

# Parenting: Establishing Authority

## Session 3 | Consequences and Correction

*\*\*Note: Items in BLUE are not found in class participant notes\*\**

### What the Bible Says About Consequences

*2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations **of our sinful nature**. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.*

-Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT

*A youngster’s heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away.*

-Proverbs 22:15 NLT

*Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.*

-Proverbs 13:24 NLT

*5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child,[e] don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*

-Hebrews 12:5-11 NLT

### 3 Big Ideas:

1. God disciplines and even punishes those who He loves.
2. Discipline is for our holiness.
3. Part of [our] fallen nature is that [our] pride is self-exalting and fully engaged

“Pain and suffering is a legitimate part of our holiness.”

## 5 Corrective Discipline Ideas

1. Isolation
2. Loss of Privilege
3. Chastisement
4. Natural Consequences
5. Creative Consequences

**ISOLATION:** Remove a child from a situation before it gets out of hand

- Examples of Isolation, and when it might be needed:

### LOSS OF PRIVILEGE

- Examples of Loss of Privilege and when it might be needed:

**CHASTISEMENT:** Physical discipline generally used for direct disobedience

### NATURAL CONSEQUENCES

### CREATIVE CONSEQUENCES

- Examples of Creative Consequences, and when they might be needed:

Biggest critical, overarching idea is to be consistent.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why are consequences and correction necessary for raising children?
2. Which most accurately describes the state into which a child is born: They are born with a good nature, they are born with a sinful nature, they are born with a “blank slate”. What implications does this have for you as a parent?
3. Read Proverbs 13:24 and Hebrews 12:6-11 as a group. What are some things these passages teach us about what it means to love our children? What does it teach us about how to discipline and correct them?
4. What are the 5 aspects of corrective discipline? Which ones are easy for you? Which ones do you need the most help with?
5. Why is it important to be calm and consistent with discipline?
6. Why is it important that physical discipline be painful? What are some good boundaries to make sure you “sting” without bruising or injuring your child?

### “Bonus” Discussion Questions (Not in Class Notes)

1. What are some differences between childishness and foolishness?
2. What are some ways you have been creative in your discipline? What are some things you tried that have not worked? What have you seen work well?