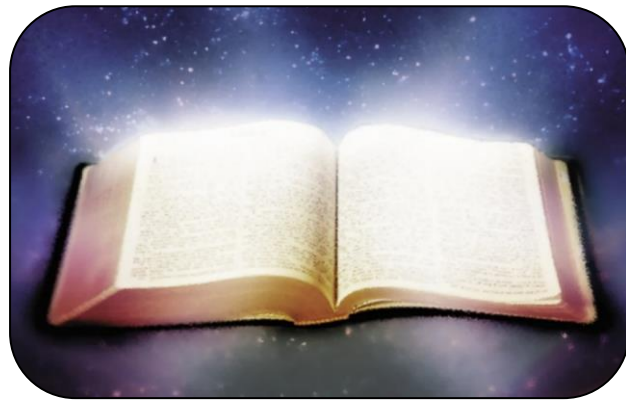


# Behavior Training Using



# God's Word

Behavior Training Using God's Word  
Given By: The Holy Spirit, Written By: Pamela M. Willhite

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## Why use God's Word to train our children?

The answer to this question is found in God's Word in 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

### Pray

We need to pray diligently daily, hourly, and minute by minute; *Jesus said, without me you can do nothing.*<sup>1</sup>

His wisdom, strength, knowledge, discernment and guidance are the greatest source of help, as you seek, to be used to train up a child in the way he/she should go and teaching them to be servants of Christ.

In our process of discipline, correction, and teaching we need to be able to say, like the servant of Abraham when finding a wife for Isaac, *"the Lord led me."*<sup>2</sup> The Lord must lead us in all we do.

Since training children to become servants of God is part of our calling as parents, we need to constantly seek His will and His strength. *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."*<sup>3</sup> & *"Seek His will in all we do and He will direct our paths"*<sup>4</sup>

Our fervent prayer should be that the Lord would show us how to train our children in such a way that they be greatly used by Him.

### Goals & Scriptures that reflect our child (ren)

- In training our children, we should desire that when they become young adults, they will be able to stand up without shame and say, "Lord what would you have me to do?"<sup>5</sup>
- They should be willing to refuse to be intertwined *"with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who has chosen him"*<sup>6</sup>
- They should be the type of person who is **not** *"mindful of the that country from whence he came out"*<sup>7</sup>
- They should be, without reservation, without a desire for money or material possessions, is willing to *"deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow"*<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ.
- When faced with decisions, whether great or small, they consistently say, *"Lord, what will you have me to do?"*<sup>9</sup>
- When there is a job or a mission field to occupy, they are the first to say, *"Here am I; send me"*.<sup>10</sup>

- No matter the situation their attitude should be *"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant to all, that I might gain the more"*.<sup>11</sup>
- When faced with trials they're able to say I *"endured, as seeing him who is invisible"*.<sup>12</sup>
- We hope to find that *"an excellent spirit was in him;"*<sup>13</sup> and that *"God gave him knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom,"*<sup>14</sup>.
- They *"purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself"*<sup>15</sup>.
- Their heart says "I present my body as "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."<sup>16</sup>
- Their heart says "I am eager to "serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind"<sup>17</sup>
- Their heart truthfully is able to say *"I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."*<sup>18</sup> and "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."<sup>19</sup>

When we train our children our goal day after day should be that we want our children to hear one day "Well done, good and faithful servant"<sup>20</sup>

Our children should be able to observe a mature servant of God as a part of their training. They should see an adult fully yielded to the Lord in all areas of their life. We as parents should be able to honestly say to our children, "Be a follower of me, as I am of Christ"<sup>21</sup>. Being able to say this includes that my work, my home, my church, my service in the church, my clothing, and my lifestyle are the specific will of God for my life. If our heart condition is this then we can expect our children to serve with us in the Gospel.<sup>22</sup>

*Please note that we are all a work in progress, we are not perfect nor will we ever be but are being perfected in the image of Christ and are going from glory to glory and learning each day how to do that.*<sup>23</sup>

As a parent try not to be tempted to use children as a reason to give up God's will for our lives. Family life should not revolve around the child's needs, desires, and interests. Moving just for the sake of the children or seeking a higher paying job for the sake of the children will breed a generation who will "serve" children in preference to the Lord. *(Please note: I am not saying that a nursing mother should not feed her baby because, she is too busy speaking to someone about Christ. Just take the baby with you, cover up and keep on sharing Jesus love with whomever you are speaking too.)*

"He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me".<sup>24</sup>

### **God's Standards**

God's standards are inflexible, and the benefits of adhering to them are many.

