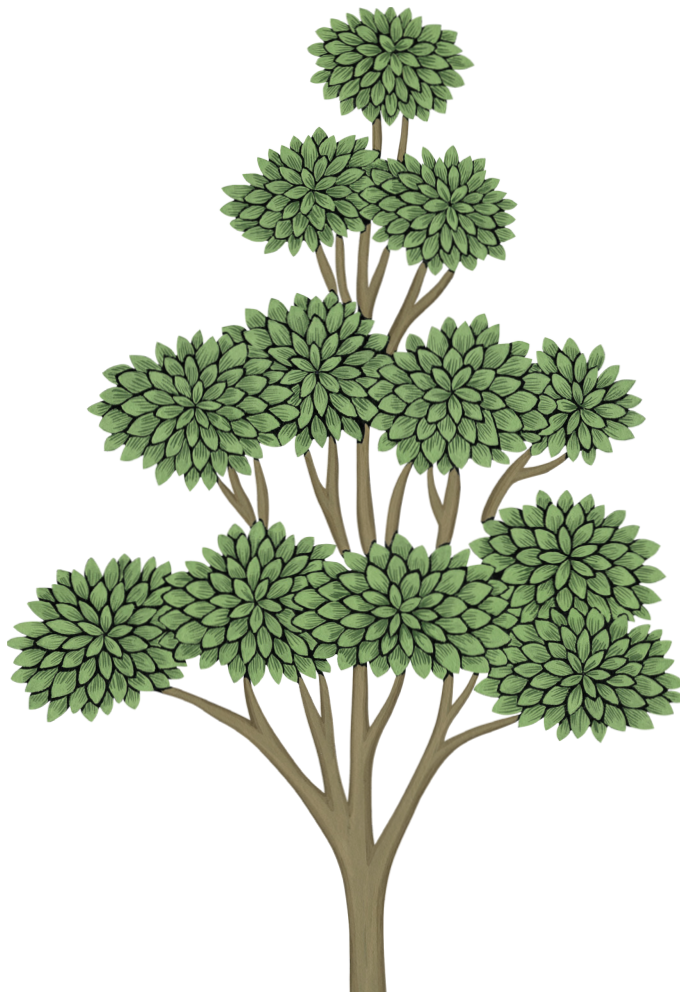
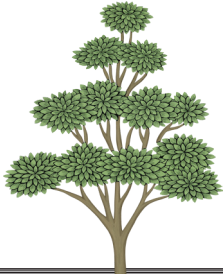


Becoming a Woman of Proverbs

HER RELATIONSHIPS
To Her Children





Proverbs

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“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it” (Deuteronomy 10:12-14).

The book of Deuteronomy has many cautions for people to remember the good and faithful things God has done. Today, we heed that wisdom and take the time to remember the beginning of God’s marvelous works. Whether we have young children, adult children, adoptive children, step-children, or waiting on the Lord for children, all children are His before they are “ours.” This truth is the foundation of a wise woman’s relationship with her children and the holy ground she nurtures them on, and our lesson builds on this week.

Please write out the following scriptures:

Genesis 1:27-28

Colossians 1:16

Psalm 139:13-14

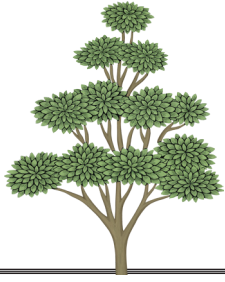
Psalm 127:3

1. What does each verse below tell us about a child? (See *example c* for Gen. 1:28a.)

a) Genesis 1:27a

b) Genesis 1:27b

c) Genesis 1:28a. Be fruitful and multiply = obedience in marriage



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d) Psalm 127:3

e) Psalm 139:13

f) Psalm 139:14

g) Colossians 1:16

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”*

2. What are the 3 “shall” commands in Deuteronomy 6:4-7?

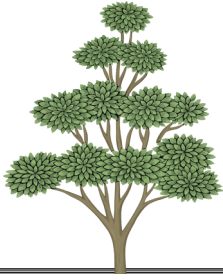
Read Matthew 28:18-20.

3. Who is speaking and who is being spoken to in Matthew 28:18-20?

4. What command did Jesus give His disciples (vs.19)?

An excerpt from David Guzik’s commentary on Matthew 28 says, “Make disciples of all the nations: The command is to make disciples, not merely converts or supporters of a cause. The idea behind the word disciples is of scholars, learners, or students.” In addition, Guzik writes, “Make disciples reminds us that disciples are made. Disciples are not spontaneously created at conversion; they are the product of a process involving other believers. This making of disciples is the power of spreading Christianity.”

5. Does the Commission to make disciples apply to parents with children? Explain why or why not.



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6. In What ways does Matthew 28:18-20 and Deuteronomy 6:5-7 provide for a parent to disciple their child?

