

# PARENTING with hope SEMINAR

**Discipline,  
Forgiveness  
& Communication**

Jessica Meade, MA  
Foundations Christian Counseling



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## Communication



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## What does the Bible Say?

"A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions." Proverbs 18:2

"He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame." Proverbs 18:13



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## Your Mission...

Must be to understand your child, not simply to have your child understand you.



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## Communication in Parenting

Rules

Correction

Discipline



Encouragement

Correction

Rebuke

Instruction

Warning

Teaching

Prayer

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## Encouragement

Children need communication designed to inspire and fill with hope and courage.

You can encourage them to find hope and inspiration from God, who draws near to the broken hearted.

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## Correction

Correction remedies something wrong.  
Correction gives children insight into what is wrong and what may be done to fix the problem.  
It can be used to help children understand God's standard and teaches them to assess their behavior against that standard.

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## Rebuke

A rebuke censures behavior.  
Sometimes a child must experience your sense of alarm, shock, dismay or disappointment at what was done or said.

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## Instruction

Instruction is the process of providing a lesson, a precept, or information that will help your children understand their world. Children have large gaps in their understanding of life. They need information about themselves and others. They need to understand the world of spiritual reality and the Principles of the Kingdom of God.

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## Warning

Warnings but all of us on guard for regarding a probable danger- the same is for our kids. A warning is merciful speech, like the equivalent of posting a sign informing motorists about a bridge that is out. A warning alerts us to a danger while there is still time to escape unharmed. And alert parent can enable his child to both escape danger and learn in the process.

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## Teaching

Teaching is the process of imparting knowledge. Teaching is causing someone to know something. Sometimes teaching takes place before it is need, but it is often most effective after a failure or problem- or when they discover when they do A and get B.

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## Prayer

Prayer is not communication with the child so much as it is with God. Listening to our children pray (as we pray with them- not eavesdropping) can give us valuable insight into their hearts. How and what they pray can be a window into their souls.

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## What is the MOST Important thing?

- Compliance?
- Conformity?
- Obedience?

LOVE



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## Punishment vs. Consequences

### PUNISHMENT

The infliction of a penalty or sanction in retribution for an offence or transgression; (also) that which is inflicted as a penalty; a sanction

### CONSEQUENCES

A thing or circumstance which follows as an effect or result from something preceding.

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## Thought Question...

- Helicopter parenting vs Free Range Parenting
- Lawnmower parents



*Discuss- Where do you think you fall?  
What are your tendencies?  
Can you talk about examples?  
Prepare to share a with the larger group.*

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## What is behavior?

Behavior: the way one acts or conducts oneself, especially toward others (Merriam Webster)

Behavior though is actually a symptom of what is hiding in the heart. Behavior is a form of communication.

According to Tedd Tripp- we are shepherding our children's hearts and the heart of the matter is always relationship, not behavior.

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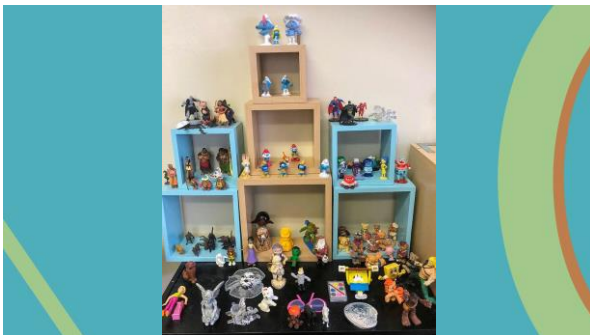
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## What problem behaviors do you run into?

Examples:

A child constantly interrupting you while you are doing work at home= attention seeking.

Do they need some quality time with you?

Constant sibling fighting= what is happening underneath?

Is one of the siblings being a bully? A power struggle?

**So now what?**

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## Hebrews 12:4-5

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,



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## Hebrews 12:5-6

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”



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### Hebrews 12:7-8

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.



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### Hebrews 12:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.



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### Hebrews 12:11

<sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.



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## Communication Objective

1. The behavior that you see is a reflection of the abundance of your child's heart.
2. You want to understand the specific content of the abundance of his heart.
3. The internal issues of the heart are of greater importance than the specifics of the behavior, since they drive the behavior.

**Look at the world through their eyes!**

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## Real Life example...

### Better Questions:

1. What were you feeling when you hit your sister?
2. What did your sister do to make you mad?
3. Help me understand how hitting her seemed to make things better?
4. What was the problem with what she was doing to you?
5. In what other ways could you have responded?

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## Four Issues You have to walk through

1. The nature of temptation
2. The possible responses to this temptation
3. The motives for those responses
4. The sinful response he chose

**What are some of your thoughts about this approach?**

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## Letting Our Kids Fail?

In what areas do you struggle with letting your kids "fail" or struggle?

Example:  
Math teacher scenario with child who won't be named

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## Questions to Discuss

1. What is your bottom-line goal in raising your children? Is your goal obedience and compliance or focusing on relationship?
2. What is necessary for you to be able to address your children's attitudes and not merely their behavior?

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## Idea of Being a Gatekeeper



- 2 Chronicles 23
- Same idea as parents
  - Not only for our own lives but those of our families
  - We set the atmosphere
  - Taking good care of our children begins with learning to take care of ourselves
    - Boundaries
    - Self-Care (Maybe not what you think it is)

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### Forgiveness

What does the world say about forgiveness?  
 What does God say about forgiveness?  
 What are our hold ups about offering forgiveness?  
 Modeling forgiveness for our children.

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### Repentance vs. Forgiveness



**Repentance**

1. Recognize sin.
2. Confess the sin and pray for forgiveness.
3. Do our best to make up for the wrong.
4. Forsake the sin.
5. Obey the commandments and live more like the Savior.

Repentance is a change OF  MIND and  Heart

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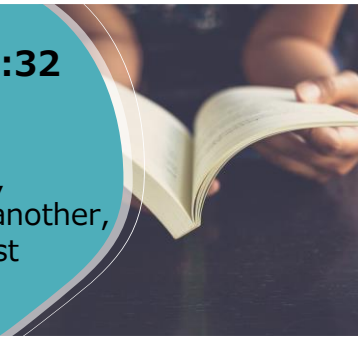
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## Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



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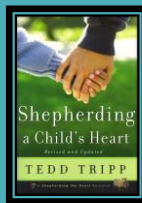
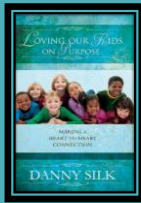
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## Resources



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