Insecurity and dangers to the child result when adults are vague with instructions. "Don't go too far away.", "Go wherever you want to go, just don't get in trouble.", ...

When we avoid the responsibility of giving clear instructions to our children ( so as not to displease them) we place them in a place of danger.

Since he is a child your further responsibility is to watch to make sure that he follows the instruction exactly as he has been taught. If he fails to do so, you must "displease" him in some fashion.

*"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15*

When you allow the lines of right and wrong to be blurred (by allowing/tolerating wrong behavior or attitude) then you will have an insecure child - and one who will have his own set of flexible standards when he becomes an adult.

### **Discipline and Punishment**

There is a difference between Discipline and Punishment. God's word teaches us that we are to instruct our children and discipline them. Discipline is loving the child and showing that there is a consequence to the decisions we make. Some consequences we like some we do not. Some consequences are natural consequences and some are not but can be used for discipline and instruction. Both types of consequences should be used as an opportunity to have a teachable moment with your child.

God has entrusted us to raise the children he has given us to be people he can easily use to do His work.

If a child has not learned self-control and to see themselves the way Christ sees them, while they are young, it is more difficult for them to learn as adults.

We hope this document will help you use the wisdom of God's Word to discipline and instruct your child (ren), without the adverse effects of punishment.

| <b>Differences between Discipline and Punishment</b> |                     |                   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Discipline</b>   | <b>Punishment</b> |
| <b>Source:</b>                                       | God's Love          | God's Wrath       |
| <b>Purpose:</b>                                      | Correct a Wrong     | Avenge a Wrong    |
| <b>Relational Result:</b>                            | Reconciliation      | Alienation        |
| <b>Personal Result:</b>                              | Righteous Lifestyle | Guilt             |

### **Some Scripture References:**

For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.  
Proverbs 3:12

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.  
Proverbs 13:24

Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established. Proverbs 16:3

When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. Proverbs 16:20

Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.  
Proverbs 19:18

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.  
Proverbs 22:15

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.  
Punish them with the rod and save them from death. Proverbs 23:13-14

A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother. When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall.  
Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire. Proverbs 29:15-17

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son. Hebrews 12:5-6

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Revelation 3:19

I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.  
2 Corinthians 10:5

Whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report, having any virtue and praiseworthy think on these things. Philippians 4:8

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalms 19:14

Above all else, guard your heart for it is a wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23

You may think you are doing right, but the Lord examines your heart. Proverbs 21:2



## Conflict Resolution for the Offended

### Questions to explore the heart:

Did you talk with your brother / sister before you came to me?

Did you respond the way God would have you to respond?

Are you willing to forgive the way Jesus forgives?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

You may only come to me if you have spoken to your brother / sister first and he / she will not listen to you.

Revenge/Unforgiveness: Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult but with blessing.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Do not do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult. But repay with a blessing, because you yourselves were called to do this so that you might receive a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9

"If your fellow believer sins against you, go and tell him in private what he/she did wrong. If he/she listens to you, you have helped that person to be your brother or sister again. Matthew 18:15

The wise are patient; they will be honored if they ignore insults. Proverbs 19:11

Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ. Ephesians 4:32

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit (*self-importance*), but with humility of mind consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

### Words of Encouragement:

You too are not without sin. It is to your honor to forgive and forget a wrong done to you.

Forgiveness is more for the one forgiving than the one forgiven.

## Conflict Resolution for the Offender

### Questions to explore the heart:

Do you think that what you said / did showed love to your brother / sister?

What could you have said / done differently?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices over the truth.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 1 Corinthians 13:6

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity (*wickedness / evil*) I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity (*wickedness / evil*) of my sin. Psalm 32:5

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16

Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34:14

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, he sees the good and the evil. Proverbs 15:3

Turn away from evil and do good. Work hard at living in peace with others. 1 Peter 3:11

### Words of Encouragement:

Confess and seek forgiveness from God and the one you have wronged.

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need, words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you. Ephesians 4:29

## Arguing, Bickering or Verbal Fighting

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you being strong and avoiding strife (*conflict / fighting*) or are you being weak and participating in strife (*conflict / fighting*)?

What can you do / say in order to keep peace with your brother / sister right now?

