

Transition:

Parents are called to raise children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, fostering their spiritual growth. This isn't a task undertaken lightly, just as in the previous chapter husbands and wives must work to put the needs of the other above their own, so too must parents!

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about a time you were disciplined, either as a child or an adult, and you did not feel it was Godly discipline. How did it feel?
2. In a fast-paced, digital world, what does intentional, relational discipleship look like at home?

Fundamental:

This verse seems to contradict itself, how does a parent not 'stir up anger' in their children while still bringing them up in the ways of the Lord? First and foremost, all Christians are called to do everything through love (**1 Cor 16:14, 1 John 4:19**). Discipline without Christ-like love is arbitrary, on the whim of the one in authority (parents), and a breeding ground for resentment and anger. True training and instruction in the ways of the Lord requires the disciplinarian to also be the EXAMPLE (**Heb 12:7-11, Pro 3:11-12**)! Children are called to honor and obey their parents (**Exo 20:12, Eph 6:1-3**), however that submission is done so freely out of respect and love. For a parent to not bring up their children in the way of the Lord, or to discipline without Christ-like love, the consequences would be dire (**Luk 11:11-13, Mat 18:6**).

Homework/Challenge:

1. Before disciplining anyone, take a moment for prayerful reflection. How can you use your actions to lovingly serve our Lord and help training His flock?
2. Practice one-on-one connection: 15 minutes of undistracted play or conversation, on their terms.

Discipleship Tip:

If you suspect or are told someone is enduring any type of abuse, you **MUST** bring this to the attention the Small Group Pastor and the Director of Safety and Risk Management.
DFPS Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.
The National Domestic Abuse Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

Prayer:

Father God, please grant me patience, wisdom, and love in guiding those you've gifted me with. Please bless me with the strength to be an example and positive role model in their lives.