

Just as parents teach and discipline their children, God also teaches and disciplines his. God sometimes allows painful things to happen to his followers in order to train us in the way that we should conduct our lives. When God corrects us, we should see it as proof of his love and try to learn faith, love and endurance through the experience.

Ever since our first parents rejected God's commands and chose to live their own way, we, their children, have been living in rebellion against God. God will not accept us his children just because we are children of Adam. To become a child of God you must be adopted into his family—as a stranger. This is the gift of God in Jesus Christ!

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13

You can receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior right now. Confess your sin, trust him as Savior and yield control of your life to him. Then by reading the Bible and attending a good Bible-believing church, you will grow in your faith and love for God. God will lead you and along the way teach you the lessons that he most desires for you to learn.

It is a wonderful journey and to me a great comfort to know that God is with me every step of the way. Give you life over to Jesus and you will never regret it. Take time to do it now.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com

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The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 39

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

Topical Series: Wisdom Lived out in Community

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 13:24

Sermon Date: July 27, 2008

Discipline your Children.

Last week's study focused on fathers teaching their children. This week's study addresses parents disciplining their children. How are "teaching" and "disciplining" related? Is discipline of your children simply punishment for doing wrong. What is the purpose of that discipline?

Do you, as a parent, approach disciplining of a child with a purpose in mind? Is that purpose centered on correcting some action that is incorrect in the child's habits or actions? How is that different from teaching your child, as we studied last week?

I know that all I have given above is a list of questions, but to me there has to be a connection between teaching and disciplining.

Let's explore this topic of disciplining a child together and see what the Scriptures have to say about this very important subject.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
2. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Text: Proverbs 13:24 NIV</p> <p>^{13:24} He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.</p> <hr/> <p>^{17:21} To have a fool for a son brings grief; there is no joy for the father of a fool.</p> <p>^{19:18} Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.</p> <p>^{22:15} Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>^{23:13} Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.</p> <p>^{23:14} Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.</p> <p>^{29:15} The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.</p> <p>^{29:17} Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. What is discipline? What is its purpose?

5. How is disciplining a child the same as teaching a child? How is it different? Are both necessary?

6. Why does it take love to discipline a child? Consider Proverbs 3:11-12.

7. List one or two ways discipline contributes to forming wisdom. Consider Proverbs 29:15-19.

8. Forms of discipline need to be chosen wisely, and used to deal with defiance and disobedience rather than the simple carelessness and experimentation of a submissive child. What are some rules of thumb for determining when and how a child should be disciplined? What methods of discipline do you use or believe are best?

9. How do I know if my discipline of a child is too harsh? Consider Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4.

10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 22:15

^{22:15} Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,
but the rod of discipline will drive it far