

DVD

By the Bestselling Author of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

# Instructing a Child's Heart



A Thirteen-Part Video Series on Formative Instruction

## TEDD TRIPP



A Shepherding the Heart Resource





# Instructing a Child's Heart Video Series

Presented by Tedd Tripp

Discussion with Margy Tripp

Discussion Outline for Thirteen-Part  
Video Series on Formative Instruction

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# Introduction

Welcome to *Instructing a Child's Heart* DVD series.

Thank you for taking the time to view these sessions. They cover material that has been drawn from years of life experience and energized by the power of God's Word. You will come face-to-face with God's direction for your family. The issues addressed in this series are issues not commonly spoken about. I urge you to pray for God's Spirit to help you grasp these truths.

One of the blessings of technology is the stop button on your video player or remote. Don't be afraid to use it as you go through the material. Take time to let these biblical truths sink in. At the beginning of each session you will find an introductory paragraph.

I have been privileged to study this material for presentation to you and I have been challenged afresh by the life-changing power of the Word of God.

I pray this will be the case for you also as you view the DVDs. May God bless you and your family as you incorporate these truths into your lives.

Jay Younts

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## Session 1

# Life is a Classroom

### Introduction

This introductory session covers material that is both obvious and profound. What is obvious is often overlooked, as is the case with this theme. The pace of daily life is hectic. This pace works to obscure the reality that life really is a classroom. All of life is a learning experience. Once this truth is grasped, the profundity of this premise becomes clear. Life is a classroom. Instruction, good or bad, is constant. Life is actually the laboratory where theology is tried and tested. In this session Tedd introduces the concept of formative instruction. Focus thoughtfully on this point, as it will be foundational to much of what follows in upcoming sessions. Formative instruction defines what is worth living and dying for. This is instruction that takes place in the middle of life itself, in the planned moments, but most importantly in the unplanned moments. Session one draws your attention to this obvious—yet profound—reality.

#### A. We tend to think of training as a formal time.

1. However, all of life is a classroom.
2. Consider the sufficiency of scripture as a textbook for life.
3. You need more than tips and ideas.

#### B. Note Chart

1. Mind and heart – The heart thinks as well.

#### C. Life is a classroom

1. Dominated by majority culture
2. Becomes major instruction tool in life
3. Authority and traditional values stink

#### D. Life is a deceptive classroom

1. The classroom curriculum of the world is geared to attract those who are simple.

## **E. Note Bullet points from Psalm 1**

### **E. Formative instruction from the majority culture is a frightening reality**

1. Instruction that shapes your children – who is doing the shaping?
2. Children learn to evaluate life.
3. Guard them from the formative instruction of the world.
4. Teaches children what to believe and think.
5. Foundation for effective corrective discipline.
6. Formative instruction is not corrective discipline, but it allows things that you say in corrective situations to make sense.
7. Formative instruction defines what is worth living and dying for.
8. Don't make the majority culture a welcome guest in your home and then scold your children for fraternizing with the enemy.
  - Computer games etc.
9. Formative instruction is a way of life – children need daily confrontation with truth.
10. Vision for formative instruction from Infancy to adulthood.

### **F. Goals for Formative Instruction**

1. Show who God is and what he has done.
  - Creation fall and redemption
2. Your instruction must rest on God's revealed truth – not your whims.
3. Value of Scripture. Brief overview of Scripture.
4. Only the scripture can make sense of your life experience.
  - Make the bible your family album.



- Age appropriate scripture reading and study.
5. Early instruction provides the patterns and habits in life that are resistant to change
  6. To be biblical your presentation of formative instruction must be authoritative, gracious and firmly representing boundaries that God has set for man in the world.

#### **G. Habits and Patterns of Life that Reflect Truth**

1. Application of truth
2. Children need specific applications to connect scripture to life.
3. Lab of life where theology of life is tested.
4. Thrill your children with the stories of Scripture.
5. Knowledge of scripture is translated into bold action; don't shrink back from giving this vision to your children.

#### **H. Model Spiritual vitality for your children.**

1. Show a vital relationship with God in joys and sorrows of life. Your home is the lab of life – children must see you loving God.

**Goal** = Grow towards mutuality of relationship in God's kingdom—Joshua, etc. Must not set our sight too low, to think only about survival.

## Session 2

# Deuteronomy Six and Formative Instruction

### Introduction

The vital role of the family in providing formative instruction is highlighted as this session begins. This is followed by discussion of the significance of the three-generation vision of Deuteronomy 6. Your instruction and discipline will impact your grandchildren! The world also engages in formative instruction. But the world's instruction speaks against the redemptive purposes of God. The stakes are high. The call to train your children for God is a task that cannot be contained to particular times. Formative instruction takes place on a 24/7 basis whether you are conscious of it or not. The enemy vies constantly for your children's attention. Deuteronomy 6 provides the direction you need to combat the culture's influence. The material of this session is absolutely essential if your children are to grow in the knowledge and love of God. The foundations of formative instruction are much more than academic

**A. A distinctively Christian worldview** provides an accurate biblical perspective and makes sense of the things that Christian parents require of children.

