

PARENTING ON PURPOSE

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Session 6: Discipline

Big Idea

Discipline can be painful for a moment, but it ultimately produces fruit in your home. Though few parents enjoy the inconvenience and pain of discipline, you will look back on the confrontations and see that the fruit was worth the effort and discomfort. Learning how to assess the heart behind your child's motives will help you get a clearer picture of how you should discipline. In this session, you will study the three types of discipline processes and how they can serve your children in helpful and fruitful discipline.

Discussion Questions

1. What are ways you can tell the difference between "childishness" and "foolishness?"
2. The tendency for all of us is to rush to discipline. What do you consider before you discipline your children?
3. Pastor Chris states the real goal of discipline is to train the heart and restore relationship. What are ways we can instill values into our children in non-conflict times?
4. Remember a time you disciplined your children and you wish you had responded differently. What would you do differently now that you have considered it more? How do the discipline principles discussed in this session impact your answer?

Next Steps

Discipline is costly. From parents, it demands a continuous investment of time, energy, and commitment at the expense of momentary pleasure and ease. It is forfeiting short-term benefits for the sake of future gain. We must remember the true goal of discipline is not pain, it is restoring broken relationship. Discipline means hours of practice for the overall goal of relationship building. As parents, you should long to excel in a healthy relationship with your children long after the world has already settled for brokenness and spiritual death.

Prayer Focus

"Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way. For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow.

But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death."

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Leader Tip

Try to make time to talk to each person/couple in your group one-on-one this week. Help them discover what step they can take to move one step closer to God.