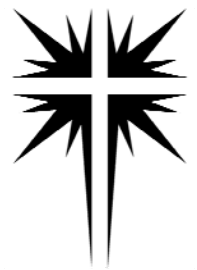


SESSION 5 – “Practical Parenting Strategies”

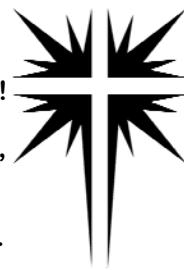


I. INTRODUCTION: “RUBBER HIT THE ROAD” SPIRITUAL STRATEGIES

A. Guarding the _____ of children (Prov. 4:23)

1. Faith in precious promises (Heb. 11:6; 2 Pet. 1)
 - a. Jas. 1:21
 - b. I Pet. 1:23
 - c. Isa. 55:11
 - d. Prov. 22:6; 23:15
2. Faithfully teaching infallible promises (Prov. 4:10-13)
 - a. Modeling-mentoring (Prov. 27:17)...”better caught than taught”
 - b. Being a _____ (Jas. 1:22)
 - c. Training the heart to _____ biblically (Phil. 4:8; Ro. 12:2)
 - i. To choose wisely, successfully (Josh. 1:8-9; 24:15)
 - ii. To discern biblically (Phil. 1:9-11) in solving _____
 - iii. To listen wisely (Heb. 2:1); to be teachable (Ps. 86:11)...note flow!
 - iv. To _____ boundaries (Lam. 3:27; Jn. 8:31-32)
 - v. To pay real _____ consequences (Gal. 6:7)
 - a) The real world does not operate on the bailout principle
 - b) Fix everything for children, never learn to fix issues themselves
 - c) Actually impede child’s growth as “thinker”
 - d) If have to deal with problems, prone to learn to solve them
 - vi. To fully grasp privileges, responsibilities, accountability (Lk. 12:48)
 - vii. To persevere in _____ courage (Heb. 12:1-3), because survivors know how to think and act; thus preventing the “victim syndrome”
 - d. Choosing battlefields wisely...know your child’s heart (age 6 on applications)
 - i. Fighting _____... DON’T use them...(harmony in the home...)

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- a) Threats should be avoided...no screaming...be _____!
 - b) Simple authority is in _____: "Thus saith the Lord"
 - c) Cf. Jesus' mild rebuke, admonition of Peter in Jn. 21...
 - d) I love you too much to _____ with you...do you love me?
- ii. Faithful words of _____ empathy (Jn. 21...Jesus and Peter)...but mean what you say what you mean...
- a) Set firm loving limits of choice using enforceable simple statements, without being _____, using threats...
 - b) Please join us as a family at dinner when your room is clean
 - c) Please feel free to join us at our family game night when your homework is done (privilege to be in/with our family)
 - d) Car usage guideline..."You can use our family car when your mother and I don't need it, once you've deposited in a savings account the insurance deductible, and as long as you're responsible with the privileges (e.g. curfew, no alcohol, drugs, speeding etc.)
 - e) I'll gladly take you to your soccer game when the lawn is mowed (fighting _____: I want that lawn cut now!)
 - f) Would you rather play quietly in the family room, or be noisy in your room
 - g) You may go out to play when you finish your piano lessons
 - h) You may listen to your Christian CD's or read and go to sleep when you're tired, but Mom and Dad need our quiet time together alone to talk and pray at 8pm (each night)
 - i) You may eat what is served at supper, or wait to see if breakfast is more appealing to you (cereal option?)
 - j) I'll gladly read you a story at bedtime as soon as your done with your bath
 - k) Child not eating at Burger King: "The car leaves in 5 minutes; either leave with me hungry or not hungry"
 - l) Would you rather pick up your toys or _____ me to do it with your allowance?
 - m) These _____ remind the child-teen you are in control and they have consequences to decision making...
- iii. Make choices carefully...
- a) Not _____ what to say...do?
 - b) Consequences need not always be immediate (70A.D.)
 - c) "Honey, I'll think about this and we'll talk more later"

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- d) Make choices you can _____ with; don't provide a choice you won't like, because that's the one they'll choose!
- e) NEVER give a choice you will not be willing to let the child _____ the consequences of
- f) Never give choices when the child could be in danger
- g) Your attitude is _____ when giving choices...calm, loving as God is with you...
- h) IF the child refuses the 2 choices, the 3rd is easy: YOU decide for them, and make it painfully consequential!

B. Guarding the _____ of God (Mt. 5:16)

1. Faithfully parenting is richly rewarded (Heb. 11:6; 3 Jn. 4)
2. Faith-builders for our children (Eph. 3:20)
 - a. Experiential wisdom that God is _____...
 - b. Intersecting our lives in relevant ways _____ (Acts 17:28)
 - c. Develops through low _____ decision making process of training
 - d. Consequences as biblical benchmarks of real _____ scenarios
 - e. Faithfully _____ our children...TO THINK...(Prov. 20:11; 2 Cor. 13:5)
 - i. "Honey I'm excited to see what Jesus will help you decide" (Jer. 33:3)
 - ii. "How do you think God sees this?"(Mt. 7:7)
 - iii. "Have you prayed about it, and searched the Scriptures?" (Mt. 6:33)
 - iv. "What do you think Jesus would do in this situation?" (Phil. 2:5)
 - v. "Do you have deep _____ about your decision?" (Isa. 48:18, 22; Phil. 4:4-9)
3. SUMMARY... IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START THESE STRATEGIES FOR GOD'S GLORY (Isa. 55:6-11)



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