

Study Guide - The Bible Doesn't Say, "Spare the Rod. Spoil the Child."
5-20-2018

Key Scriptures:

"He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly." - Proverbs 13:24

- Psalm 23 - read
- 1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."
- John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
- John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

Start Talking:

- What do you think when you hear someone say or imply that they do not discipline their children because they love them too much? Have you ever heard some say this? Would you be willing to share Proverbs 13:24?
- Have you ever known a child who is insecure deep inside about whether he is really loved or not? He will often misbehave until he gets disciplined to prove to himself that he is worthy of the attention of the discipline. How could you minister to this child? Discuss.
- What is the danger of disciplining a child while you are angry? What can you do to control yourself during emotional times? Should you? Discuss.
- Is "go to your room" always a good form of discipline? Why or why not?

Start Thinking:

- Pastor Jason pointed out that one of the uses for the shepherd's rod is to "not let outsiders harm" his sheep. Every adult knows the extent of harmful images and messages that are available to anyone

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who has access to the internet. Does it make sense that a parent would let his or her child get on the internet without being monitored? Yet, do you think this happens? Is wanting them to be occupied worth it? Share and discuss.

- Pastor Jason said that our children are like wet cement. Were you shaped in any ways as a child that you would not want your own children to be shaped? Are you aware of any ways that you are like your parents? Are you willing to examine this honestly? What can you do to break an unwanted cycle? Share and discuss.

Start Sharing:

- Discuss the difference between obeying to avoid the punishment and obeying because of a close relationship with your parent. Read Psalm 51:4. Was David more concerned about being a murderer, or the fact that he had sinned against the God to whom he belonged? Which kind of obedience takes more effort and time? Is it worth it? Discuss.
- Were your parents known to you more as “the punishers” or “the ones who love you”? Who does God want you to be to your children? Are you?
- Is there a line that can be crossed between corporal punishment and abuse? Do people agree on where that line is? Where would people that you know say it is? Give examples. What is your opinion?

Start Praying:

“Lord, the world tempts us away from Your ways when it comes to raising our children. Help us to look solely to You and Your word rather than popular theories for raising children. Help us to trust You and emulate You as parents.”

Start Doing:

- When disciplining your child, have you ever said, “I’m doing this for your own good”? What can you do to make them believe that? Is it true?

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- Describe some ways you were disciplined as a child. Were they effective or not, moral or immoral? As a parent, how will you obey God in this?
- When we read Psalm 23, we bask in how the shepherd loves his sheep and how the host blesses His guest at the table. We apply the nature of God to ourselves. If your child would read it, would he or she say that you love him or her as the Lord loves His own in this Psalm? As we parent, what specific ways can we emulate God as He is revealed in Psalm 23? Break it down.