*Note: Ask all children involved.*

### Comment(s) or Correction:

A harsh words stirs up anger. You need to depart from evil and do good because God says it is foolish (*unwise or imprudent*) to quarrel (*argue, squabble, or fight*).

### Scriptures to memorize:

A gentle answer turns away wrath (*anger*), but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34:14

It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel. Proverbs 20:3

Do your best to live in peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. Proverbs 15:13

Everyday is a terrible day for a miserable person, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. Proverbs 15:15

### Words of Encouragement:

A gentle answer turns away wrath. It is to your honor to avoid strife and to live at peace with everyone.

## Bad Friendships or Friends Contrary to Your Beliefs

### Questions to explore the heart:

Do you think this friend will encourage you to follow Jesus?

Do you think it is a wise decision to “hang out” with this person?

*Note: Be careful not to condemn the foolish but pray for them out of love and compassion.*

### Comment(s) or Correction:

You should stay away from those whose ways are contrary (*opposing / opposite*) to the teaching you have learned or you will be led astray (*off course / off track*) and suffer (*endure, experience, or go through*) harm.

### Scriptures to memorize:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions (*separation / splitting up*) and put obstacles (*barriers / problems*) in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. Romans 16:17

The righteous should choose his friends carefully (*cautiously / vigilantly*), for the way of the wicked (*evil, wrong, sinful, or immoral*) leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

He/She who walks with wise people will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared (*trapped*). Proverbs 22:24-25

Those who trust in themselves are fools (*deceived / tricked*), but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. Proverbs 28:26

### Words of Encouragement:

The righteous should choose their friends carefully and those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.

## **Blame Shifting, Guilt Shifting or Making Excuses**

### **Questions to explore the heart:**

Could it be that you are trying to cover your own sin(s)?

Without blaming someone else or making excuses, I want you to examine your own heart and tell me what you did.

### **Comment(s) or Correction:**

When you try to hide your sins you will not succeed. God knows what is in your heart.

### **Scriptures to memorize:**

Anyone who hides his/her sins doesn't succeed. But anyone who admits his/her sins and gives them up finds mercy (*forgiveness / compassion*). Proverbs 28:13

If we confess (*admit / own up*) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

You may think you are doing right but, the Lord examines (*inspects / studies*) your heart. Proverbs 21:2

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, He sees the good and the evil. Proverbs 15:3

So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen. James 5:16

### **Words of Encouragement:**

If you confess and turn away from your sin, you will be forgiven and will receive mercy.

*\*Parent you may want to do this also. If the child confesses without being caught then mercy is given and only the natural consequence if any are the result and not additional consequence for discipline.*

## **Bragging, Conceit or Self-important**

### **Questions to explore the heart:**

Do those words bring glory and honor to God or to yourself?

### **Comment(s) or Correction:**

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

### **Scriptures to memorize:**

Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.  
Proverbs 27:2

When you do things, do not let selfishness (*self-interest / self-centeredness*) or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor (*respect / admiration*) to others than to yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Whoever secretly slanders (*insult / disparage*) his neighbor, Him I will destroy; the one who has a haughty (*proud, arrogant, self-important*) look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure (*tolerate*). Psalm 101:5

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome Eliab is or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself/herself more highly than he/she ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3

So, as the Scripture says, "If people want to brag (*boast / show off*), they should brag only about the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:31

... The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ is my only reason for bragging. Through the cross of Jesus my world was crucified, and I died to the world. Galatians 6:14

### **Words of Encouragement:**

Walk in humility (*humbleness / modesty*) and consider (*think / regard*) others better than yourself. Philippians 2:3

## Complaining, Irritable, or Argumentative

### Questions to explore the heart:

Is your attitude showing thankfulness (*gratitude / appreciation*) and contentment (*satisfaction / happiness*)?

Rather than complaining (*bad tempered, irritable, crabby, argumentative, belligerent, cranky, grouchy, grumpy, and disagreeable*) what can you be thankful for in this situation?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

It is God's will that you be thankful and joyful in all circumstances (*situations / conditions*).

### Scriptures to memorize:

Do all things without complaining and disputing (*quarreling / arguing*). Philippians 2:14

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, do it heartily (*vigorously / energetically*), as to the Lord and not to men. Colossians 3:23

### Words of Encouragement:

It is God's will that you be thankful and joyful in all circumstances.

*You may want to also turn to Whining section.*

## Coveting, Wanting, Discontent, or Displeasure

### Questions to explore the heart:

Do you believe God has provided you with everything you need?

