

**WEEK 8: BRINGING UP OUR CHILDREN**  
**DAY 1: HELPING THEM DO RIGHT**

1. Last week we learned much about children in our homes.

What two goals should Christian parents have for their children?

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(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The goals for them are: To receive Christ, and to follow God's plan for their lives. God commands parents to teach without fail.

What two things hinder parents' teaching?

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(2) \_\_\_\_\_

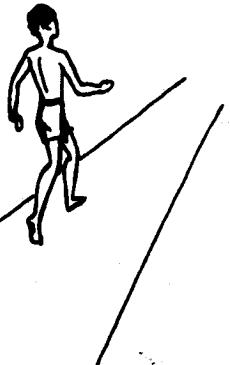
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3. The things which hinder our teaching are unwise actions and lack of prayer. Today we will go on thinking about how to bring up our children well. We will learn:

Parents should make a few wise rules to help children do right.

Many tribes have proverbs about children. The Bible also has such proverbs. These proverbs are different because they are the word of God. They promise us certain things.

Take your Bible now and read Proverbs 22: 6. Read verse 6 again. If we bring up our children in the right way, what does this verse promise?



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4. They will not leave it when they are old. We all want to help our children follow the right way always. We feel sad when we see children fail to obey. Remember, it is up to us to help them. This is the third part of teaching diligently.

What is the third part?

- (1) Watch for dangers.
- (2) Teach Bible truths they need.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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5. We must help them obey. They must do what we teach them. Think now carpenters are taught. First they learn by listening to their teachers and perhaps reading books. They also watch the example of their teachers as they build. But this is not enough. The teacher must help them do some building themselves. They try sawing and nailing. They try making something small.

Would you want to hire a carpenter who studied building from books, but never built anything?

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6. I think you said no. You would think that he was not well taught. The Bible tells us to teach our children. In order to teach well, we must help them do the things we teach. We cannot say they are taught well if we have only told them what to do. We must also help them obey.

Who should help children do right by making a few wise rules for them?

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7. Parents should do this. We are teaching them in the way they should go. Doing right becomes their custom. Then we have the promise that when they are old they will not leave the good way.

Mr. Solomon wanted his son, Jacob, to be honest. He taught this by word and by example. One day Jacob found a purse on the path. There was money in it, but there was no name to show whose it was. Jacob thought he could keep the money for himself. But Solomon did not agree. He reminded Jacob that someone was missing the money. He helped Jacob tell the headman and the storekeeper about it. When the owner was found, Solomon walked with Jacob to return the money.

What can we say Solomon did for his son? \_\_\_\_\_

8. He helped him to be honest. Solomon made a wise rule about being honest. Then he helped his son obey. He helped his son do right in a time that was difficult. In a kind but strong way he helped his son do as he had been taught.

Write Yes by the words which are right. Write No by those which are wrong.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Parents have taught well when they have told their children what to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Parents have taught well when they have helped children do what they have been taught.

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9. (1) No. (2) Yes. In past times this is the way children were taught by all family members. Everyone helped the children do what they were taught. When they saw a child disobeying, they helped him. They told him how to obey. Now for many reasons this has changed. Relatives and neighbours no longer help in this way. Most of this work is now left for the parents.

Do you think parents should make many hard rules about everything children do?

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10. We can talk about this together. If there are too many rules, the children cannot remember them. They cannot keep all of them. But parents are commanded to teach their children diligently. They should be helping them do right throughout the whole day. They should teach in everything that happens in daily life.

Mr. Silas had a young son. One day Silas was talking to the pastor. His little son came to stand beside him. When they finished talking Silas helped his son shake hands with the pastor. He helped him answer with the right greeting.

Silas had often told his son to respect older people, what was Silas doing now?

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11. He was helping his son to obey. He was helping him show respect for older people. Parents must help children do the things they have been taught. One way to do this is to make a few wise rules. Obeying the rules will help the children know what to do.

We want our children to obey. Here is a good rule to help them know how to obey. "You must always come when I call. Never run from me." Rules help children know what they should always do.

Who has the work of making a few wise rules? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Parents have this work. Here are three important things about wise rules. Read them now. We will learn them tomorrow.

- (1) The parents must agree on the rules.
- (2) The children must understand the rules.
- (3) The rules must always be obeyed.