7. How can discipling your children for Christ sow into future generations?

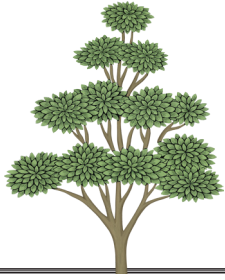
I was a mom for almost 20 years before I read the Bible and learned the truth of scripture. I was 17 years old when my first child was born. Being a mom at such a young age was unplanned, and I am so grateful God does marvelous works despite my folly. My only “parenting plan” was more instinct to ensure she would always know she was loved and wanted by me. Suddenly, her life gave me purpose. I lacked God’s knowledge and wisdom, not a mother’s love. I know now what I didn’t then: my children are a gift from, and heritage for, the Lord. I am rewarded with the love and joy they bring to my life, but my commission to disciple them for Christ is more important than my love.

Lord, as we focus on a wise woman’s relationship with her children, I pray for Your covering in the hearts and minds of Your daughters, for whom this is a difficult subject. Please speak into their hearts as only You can. I ask for Your wisdom to steward the children You bless us with. Help us to raise them according to Your ways and not our own. You are worthy to be praised in the deepest pit and on the highest mountaintop. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

A wise woman loves her children. “*A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world*” (John 16:21).

As a mom blessed to have given birth to three children, can I just say, Amen! Mothers have a God-given, innate, fiercely protective, and unyielding love for their children. How else could we endure hours of labor and birth, months of sleep-deprived nights with infants, exhausting days with toddlers, and hectic years of school and activity schedules? And for some, the very trying years of teenagers (my personal experience) with such profound love for them, the hardships we often go through in parenting is a vague remembrance compared to the joy they bring to our hearts!

Children need a parent’s love for their emotional well-being, but how we love them is essential for their spiritual well-being. They are a gift from God, and He provides instructions on how to steward them properly. For “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



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8. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say is “*God-breathed and is useful*”?

9. List the four things for which this verse says “*All Scripture is...useful.*”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

10. What is the result for the servant of God?

Write out Proverbs 3:12.

11. Who does the Lord correct?

12. A father who delights in his son does what?

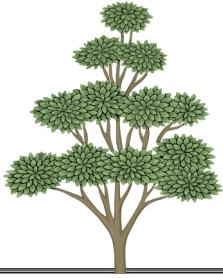
Write out Proverbs 13:24.

13. Who hates his son?

14. Who loves his son?

15. When is discipline given? What are the benefits of a child who receives prompt discipline from parents?

If you are a spirit-filled Christian, you will experience the love of the Lord through His correction. We are not corrected because He is angry, mean-spirited, a dictator, unloving, or without mercy and grace; it is because He loves us. He uses correction in our life to teach, protect, mature, and refine our character. The depth of our relationship with and commitment to the Lord will be revealed in how we love and correct our children.



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16. List the ways you demonstrate your love to your children.

17. List the ways God demonstrates His love to you.

18. Contrast your answers from #17 and #18:

a. In what ways are they the same?

b. What ways are different?

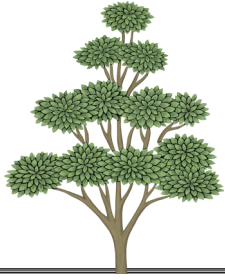
19. Is **correction** one of the answers in question #10 or #11?

20. How does correcting your children reveal your love for them?

Pray and ask the Lord to reveal any areas of your life you and reject His loving correction. Write down what He shows you and what changes you need to make.

Proverbs 22:6: “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*”

The most loving and wise thing we will ever do as parents is to train our children according to God’s Word. Training involves teaching, guiding, instructing, and disciplining our children, so they know God’s truth and are prepared for a life of service to Him. We are the most influential relationships in our children’s lives. What we do or do not teach them will have consequences in this life and the next.



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Proverbs 4:1-4: *“Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding; for I give you good doctrine: So do not forsake my law. When I was my father’s son, tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, he also taught me, and said to me: ‘Let your heart retain my words; keep my commands, and live.’”*

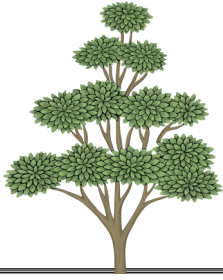
21. Who is giving instruction in Proverbs 4:1-4?
22. Who is receiving the instruction?
23. How does it say Solomon learned what he was instructing his children?
24. What is the result of retaining his father’s words and keeping his commands?

We cannot give what we have not received; we cannot teach our children what we have not received in our hearts and practice in our own lives.

25. Look up Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:6-7; 11:19; Psalm 34:11. What is the recurring message in these verses?

Deuteronomy is my favorite Old Testament book. Some have a “life verse”; I have a “life book.” As I read how God led, provided for, protected, and called Israel back to obedience over and over through the words of Moses, God sowed in my heart His love and faithfulness to His children. His commandments, statutes, instructions, warnings, and discipline are given for our good because He loves us. From the age of ten to sixteen, my dad raised me with a high regard for parental respect and a low tolerance for disobedience. He provided clear direction, instruction, rules, and boundaries to remove any doubt about his parental authority and expectations. I was well aware that my decision to be obedient or rebellious to my dad’s instructions would include the positive or negative consequences of my choice. Obedience demonstrated recognition of his authority and respect for his instruction. I valued his trust in me to make the right decision when given the freedom to do the wrong.