What are some things God has faithfully supplied you with?

What do you truly need that you do not have?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Do not love the things of this world. The things of this world will never bring contentment (*pleasure / happiness*) or satisfaction. The tiny satisfaction will fade (*diminish / weaken*) and away like the sun at the end of the day.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

Let your conduct be without covetousness (*greediness / materialism*); be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 1 Timothy 6:6-8

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:17

And He said to them, "Take heed (*listen to / notice*) and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance (*plenty*) of the things he/she possesses (*owns / acquires*)." Luke 12:15

Don't be greedy (*hungry / ravenous*) for the things of this life, for that is idolatry (*worship / adoration*). Colossians 3:5

### Words of Encouragement:

Be content with what you have – contentment allows you to enjoy what God has given you.



## Defeat or Giving Up

### Questions to explore the heart:

What did Jesus do when He was tempted (*persuaded / enticed*) to give up?

What if Jesus had given up?

What should you do when you are tempted to give up?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

The Bible teaches us “Do not give up and do not rely on your own strength.”

### Scriptures to memorize:

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary (*tired / exhausted*) in doing good. 2 Thessalonians 3:13

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient (*enough / adequate*) for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities (*ill-health / sickness*), that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Praying always with all prayer and supplication (*request / appeal*) in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance (*insistence / urgency*) and supplication for all the saints Ephesians 6:18

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. James 5:13

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations (*troubles / problems*), knowing that tribulation produces perseverance (*resolve, firmness, or determination*). Romans 5:3

Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. Ephesians 3:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

For consider Him who endured such hostility (*aggression / resentment*) from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged (*disheartened, depressed or dejected*) in your souls. Hebrews 12:3

### Words of Encouragement:

Pray for willingness and strength to persevere when things are hard. Allow God’s strength to be made perfect in your weakness.

## Defiant Attitude, Defiant Look, Disobedient Attitude, or Rebellious Attitude

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you obeying or disobeying with your attitude?

Are you truly obeying when you obey with an unhappy heart?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

The Bible teaches us that a wise heart accepts command and a happy heart makes the face cheerful.

### Scriptures to memorize:

A wicked person hardens their face, but as for the upright, they establish their way.  
Proverbs 21:29

Whoso is loving instruction, is loving knowledge, And whoso is hating reproof is brutish (rough, wild, violent, or uncivilized). Proverbs 12:1

The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall. Proverbs 10:8

A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance (*expression / face*), but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. Proverbs 15:13

A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22

Happy is the person who is always reverent (*respectful*), but he/she who hardens his/her heart will fall into calamity (*disaster / catastrophe*). Proverbs 28:14

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:5

### Words of Encouragement:

A wise heart accepts command and a happy heart makes the face cheerful.

## **Destructive with Property or Toys**

### **Questions to explore the heart:**

Do you think you should be allowed to have this if you are going to destroy it?

Are you being considerate (*thoughtful, kind or understanding*) of the person who purchased this?

Is this an act of goodness or evil?

### **Comment(s) or Correction:**

Wastefulness (*carelessness / squandering*) leads to poverty and a foolish person destroys what they have.

### **Scriptures to memorize:**

The wise have wealth and luxury (*comfort, extravagance or extra*), but fools spend whatever they get. Proverbs 21:20

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance (*plenty, wealth, & large quantity*). But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Matthew 25:29

Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager (*supervisor, director, control or overseer*) must be faithful (*loyal, devoted, trustworthy or honorable*). 1 Corinthians 4:2

### **Words of Encouragement:**

You are blessed and trusted with more when you take care of what you have.

## Disobeying, Refusing to Comply, or Breaking the Rules

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you obeying or disobeying?

How did you disobey?

How does God want you to obey?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

When you obey, you should obey all the way, right away and with a happy spirit.

