

Lesson 10: Responsibility of Parents to Children



Christian parents are to nurture their children in the ways of the Lord

Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

Introduction: In God's design, the home is the first classroom and parents are the first pastors. Long before a child sits in a Sunday school chair or youth group circle, they are being shaped at the dinner table, in the car, at bedtime, and in everyday conversations. Scripture makes it clear that children are not accidents to be managed, but blessings to be stewarded, arrows to be shaped and aimed, and souls to be disciplined for the glory of God. In this lesson, we will see that God not only calls parents to love and lead their children, but He also shows us how—by receiving children as His gift, by faithfully training them with loving discipline and instruction, and by understanding that even God's own correction flows from His Fatherly love.

Key Terms Defined. **The Hebrew, Greek, and definition MUST relate to the text**

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD in Hebrew & Greek	DEFINITION (Contextual)
Heritage	Hebrew word	
Reward	Hebrew word	
Train up	Hebrew word	
Discipline/training	Greek word	
Instruction/admonition	Greek word	
Discipline	Hebrew word	

Transition into Section 1:

Before we talk about rules, discipline, or correction, we must start where God starts—with how we see our children. If we see them as interruptions, we will treat them like distractions; if we see them as God’s heritage and reward, we will treat them like treasures. So first, we want to hear what God says about children, and about the atmosphere of a home that fears the Lord.

SECTION 1: Children Are Blessings from God

Psalms 127:3–5; 128:3–4, 6

Key Truth

God describes children as a heritage and reward, not a burden; they are gifts entrusted to parents to be raised for His glory.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis** In Psalm 127:4–5, what picture does the psalmist use to describe children of one's youth, and what does that image suggest?
2. **Reflection:** How might viewing your children (or spiritual children) as God's arrows change the way you think about their schooling, friendships, entertainment, and future plans?

Transition to Section 2:

When we begin to see children as God's gift, the next question becomes, "How do we handle this gift?" Love without guidance becomes permissiveness, and rules without love become harshness. God doesn't leave parents guessing; He gives clear wisdom on how to train, correct, and instruct our children in a way that shapes their hearts and honors Him. Let's move from how we value our children to how we intentionally form them.

SECTION 2: Discipline and Instruction Commended

Proverbs 22:6; 29:15; Ephesians 6:4

Key Truth

God commands parents, especially fathers, to train their children intentionally with loving discipline and Christ-centered instruction.

Discussion Questions

1. According to Proverbs 22:6, what does it mean to "train up a child in the way he should go"? What does that look like?

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Multiple choice
According to Proverbs 29:15, what combination brings wisdom?
a) Undisciplined freedom
b) A rod and reproof
c) Harsh punishment alone
d) Neglect and independence |
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Transition to Section 3:

Even when we know we should discipline and instruct our children, many of us still struggle—discipline can be tiring, misunderstood, and emotionally heavy. At this point, God invites us to step back and look at His own heart as a Father. How does *He* discipline His children? What is He aiming for when He allows hard things in our lives? As we look at Hebrews 12, we'll see that understanding God's purpose in discipline not only strengthens our faith, but also reshapes how we correct the children entrusted to us.

SECTION 3: Purpose of Divine Correction

Hebrews 12:5–11

Key Truth

God's discipline is proof of His fatherly love, designed not to crush us but to make us holy and fruitful.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** Why does Hebrews 12:11 say discipline seems painful rather than pleasant at the moment?
2. **Application:** How does seeing hardship as God's loving discipline change the way you interpret disappointments, closed doors, or painful seasons in your life?

Closing: Bringing It All Together

When we put these passages together, a striking picture emerges. God places children in our homes as His heritage and reward, not so we can simply feed and clothe them, but so we can aim them like arrows toward His purposes. He commands us to train them, to correct them, and to instruct them—not in anger or neglect, but in the discipline and instruction of the Lord—because He knows that uncorrected children become wounded adults, and undisciplined children become unprepared soldiers in a spiritual war. At the same time, He reminds us that we are not just parents; we are also children under His Fatherly hand. Every trial, every correction, every hard season He allows is not proof that He has abandoned us, but proof that He claims us as sons and daughters and is determined to make us holy. The same God who calls us to shape our children is actively shaping us. So the question this lesson leaves us with is simple and searching: Will we receive our children as God's gift, will we obey His call to lovingly discipline and instruct them, and will we submit to His own Fatherly discipline in our lives? If we will, then by His grace, our homes can become training grounds for righteousness, and our children—whether biological, adopted, or spiritual—can become living testimonies that the Father in heaven still raises up godly seed in a broken world. May God help us to

be the kind of parents, mentors, and spiritual fathers and mothers through whom He can write a new story for the next generation.