



# Discipline

Encouraging wise choices

SAMPLE



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encouraging wise choices

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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 purchasing of the course, the previewing of the material and the running of the training needs to be completed within a two month period.

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

Allocate two hours for this training, with a twenty minute break after the first hour. If possible, provide tea and coffee and some light refreshments.

Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideal 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper
- Place coloured markers on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)

Need:

- Data projector
- Sound system

Introduction:

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

# Let's Begin

## EXERCISE #1 (individual exercise, 5 minutes)

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'discipline'?
2. Write the following verses in your own words.

*Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.*

~Proverbs 13:24

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

~Proverbs 22:15

## EXERCISE #2 (group exercise, 5 minutes)

1. As a group, reflect on all the things the Bible passages (from Exercise #1) say about discipline.

### Proverbs 13:24

- Expresses your love for the child
- It's to be done carefully

### Proverbs 22:15

- Purpose = drives away foolish choices
- It's unpleasant (rod)
- **Note:** does not mean it has to be corporal (no one hits a child in Kids Church)
- Child learns to regret foolish choices, learns to make wise choices

### PLAY VIDEO #1: Discipline & Love

#### DISCIPLINE & LOVE - TALK OUTLINE

Failure to discipline = Failure to love

*Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

~Hebrews 12:7-11

Doing nothing, saying nothing, is unloving

A child who chooses to learn from discipline is blessed by it

Discipline results in respect

- respect for authority figures
- respect for God - the ultimate authority

# The Complexity

**EXERCISE #3** (group exercise, 10 minutes, incl. groups sharing their reflections)

1. What makes managing children's behavior in a church context even more complex than in a school context?

Ask groups to share their reflections.

## THE COMPLEXITY - TALK OUTLINE

Discipline comes from the word 'disciple'

A disciple is a learner

Aim: to move the child from being disciplined to being self-disciplined

Why is it so complex?

- Volunteers work in teams with the parents of the children they're teaching
- Volunteers work in teams with different expectations
- Volunteers are unsure what it looks like
- Discipline looks different in different age groups
- Discipline and special needs children
- Volunteers who want children to like them

Children feel safe with leaders:

- who do something, say something
- who have clear boundaries
- whose love is seen in action

### EXERCISE #4 (individual exercise, 10 minutes, includes reading out the 'creed')

1. Read through the list below. Number them from 1 to 5. Number 1 being the most complex for you and number 5 the least complex for you.
  - \_ Volunteers work in teams with the parents of the children they're teaching
  - \_ Volunteers work in teams with different expectations
  - \_ Volunteers are unsure what it looks like
  - \_ Discipline looks different in different age groups
  - \_ Discipline and special needs children