplining our children show about how and why God disciplines us?
 2. Read Proverbs 13:24. Why would the Bible say that *not* disciplining our children is essentially "hating" them?

3. Why do you think some people are afraid or unwilling to discipline their children firmly?
4. Chastening is correction; chastisement is punishment. We are to chasten our children, not chastise them. Why is that? Make up an example showing the difference between how chastening and chastisement could sound when disciplining a child.
5. The Lord does not condemn us, but He convicts us. Condemnation is general, while conviction is a *specific* citing of wrongdoing. Why can't/don't condemnation and shame produce good fruit in a person's life?

Live

1. How has the way you were disciplined as a child influenced the way you discipline your own children?
2. Do you struggle with being punitive, condemning or shaming in your discipline? Why do you think that is? What affect do you think it's having upon your children?

Pray

Ask the Lord for the wisdom you need to discipline your children in the way that honors Him. Thank Him for your children and for entrusting you with the responsibility to raise them well. Ask Him to help you rely on the direction of the Holy Spirit as you handle disciplinary challenges with your kids.