

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