

Pebbles of Truth

Family Activity Worksheet

March 28, 2009

5 Keys to Biblical Parenting (Key 2)

We're talking about the 5 Keys to Biblical Parenting. Today we chatted about the need to manufacture consequences as a part of our overall parenting strategy. Few of us like to discipline our children. But ... think of it this way, which is easier shaping our kids while they're young **or** trying to break them of negative traits when they are older? Or ... Do I want to live with the discomfort of disciplining my kids now or living with the consequences of raising irresponsible, uncontrolled and undisciplined individuals?

Disciplining our kids is never fun ... we don't like to do it ... it can be a source of contention in our marriages too as one takes on the role of "good" cop while the other is relegated to the role of "bad" cop.

Unfortunately there is not one discipline strategy that works equally well for each of our children. So take some time to re-listen to today's "pebble" and then talk together about each of your children and which discipline strategy might work best for each one? Is one more socially inclined?... then groundings may work. Is one into screens and technology? ... then the withholding of access may be more effective ... use this chart as a discussion starter:

Name of Child	Best strategy
Sally	Grounding from friends
George	Take away car privileges
Sue	Fines ... she hates to lose money!
Bob	No internet ... just homework use of computer ... no video games
(Your kids here)	(Best strategy – Why?)

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Once you agree on the strategies for each child, begin to define the “consequences” ... how long will privileges be taken away ... how will you determine the amount of the fines ... how will we cut off the internet?

Now for the most important aspect of this process; how will we “enforce” these consequences? If you are a parenting couple, how are you going to work together to keep a united front in this process? How will working together on this project look ... you good cops are going to have to pitch in and join the force! This is the “fun” of discipline ... it makes more work for us as parents! We always have to keep the end “product” in mind. This uncomfortable and tedious work will pay off!

If you're parenting alone, who is in your circle of friends who can help you chart your children and hold you accountable for following through on the consequences you manufacture?

Remember your discipline strategy is only as effective as your follow through. If we threaten and don't deliver we send a powerful message to our kids that they are in control.

Read the verses below and then close your time of conversation with prayer asking the Lord to give you the wisdom to discipline each child effectively and the strength to follow through ... and to support one another in the process.

Hebrews 12:6: *For the Lord disciplines the one He loves and chastises every son He accepts.”*

Proverbs 13:24: *The one who spares the rod (discipline) hates his child, but the one who loves his child is diligent in disciplining him.*

- What is the equation between a parent's love and discipline?

Proverbs 23:14: *Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.*

- What are the fruits of our discipline?