

What might be the dangers of focusing our encouragement on someone's "performance" over their "purpose" or character qualities?

WHEN TO SAY YES, WHEN TO SAY NO
"Yes" and "No" With Our Children

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TAKING IT HOME

1. Giving specific affirmation is an important ingredient in meaningful encouragement. It shows others that we really know them and value who they are. Use the list below to help you name 2-4 specific things that you appreciate about each of your children or a couple friends.

Honest	Kind	Compassionate
Hard worker	Diligent	Trustworthy
Shows love	Peaceful	Gentle
Accepting	Content	Calm
Patient	Self-controlled	Joyful
Faithful	Energetic	Persistent
Strong	Intelligent	Other

How are you doing at affirming these qualities in your kids/friends?

What steps does **Proverbs 3:27** motivate you to take with each of the individuals you thought about above?

2. What's the most important thing from this week's sermon or Growth Group you can begin to practice in your life?

"YES" AND "NO" WITH OUR CHILDREN

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."
Psalm 127:3, NLT

WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS "YES" OR "NO" WITH CHILDREN: _____

mucar - To teach wisdom, To train for life

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

2 TYPES OF TEACHING/TRAINING

BEFOREHAND = _____

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

AFTERWARD = _____

"My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights." Proverbs 3:11-12, NLT

HELPING YOUR CHILDREN DEVELOP GOOD "YES" AND "NO" SKILLS

Help them say no

Help them take responsibility for their needs

Help them choose

Help them delay gratification

Help them respect the limits of others

"YES" AND "NO" WITH OUR ADULT CHILDREN - Cecilia Stone

"For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness." Hebrews 12:10, NLT

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of November 14, 2010

Special Note About this Week's Topic of Parenting: This week's homework is designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our family status or age. For those who don't have children, it could be helpful in preparing for a possible future family, providing insights on the family we grew up in, or even impacting a variety of our significant relationships.

QUICK REVIEW: Take a look at your sermon notes from this week. Was there a point in the sermon or a passage that you really took to heart? Was there anything else that challenged you or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. It's pretty hard to talk about parenting without first taking a look back at how we were raised. What do you consider to be your parents' strengths? Is there anything you wish they had done differently?

Can you identify any ways that your views on parenting may have been shaped by your parents' strengths or weaknesses in raising you?

2. If you could go back to your teen years, how might you fill in these blanks?

I wish my parents would _____.

I wish my parents knew _____.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How we teach and train children changes throughout their lives. Thinking back on how you were parented, how you raised your own kids, or how you would like to parent future children, how could the application of **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** and **Proverbs 22:6** change throughout a child's development in....

the Preschool or Elementary Years

the Teen Years

the Young Adult Years

the Older Adult Years

2. Every child wants to know they are loved. A parent's job is to give them the love they need and to set up clear and consistent boundaries and consequences. What does **Hebrews 12:7-11** teach us about the goals of discipline?

What are some questions we could ask ourselves that would help us determine if we are giving discipline out of love or not?

3. Encouragement is one of the keys in having positive influence on our children and others. What do these verses say about the power of encouragement?

Proverbs 16:24

Proverbs 25:11

Hebrews 3:12-13