

## **Leadership in the Home**

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

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### **Course description: Part 5**

This course continues to explore the importance of leadership in the home. In our lesson today, we focus on the role of parents raising their children at the various ages of their life. Specifically, this lesson discusses a number of suggestions to help parents lead their children, especially as it relates to discipline.

### **Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:**

- A. Described five critical components of discipline.
- B. Discussed at least ten suggestions to help parents in the task of leading their children through each stage of life.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Spend the first few minutes of class reviewing previous discussion about the stages of a child's life and the necessity of a parent's role in leading them through these stages to reach adulthood.
- B. Keep the class in groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to take the next 5-10 minutes to list out five ways parents should discipline children.
- C. After they complete this task, ask each group to share their list (one at a time) and make a list on the whiteboard for further discussion. The following are areas that should be included if they are not listed by the group.
  - 1. Make sure the child understands what is expected of them.
  - 2. Make sure they understand why they are being punished.
  - 3. Always avoid publicly embarrassing the child (regardless of age).
  - 4. Be consistent in the application of discipline.
  - 5. Never physically hurt the child.
  - 6. Always confirm and show your love and affection for the child after punishment. Parents must be sure the child understands they are loved despite their disobedience.
  - 7. Consider that corporal punishment should only be used when the child has been rebellious, not just when they make a mistake.

8. It is very important that both parents agree regarding the application of discipline. Take a moment here to discuss with the class the need for parents to establish a standard of discipline that will be consistently upheld. There should be a standard by which parents can identify with the child. Here are the rules and when the rules are broken, these are the consequences. This way it does not have to be discussed “depending on the situation.” Consistency is key.
9. Do not punish the child simply because we feel sorry for something they did or said in the presence of others, nor out of personal frustration.

D. Here are a few additional suggestions to consider with regards to leading children from every stage of their life into adulthood.

1. Selflessness should begin early in a child’s life through their example and teaching.
  - a. Teach the biblical principles presented in Philippians 2:3-5 (also see Ephesians 5:21).
  - b. Demonstrate a love for other family members (1 Timothy 5:4, 8).
  - c. Demonstrate a love for our neighbors (Luke 10:29-37).
  - d. Demonstrate a love for the needy (James 1:27).
  - e. Demonstrate a love for lost souls (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).
  - f. Demonstrate a love for weak and struggling Christians (Galatians 6:2).
2. Remember that a child does not need everything they want or perhaps what we want for them.
3. Children need time much more than material things.
4. Television is an ally of the world, not for Christian parents leading their children.
5. Always take children to all Bible classes of the church (and assist yourself whenever possible)
6. Always set aside the necessary time to listen when children want to talk. The earlier in their life this is established the more likely it will carry into adolescence and adulthood.
7. Help children participate in something that interests them.
8. Never curse or ridicule children.
9. Allow children to suffer the consequences of their mistakes.
10. Be consistent.
11. Invite people who love and serve God into your home often.

12. Do not abandon the truth.
13. Do not despair.
14. Admit mistakes when we make them and apologize to children if they are affected by our mistakes.
15. Pray without ceasing and do the best we can.

Conclusion:

- A. The transition from one stage of a child's life to the next is always challenging. Parents will face difficulty in all stages of life, but our role must be to lead them to become the Christian adults God wants them to be in this world.
- B. We cannot emphasize enough the vital role that parents play in leading children through each stage of their life.
- C. Next week's lesson moves into another section of leadership in the home.