

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD
Raising Champions for Christ — Week 5

ICEBREAKER: Why do you think there are so many different religions in the world?

OVERVIEW: J.C. Ryle, in his classic book on parenting called *The Duties of Parents* wrote, “The shortest way to spoil children is to let them have their own way and allow them to do wrong and not be punished for it.” In our culture many parents make light of spoiling a child. In fact, many parents make it their goal to spoil their child. “I know I shouldn’t spoil her, but I just love her so much!” We have lost sight of what it means to spoil a child. To spoil is “to ruin.” To spoil a child is to ruin them; to ruin their adulthood; to prevent them from being happy, successful adults; to set them up for hardship and failure as adults. This is why failing to discipline your children is a form of child-abuse. If we love our children, and if we love the Lord, then we must bring up our children in the *discipline* of the Lord.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Some people say that parents shouldn’t spank or rebuke their children. All they should do is teach them right behavior, and then praise them when they get it right. What is wrong with this approach?
3. What is a biblical definition of parental discipline?
4. Read Proverbs 13:1. One aspect of parental discipline is to rebuke. What does it mean to rebuke a child?
5. Read Proverbs 13:24. A second aspect of biblical discipline is the rod. What does it mean to use the rod for the purpose of parental discipline?

6. Read Proverbs 6:23. What is the purpose of parental discipline?
7. Read Ephesians 6:4. What does it mean to bring your children up in the discipline “of the Lord”?
8. Read Proverbs 13:24. What does this verse teach about discipline? How is discipline an act of love?
9. Read Proverbs 22:15. Why do children need discipline? What does it mean that “foolishness is bound to the heart of a youth”?
10. Read Proverbs 29:15. What does this verse mean by “a youth left to himself”? What happens when a youth is left to himself?
11. How does discipline benefit your child?
12. 1 Corinthians 16:14 says, “Do everything in love.” How can you make sure that you always discipline your children in love?

The Last Word: “A child who has not been disciplined with love by his little world will be disciplined without love by the great big world.” Zig Ziglar