What does Proverbs 22:6 promise us if we bring up our children in the right way?

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13. They will not leave it when they are old.

Joseph wanted his children to be kind to one another. He told them to be kind. He was also a good example in being kind, so they learned from his example. He also made rules for them. One rule was: "You must never fight with each other." He never allowed one child to hit another. If they were fighting, he helped them to stop. The children learned the rule. Joseph helped them obey it. This helped them to be kind to one another.

Was Joseph's rule wise or unwise? \_\_\_\_\_

14. It was wise. Some people make many rules, but they are not wise ones. Then they cannot make the children obey. But if the rules are few, parents can see that they are kept. If the rules are wise, it is easier for the children to obey.

Parents should begin using rules when the children are very young. Rules help children know what their parents want them to do. Rules help them learn to do right. Perhaps you have seen a child who was not given wise rules. He never learned to obey.

What happened to that child later? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Be ready to share your answer in class. Perhaps the child was always fighting, or failed in school. Perhaps he was in trouble with neighbours or even the police as he grew up. Raising children well is important. It takes much time and hard work.

What can parents make for their children to help them do right? Give the full answer.

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16. They can make a few wise rules. This is part of the third thing parents can do to teach diligently. We have learned these three things.

What must parents do to teach children diligently?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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17. They must watch for dangers, teach Bible truths they need, and help them obey.

What should parents make for their children to help them do right?  
Give the full answer.

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**WEEK 8: BRINGING UP OUR CHILDREN**  
**DAY 2: GOOD RULES**

1. We have learned how parents can teach their children diligently. They must watch for dangers, give Bible teaching they need, and help them to obey.

What should parents make for their children to help them do right?  
Give the full answer.

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2. Parents should make a few wise rules. Today we want to learn about wise rules. Here are three things parents must do to have good rules.

- (1) The parents must agree on the rules.
- (2) The children must understand the rules.
- (3) The rules must always be obeyed.

What happens if the father does not agree with a rule the mother had made?

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3. We can talk about this together. Many things happen. The child is confused. He does not know whether he should obey or not. He does not know what is right.

The parents must have oneness on each rule. This is very important. Sometimes the father makes a rule. But the mother does not agree. When the father is gone she does not make the children obey the rule. This is harmful for the children. It confuses them. They become disobedient.

What two people must agree on the rules they make for their children?

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4. The father and mother must agree. They should sit down and talk together. Each should listen to the wisdom of the other. They should pray together for God to give them more wisdom. Then they should agree together.

In this lesson, what are we learning that parents must agree on?

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5. They must agree on rules. These are the rules they make for their children. When the rule is made, both parents must see that it is always obeyed.

Moshi made rules for his sons. He did not talk with his wife about the rules. When he was gone, the mother did not make the boys obey them. The children became disobedient. They became used to breaking rules.

What was the first thing about wise rules that these parents did not follow?

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6. They did not agree on the rules. When parents do not agree on rules, this causes problems. The children see a division between their parents. The parents become angry with each other. The children stop obeying. They run from one parent to the other to try to get their own way.

If children know that both parents have agreed on the rule, will it be easier for them to obey, or to disobey?

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7. It will be easier for them to obey, if they know both parents agree. We are learning three things about wise rules.

Write the first. Then read the other two.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) The children must understand the rules.
- (3) The rules must always be obeyed.

8. The first important thing about rules is: The parents must agree on the rules.

Now we want to look at the second (2) The children must understand the rules. When parents make a rule, they must carefully explain it to the children. They must explain how the rule is to be obeyed. If the rule is not clearly understood, it can be broken easily. Ben and Ann made the rule that their children should not play with fire. One day when they came from the field they found the fire built. The children said, "But we were not playing with fire. We were getting ready for you to cook."

Who did not clearly understand the rule? \_\_\_\_\_

9. If the children do not understand the rules, they will break them. They will say, "Oh, I did not know." This makes it hard for parents to make sure the rule is obeyed.

A family lived beside a busy road. The mother was afraid of the heavy lorries which went by. She said to her little children, "Do not play in the field across the road." Later she saw them across the road talking with the neighbours. She asked, "Why are you across the road where I told you not to go?" The children answered, "But you told us not to play in the field. We are not playing in the field. We are talking to our friends."

