

Why use God's Word to train our children?

The answer to this question is found in God's Word in 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Pray

We need to pray diligently daily, hourly, and minute by minute; *Jesus said, without me you can do nothing.*¹

His wisdom, strength, knowledge, discernment and guidance are the greatest source of help, as you seek, to be used to train up a child in the way he/she should go and teaching them to be servants of Christ.

In our process of discipline, correction, and teaching we need to be able to say, like the servant of Abraham when finding a wife for Isaac, *"the Lord led me."*² The Lord must lead us in all we do.

Since training children to become servants of God is part of our calling as parents, we need to constantly seek His will and His strength. *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."*³ & *"Seek His will in all we do and He will direct our paths"*⁴

Our fervent prayer should be that the Lord would show us how to train our children in such a way that they be greatly used by Him.

Goals & Scriptures that reflect our child (ren)

- In training our children, we should desire that when they become young adults, they will be able to stand up without shame and say, "Lord what would you have me to do?"⁵
- They should be willing to refuse to be intertwined *"with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who has chosen him"*⁶
- They should be the type of person who is **not** *"mindful of the that country from whence he came out"*⁷
- They should be, without reservation, without a desire for money or material possessions, is willing to *"deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow"*⁸ Jesus Christ.
- When faced with decisions, whether great or small, they consistently say, "Lord, what will you have me to do?"⁹

- When there is a job or a mission field to occupy, they are the first to say, "*Here am I; send me*".¹⁰
- No matter the situation their attitude should be "*For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant to all, that I might gain the more*".¹¹
- When faced with trials they're able to say I "*endured, as seeing him who is invisible*".¹²
- We hope to find that "*an excellent spirit was in him;*"¹³ and that "*God gave him knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom,*"¹⁴.
- They "*purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*"¹⁵.
- Their heart says "I present my body as "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."¹⁶
- Their heart says "I am eager to "serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind"¹⁷
- Their heart truthfully is able to say "*I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.*"¹⁸ and "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."¹⁹

When we train our children our goal day after day should be that we want our children to hear one day "*Well done, good and faithful servant*"²⁰

Our children should be able to observe a mature servant of God as a part of their training. They should see an adult fully yielded to the Lord in all areas of their life. We as parents should be able to honestly say to our children, "Be a follower of me, as I am of Christ"²¹. Being able to say this includes that my work, my home, my church, my service in the church, my clothing, and my lifestyle are the specific will of God for my life. If our heart condition is this then we can expect our children to serve with us in the Gospel.²²

*Please note that we are all a work in progress, we are not perfect nor will we ever be but are being perfected in the image of Christ and are going from glory to glory and learning each day how to do that.*²³

As a parent try not to be tempted to use children as a reason to give up God's will for our lives. Family life should not revolve around the child's needs, desires, and interests. Moving just for the sake of the children or seeking a higher paying job for the sake of the children will breed a generation who will "serve" children in preference to the Lord. (Please note: I am not saying that a nursing mother should not feed her baby because, she is too busy speaking to someone about Christ. Just take the baby with you, cover up and keep on sharing Jesus love with whomever you are speaking too.)

"He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me".²⁴

Discipline and Punishment

There is a difference between Discipline and Punishment. God's word teaches us that we are to instruct our children and discipline them. Discipline is loving the child and showing that there is a consequence to the decisions we make. Some consequences we like some we do not. Some consequences are natural consequences and some are not but can be used for discipline and instruction. Both types of consequences should be used as an opportunity to have a teachable moment with your child.

God has entrusted us to raise the children he has given us to be people he can easily use to do His work.

If a child has not learned self-control and to see themselves the way Christ sees them, while they are young, it is more difficult for them to learn as adults.

We hope this document will help you use the wisdom of God's Word to discipline and instruct your child (ren), without the adverse effects of punishment.

| Differences between Discipline and Punishment | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Discipline | Punishment |
| Source: | God's Love | God's Wrath |
| Purpose: | Correct a Wrong | Avenge a Wrong |
| Relational Result: | Reconciliation | Alienation |
| Personal Result: | Righteous Lifestyle | Guilt |

Some Scripture References:

For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.
Proverbs 3:12

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
Proverbs 13:24

Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established. Proverbs 16:3

When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. Proverbs 16:20

Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.
Proverbs 19:18

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

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.
Punish them with the rod and save them from death. Proverbs 23:13-14

A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother. When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall. Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire. Proverbs 29:15-17

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son. Hebrews 12:5-6

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

I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

Whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report, having any virtue and praiseworthy think on these things. Philippians 4:8

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalms 19:14

Above all else, guard your heart for it is a wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23

You may think you are doing right, but the Lord examines your heart. Proverbs 21:2

Book Recommendations:

- 1. Bible – God Breathed**

2. Miller Family Series by Mildred A. Martin (Wisdom and the Millers, Story time with the Millers, Prudence and the Millers, School days with the Millers, Missionary stories with the Millers)
3. Polite Moments by Gary & Cathy Maldaner
4. Those Kids in Proverbsville by Elizabeth Rice Handford
5. A Child's Book of Character Building Book 1 & 2 by Ron & Rebekah Coriell
6. Children's Stories by DL Moody
7. The Way They Learn by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias
8. Self-Esteem Satan's Most Harmful Tool by Gary Maldaner
9. The Making of a Servant *Preparing Young People to Become Servants of Jesus Christ* by Gary Maldaner
10. Bible Guidelines About Clothing by Dr. Bruce Lackey