

Fathers' Studies: Father/Child Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 31 OF 52

CHILD CORRECTION

LESSON AIM: To understand why children need correction.

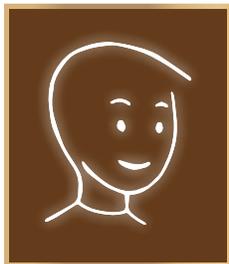
KEY VERSE:

1. **PROVERBS 29:15** The rod and reproof [appropriate family and cultural discipline] are good for children and give them wisdom. What happens when a child gets his own way? _____

2. **PROVERBS 13:24** If you love your child you will _____ .
3. **PROVERBS 22:15** Correction will help your child to turn away from _____ .
4. **PROVERBS 3:11-12** God gives correction because He _____ His children.
5. **HEBREWS 12:11** What is one reward that correction brings to a believer's life? _____

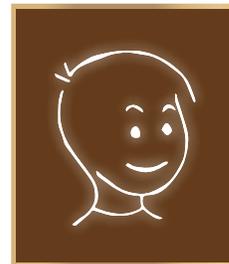
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



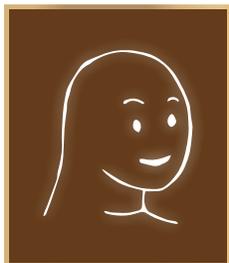
By Yourself

Correction is used to change behaviour. Is God changing your behaviour? How? List some ways. If you cannot think of any, ask your family.



With Your Children

Explain to them the plan that you and your wife have made. Be sure to explain the purpose for the plan and why it is for their good.



With Your Wife

Decide together on some behaviours that you both would like your children to change. Plan some steps of correction that will help them change.

God corrects his children because he loves them, wants to protect them from evil, and wants them to live a good life. You correct your children for the same reasons.

CORRECTION HAS THREE PARTS:

- A. INSTRUCTION** Be sure the child knows what he may or may not do. If he is old enough, make sure he also knows why.
- B. WARNING** If the child does not obey, talk to him about it. Tell him that there will be a penalty (something unpleasant will happen) if he does not obey.
- C. PENALTY** Use this step only if you have first done steps A and B. The penalty may be taking away a privilege, or doing an unpleasant task. The penalty should fit the disobedience.

HERE ARE SOME RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN YOU CORRECT YOUR CHILDREN.

1. Don't be angry. The child needs to feel that you love him. An angry parent will make an angry child (see Ephesians 6:4).
2. Don't call your child a "bad boy" or "bad girl". Call the disobedient action bad, not the child himself.
3. Keep it private. If you correct your child in front of others, he will think more about the other people than about what he has done wrong.
4. Use a penalty that fits the disobedience. Appropriate penalties can be things like withholding a special treat or reward that the child likes until they are aware of the consequence of their disobedience. Or an appropriate penalty might be not allowing the disobedient child to play with his playmates or with his favourite toy for a set time.
5. Comfort the child after the penalty. Hold them or touch them with love.
6. Pray with the child about the problem and about his future.
7. Be fair and consistent. If a child is corrected for doing something one day, and the next day he isn't, he gets confused. He feels more secure if he knows what to expect from you.

PROVERBS 6:20-23, 19:18; HEBREWS 12:5-8; PROVERBS 22:6, 23:13-14

FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CORRECTS, JUST AS A FATHER THE SON IN WHOM HE DELIGHTS. (PROVERBS 3:12 NKJV)

WINDOW TO LIFE

John had told his daughter Sally not to eat candy before dinner. When he came into the kitchen and saw her looking at the candy bag, he warned her that something would happen if she didn't leave it alone. But later the candy bag was empty, and Sally was chewing on something. When John asked her if she was eating candy, she said no. But after they talked awhile, she admitted that she was.

John took Sally into the bedroom. Holding her on his lap, he explained to her the consequence of lying that they had talked about last week, that Sally would have to sit in her room for one hour while her brothers were free to play outside. Sally cried about this but John held her until she calmed down. Then left the room and closed the door. After an hour John went back to Sally's room. He held Sally on his lap again and prayed with her that God would help her be obedient and enjoy the rest of the day. Then she went outside to play.

Correct your children because you love them.

Correction has three parts:

- instruction
- warning
- penalty

When you correct:

- don't be angry
- be fair
- don't call the child bad
- keep it private
- comfort afterward
- pray

