

Biblical Parenting Essentials, Phase 1 | methods

I. What is Teaching?

- To teach is to communicate information. To teach *well* is to communicate information in the way best suited to the student.
- Please notice that teaching doesn't require learning. Learning is the student's job.
- Teaching encompasses everything you do as a parent.
- You must teach what God wants you to teach, how God's wants you to teach, and for the reasons God wants you to teach them.

II. Teaching Well Requires Deduction.

- Deductive teaching starts with a truth and then makes conclusions based off that truth. For example: all humans are sinners, you are a human, therefore, you are a sinner.
- Deductive teaching requires a lot of telling.
- The kind of learning associated with deductive teaching is primarily memorization. Deductive teaching also requires the student to be able to repeat the physical steps they learned.
- The three steps of Deductive Teaching include education, illustration, and application.
 - Education is the telling part.
 - Illustration gives verbal or physical examples of the truth or the validity of the truth being learned.
 - Application is the conclusion part where the truth is shown to have real-world significance.

III. Teaching Well Requires Induction.

- Whereas deduction starts with a general truth and then moves out to specific conclusions, induction starts with specific observations and then works out toward the general truth.
- For example: "I break out into hives when I eat peanuts. Breaking out into hives is the result of an allergic reaction. Therefore, I must be allergic to peanuts."
- Whereas Deductive Teaching makes statements, Inductive Teaching asks questions.
- Inductive Teaching includes illustration, facilitation, and application.
 - The illustration introduces a question.
 - Facilitation assists them in finding the right answer.
 - Application is the conclusion part where the student is lead to understand the real-world significance.

IV. How Do You Know When to Use Deductive Teaching and Inductive Teaching?

- **How mature is the child?**
 - As you can imagine, inductively working from the specific observation to the accurate truth requires discipline, attention, discernment, and wisdom.
 - Less mature children do not induce as well as more mature children. This is one reason I believe it's not just good enough to teach our kids things we pray they will learn, but we need to teach them how to actually learn.
- **How much time do you have?**
 - If you don't have a lot of time, then Deductive Teaching is the way to go.
- **How urgent is the situation?**
 - High risk moments require more telling over asking.

- **How many times have you already talked about it?**
 - We encourage parents to have big conversations with their kids that are laid like touchstones in their children's lives. They're foundational and they're something we're going to touch back on all throughout their lives.
 - You may work through a truth inductively in order to help you child understand and embrace as much as possible the truth learned, and then you can deductively remind them of that truth later on.
 - Or you can learn something together deductively or inductively and then in the future you might ask a question that they need to answer based off the discussions from the past.
 - The need of the moment, the child, and the content is all going to affect which approach you take.
- **What is the content?**
 - Some content needs to be told. Your child is not going to inductively come to all the right conclusions about God. Yes, we can learn a lot from nature as long as someone is facilitating our learning process, but God gave us His Word and told us about Himself because we could never discover those things on our own.
 - Induction works really well for truths that the child has the ability to discover and grasp on their own (or with a little help).
 - But there are other truths that are too big or deep or difficult that—at least for now—they need to learn deductively.

All Biblical Parenting involves teaching. It's the very first phase of all our parenting, and there are a couple different methods with which we need to be comfortable, know how to use in our parenting, and actually use it.

Parent.
with AMBrewster