On the other hand, rebellion demonstrated that I did not honor his parental authority, respect his instruction, or value his trust in me. The consequences would bring unity or division, respect or disrespect, trust or distrust, and approval or discipline. Although I was not taught the fear of the Lord, I was trained to honor and respect my dad’s authority in my life, and to recognize a father’s love shown through guidance, instruction, and discipline. When I accepted the Lord many years into adulthood, I recognized the Father’s love through His correction in my thinking, heart, attitudes, and behaviors.



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26. Write out the definitions for each of the words below:

Correction:

Discipline:

Chastening:

Rebuke:

27. What purpose do they have in common?

Look up Hebrews 12:5-11.

28. What does lack of God's chastening mean (vs. 8)?

29. What results from a human father disciplining his children (vs.9)?

30. Why does God discipline us (vs.10)?

31. What does He want us to share in (vs.10)?

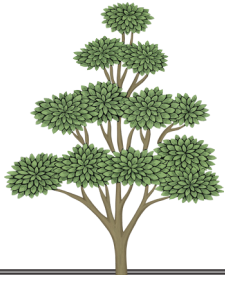
32. When is discipline painful (vs.11)?

33. What is produced later on (vs.11)?

34. In whom (vs.11)?

Write out the following verses, then answer the questions:

Proverbs 19:18:



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35. When are you to chasten your son?

36. What happens with a lack of chastening?

This verse is a command, not a statement or wise advice. The implication is chastening must begin early in a child's life while parents still have hope of shaping their child's behavior and leading them away from a path of destruction caused by a lack of chastening.

Proverbs 22:15:

37. What is in the heart of a child?

38. What drives it far from him?

Proverbs 29:15:

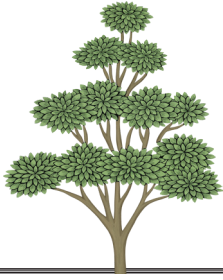
39. What gives wisdom?

40. What happens to a child left to himself?

Proverbs 29:17 :

41. What two benefits are the result of correcting your son?

Several months ago, I observed an interaction between a mom and her young child that has replayed in my mind. It began with a mom telling her child she had to eat her dinner if she wanted ice cream. For 45 minutes, the child stubbornly refused to eat dinner while insisting on having ice cream as mom patiently encouraged, cajoled, and negotiated with her child on what and how much needed to be eaten. What started with "eat all your dinner and then you may have ice cream," ended with three bites of mashed potatoes, a "good job," ice cream with all the toppings, and compromised parental authority. After some light research, I learned the goal of this parenting style, according to *Guidepost Montessori*, is "an approach that focuses on



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a partnership between a parent and their child. It allows the child to make their own choices based on what they want to do instead of ‘external pressures.’” I know this mom loves her child and believes this is good parenting, but it is not biblical parenting.

42. What is God’s purpose in correcting a child?

43. Are your purposes aligned with God’s in correcting your children? If not, what do you need to do differently? “*Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end*” (Psalm 119:111-112).

Psalm 127:3 tells us children are a heritage from the Lord. Training our children leaves a spiritual heritage for generations to come. In the book, *Be Exultant*, Warren W. Wiersbe writes, “...Children are precious—a heritage—and make the home a treasury. But they are also useful—like fruit and arrows—and make the home a garden and an armory. If we do not raise our children to know and love the truth, who will plant the seeds of truth and fight the battles against lies and evil in the years to come?” He further adds, “...It is in the family that we preserve the best of the past and invest it in the future. Every baby born is God’s vote for the future of humankind and our opportunity to help make some new beginnings.”

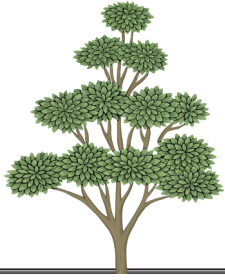
Write out Proverbs 20:7:

44. Who is blessed by a righteous man who walks in his integrity?

Write out Proverbs 14:26.

45. Where does strong confidence come from?

46. What do those who fear the Lord have?



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What more could we hope for our children than to have a fear of the Lord, to find refuge in Him, and to walk in truth and righteousness all the days of their lives? If we are to sow into future generations a spiritual inheritance of faith and service to God, it begins in our hearts. God has provided all we need to accomplish His purposes; His Word to guide us, His Son to save us; His Holy Spirit to teach us. We have a choice of obedience to His Word leading to life or disobedience leading to spiritual death. The choice is stark, and the consequences are eternal.

Lord, help us to choose Your will and purposes for our lives and our children's. In the areas of our parenting where we have replaced Your truth with our understanding, bring correction. We ask for Your wisdom to make decisions that glorify You and bless our lives as we choose to serve You in spirit and truth. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.