When you disobey me you are disobeying God and it will not go well with you. I love you too much to allow you to disobey.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor (*respect / admiration*) your father and mother," which is the first commandment (*directive, order, and instruction*) with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourself for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17

Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him/her with a rod, he/she will not die. You shall beat him/her with a rod, and deliver his/her soul from hell. Proverbs 23:13-14

He/She who despises the word will be destroyed, but he/she who fears the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

Poverty and shame will come to him/her who disdains correction, but he/she who regards a rebuke will be honored. Proverbs 13:18

He/She who spares his/her rod hates his/her son, but he/she who loves him/her disciplines him/her promptly (*quickly, swiftly & without delay*). Proverbs 13:24

He/She who disdains (*despises, scorns or holds in contempt*) instruction despises his/her own soul, but he/she who heeds (*listens to, regards, or takes note of*) rebuke (*reprimand, reprove, and correction*) gets understanding. Proverbs 15:32

### Words of Encouragement:

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Colossians 3:20

## Disrespect or Contempt

### Questions to explore the heart:

Is your attitude showing respect for me and honoring Jesus?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Are you putting your brother / sister (*or persons name*) ahead of yourself or are you elevating (inspiring / uplifting) yourself above (*person just mentioned*)?

### Scriptures to memorize:

Instead, be humble and give more honor (*respect / admiration*) to others than to yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Happy is the person who is always reverent (*respectful*), but he/she who hardens his/her heart will fall into calamity (*disaster / catastrophe*). Proverbs 28:14

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor (*respect / admiration*) your father and mother," which is the first commandment (*directive, order, and instruction*) with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur (*bring upon yourself, invite, earn or deserve*) judgment (*ruling, result, or sentence*). Romans 13:2

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor (*respect*) to whom honor is owed. Romans 13:7

We ask you, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish (*reprove, reprimand, scold or caution*) you, and to esteem (*regard, respect, admiration*) them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

### Words of Encouragement:

God's word teaches us that we will be happy when we respect those in authority, over us.

## Fear, Alarm, Anxiety, Nightmares or Phobias

### Questions to explore the heart:

Does God give you a spirit of fear?

What would God want you to do in this fearful situation (*circumstances, condition or state*)?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

When you are living in fear you are not trusting (*believing, relying on, depending on or counting on*) God.

### Scriptures to memorize:

For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and a strong mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked (*reprimanded / reproved*) the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm (*quiet, peace, or relaxed*). Matthew 8:26

...God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon (*desert, walk out on, or give up*) you." Hebrews 13:5

Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them and don't be frightened (*scared, terrified, anxious*), because the LORD your God will go with you. He will not leave you or forget you." Deuteronomy 31:6

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold (*iron grip / vice-like grip*) of my life— of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Fear of man will prove to be a snare (*trap, ambush, trick, or deception*), but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. Proverbs 29:25

### Words of Encouragement:

God has said, "He would never leave you and He will never abandon you"

For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and a strong mind.

## Laziness, Idleness, or Lethargy

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you being diligent (*hard-working, thorough, industrious or attentive*)?

If you work like this as an adult do you think you will prosper (*flourish, thrive or do well*) and be satisfied (*content, pleased or happy*)?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Learn to do work without complaining (*bad tempered, irritable, or argumentative*) or stopping when you get tired.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper (*flourish, thrive or do well*) and be satisfied (*content, pleased or happy*). Proverbs 13:4

I can do all things through Christ the Lord. Philippians 4:13

Learn to do work without complaining (*bad tempered, irritable, difficult, unreasonable or argumentative*) or stopping when you get tired (*bored*). Proverbs 27:23

Go to the ant, you sluggard (*lazy person, loafer, slouch or idler*); consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer (*supervisor, manager, boss, or chief*) or ruler, yet it stores its provisions (*supplies, necessities, food, or requirements*) in summer and gathers its food at harvest. Proverbs 6:6-8

As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so are sluggard (*lazy person, loafer, slouch or idler*) to those who send them. Proverbs 10:26

Even when we were with you, we gave you a rule. We said, "Anyone who will not work will not eat." 2 Thessalonians 3:10

### Words of Encouragement:

When you work not only will prosper but you will also be satisfied.

## Lying, Deceit, Dishonest, or Untruthful

### Questions to explore the heart:

Do you know who the father of lies is? \*                      Who do you want as your Father?

Do you think lying honors your Father (God) and your family?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Lying damages your relationship with your family and God hates a lying tongue – so you must put off lying.

### Scriptures to memorize:

These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

1. A proud look,
2. A lying tongue,
3. Hands that shed innocent blood,
4. A heart that devises wicked plans,
4. Feet that are swift in running to evil,
5. A false witness *who* speaks lies,
6. And one who sows discord among brethren. Proverbs 6:16-19

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, Colossians 3:9

Lying lips *are* an abomination (*outrage, disgrace, scandal or atrocity*) to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight (*enjoyment, pleasure, happiness & joy*).

