

## *Training Your Child To Be A Good Decision Maker*

### **Typical Bad Decisions**

- **90%** of church kids will have tried alcohol by 18.
- **50%** of church kids will have tried an illegal substance by 18.
- Parents must start training children **early** to make wise decisions later.

### **Discipline – What Is It?**

- Discipline is not a synonym for **punishment**
- Discipline means to give systematic **instruction**.
- Discipline focuses on the **behavior** of the child.

### **Reality Discipline**

1. Establish a healthy **authority** over your children.
  - You family is not a **democracy**.
  - You must not tolerate willful & deliberate **defiance**.
2. Hold your children **accountable** for their actions.
3. Let **reality** be the teacher.
  - Kids need **guidelines**.
  - Kids need opportunities to **fail**.
  - Better to fail with small things than with big things.
4. Use **actions** more than words.

*Children should learn to obey right away, all the way, and with a happy heart.*

5. Stick to your guns, but don't shoot yourself in the foot.
6. Rules without **relationships** result in rebellion. (*Eph. 6:4*)
  - You children must know that you **love** them.
  - You must spend **time** with your children.
7. Live by your **values**.

### **Prerequisites to Reality Discipline**

1. Love your children **unconditionally**.
2. Practice discipline with **consistency**.

***Parenting is a long-term investment, not a short-term loan.***

**Heb. 12:11**

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

**Prov. 13:24**

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

**Prov. 19:18**

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

**Prov. 22:15**

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

**Prov. 29:15**

The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

**Prov. 29:17**

Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

**Eph. 6:4**

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

**For more information read:**

*Dare to Discipline* by James Dobson

*How To Make Your Children Mind Without Losing Yours* by Kevin Leman

*How To Have A New Kid By Friday* by Kevin Leman

*Don't Make Me Count to Three* by Ginger Plowman