What did this mother fail to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. This mother failed to explain the rule. The children did not understand it well. The mother should have explained that they must never cross the road. They should not do this because of the lorries. When the children understand the rules, then the parents can make sure they obey.

What are the first two important things about rules?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) The rules must always be obeyed.

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11. First, parents must agree on the rules. Then, the children must clearly understand them. Now think about the third thing.

(3) The rules must always be obeyed. This means that the parents must remind the children of the rule. They must never let the children get by without obeying it.

What happens to a rule if parents forget to see that it is obeyed?

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12. It is forgotten. Children soon forget rules. Sometimes they disobey because they see that the parents have forgotten.

Mutiso and his wife had a rule for their children. They must always wash their hands before eating. Sometimes the parents remembered the rule. They reminded the children to obey. But sometimes they were too tired or too busy to remind them. The rule was often forgotten, so it did not help the children.

Who must see that a rule is always obeyed? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Parents must be sure of this. The rules must become a part of daily living. Sometimes we make good rules for our children. But we become too tired or too busy. We fail to keep the good rules we have made. But remember, we must teach our children diligently. The three things about rules are different from the three ways to teach diligently. Three important things about rules are:

- (1) Parents must agree on the rules.
- (2) The children must understand the rules.
- (3) The rules must always be obeyed.

What are three things we must do to teach our children diligently?

(1) Watch for dangers.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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14. We must watch for dangers, give Bible teaching they need, and help them obey. Making a few wise rules is one way to help our children obey. Then parents must see that the children really keep the rules. God has given people a long time to be children. This is so parents have a long time to teach and help children do right.

We are learning three things about wise rules. Write the first two and read the third.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) The rule must be obeyed.

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15. First, parents must agree on the rules. Then, the children must understand the rules. And the rules must be obeyed.

Wilson's parents were Christians. They went to church faithfully and spoke well for Christ. They loved Wilson and made wise rules for him to follow. But during the week they left him to himself. No one watched to see that he obeyed the rules. When Wilson played with other children he learned many wrong things. When he became older, he did not follow the way of his parents.

Why did the rules not help Wilson? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Wilson did not obey them. His parents did not make him obey. We must watch over our children always. We must help them obey. Some parents are upset when a child cries. They want him to stop crying, so they change the rule. This is not good. We should make wise rules and explain them. Then we must be sure that the rule is obeyed. The children must learn that no crying or other action can change the rules. If a child learns to change rules by screaming or striking, he will always do so.

How often should a rule be obeyed - sometimes, or all the time?

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17. It should be obeyed all the time. Learning to keep rules will help children very much. It will help them do well in school. It will help them in their work as adults. It will help them learn to obey God's rules.

What is the third important thing about rules?

- (1) Parents must agree on the rules.
- (2) The children must understand the rules.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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18. The rules must always be obeyed. Remember this promise.

Proverbs 22:6:

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Today we see many young people who are not going the way they should. They are no longer following the way of their parents. Perhaps some of the ways of their parents needed to be changed. But the young people have also lost many good things. Perhaps their parents did not know how to teach them. Perhaps they were afraid to make rules since so many things were changing. Parents need much courage to teach diligently.

What can you do to help parents be strong and bring their children up in the right way?

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19. Be ready to share your answer in class.

Write three important things we have learned about wise rules.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 8: BRINGING UP OUR CHILDREN**  
**DAY 3: CORRECTING AND PUNISHING OUR CHILDREN**

1. What can parents make that will help their children do right?

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Write three important things about wise rules.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Parents can make a few wise rules. (1) They must agree on the rules. (2) The children must understand the rules. (3) The rules must always be obeyed.

Sometimes children disobey even though they know the rules. What should parents do then? They may have to punish the children. Every parent must sometimes correct and punish his children. It is not a happy time, but it is needed. Today we will learn two reasons for punishing our children:

- (1) We punish them because we love them.
- (2) We punish them to return them to doing right.

Take your Bible now and read Hebrews 12:5 to 11. Read verse 6 again. Who punishes those who he loves?

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3. Even the Lord punishes sometimes. He corrects us and shows us our wrong. And we must correct and punish our children. God expects parents to do this as they teach their children. Some of the verse in Hebrews are taken from the book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 3:11-12:

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline (or punishment) or be weary of his reproof (or correction), for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

From these verses, what person does God reprove? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. He reproves the one he loves. God says that he punishes us because he loves us. He wants to stop us from doing bad things which harm us. He wants us to return to doing right things. He punishes us to stop us from going the wrong way. We should punish and correct our children for the same reasons God punishes us.

