

Sunday School

Parenting Series Week Five | Discipline as Joy

This Week: Discipline as Joy

Prov. 29:17 | Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

John 15:1-11

15:1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

First, we must **abide in Jesus** (vv. 4, 9)

[QUICK DISCUSSION] Where are we tempted to abide, to find our source of life and goodness, outside of Christ?

Second, as we **abide in Jesus**, we will **bear fruit** (vv. 5, 8)

[QUICK DISCUSSION] How do we see our faith? Is it something that just works for us, or is it for the world?

Finally, as we **abide in Jesus** and so **bear fruit** in the Christian life, we will experience the **joy of the Lord** for which we were created (vv. 10-11).

[FINAL DISCUSSION]

- 1. Big Challenges of this season**
- 2. What it means to abide in Christ in this season**
- 3. What fruit we're looking for in this season**
- 4. What the joy of the Lord looks like for this season**

Seasons of Parenting (we will cover as many of these as time allows):

- 1. Infancy and Toddlers (0-3)**
- 2. Pre-school & Kindergarten (3-6)**
- 3. Early Elementary (6-9)**
- 4. Preteen (9-12)**
- 5. Teenage 1 (12-15)**
- 6. Teenage 2 (15-20)**

Extension Activity: Take a moment to reflect on what you've learned about God, about yourself, and about parenting. Make a list of what you're grateful for. Share your gratitude with your kid(s) and invite them to make their own list with gratitude for your family.