- We can make massive assumptions about what we think our children understand. This is often because we don't spend enough time to give children the framework to understand our instruction. This framework is **formative instruction**.

**B. Deuteronomy 6 is the basis for Formative Instruction.**

**C. The primary place to receive formative instruction is your family.** Not the church or other places.

1. Family is the primary place where culture is addressed: issues that touch on authority, gender, ethics, etc.
2. The dominant culture around us is determined to remove biblical truth from western consciousness. Our culture is accurately described in Ephesians 4:17-19.
3. Formative Instruction is needed in a culture where perversion becomes mainstream entertainment. You must use formative instruction to self-consciously instill biblical ways of thinking and interpreting life.

## **Deuteronomy Six - A Three Generation Vision**

### **A. You, your children and your grandchildren are to be the focus.**

1. There is more on the line than just addressing the problem of the moment. Focusing only on the immediate will short circuit your labors. You want to do more than just to solve immediate issues and then get on with life. Don't think survival, think Kingdom!
2. Your desire is to instill love for God in the ways of your children.
3. You want your children and your grandchildren to follow the ways of God.
4. When you discipline and instruct you must be concerned where your grandchildren will be 50 years from now. See Psalm 78 and its focus on the next generation. A truly biblical vision offers a generational culture to our children.
5. As an example, consider the impact of the gospel upon Europe by the early church.

**B. The work of formative instruction** is to provide a cultural framework that flows from rich biblical soil.

### **C. When do you do this work? You must be engaged in this all of the time.**

1. Formal times—family worship—regular part of life offering the good rituals of sameness.
2. Informal times—sitting around the house, hanging out together, following the Deuteronomy six model all through the day.
3. Use practical times to address the daily struggles of life. This is important for the application of formative instruction. Make the most of every opportunity to show the power of God to your children. Use every moment to honor God. This is not a non-stop monolog.

### **D. Use this time as a lens to show them the glory of God in all of the ordinary stuff of life.**

1. Every opportunity to talk is an opportunity to infuse all of life with an understanding of God's ways and God's truth. This is life for us.
2. The home itself is to become part of the message of what is truly life.

3. The ways of God must be taught by someone who has personally embraced them.

**E. The foundations of formative instruction are spiritual, not just conceptual. This is more than academic ideas.**

1. If God's word is not dear to you it will not be important to your children.
  - Taste and see that the Lord is God—Psalm 34
  - These commands that I give you this day are to be upon your hearts. Being awed by God yourself is key to transmitting this truth to your children. You must delight in God.
2. Why do we have to do all this stuff? What is the meaning of the choices that you have made for your family? Deuteronomy 6:20

**F. Formative Instruction embeds life in a redemptive framework.**

1. Life is lived from this framework rather than the non-redemptive framework of the world. God has brought us from darkness to light. We have experienced redemption. This is why we make different choices than others around us. We have chosen to organize life around knowing God.
2. Formative Instruction is the foundation for corrective discipline. Formative Instruction is done all the time every day. Corrective discipline is done at special times. It appeals to Formative Instruction. It is what you do in special times when something has gone wrong.
3. Formative instruction is attractive to you as a child of God.
4. Don't allow understanding this truth to discourage you and don't beat yourself up over your failures. We must have an active view of the grace of God in our lives. If you focus on beating yourself up over your failures you will reinforce your pride. It moves you away from God rather than to God. You must go to God. Ask God to help you trust him for the grace you need to step out in humble in obedience. God has not only told us what to do he has given us what we need. This models spiritual vitality to your children.

## Session 3

# Embracing God's plan for Authority

### Introduction

Perhaps there is no better illustration that our culture has turned from God's ways than the almost total rejection of authority. Again, formative instruction has a vital role to play. Biblical formative instruction is uniquely suited to help your children understand the role that authority is supposed to play in their lives. Without understanding authority there is no way to appreciate the hierarchical structure that God has given man for his good. Authority provides structure to life, whether it is in the context of the family, church, state, or the work place. Authority is an essential concept; it must be embraced. For example, the role of authority is crucial to making good decisions. Tedd gives definitions of key terms in this session. Be sure to watch for them. Our culture has made authority and freedom into polar opposites, but in the real world—God's world—true freedom is understanding God's laws and living by them. Let's get started.

### A. Authority

1. God has established his hierarchy in his world.
2. Formative instruction gives your children a distinctly Christian culture.
3. Authority is more than teaching children to obey.
  - The dominant culture in which we live is not a Christian culture.
  - Therefore, our world is out of synch with God's plan for authority.
4. In our culture authority is either derived from overwhelming force or from consent.
5. Biblical vision must start with God and the hierarchy that God has established.
6. It is a blessing for us to live in the structure of God's authority.

