



TAUNY TOWN crier



OFFER CHILDREN POSITIVE DISCIPLINE



Parents use a variety of discipline methods, with varying degrees of success. But the goal is the same: obedient, safe children who can internalize right from wrong and control their own behavior. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 22:6 that no matter children's age, development, or behavior, the key to disciplining or training them is understanding their heart and finding out what makes them "tick." If you can look beyond the symptoms of misbehavior and ask God "Why is this child behaving this way?" then you can make a positive change based on His word.

Creating a clear discipline policy is vital to shepherding your family and helping them develop self-control. Here are some tips to get started:

KEEP IT SIMPLE

If you set too many rules, no one can keep them straight. Ensure that children understand by having them act out each rule (for example, "Hang up your coat when you come home").

KEEP IT CONSISTENT

Consistency makes it easier for children to remember expectations for the long haul. Don't ignore misbehavior just because you're too tired to deal with it at the time.

KEEP IT FAIR

You can still tailor consequences to a child's age or personality. For example, one child will respond to having privileges suspended while another may need a spanking. Just be sure to apply rules & consequences for breaking them to everyone.

KEEP IT FRESH

Post expectations where everyone can see them. Take the time to review rules regularly with children, but also equip kids to follow them. Adapt discipline methods as children develop.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

It's tempting to use rewards or bribes to make children behave. But using rewards for every act of obedience can actually be harmful to children's emotional and spiritual development.

1. **Rewards, when not given with balance, can distort children's values.** When prizes are the focus, children's interest in the desired behavior is diminished. We send the message that obedience is unnatural. Children need to learn to do what's right simply because it's right and because they were instructed to do it.
2. **Rewards, when not given with balance, can distort character development.** Promises of prizes for every act of obedience can get children focused on "working the system." This practice also promotes dependence and leads to "me-focused" kids.
3. **Rewards, when not given with balance, can create a faulty image of God.** When you bribe children to attend church or learn Bible verses, they're less likely to build a friendship with God. They may view Him as an impersonal dispenser and withholder of rewards.



FAMILY TALES

COOK UP THE RIGHT RECIPE

Spend time together in the kitchen exploring what the Bible says about loving obedience.



TASTE TEST

Bake three variations of a simple biscuit recipe. For the first batch, follow the instructions correctly. For the other two batches, leave out a different key ingredient. Have family members taste a biscuit from each batch. Ask: "How did the biscuits taste different from one another? Which one tasted best?" Identify the ingredients missing from each batch, and talk about the effects. For example, biscuits made without baking powder are flat and dense. Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. Ask: "What are the ingredients God wants us to have? What's a person like who has all these

ingredients? Read verse 8. Say: "God has a recipe for each of us. Which ingredient do you need to add to your life this week?"

EGGSTRA SOFT HEARTS

You'll need six hard-boiled eggs and six raw eggs in an egg carton, as well as a clear bowl. Have family members take turns selecting and cracking an egg into the bowl. Continue until at least one raw and one hard-boiled egg have been cracked. Say: "When you boil an egg, a change happens inside to make it harden. We can't make cookies or something sweet with the hard-boiled eggs." Read Hebrews 3:7-12. Say: "When we read the Bible but ignore what God says, our hearts harden. We turn away from God. But when we listen to God, he can do sweet things through us." Close by committing to God to keep all your hearts soft and obedient.

Ask God:

1. To help you lovingly correct and guide your children.
2. To help you set and stick to firm, reasonable limits
3. To help you develop an attitude of willful obedience in your children.



BABY STEPS

This month in Teeny Town, we're teaching your baby to have self-control. We're continuing with the Fruit of the Spirit and this month we're studying TEMPERANCE. Our Bible story comes from the book of Daniel. He was a great example of a person who practiced self-control. By refusing to do things that were not pleasing to God and controlling his body, will & emotions, God was able to protect, deliver & promote Daniel. Our Memory Verse is I Corinthians 10:31, "What you eat or drink or whatever you do, let it please God." We can practice self-control and bring glory to God!

REMINDERS

On Wednesday, October 27th, the **TEENY TOWN HARVEST FEST** will be held during our mid-week service! All Teeny Towners (children 6 weeks - 4 years old) will enjoy games galore and tasty treats. Parents, check-in your child using our normal process. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m. Costumes and drop offs are not allowed.

