

ONE LARGE GROUP

PRAYER:

PURPOSE: Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: God, man, marriage, and parenting

ASSUMPTIONS:

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God’s word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help our families, neighbors, and country

THEME: “Two Paths”

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path

LESSON 8 REVIEW:

- Marriage is the primary human relationship (husband & wife)
- A godly husband and father must “fear the Lord”
- A godly family environment is a place of: respect, safety, and teaching
- Fathers should not provoke their children
- Fathers should raise children in the teaching and admonition of the Lord

OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 9:

- Define godly discipline
- Consider how to apply godly discipline
- Identify culturally unbiblical ways to raise children
- Summarize biblical advice for step-families

BIBLE:

- European settlers came to America for the freedom to live truly biblical lives
- The US constitution is based on a biblical view of man, government, and justice
- The United States is the only country whose foundation is based on the Bible

PARENTING:

Q – How do children see their fathers?

Prov 17:6 (657) Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.

ANSWER:

- Children naturally look up to their father
- Children want to be proud of their father’s

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Q - How do you discipline a child? (children need discipline, direction, training)

Prov 22:15 (661) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Prov 29:15 (667) The *rod and rebuke* give wisdom, but a child *left to himself* brings shame to his mother.

Prov 22:6 (661) Train up a child in the *way he should go*, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ja 1:19-20 (1183) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, *slow to wrath*; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

ANSWER: With rod & rebuke

Notes:

Biblical

- Children need to be disciplined (rod & rebuke)
- A child left to himself goes in the wrong direction (**29:15**)
- If you allow a child to go his own way he will do so his whole life (**22:6**)
- **Prov 22:6** is a warning, not a promise
- Even good parents can have bad children
- Never spank in uncontrolled anger (*wrath* does not produce righteousness)
- Discipline to raise a wise child (otherwise you will raise a fool)
- Discipline is *for changing behavior, not punishment* (develop godly habits)

Practical

- Never spank with your hand, but use a paint stirrer (pain but no mark, 5 whacks at most, vary with age, i.e. 1 @ 1 yr, 5 @ 5 yr, none after about age 8 to 12)
- Never punish in public (kids will focus on people, not the issue)
- Discipline because they did wrong (hug & pray afterwards)
- Explain what was wrong according to God’s rules

SMALL GROUPS (each group reviews the following material)

Review Homework: (ask the following questions)

- What did you learn? Are you now thinking differently?
- Do you understand God better? Do you understand yourself better?
- Are you resolved to act differently?

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Recite Prior Memory Verses: (Gen 1:1, Prov 4:23, Eph 1:3, Jn 17:17, 1 Cor 12:7, Gen 2:24, Eph 5:25, Prov 14:26)

PARENTING:

Q - What is the rod?

Prov 29:17 (667) Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.

Heb 12:5-6 & 11 (1180) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. ... Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

ANSWER: Any kind of physical restraint: spanking, time out, grounding, no TV, etc.

Notes:

- More of this needs to be done early in a child's life (they don't understand admonition, therefore, use restraint)
- A father who loves his children will discipline them
- Discipline is for the child's own good
- The home is a classroom for moral training
- Discipline is for changing behavior, not punishment

Q - What is a rebuke?

Ps 119:98-100 & 104 (632) You, through *Your commandments, make me wiser* than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. ... *Through Your precepts I get understanding*; therefore I hate every false way. (know & do)

2 Tim 3:16 (1168) All *Scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is *profitable* for *doctrine*, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *instruction* in righteousness.

1 Thes 5:14 (1159) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

ANSWER: Verbal correction: Admonition, instruction, encouragement, correction, entreaty, warning, teaching, prayer, persuasion

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Notes:

- More admonition needs to be done as the child grows
- Adjust discipline to the child and his circumstances
- Wisdom comes through learning and applying God’s Word
- Learning through instruction eliminates need for the rod
- Instruction must be varied with each child (unruly/exhort, fainthearted/comfort,...)

Q - How is godly discipline applied?

Prov 29:5 (666) A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

ANSWER 1: Avoid flattery (be honest)

Prov 15:1-2 (655) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

ANSWER 2: Rebuke gently

Dt 4:9-10 (198) Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. *And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.*

Josh 4:21-24 (238) Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What are these stones? Then you shall *let your children know*, saying, Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land; for *the Lord your God* dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as *the Lord your God* did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may *know the hand of the Lord*, that it is might, *that you may fear the Lord your God forever.*

Joel 1:2-3 (889) Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.

ANSWER 3: Remind children of God’s blessing in the past (Dt 6:20-25; Ps 78:2-7)

Questions:

- What has God done in your life or family?
- What has God done in Scripture?

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Ro 2:3 (1100) And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

Ro 14:23 (1112) But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for *whatever is not from faith is sin*.