### B. Psalm 8 provides a framework for understanding of this blessing of authority.

1. **God** – creator, ruler of all things

2. **Angels** – ministering spirits
3. **Mankind** – a little lower than the angels
4. **Animals** – beasts, birds, fish
5. **Inanimate creation**
6. This hierarchy does not give man the right to spoil the creation.

**C. Mankind: Equality & Authority**

- As people we are all equal before God. There is dignity for image bearers.

**D. But in a family structure there is an authority structure.**

- This is also true in church, state and work place.

**E. This note of authority structure is not part of modern culture.**

- You must provide this understanding of authority for your children. Without including this larger worldview structure your children will not have a context to understand the exercise of your authority in the home.

**F. With regard to authority Christians have been taken captive by the hollow and deceptive culture.**

- We tend to follow our culture, which emphasizes that all are equal and authority structures are unhealthy.

**G. The passage which teaches this structure for families is Ephesians 6:1-3.**

- It is in this circle of safety in which children are to live. As children live within the boundaries of the circle it will go well with them.
- Learning to live in the circle of obedience is a process, not an event!

**H. Cultural influences on the family structure:**

1. Parents question the fairness of being an authority.
2. Parents tend to think of authority as despotism. Parents, thus give away their authority in hundreds of little ways. Note Tedd's examples.
3. When young children are given choices parents think that they are teaching their children to be decision makers. Biblically, the way to teach young children to be decision makers is to model good decision-making for them.

4. When you allow your children to be *independent decision makers* you give them an appetite for a liberty that does not exist and a mistaken notion of freedom.

- Nowhere in the plan of God am I to be an independent person with no one over me. I am always a person under authority. True freedom is understanding God's laws and walking in them.

**I. Note the definitions of these key terms:**

- Obedience
  - Honor
  - Go well
  - Long life

This is not to say that tragic things do not happen.

*These are life-giving terms for your children.*

**Question**—if you make all the decisions how will you teach your children to be good decisions makers?

**J. Note the chart:**

**1. Model good decision making**

**2. Help them distinguish between:**

- **Boundary issues and**
- **Wisdom issues**
- **Provide opportunities to practice**
- **Christ is our model**

**3. Christ shows us that submission does not mean inferiority**

**4. Christ empowers our submission**

## Session 4

# Getting to the Heart of Behavior

### Introduction

Getting to the heart means getting to grace. If behavior is the focus of parenting, it is difficult to speak of the gospel. But by focusing on the heart you can make the gospel the centerpiece of parenting. As you view this session notice how central the heart is in the Bible itself. God is concerned with what is inside a person, not what is on the outside. One point that is often overlooked is the benefit to children of understanding how the heart impacts behavior. This understanding is crucial if children are to develop a biblical self-awareness. This session contains material that is essential for God-honoring parenting.

#### A. The Heart is the Center Core of our Being.

- Example - the half price sale at Radio Shack.
- Reality is that children's behavior is heart-driven.

#### B. Proverbs 4:23 – We live out of our hearts

- The course of life flows from the heart. We must give children insight about how the heart works.
- The biblical data about the heart is overwhelming – over 800 references

#### C. Note columns on Chart:

Cognitive	Worship	Emotional
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#### D. Note the biblical adjectives that describe the heart

#### E. God looks upon the heart – I Samuel 16

1. Man looks upon the outward appearance.
2. See also Deuteronomy 10:12
3. Major Old Testament Emphasis

#### F. This also a major emphasis in the teaching of Christ



1. Jesus draws the boundary at the level of the heart, not outward behavior. Mark 7:20-23
2. Jesus says these people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.
3. Examples of behavior that flows from the heart.

**G. It is a tremendous benefit for children to understand how the heart impacts behavior.**

1. Note Luke 6:43-45: Good trees produce good fruit.
  - Example of Apple Tree
2. How many times do we hang apples on the tree instead of looking for real fruit from the heart.
3. Example of the shut-up jar.

**H. The precision of James as it addresses the heart. See Chart.**

1. Motivation comes from the heart. James 4:1-2
  - **When of behavior**
  - **What of behavior**
  - **Why of behavior**
2. Formative instruction helps children understand that behavior is driven by the heart.
3. Parents are tempted to go for behavior management rather than to focus on the heart.
  - Focus on the heart does not mean that you won't deal with behavior rather you learn how to deal with behavior.

**I. Benefits of Getting to the Heart**

- Shows your kids the deep need for grace.
- Shows your kids the need for input from others.
- Shapes your ministry to your children.

**J. Children need to be shown the grace of the gospel.**

## Session Five

# Rooting Consequences in Biblical Soil

### Introduction

If the role of consequences is not understood from a scriptural perspective, parents easily to fall into behaviorism. As Tedd says, “The temptation is to substitute the behaviorism of the culture for the power of the Word of God.” Notice in particular the distinction he makes between the concept of natural consequences and consequences that are shaped by authorities. The material in this section is vital to understanding the impact of the culture on your children. Pay close attention to the definition of key terms like behaviorism, sowing and reaping. This session will help you to reap for eternity!