(1) Because we love them.

(2) To return them to doing right.

Whom does God expect to punish their children here on this earth?

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5. He expects parents to do this. Fathers and mothers must punish and correct their children. We saw that a father punishes the son whom he loves. We have also seen these words written to fathers.

Ephesians 6:4:

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Discipline means punishment and correction to our children. Children need their fathers to punish them in love.

Have you seen children who were not corrected by their fathers?

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What were they like? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Be ready to share your answer in class. Such children are often rude or disobedient to teachers and others. Children need punishment and correction. They must learn to obey.

Proverbs 13:24:

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

From this verse, what must we feel for our children that causes us to correct them?

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7. We must feel love. We do not want our children to learn ways that will bring them trouble. A child should be punished quickly as soon as he does wrong. This will help him not to do wrong again and again.

This means that the father should often be at home. If he is, he can punish and correct his children in love. If he must be gone, then he should agree with what his wife does to correct the children. It is hard for the mother to punish children, especially older ones. But with the father's help, she can do it.

In this lesson, because we love our children, what must we do for them?

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8. We must punish them. We must always do this when they do wrong. But some people only punish a child when they are angry. They do not think of the life of the child. They think about themselves. They beat the child because they have been troubled. They let out their anger in this way. But this is not what the Bible says to do.

What is the first reason why we should punish our children?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

9. The first reason is: Because we love them.

Benson was a friendly man. He was usually happy and smiling. He did not like arguments or trouble. He did not like to punish his children, so he usually let them do as they pleased. But sometimes their noise or crying upset him when he wanted to rest. Then he sometimes beat them.

Did he punish them because he loved them, or to let out his anger?

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10. He punished them to let out his anger. He did not think about their lives. He was thinking of his own happiness.

There are two reasons why we should punish and correct our children. Write the first and read the second.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) To return them to doing right.

11. We must first correct them because we love them. Mrs. Jackson loved her oldest son very much. The father was gone for three months of special study. Mrs. Jackson saw that the boy was beginning to be disobedient. He did not finish his work around the home.

What must Mrs. Jackson do if she truly loves her son? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. She must punish him. She must punish him to return him to doing right.

Julius had a son who was eight years old. When his mother spoke to him he was slow to obey. Julius saw this. He called the boy to him. He talked to him about what he was doing. He told him he must honour and obey his mother. For a few days the boy did better. But soon he stopped obeying again. The father took him and beat him. He beat him only enough that the boy understood his father meant what he said. Now the boy obeyed.

Julius had a reason for punishing his son. It was to return him to obeying and doing what?  
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13. The father's reason was to return him to doing right. This is the work of parents. When children leave the right way, parents must help them return. Our children should know that whenever they do wrong they will be punished. A father should never be too busy to correct his children. The mother should never be too tired to punish children when they need it.

What is the second reason why we punish our children? \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. The second reason is: To return them to doing right.

Simon had four children. He became very angry when they did anything wrong. He beat them harshly. But he did not explain to them how they should act. The children feared their father, but they did not become good people.

Did Simon's punishment return the children to doing right? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. They did not do right after being punished. Simon's anger stopped him from explaining and teaching. His anger made the children fear him. It did not help them learn to follow the right way. Being angry with children is not good. Anger keeps us from teaching. It makes us harsh. We need God's love and patience.

Write Yes by the words which are right. Write No by the ones which are wrong.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) I should punish my child because he has troubled me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) I should punish my child because he needs to be returned to doing right.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) If my child sins I must stop loving him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) If I love my child I will let him do as he pleases.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) I should pray for God's love and patience when my child disobeys.

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16. (1) No. (2) Yes. (3) No. (5) Yes. When your child disobeys you must punish him. But he should know that you still love him. He should understand that he was punished because you love him. Then he will not turn from your teaching. Your punishment must be firm but just. It should not be too harsh.

What is the second reason why we should punish our children?

- (1) Because we love them.
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Write some things parents do to punish their children. \_\_\_\_\_

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17. We will talk about this in class. Perhaps you wrote about beating or refusing the child some food. Some may refuse to let the child go somewhere, or to play with his friends for a time.

