

onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion

With so many voices vying for their attention, parents are more confused than ever about what discipline is and how to administer it. This message breaks through all the noise from the stands and hones in on the only voice that matters in the critical game of family discipline—God’s voice.



BIG IDEA: Relationship without rules equals chaos. Rules without relationship equals rebellion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were the household rules when you were growing up? How have those rules influenced your current family life?
2. How are the ways that you discipline your children (or plan to discipline your children) similar to how you were disciplined as a child? How are they different?
3. Chris said the definition of parenting is *Parenting is teaching and training your children to leave*. What do you like about that statement? What do you not like?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Psalm 90:12*. There is something about a number that reminds us of a limited window of time that spurs us to make more of our days. Chris said, “When you see how much time you have left, you get serious about the time you have now.” Because of the limited time, what are some things should be important as you parent your child? What things should move to less importance?
5. What are some ways that you need to kick parenting your children in overdrive, because of the limited time you have left?
6. Chris’ definition of discipline is *Discipline is correction driven by love*. Discipline is focusing on the future, not on the past. How is that different than the way you were disciplined as a child?
7. Zig Ziglar writes, “*A child who has not been disciplined with love by his little world will be disciplined without love by the great big world.*” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
8. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Hebrews 12:5-6*. What is one of the ways we know that we are God’s children? What is one way He shows His love for us?
9. As a parent, are you more characterized by rescuing, being inconsistent, or being unified? How can you improve?
10. Is one parent softer on discipline with a child than another? Who is the softie?
11. What is God showing you about discipline?
12. Are you expecting first time, cheerful obedience?
13. The first rule of discipline is **as a parent, we have to set the out-of-bounds.**

Chris said, “Nine times out of ten, if you have a younger child who is a vampire, the problem isn’t the child—it is the parent. And the problem is that there are either no lines—or there are no consequences when they go over those lines. Our job is to give clear out-of-bounds.”

14. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 19:18, 29:15 & 22:15*. Are you giving clear, consistent out-of-bounds for your children, and are you following through with consequences when they go out-of-bounds? How could you do a better job making those out-of-bounds clearer to your child?
15. The second rule of discipline is **as a parent, you have to call a consistent game**. Why is consistency so important when it comes to boundaries? When it comes to discipline?

16. One way of remaining consistent is *starting early*. How can you start early giving your children boundaries? At what age do you think is appropriate?
17. Another way of remaining consistent is *assessing penalties in private*. Why is disciplining your child in private so important?
18. The third way of remaining consistent is *Discipline out of love, never out of anger*. Do you have an anger problem when disciplining?
19. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 14:29 & Ephesians 4:26*. What is the two-fold promise found in Proverbs 14:29? Is anger sin? How can we be angry, and not sin?
20. The last way of remaining consistent is *Hug after punishment (let them know you love them)*. What does hugging them and touching them lovingly communicate to your child? Why is this so important? Are you instructing and offering reconciliation?
21. What does God need to change in you for you to better discipline your children?

MOVING FORWARD

If you're in the middle of the stressful years of parenting and you aren't sure you're going to survive, remember that someday this phase of life will come to an end . . . and when it does, you'll miss it.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

A couple of great resources about discipline and children are...

- *Kid CEO* by Ed Young
- *Boundaries With Kids* by Dr. Henry Cloud
- *Boundaries With Teens* by Dr. Henry Cloud
- *Bringing Up Boys* by Dr. James Dobson
- *Bringing Up Girls* by Dr. James Dobson
- *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp

CHANGING YOUR MIND

And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves..." Hebrews 12:5-6