### A. What is the Sowing and Reaping Process?

1. Is there a place for consequences?
2. Consequences are not separated from the shepherding process

### B. Key Definitions:

#### 1. Behaviorism

These methods can control behavior but will not move us toward loving God and loving others

#### 2. Biblical Consequences

#### 3. Heart change is the goal

C. **The temptation** is to substitute the behaviorism of the culture for the power of the Word of God.

1. Culture has no doctrine for internal change
  - We however, have the hope of the Gospel
  - It is the unfolding of God’s truth that brings light. God changes hearts.
2. What role do consequences have in this process?

3. Sowing & Reaping principle helps us understand how to practice consequences in this process.

**D. Positive impact of Sowing and Reaping**

**1. Galatians 6:7-8 - sowing to the Spirit**

- Sowing and Reaping is planting and harvesting.
- This sowing and reaping process sets biblical consequences apart from behavioristic consequences.

**E. See Chart that contrasts between Behaviorism and Sowing & Reaping**

1. Negative consequences can lead to bitterness.
2. Positive behavioral consequences can lead to a sense of entitlement.
3. Random consequences promote rebellion in our children.
4. Goal of biblical consequences is to display the light of God in the world.
5. Biblical Illustrations
6. Biblical consequences always point towards restoration.

**F. Two Types of Consequences**

1. Natural Consequences—what happens if no one interferes
2. Consequences that are shaped by authorities
  - This is not what a parent is doing to you but what you have brought on yourself.
  - Don't want adversarial relationship with child.

**G. Issues to discuss with the 10 year old who needs to take out the trash; with regard to sowing & reaping.**

➤ **See Chart – Spiritual Dimensions of Reaping**

**1. Relationship with God**

- **God will not be mocked**

**2. Habits for life**

- **Bad habits will prove hard to shake**

### **3. Reputation**

- **How do you want to be considered**

### **4. Relationship**

- **Behavior impacts all relationships**

### **5. Long term usefulness in God's Kingdom**

### **6. Important outcomes are not immediate**

These are not easy concepts for your children to grasp. You must illustrate them, e.g. Prodigal Son

- **We reap for eternity: Life and destruction are in play**

#### **H. If children only think of consequences as things we do to them when they are bad,**

- They will have a truncated and weak view of consequences. This view must be robust. Children must understand that sin destroys relationships.
  1. Behaviorism sometimes works – but everything that works is not always appropriate. Just because something works does not mean it is right.
  2. Behaviorism ultimately means that children can live in God's world without the grace of Christ.

#### **I. How can you bring consequences to your children that mirror the sowing and reaping principles of Scripture?**

1. Be a student of the Scriptures
2. Prayer is essential
3. Shepherd your own heart – “these things are to be upon your own hearts”

## Session 6

# ***Helping Children see the Glory of God***

### **Introduction**

Problems in life are essentially problems in worship. Problems with behavior reflect more profound issues of worship. This session contains an important survey of passages that show the significance of living for the glory of God. You will also learn why seeking the glory of God is so important. This session is one that you will want to view again—it is that important!

#### **A. Formative Instruction provides biblical ways of thinking**

1. Culture addresses the question “What is worth living for?”
  - Psalm 145
2. Children are worshippers.
3. Children will worship God or worship idols – Romans 1
4. The danger is that the Glory of God will be exchanged for the worship of something else.
5. Children are spring loaded for worship.

#### **B. Humans are made to be dazzled**

1. Children will be dazzled by God or some other things.

#### **C. The problems of life are essentially worship problems.**

1. Behavior problems reflect the more profound worship problem.
2. Bad behavior is never solved at the level of behavior, but of worship.

#### **D. Note the Chart on the Idols of the Heart**

1. **Power and Influence**
2. **Pride and Performance**
3. **Pleasure and sensuality**

**4. Possessions**

**5. Desire to approved by others / Fear of man**

**E. The Test of Idolatry**

**Psalm 145** establishes the significance of seeking the glory of God

1. One generation will commend your works to another.
2. Your calling as parent is to show your children the glory God.

**F. Important Survey of key Psalms**

1. Psalm 4:6-7
2. Psalm 16
3. Psalm 17:13-15
4. Psalm 27:1-6
  - The most profound deliverance is to know God.
5. Psalm 36:5-9
6. Psalm 63:1-5
7. Psalm 73:25-26
8. Psalm 81:10,16
  - We live in dangerous days; we have reduced the gospel and lost sight of the glory of God.
9. Psalm 96:1-3
10. Matthew 13:44
  - Encourage your children with the reality that they must have God no matter what it costs.

**G. Why is seeking the glory of God so important?**

1. What we do with God determines how we interpret life.
2. Solid and lasting joys are found in knowing God.

3. You must be dazzled by God to dazzle to your kids.
4. Your children can see and embrace the glory of God.
  - See note from Tedd's son
5. Beholding his glory transforms us into His likeness.

**H. Christian life begins with the glory of God**

You must have this vision for the Glory of God before you can give this vision to your children.