Sometimes people tell their children that God does not love them when they do wrong. But this is a lie. God loves us even when we are sinners. God punishes us because he loves us.

Let us say that your son has done something wrong. Perhaps he disobeyed you or broke something which you needed. You feel angry about it.

Your son needs to be punished. But you do not want to punish him in anger. What can you do?

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18. Do not forget about punishing him. But wait to punish him until you are not angry. Ask the Lord to help you punish wisely.

Write two reasons why we should punish our children.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 8: BRINGING UP OUR CHILDREN**  
**DAY 4: ALL CHILDREN REBEL**

1. What are two reasons why we punish and correct our children?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. We punish them: (1) Because we love them. (2) To return them to doing right. There is something more we must learn about children. It is that all children rebel against rules. To rebel means to refuse to obey. It means to take one's own way. Even if parents are wise and kind, all children rebel at times. They want to get their own way. This is because of the sinful nature in each of us.

Think of your own childhood. Did you always obey, or did you sometimes try to rebel and get your own way?

3. I think you said that you sometimes rebelled. Parents should not be surprised when children rebel. Even the best children sometimes rebel. This is because we are all sinners. Children show their sinful nature by rebelling. Parents need a wise plan to follow when this happens. Today and tomorrow we will learn what to do when children rebel. Here are the first things:

- (1) Remember that all children rebel.
- (2) Continue to teach.

If you have children, have your children tried to rebel against you?

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4. If you have children, they have tried to do this. This is because they are sinners by nature just like us. Rebelling is the common way to act. They want their own way. Parents must continue to teach when this happens. They must see that the child does right when he tries to get his own way.

What do all children sometimes do? \_\_\_\_\_

5. They all rebel. We are learning two things parents should do when their children rebel: (1) Remember that all children rebel. (2) Continue to teach.

Proverbs 29:15, 17:

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother ... Discipline your son, and he will give you rest, he will give delight to your heart.

If you do not remember that all children rebel, what may happen to you when your child rebels?

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6. We can talk about this together. Parents may be surprised when their children rebel. They may be disappointed, or discouraged, or angry. They may lose faith in God.

Different children rebel in different ways. Some become angry. They fight and shout to get their own way. Others rebel quietly. They simply go and do as they please. They quietly disobey. Others are smiling rebels. They are polite and friendly. They disobey in a laughing way.

What is the first thing parents should do when their children rebel?

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7. First they should remember that all children rebel. Parents should not be surprised when their children disobey. They can expect it. All children rebel. Parents must help children do right even when they rebel.

Write Yes by the words which are right. Write No by the ones which are wrong.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) If a child is happy and laughing, it is all right for him to disobey.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Parents must teach children to obey when they rebel with anger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Parents must teach children to obey when they rebel quietly.

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8. (1) No. (2) Yes. (3) Yes. Parents have the work of helping children do right when they rebel. They should not be surprised or defeated when their children rebel. We are learning two things for parents to do when their children rebel.

Write the first. Then read the second.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Continue to teach them.

9. First parents should: Remember that all children rebel. Then they should: Continue to teach their children when they rebel.

Tom and Sarah had a young son, William. William was four years old. He was a strong clever boy. When William was asked to do something he did not like, he became angry. He shouted and fought. The parents were surprised when they rebelled. They did not know what to do. When he fought them, they let him do as he wanted.

Did William's parents continue to teach him when he rebelled?

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10. They did not continue to teach him. They let him have his own way. Instead, they should have made him obey.

One day William's older aunt came to visit. When William was asked to share bread with his sister, he started to shout. His aunt took hold of him firmly but gently. She said, "Stop that!" and struck him once on his bottom. William stopped in surprise. Then the aunt helped him give a piece of bread to his sister. The aunt let him know that she liked him. Yet she did not let him disobey.

When William rebelled, did his aunt let him get his own way, or did she teach him to do right?

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11. She taught him to do right. When children rebel we must continue to teach them. They should not be allowed to get their own way.

Sarah was a very pleasant child. She did not fight or shout. She tried to get her own way by being polite. When she was told to get water for the baby, she agreed. But she was very slow. She talked and laughed and played instead of getting the water.

What should her mother do besides punish her when Sarah tries to get her own way?

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12. She must continue to teach her. She must help her learn to obey.