1 Cor 14:8 (1126) For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? (be clear, not confusing)

Ja 1:7-8 (1183) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a *double-minded* man, *unstable* in all his ways.

ANSWER 4: Be clear, confident, and consistent

Notes:

- Parents need to be careful not to practice double standards (say one thing, but do another) – both parents need to *be in agreement*
- Ensure that all teaching and admonition is *clear* to the child
- Be sure your teaching is *biblical*, and that you clearly *understand why you believe* it (children will pick up on your *doubt*)

Eph 6:4 (1149) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the *training and admonition of the Lord*.

ANSWER 5: Keep rules biblical

Col 3:16 (1156) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Heb 10:24 (1178) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.

ANSWER 6: Convey love and concern

Eph 4:22-24 (1147) That you *put off*, concerning your former conduct, the *old man* which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and *be renewed* in the spirit of your mind, and that you *put on* the *new man* which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

ANSWER 7: Help children understand the progressive sanctification process

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Notes:

- Help children to identify the sinful desires in their own hearts
- Show children how to change their behavior, and why (to please god)

Eph 4:15 (1147) But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ.

Eph 4:29-30 (1148) Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

ANSWER 8: Attack the problem (behavior), not the child

Eph 4:31-32 (1148) Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

ANSWER 9: Act, don't react

Q - What are some culturally wrong ways to raise children?

The Permissive Home

- Much verbal admonition & little physical restraint
- Parent's rules (or lack of rules), not God's rules

Result:

- Angry children (not cared for, no protective boundaries)
- Rebellious children
- Shame for parents

The Dictatorial Home

- Much physical restraint & many rules, but little admonition
- Parents rules, not God's rules

Result:

- Children anxious to leave home
- Children never develop their own value system
- Angry children
- Shame for parents

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The New Christian Home

- A rapid change from permissive to dictatorial
- Don’t understand discipline
- Go to opposite extreme

Result:

- Children hate this change
- Children see Christianity as harsh rules
- Children often reject Christianity

Q - What advice does the Bible have for step-families?

- Have a high view of marriage (Husband & wife relationship takes priority over children)
 - Your biological/step children must be reared to leave home, not stay (Gen 2:24)
 - A child-centered home will always experience trouble because the children will eventually grow up and leave - this leaves you as a couple with a relationship in shambles
 - You may be blood related to your children, but your commitment to them is temporary - even though you are not blood related to your spouse, your commitment is for a life-time!
 - Your example of setting their step-spouse ahead of them is the model they need to see for their own future marriage (Gen 2:18-4:1, Eph 5:22-65, 1 Tim 3)
 - The powerful and natural parental compulsion to love your own children must be surrendered to the higher priority of being a godly mate and loving spouse
 - The fleshly, sinful (Prov 22:15), passions and desires of your biological children will always pit you against their step parent if you allow your home to be child-centered. They will prey on your parental affections and use them to drive a wedge between you and your spouse for their own self-centered purposes. When you allow yourself to be manipulated, you are pandering to their sinful nature. In this way you are hurting both your marriage and your children.
- Be responsible for your current family! Don’t mix families.
- Own your personal responsibility (regardless of bad behavior by others)
- Remember, the battle is in the heart & mind

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SUMMARY:

- Parents are responsible for the education of children, not the government
- The husband/wife relationship takes priority over the children
- Biblical roles must be practiced
 - Husband - head of the home, last word on discipline
 - Wife - submissive
- Use biblical communication that speaks to the child’s heart
 - Meaningful, godly, communication/instruction
 - Patient, loving communication
 - Help them know God & identify the idols (strong desires) of their heart
- Biblical rules must be policy
 - Absolute rules (clearly from Bible: lying, stealing, etc.)
 - Flexible provisional rules (made by parents: TV, car, homework, etc.)
- Biblical discipline should be consistent, with both parents in agreement (biological & step)

HOMEWORK:

- **Memorize:** Proverbs 22:6
- **Read:** Ephesians 4:29
 - What three things should we consider before speaking?
 - How can this help you discipline your children?
 - How can you apply this verse to your life?
- **Read:** The handout on Psalm 119:18
 - Consider the 4 parts of understanding and applying this verse (observation, interpretation, application, prayer)
 - How does this help you understand Ephesians 4:29 better?
 - In what ways will praying a verse to God help you apply it to your life?
- **Analyze:** Study Ephesians 6:4 in the same manner (observation, interpretation, application, prayer)
 - What new insight did you gain?
- **Practice:** Apply Ephesians 4:29 to your daily speech.
 - As you apply this verse, note any differences in how you feel and how people respond to your speech.

Memory Verse: (repeat as a group)

Proverbs 22:6 (661) Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

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Memory Hint: Have a memory partner. Give your memory cards to someone else and have them quiz you on the verses and their address. Do the same for them. Meet often to keep each other accountable, and to encourage one another.