## Session 7

# ***Distinguishing Wisdom and Vanity or Foolishness***

### **Introduction**

While the differences between wisdom and foolishness may be obvious, foolishness often attempts to masquerade as wisdom. Foolishness, essentially, is attempting to find pleasure apart from the glory of God. The fear of the Lord is the ultimate protection against foolishness. Parent, your task is to get there early and often with the message of the fear of the Lord in everyday life. Note the screen slides that show the Profile of the Wise. This is important material. Foolishness leads to desires that can never be satisfied. Only wisdom leads to true satisfaction.

### **A. Understanding the glory of God will set your child's feet on the pathway of wisdom.**

- We live in a culture that sanctions foolishness
  - **Wisdom & Foolishness**
    - The fool says in his heart, there is no God.
    - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.
    - Young children can learn this.
    - Your children cannot interpret life wisely without the fear of the Lord.

### **B. Profile of a Fool – Ecclesiastes**

- **Pleasure seeker** - *Whatever you want is the essence of happiness*
  1. If you say there is no God, there is no internal resistance to the fool's offer.
  2. You must show your children this contrast. Simply urging them to do the right things will not be enough.
  3. **Ways to find pleasure other than the glory of God:**
    - Pleasure through hilarity



- Pleasure through Substances
- Pleasure through party life
  - Reality Check
    - Sensuality deadens the soul
    - Must expose the folly of the fool

#### **4. Achieving Success & Accomplishment**

- Success that does not find its motivation in glorifying God is never satisfied.
- Accumulating Possessions.

#### **C. Education without God**

1. Why learn?
2. Human problems cannot be solved by education
3. The fool's problem is not an information deficit
4. Many voices in our culture speak with the perspective of a fool

#### **D. What does God want you to do?**

- Your task as a parent is to get there early and often with message of the fear of the Lord
  1. Conversation about two kinds of people in the world
  2. Connect the dots for your children between their actions and the heart of a fool

#### **E. Profile of the Wise**

- **The Fear of the Lord**
  1. Brings understanding & knowledge
    - *Draw your children into your faith*
  2. Adds length to days
  3. Realigns our values

- *Without the fear of the Lord you can't know what is valuable*
- 4. Produces moral sensitivity
- 5. Gives true honor
  - *Think of creative ways to keep these truths in front of your children*
- 6. Only God can satisfy with pleasure
  - *When the fool says there is no God, he is making the insane assumption that satisfaction can be found in the finite and the temporal*
    - *The blessings of life cannot be fully known by the fool*
    - *Proverbs 2:1-5 is a primer on the pursuit of biblical wisdom*
- 7. The fear of the Lord is the protection from the temptations of the world
- 8. Grants true success
- 9. Educates for dominion
  - Modern man has reduced education to job training
- 10. If your children embrace the foolishness of the culture they will not be able to hear the wisdom of God

The time you spend in formative instruction will prepare the way for corrective discipline to be successful.

You must make clear this contrast between the wise man and the fool.

## Session 8

# Complete in Christ

### Introduction

Being complete in Christ is one of the foundational truths of the Christian life. This reality must be the cornerstone of your formative instruction. Relationships are such a significant part of our lives—it is important to realize that relationships began with God! God wrote the book on relationships; it is called the Bible. This session will give you a fresh perspective on the events of creation as they pertain to relationships. Because we are all dead in sin apart from Christ, relationships can only be redeemed as we come to Christ. Practically speaking this means that we are all “takers” in relationships and not givers. The only thing that can change this harsh reality is to become complete in Christ.

#### **A. Seeing the Scripture as our family album.**

We use words and concepts that can be a mysterious language to our children. Children may guess at the meaning of these things. So, parents may have spiritual expectations for children, but these expectations may be expressed in “religious words” that their children do not fully understand.

#### **B. Formative Instruction**

1. It is formative instruction that provides the connection between these religious words and the power of the gospel.
2. Thus, you want to show how redemption redefines relationships.
3. From Middle School on your children will be more concerned about relationships than what they are learning in school.

#### **C. Foundational truth of the Christian life is that we are complete in Christ.**

1. Regardless of temptations we have all that we need in Christ.
2. Even if children are not yet Christians this is a truth they need to understand
3. How do you communicate this to your children?

Where do relationships come from?

## **Chart: Relationships began in the Godhead**

### **D. Love, Communication and Purpose all exist in the Godhead**

1. Because man is created in the image of God he is a relational being.
2. Relationships within the Genesis account.
3. Man was designed for relationship.

### **E. The fall broke this relational communion with God**

1. Adam & Eve became enemies of God.
2. All of creation impacted by sin.
3. One flesh relationship in marriage negatively impacted.
4. Adam & Eve driven from the garden.

### **F. Now all are dead in sin**

1. Man's problem is not what he does but what he is.
  - Circumstances are not why we sin
  - Satan's appeal to Adam & Eve is the same one that he uses today
2. Sin did not bring the need for revelation from God, being a creature brought this need.