Proverbs 12:22

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; and keep the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3

Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor (*a neighbor is everyone that is not you*),” for we are members of one another. Ephesians 4:25

Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he/she who speaks lies will not escape. Proverbs 19:5

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he/she who speaks lies shall perish / die. Proverbs 19:9

### Words of Encouragement:

The Lord delights (*takes pleasure in, appreciates, enjoy, relish, revel in*) in those who tell the truth. 1 Corinthians 13:6

\*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. [John 8:44](#)



## Not Receiving Instruction or Not Accepting Instruction

### Questions to explore the heart:

Is your attitude (*approach, manner, posture, and outlook*) showing respect for me and honoring Jesus?

Is it wise or foolish (*silly, unwise, imprudent, thoughtless*) for you to reject (*refuse, discard, deny*) my instructions?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

God's word tells us that if you listen to advice and accept instruction you will be wise.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Hold onto instruction; do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Proverbs 4:13

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he/she will despise the wisdom of your words. Proverbs 23:9

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days. Proverbs 19:20

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil." Proverbs 1:33

He/She who despises the word will be destroyed, but he/she who fears the commandment will be rewarded. Proverbs 13:13

A fool despises his father's instruction, but he/she who receives correction is prudent (*careful, cautious, sensible, practical, wise*). Proverbs 15:5

The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. Proverbs 15:14

### Words of Encouragement:

If you listen to advice and accept instruction you will be wise.

## Revenge, Paybacks, or Settling the Score

### Questions to explore the heart:

What would Jesus do?

How can you honor Jesus and bless this person who has wronged you?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Revenge opens the door in our hearts to a quarreling (*arguing, bickering, or fighting*) Spirit and the Spirit of Hate. So, let's treat him/her/them the way Jesus did.

*\*Remind the child (ren) of the treatment Jesus received on the cross.*

### Scriptures to memorize:

Don't say I'll pay you back for the wrong you did, wait for the Lord, and He'll make things right. Proverbs 20:22

Do not do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult. But repay with a blessing, because you yourselves were called to do this so that you might receive a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression (*wrongdoing, misbehavior or disobedience*). Proverbs 19:11

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be the children of the Highest: for he is kind to the unthankful and to the evil. So, be merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Luke 6:35-36

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They see the good and the evil. Proverbs 15:3

Bless them which persecute (maltreat, bully, harass, pursue, or hound) you: bless, and curse not. Romans 12:14

He/She who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he/she who rules his spirit, than he/she who captures a city. Proverbs 16:32

Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry. James 1:19

### Words of Encouragement:

It is to your glory to overlook an offense and you obey God when you overcome evil with good.

## Selfishness, Self-centered, or Self-interest

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you putting your brother / sister ahead of yourself or are you being selfish?

What would be a kind and generous thing to do?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride (*arrogance, conceit, or self-importance*) be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor (*respect, admiration or credit*) to others than to yourselves.

### Scriptures to memorize:

When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help. Proverbs 3:27

Each of you should give as you have decided in your heart to give. You should not be sad when you give, and you should not give because you feel forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves. Romans 12:10

When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers. Galatians 6:10

Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. Philippians 2:4

### Words of Encouragement:

Give each other more credit than you want for yourselves.

## **Stirring Up Strife, Picking on Others or Aggravating**

### **Questions to explore the heart:**

Are you purposing in your heart to promote peace, or are you stirring (*inspiring, motivating, or exciting*) up trouble?

How can you show love and pursue (*chase, practice, or work at*) peace in this situation?

### **Comment(s) or Correction:**

One of the seven things God hates is one who stirs up trouble among his/her brothers / sisters.

### **Scriptures to memorize:**

These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

1. A proud look,
2. A lying tongue,
3. Hands that shed innocent blood,
4. A heart that devises wicked plans,
5. Feet that are swift in running to evil,
6. A false witness *who* speaks lies,
7. And one who sows discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

Hatred stirs up strife (*trouble, conflict, discord or fighting*), but love covers all sins.

Proverbs 10:12

Turn away from evil and do good; work hard at leaving in peace with others. 1 Peter 3:11

### **Words of Encouragement:**

... But counselors of peace have joy.

## Tattling, Gossip, or Telling Rumors

### Questions to explore the heart:

Could it be that you are delighting (*enjoying, taking pleasure, or happy*) in getting your brother / sister in trouble?

Rather than tattling, how can you encourage him / her toward love and good deeds?