Ojiwa was 16 years old. He wanted to go to a party with some boys from school. He became angry when his parents refused to let him go. His father explained clearly why they refused. Yet Ojiwa was still angry.

Should the parents stop teaching Ojiwa and let him do as he chooses because they fear his anger?

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13. No, God has given parents the work of training children in the right way. God does not tell us to let our children do as they please. Some parents give up when a child rebels and disobeys. They feel defeated because their child is strong in disobeying. These parents need God's help. They can have strength to teach their children well.

What should parents continue to do when their children rebel?

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14. They should continue to teach. Perhaps the child will be very angry. But the parents do not have to become angry. The parents can quietly hold to the right way. They should be kind but strong.

When should parents continue to teach? \_\_\_\_\_

15. They should do this when their children rebel. They should not give up. They should be strong.

What is the second thing parents should do when their children rebel?

(1) Remember that all children rebel.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

16. They should continue to teach them. It is not easy to teach when the child rebels. Sometimes we feel angry and discouraged. We feel like letting the child go. We do not like to argue. We feel tired. We need to pray and ask for God's help and strength.

Stop now and think. Are you teaching your children when they rebel, or do you let them get their own way even though it is harmful?

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17. What are the first two things parents must do when their children rebel?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Show true love.

(4) Keep a humble spirit.

(5) Do not change the rules.

**WEEK 8: BRINGING UP OUR CHILDREN**  
**DAY 5: HELPING CHILDREN WHO REBEL**

1. Yesterday we learned that parents should not be surprised when their children rebel.

How many children rebel? \_\_\_\_\_

What must parents continue to do when their children rebel?

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2. All children rebel. Parents must continue to teach them when they do this. Today we will learn three more things parents must do when children rebel.

- (1) Remember that all children rebel.
- (2) Continue to teach them.
- (3) Show true love.
- (4) Keep a humble spirit.
- (5) Do not change the rules.

Take your Bible now and read I Timothy 3:1 to 5. Read verse 4 again. Can a church leader or other parent stop loving and give up when children rebel?

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3. Parents must not give up. They must keep control with dignity. They must not be surprised or discouraged. They must be gentle. There are five things they can do. Here is the third. (3) Show true love.

Some parents become harsh and angry when their children rebel. The rebelling makes them turn from the child. This is wrong. They must always have true love for their children, even when they rebel.

Who has the work of loving children and helping them through their time of rebelling?

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4. The parents have this work. When children rebel it is a difficult time. The parents must do what is good for the child. Parents must not act to show their own anger. They must be strong and kind and gentle. They should try to understand the child. True love will help them be kind and firm when the child disobeys.

When children rebel, what feeling must parents show? \_\_\_\_\_

5. They must show true love. Agnes was fifteen. She wanted to go with her friend to the city. The friend said they would stay with her aunt. But the friend was not a real Christian. Agnes and her parents did not know the aunt.

But Agnes wanted very much to see the city. Her father and mother talked and prayed about it. They decided that it was not good. They refused to let Agnes go. They said, "After praying we feel that it is not good for you to go."

Do you think the parents showed love when they refused to let Agnes go to the city?

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6. I think you answered Yes. The parents showed true love. They loved Agnes and did not want her to get into trouble. They showed love by being firm. They were also kind. They said, "We know how disappointed you feel. Perhaps you can go to the church camp during the holiday."

Agnes was angry and sad for a few days. Her parents were patient with her. But they did not let her do what they felt was wrong.

When parents are firm and kind, what good feeling do they show their children?

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7. They show true love. It is true love because it is strong against wrong. True love is also kind and understanding to the child.

Samson was a church elder. He wanted his sons to grow up free from bad living. When they did wrong, he punished them harshly. One son began to rebel. Samson gave stronger punishment. He refused to give the son money for a shirt which he needed very much. He did not talk with his son. The son began to find friends outside the home. He rebelled more and more. The fellowship between father and son was completely broken.

What did Samson fail to show when his son rebelled? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. He did not show true love. The son felt that he was not wanted. He rebelled more and more. We should let our children know that we love them. They should know that because we love them we keep them from wrong things.

We are learning things parents must do when children rebel. What is the third thing?

(1) Remember that all children rebel.