### **G. Man has become a taker**

1. Because of the fall man, in his sin, has great needs, therefore he becomes a taker in relationships.

### **H. The wonder of Calvary is that God's holiness and justice is satisfied by the sacrifice of Christ!**

1. God's anger must be satisfied. This was done in Christ. II Cor. 5:21
2. Thus relationship between man and God is restored at the Cross
3. We are complete in Christ!
4. We are alive in Christ
5. If I have experienced the grace of God in Christ I no longer have to be a taker.

6. If your child is in Christ, he is okay with regard to the problems of life.
- As your children come to Christ they can move toward the people in their world with open hands. This is exciting material to give to your kids. They no longer have to look at other people with the lens of wondering what those people can do for them.
  - It is vital to help our children see how redemption transforms relationships.
  - Let's not believe that these things can only be grasped by adults.

## Session 9

# Life in the Body of Christ

### Introduction

As Christian families become more and more caught up in busy schedules, the role of the church has been downplayed. Yet the church is God's family. It must be the central component of your family life because God designed us to function in a spiritual community. As important as the family is, it is designed by God to be a part of the spiritual community of the church. Your family needs to function in the context of the broader church community. The church is the larger milieu where your children can grow to maturity. Just as the church cannot survive without families, so families cannot survive apart from the church. The church is not perfect, but nothing else can provide the biblical framework that is essential for bringing honor and glory to God.

#### A. The Church is God's Family

1. The church is an essential element of passing our faith on to our children.
2. Examples of how the church is not really the priority it should be.
3. The church is important to help provide a biblical worldview.

#### B. Note the Centrality of the Church as God's family

1. People are made for community
2. Church is a spiritual family
  - Your family life is a representation of the family of God.
  - A child's spiritual health and well-being depend upon God's provision of a spiritual community.
  - Your experience as family prepares your children for life in God's family.
  - This is why God gives us familial terms as he describes the church.
3. God is a nurturing Father

- God's relationship to his people is a picture of dependence & trust, just like a child's relationship his parents
- We are adopted into his family

**C. The church is an extension of your family**

1. Family life and church life are designed to run parallel during your children's development years.
  - God has designed the church as a means of safely delivering your children from the primary community of the family to the broader community of the church.
2. The church is a larger milieu where your children can grow to maturity.
  - We must practice biblical church life that expresses the meaning, purpose and dignity of human.
  - The church is an essential element of the culture we provide for our children.
  - The church provides the opportunity for a healthy transfer of the vision for the glory of God from one generation to the next.

**D. The church supports your Christian Worldview**

1. **The goal** is to have your children grow up to become a culture in of the city of God.
2. **Worship** – corporate worship supports your family worship
3. **Training** – the church aids your training of strong sturdy Christians
4. **God's Word** – the church underscores the Bible as satisfying and sufficient for all of life
5. **Loving authority** – the loving authority of the home is supported by the church
  - The leaders in the church underscore the pattern of accountability to authority
6. **Submission** – the church supports the dignity of living under authority
  - The secular culture distorts submission to mean disrespect and degradation

**7. Roles – the church provides models of biblical manhood and womanhood**

- Our culture believes that equality and submission are enemies
- God has established roles that are consistent he provides for us as image-bearers

**8. Social Consciousness – the church encourages a servant's heart**

- Humility and relationship are part of daily life practice
- The community of people in the church can become a powerful deterrent to the pull of the world culture

**9. Education – the church supports the family's education task**

- Parents are to be the primary educators of their children whether you home school, or use Christian school or public school
- This is not the perspective of the secular humanists who are attempting to take this responsibility away from parents.
- The church supports Christian education in the home as the primary means of instilling Christian values and ethics in children

**10. Free time – the church supports the stewardship of time**

- Entertainment is really only a discussion of priorities

**11. Relationships – the church models Christ-like relationships**

- Love is a good illustration of this reality

**E. The church is a shelter for you and your children to get rest to return to battle**

1. The church is the community where we live out our calling as the bride of Christ.

**F. There are marvelous implications for your family**

1. The church must a priority for believers
2. If church is a burdensome obligation then your children look to opt out of church
3. Your recruitment skills are a primary tool in Spirit's hand to work in their heart
4. Growing up in a church community can provide insight into heart struggles



## Session 10

# Getting from the Heart to Behavior

### Introduction

No, this is not a repeat of Session Four. This session brings out subtle distinctions you need to understand in order to move beyond behaviorism. If these distinctions are lost, the gospel will not be central and the real needs of the heart will not be addressed. One danger that every parent faces is hypocrisy. This session will help you to recognize your own hypocrisy and thus help you build solid relationships with your children. Heart change is far superior to the quick fixes of changing behavior alone. Tedd focuses on a common event in the life of children—a struggle over a toy—to highlight a crucial difference between behavior-driven parenting and heart-driven parenting.

