

Disciplining A Child's Heart

Part 2



Discipling A Child's Heart is a two part training series for both parents (grandparents, guardians, aunts and uncles) as well as kids ministry leaders. It's important that everyone completes this series in order - part 1 prior followed by part 2. For more information about part 1, go to the Kidswise Academy website. Part 2 can be completed on the same day as part 1, or at a later date.

Notes for the person facilitating this training are written in blue. It's important to read through all exercises and all blue text instructions when preparing to facilitate this training.

All videos can be previewed prior to the training session but be aware that this course has a two-month limited access. So the training needs to be completed within two months from the date of purchase.

The timing of each exercise is a guide only. For example, a larger group may need more time in sharing ideas from multiple small groups after a brainstorming exercise.

Allocate two hours for this training, with a twenty minute break after Exercise #8.

Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideally 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper
- Place coloured markers and post-it notes on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)
- Purchase a copy of these picture books, *The Moon Is Away Round* by Jonathan Gibson, or *Goodbye To Goodbyes* by Lauren Chandler (optional - Exercise #3)

Introduction:

- Welcome people.
- Indicate timing of breaks and essential information for all in attendance (toilet locations, emergency exits...).
- Begin by committing the day to God in prayer.
- Encourage everyone to introduce themselves to those in their group prior to beginning Exercise #1.

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Welcome people and open in prayer.

EXERCISE #1 (10 minutes, group exercise)

1. Brainstorm for four minutes things children experience because they live in a broken world. Record each experience on a single post-it note and spread the post-it notes across the table.
2. At the end of four minutes look for ways to group these experiences.

Possible groupings:

family breakdown	friendship breakdown	persecution
sickness	mental health	disability
grief (death, loss)	poverty	fears (incl. night terrors/dreams)

After 5 minutes of sorting post-it notes, read out the list of possible groupings. Ask groups if they had any other suggested groupings not mentioned.

When complete, read the text in the box below (all groups combined).

We can't stop children from experiencing a world full of pain and suffering. Every child who has had a fish as a pet has experienced grief. Childhood is full of grazed knees and tummy bugs. And for the child who loves Jesus, there is the added experience of persecution. They will miss out. Be left out. Be shut out or worse. All because they follow Jesus.

Our aim is always to keep children safe. To protect and nurture them well. But saying nothing is not loving.

We love children by preparing them to live in this fallen world. Where pain and suffering, persecution and rejection are part of living this side Jesus' return.

EXERCISE #2 (10 minutes, group/individual exercise)

Prior to training, find someone gifted in storytelling to present this story (indicated below), or choose Option #2. Begin by reading the text in the blue box below.

1. Introduction

A few years ago we were working our way through the book of Revelation as a church family. One Sunday we explored the theme of persecution in the letters to the seven churches. That Sunday I told the story of a senior saint in our church. Her name is Vicky.

Read the passage we unpacked that day from Revelation 2.

To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

~Revelation 2:8-10

2. Vicky's story is found in the Kidswise script titled, Persecution And Perseverance (pages 17-20).

Option #1: Someone presents the story to the entire group.

Option #2: Someone reads the script aloud to the entire group.

3. Persecution is not a matter of 'if' for the Christian, but a matter of when. We love children by preparing them to weather the storms of persecution that will come by holding out gospel hope.

Has your church ever prepared children for the persecution that comes from following Jesus?

Or, as a parent, when was the last time you talked with your child about the cost of following Jesus?

Video #1: **PREPARED HEARTS**

Pray

Protect

Prepare

"Please don't feel sorry for me.
My Father taught me if I had Jesus - I had everything.
I'm so thankful to my Father for that."

Hold out the hope of the gospel
Prepare children for the stormy times ahead

EXERCISE #3 (10 minutes, reading/group exercise)

If possible, purchase one of the picture books listed below and ask someone gifted in reading stories to children to read the picture book to the entire group.