

MANAGING MISTAKES

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What do we do when our children make mistakes?

"Jesus told them this story: 'A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. 'A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. 'When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.' ' 'So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' 'But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.'" (Luke 15:11-24, NLT)

TRANSFER THE PROBLEM

- ✓ Freedom from **CONSEQUENCES**
- ✓ Freedom from **BOUNDARIES**
- ✓ Freedom from **RESPONSIBILITY**

"Train children to live the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray from it."
(Proverbs 22:6, NCV)

*How do we **TRAIN** our children?*

T **RUTH**

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13, NLT)

"God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV)

"The Lord is compassionate, merciful, patient, and always ready to forgive."
(Psalm 103:8, God's Word)

RESPONSIBILITY

"But God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."
(1 John 1:9, NIV)

"Listen to advice and accept discipline so that you may be wise the rest of your life."
(Proverbs 19:20, God's Word)

AFFIRMATION

"When someone stumbles or falls, you give a helping hand." (Psalm 145:14, CEV)

"Encourage each other every day while you have the opportunity."
(Hebrews 3:13, God's Word)

INSTRUCTION

"Poverty and shame come to a person who ignores discipline, but whoever pays attention to constructive criticism will be honored." (Proverbs 13:18, God's Word)

NEVER GIVE UP

"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him." (Luke 15:20, NLT)

"The Lord gives strength to those who are weary. ... those who trust the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired." (Isaiah 40:29-31, CEV)

Remember: Use a mistake to **TRAIN** and you will always **GAIN**

Resources:

Parenting with Love and Logic (Jim Fay)

Have a New Kid by Friday (Kevin Leman)

Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours (Kevin Leman)