- A. The goal of communication is to understand the person you are speaking to.**
- B. Moving from Formative Instruction to corrective discipline**
- C. Getting from behavior to the heart**
  - Struggle over the toy
    - Who had it first?
    - This is an attempt to solve problem on the level of behavior
- D. All behavior is heart driven – Mark 7:20-23**
  - 1. Danger of missing the heart**
    - Temptation to focus on behavior
    - Focus on behavior is illustrated by:
      - Share your toy
      - Leave your sister alone
      - Stop doing that

- Forms of manipulation - positive or negative

**E. What's wrong with behaviorism?**

1. Real need of the heart is not addressed
2. False basis for ethics – basis is pragmatic
  - The glory God is the biblical basis of ethics
3. If you want happy children teach them to be virtuous
  - **The heart is wrongly trained**
    - Whatever constrains behavior trains the heart
  - **The Gospel will not be central**
    - Hope of change is based on some form of manipulation.
  - **Shows our heart idols: control, pride, ease, fear of man, convenience**
    - These idols motivate us to act not for the well being of our child but for our own reputations.

**F. Note chart on Ungodly attitudes and Godly attitudes**

- Tedd is not suggesting that it is always wrong to correct behavior – you must act to address wrong behavior.
  - But even at this level you must have a bigger vision than just controlling behavior.

**G. Heart Change is Lasting Change**

- First clean the inside of the cup, then the outside will be clean Matthew 23:26
  - Obvious implication: until the inside is clean, the outside never will be

**H. You can begin to introduce the concept of heart issues to your pre-schoolers**

**I. The Slippery Slope of Hypocrisy**

- If I manipulate behavior I will hypocritically distance myself from my child
- When I do that the gospel will never be central
- The goal is to stand beside him as someone who also needs grace

- The goal is to ask questions that show his straying heart
  - Look for opportunities that do arise when you can address the issues of the heart
  - The gospel must be central rather than manipulation of behavior

## Session 11

# Sowing and Reaping as Discipline

### Introduction

This session is filled with practical instruction about how sowing and reaping works in your daily life. Sowing and reaping are foundational building blocks that help your children understand how life works. This is the context for corrective discipline. Biblically, corrective discipline is a rescue mission designed to return straying children back to the circle of safety. The on-screen slides describe the reaping process. They are worth your careful attention. These points are practical and essential if you want your discipline to be distinctly biblical. Discipline is a primary opportunity to remind your children that they need to repent and believe in Jesus Christ. This session will help you to give the precious gift of godly corrective discipline to your children.

*The corrective discipline aspect of sowing and reaping*

*Sowing and Reaping is a huge life lesson for our children*

### A. Sowing & Reaping Galatians 6:7-8

1. Corrective Discipline
2. The Sowing & Reaping principle at work
  - Corrective discipline is a rescue mission designed to return straying children back to the circle of safety.
3. Modeled for us by Christ
  - He is our substitute and advocate
    - God's purpose in discipline is always to restore
  - We imitate his humility, patience & long-suffering

B. **Example:** Your son Billy is complaining about a number of things and has a bad attitude. How do you work through the process?

1. The Reaping Process
2. Ask questions to draw your child out

- Ask age appropriate questions

### **3. Remind him of formative instruction**

- Whatever struggles and sins are common to your child's daily life should be the stuff of your devotional time with this child

### **4. There are serious outcomes that you are reaping**

- **Spiritual Dimensions of Reaping**

#### **1. Relationship with God**

- God will not be mocked

#### **2. Habits for life**

- Bad habits will prove hard to shake

#### **3. Reputation**

- How do you want to be considered?

#### **4. Relationship**

- Behavior impacts all relationship

#### **5. Long term usefulness in God's Kingdom**

#### **6. Important outcomes are not immediate**

### **C. How can I help you?**

#### **1. Identify with his struggle**

- Come along side your child, acknowledge your own dependence on God
- Design ways of helping that let your child know you understand his struggle
- Christ has helped us so that we can help our children (Hebrews 2)

#### **2. Identify for him sowing to the Spirit**

- What should Billy have done when he couldn't find the shirt he wanted?

### **D. You must not; you may not, continue to act, respond or talk in this way**

1. There is a standard that you must obey

- 2. In light of what you have sown...**

- Here is the consequence you will suffer in light of the choices you have made.

- 3. Opportunity for him to respond**

1. Is there anything you would like to respond to, is there any way in which I have misunderstood or misrepresented you?
2. Kind and gracious dialogue is essential.
3. Monologue is not godly communication.

**E. Pray for and with him**

The goal of shepherding your children is not that they will turn out right. The goal is to be faithful to the work that God has given us. Discipline is a primary opportunity to remind your children that they need to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

# Session 12

## Communication

### Introduction

This session on communication is powerful. It combines the principles and thoughts of the previous lessons into a practical illustration of how to speak wisely to your children. Take some time to consider the implications of this session. Applying these truths to your everyday life will stretch you as a parent, as a spouse, as a Christian. It will take both courage from God and trust in God's word to have your speech paradigm shaped by what you will see and hear as you watch this video. As you consider the means, manner and goal of biblical communication pray that God will work in you to accomplish his will and good pleasure in your life.