Could it be that you are delighting (*enjoying, taking pleasure, or happy*) that someone else's misfortune?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

If you are trying to get your brother / sister in trouble, you will get in trouble.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Whoever gloats (*self-satisfaction, pleasure, or triumph*) over disaster will not go unpunished. Proverbs 17:5

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. Hebrews 10:24

It is foolish to belittle (*demean, put down, or disparage*) one's neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet. A gossip (*rumor or hearsay*) goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence (*self-assurance, self-confidence, or self-belief*). Proverbs 11:12-13

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends. Proverbs 16:28

Love does not rejoice about injustice (*unfairness, prejudice, inequality or wrong*) but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 1 Corinthians 13:6

### Words of Encouragement:

Encourage one another to love each other and do good deeds.

### Note:

**Child should come directly to Mom or Dad when another child is endangering himself, (someone else, or destroying property)**

## Teasing, Mocking, or Tearing Down Others

### Questions to explore the heart:

Do those words show love and build up your brother / sister or do they tear him / her down?

What can you say to build up your brother / sister?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Do not let any unwholesome (*unpleasant, distasteful, objectionable, nasty, disagreeable or harmful*) talk come out of your mouth.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable to you oh Lord my strength and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Ephesians 4:29

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. Psalm 34:14

Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking." Proverbs 26:18-18

Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 19:19

### Words of Encouragement:

The words of your mouth should be helpful in building others up according to their needs.

## Whining, Griping, or Grumbling

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you communicating (*talking, conversing, or speaking*) with a self-controlled voice?

How does God want you to communicate?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

Whining is an ungodly (*disrespectful, irreverent, or profane*) form of communication.

### Scriptures to memorize:

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Ephesians 4:29

And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil (*wickedness, sin iniquity, or immorality*) world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, Titus 2:12

A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out. Proverbs 25:28

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23

In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement (*increase, complement, or enhancement*) your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive (*useful, helpful, valuable or constructive*) and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8

### Words of Encouragement:

God wants us to use self control, even with your voice.

*You may also want to use Discontent section too.*

## Worry, Be Anxious, Fret, or Agonize

### Questions to explore the heart:

Are you forgetting who made everything?

Who is all powerful?

What can God do about this situation (*circumstances or condition*)?

### Comment(s) or Correction:

It is not God's will for you to worry.

### Scriptures to memorize:

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Matthew 6:31

Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up. Proverbs 12:25

So refuse to worry, and keep your body healthy. Ecclesiastes 11:10

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Matthews 6:25

Whatever things are:

True

Honest

Just

Pure

Lovely

Of good report

Having any virtue

**And** praiseworthy

**Think on these things.** Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

### Words of Encouragement:

If you pray and trust God to take this anxiety away from you, He will do it because He cares for you.



## Book Recommendations:

1. **Bible – God Breathed**
2. Miller Family Series by Mildred A. Martin (Wisdom and the Millers, Story time with the Millers, Prudence and the Millers, School days with the Millers, Missionary stories with the Millers)
3. Polite Moments by Gary & Cathy Maldaner
4. Those Kids in Proverbsville by Elizabeth Rice Handford
5. A Child's Book of Character Building Book 1 & 2 by Ron & Rebekah Coriell
6. Children's Stories by DL Moody
7. The Way They Learn by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias
8. Self-Esteem Satan's Most Harmful Tool by Gary Maldaner
9. The Making of a Servant *Preparing Young People to Become Servants of Jesus Christ* by Gary Maldaner
10. Bible Guidelines About Clothing by Dr. Bruce Lackey

## References:

1. John 15:5
2. Genesis 24:27
3. John 5:30
4. Proverbs 3:6
5. Acts 9:6
6. 2 Timothy 2:4
7. Hebrews 11:15
8. Luke 9:23
9. Acts 9:6
10. Isaiah 6:8
11. 1 Corinthians 9:19
12. Hebrews 11:27
13. Daniel 6:3
14. Daniel 1:17
15. Daniel 1:8
16. Romans 12:1
17. 1 Chronicles 28:9
18. Psalms 40:8
19. Philippians 1:21
20. Matthew 25:21
21. 1 Corinthians 11:1
22. Philippians 2:22
23. 2 Corinthians 3:18
24. Matthew 10:37
25. Wise Words for Moms, Ginger Plowman
26. Polite Moments by Gary & Cathy Maldaner
27. The Making of a Servant *Preparing Young People to Become Servants of Jesus Christ* by Gary Maldaner