(2) Continue to teach them.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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9. We should (3) Show true love. The next thing goes along with this. (4) Keep a humble spirit. This is not easy. We are tempted to be angry and proud when a child disobeys. This is wrong. It is the daily work of parents to care for children who rebel. We need a humble spirit to do this work that God has given us.

What are the first two things parents should do when children rebel?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Show true love.

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10. We must: (1) Remember that all children rebel. (2) Continue to teach them. (3) Show true love. (4) Keep a humble spirit.

It is easy to be proud and harsh with children. They are smaller than we are. We can defeat them. They must obey us. Some men who are humble with other men are proud and harsh with children. In God's word we read what he says to those who care for others who are weaker.

I Peter 5:3:

not as domineering (or ruling harshly) over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.

What flock do parents have to care for? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. They care for their children. Parents must not rule harshly over their children. We must be humble with them. We are people of earth together with them. We are sinners, too. We have been saved only by the grace of God. Because we are people of earth we can understand the temptations of children. We should not pretend that we are always right. They must know that God is our strength and help.

What kind of spirit should we have before our children? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. We should have a humble spirit. We must be firm to help our children do right. We must be strong to keep them from wrong. But our spirit should be humble and gentle as we help. We should talk to them as fellow people like ourselves. We should not be like proud lords.

It is hard to be humble when children disobey. But the Bible teaches us to put off anger and wrath. These are called the works of the flesh. God tells us what to put on. We especially need these things when our children rebel.

Colossians 3:12:

Put on then ... compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience.

Who must keep a humble spirit when children rebel? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Parents must keep a humble spirit. A humble spirit will speak quietly. It will not shame the child. It will be firm but gentle. If we have a humble spirit, we will confess when we are wrong.

When Amos punished his children he shouted at them. He told them they were lazy and stupid.

What spirit did Amos lack? \_\_\_\_\_

14. He lacked a humble spirit. When a father has a humble spirit he will show love for his child. He will not shame the child with harsh words. He will be firm but gentle.

What is the fourth thing parents must do when children rebel? \_\_\_\_\_

15. They must: (4) Keep a humble spirit. They must also remember (5) Do not change the rules. We parents must make rules for our children. When we make them, we must be sure they are wise. We must not make foolish rules. Then, if the rule is good, we must stick to it.

Should children be allowed to change wise rules? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Children should not be allowed to change the rules. Parents must make rules that help children do right. We have learned that all children rebel. They try to get their own way. They may shout or fight or be angry. They may say we are unkind. But parents must not change the wise rules they have made. Rebelling should not change wise rules.

What do children sometimes try to do to wise rules? \_\_\_\_\_

17. They try to change them or break them.

Benson and his wife made a rule that their children should not take part in dances. One day their daughter came from school with great excitement. Some of her friends were preparing a dance for some visitors. She wanted to join them. The parents asked about the dance. They found that it was an old dance which honoured ancestral spirits. They told their daughter she could not take part. She was very angry. She said that her parents were foolish. The parents remained quiet and humble. They understood how the girl felt, but they were firm.

What did the parents not do about the rule they had made? \_\_\_\_\_

18. They did not change it. They kept it. They did not change the rule because their daughter rebelled. Later the girl came to her parents. She told them she believed they were right. She respected them for being wise and strong.

What must parents not do with the wise rules they have made?  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. They must not change them. We need God's help to make wise rules. We must be careful not to make foolish rules. If we see that a rule is foolish we must change it. We change it because we ourselves see that it is not good. We do not change it because the children rebel.

What is the fifth thing parents must do when children rebel?

- (1) Remember that all children rebel.
- (2) Continue to teach them.
- (3) Show true love.
- (4) Keep a humble spirit.
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_

20. They must not change the rules. There are five things parents must do when their children rebel.

- (1) How many children rebel? \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) What must parents continue to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) What must parents show? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) What kind of spirit must parents keep? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) What must parents not do to wise rules? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Parents must: Remember that all children rebel. Continue to teach them. Show true love. Keep a humble spirit. Not change the rules.

We need God's help to do these things. When our children rebel we must pray much for them. And we must pray for ourselves to be wise.

Stop now and think what you did the last time your child rebelled. Think about these questions but do not write answers. When your child rebelled, did you follow the five things? How did you fail? Take time to pray about this now.

22. What five things must parents do when children rebel?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_
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