#### **A. Communication is dictated by your parenting paradigm**

- Focus in this series is on parental nurture rather than control
- Harsh, scolding words track with parenting that focuses on control
- Restraint, pleasant words and understanding track with a focus on nurture

#### **B. Three aspects of Communication**

- Restraint
- Pleasant Words
- Understanding

#### **C. Biblical Communication is not a matter of techniques**

- Biblical communication is spiritual &
- Reflects a life of faith
- Means of biblical communication – Restraint
- Fear of the Lord brings wisdom

- These are the qualities that will allow you to speak to your children with spiritual wisdom

#### **D. Means of Communication – Restraint**

- **Quiet Speech**
  - “Telling it like is”, is not always a biblical model
  - Power in quiet words
  - Shouting:
    - Trivializes words
    - Puts meaning in the background and emotion in the foreground
- **Avoid too many words**
  - The more words, the less meaning
  - Long conversations can exasperate children
  - Where words are many, sin is not absent
  - In an emotionally draining conversation, you will find yourself saying unguarded, destructive things to your children
- **Think first – Speak second**
  - The wise man weighs his answers
  - The wicked man gushes out evil – Proverbs 29:20
  - Words that are carefully chosen are a blessing to the speaker and to the hearer

#### **E. Manner of Communication – Pleasant Words**

- **Pleasant words promote instruction**
- **Pleasant words are a honeycomb**
  - Wisdom reflected in pleasant speech
  - The task of helping children embrace your warnings is difficult enough without adding additional barriers of harsh words



- When angry words are used it does not matter how accurate they may be, they accomplish nothing
- Angry words undermines instruction
- **A wise tongue commends knowledge**
  - *You must have the courage to ask yourself, are your words nourishing to your child?*
  - Your speech must be crafted to be beautiful speech

#### F. Goal of Communication - Understanding

- The finest art of communication is not your ability to express your ideas, its your ability to understand your child
- **Proverbs 18:2**
- **Proverbs 18:13**
- **Proverbs 20:5**

Teens raised with behaviorism, especially mixed with Christian values, are often sullen, bitter and rebellious. If this is true of you, it is not too late. Godly nurture is the best shaping influence for your children's life. God can grant great grace even if you have made many mistakes in communicating with your children.

#### G. Closing thoughts

- 2 Peter 1:3&4
- His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness as parents.
- Grace in Christ for everything that we need as parents has been given to us!
- You have no more important job than instructing the hearts of your children.

## Session 13

# The Gospel is for Christians

### Introduction

Congratulations—you have come to the last session! But, as the saying goes, the last is not the least. This session points you again to Christ and his gospel. If you do not value the gospel deeply, it will be difficult for your children to do so. True hope is to be found only at the foot of the cross. The gospel is front and center in life. Tedd concludes with specific needs addressed by the gospel. While these things obviously apply to your children, they are also true for you as well.

Thank you for working through these video sessions. May God richly bless you as you instruct the hearts of your children.

### A. Centrality of the Gospel —The Gospel Must be the Main Thing

- The grace of the Gospel must be central in your thinking.

#### 1. Hope for me and my child is found at the foot of the Cross

- In this regard we are in need of two things:
  - Righteousness to replace our unrighteousness
  - Someone like us in our humanity yet unlike us in our sinfulness
- We must not move beyond the gospel
- *The problem of hypocrisy is the greatest where the emphasis is on behavior rather than on the heart*

### B. Helping Children Prize the Gospel

#### 1. The problem of sin is not what we do, it is what we are.

- A man steals because he is a thief.
- Since behavior is heart driven I have to speak to behavior in ways that focus on heart change and not simply behavioral change.

- This truth can help you keep the gospel central in your discipline and correction.

## **2. If all we needed was information, God would have sent a prophet; He sent a Savior**

- “Daddy needs God everyday, just like you do.”
- If you make behavior the primary thing that is wrong you will never get to the hope and power of the Gospel.

## **3. Specific Needs Addressed by the Gospel**

- **Cleansing**
  - Ezekiel 36 and John 3
- **Forgiveness**
- **Internal Change**
  - Only grace can change the heart
- **Empowerment**
- **Motivation that flows from grace**
  - Times of correction, discipline and nurture are times for discipleship.
  - Rather than think in terms of crime and punishment we must think in terms of discipleship and ministry.
  - Did you ever notice how much your children are like you?
  - If you emphasize human need you must emphasize grace and forgiveness.
  - Forgiveness is based upon the payment made by Christ.
  - Grace is motivation for godliness – Romans 12:1
  - The pattern of the apostles is to promote grace-motivated obedience.

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#### **4. Review of some key terms**

- Justification
- Sanctification
- It is easy for children to confuse the ongoing struggle with sin with God's finished work in justification.
- It is easy in dealing with children who frequently fail to forget our frequent failings and to respond to them as if they shouldn't have any struggles in dealing with sin if they were really Christians. This places a legalistic burden on children.

#### **5. Help your children to see the grace of the gospel!**