

## Biblical Parenting Essentials, Phase 3 | evaluation

### I. Level 1: The Promise

- **Are you inviting your child to commit to biblical change?**
  - Luke 9:57-62; I Corinthians 4:6
  - After we've taught and reproved and forgiven our kids, we need to invite them to spiritual maturity. But—more than that—we need to invite them to commit to that change.
  - If you're inviting your kids to commit to biblical change, you're off to a good start.
- **Is your child committed to change?**
  - Luke 9:57-62
  - It doesn't matter if God Himself invites your child to follow Him, they won't be His disciples unless they take the first step.
  - If your child won't commit to the process of change, you're not in the Correction Phase. Remember, they have to participate. However, if you're inviting them to biblical maturity and they are committing to the process, that's a great start.

### II. Level 2: The Plan

- **Are you leading your child to determine what they need to biblically change in their lives?**
  - This is establishing the destination of their spiritual journey. This is defined by God and empowered by God and communicated in God's Word.
  - If you're not helping them see from the Scriptures God's expectations for how they are to respond in this situation in their life, you aren't correcting.
- **Is your child participating in determining what they need to change?**
  - You're teaching if you're telling your kid how God wants them to mature. But if your child is participating in the process of discovering God's plan for their maturity, you're correcting.
  - We need to help our kids dig into the Scriptures to make sure they truly understand God's expectation for them. It's not good enough to have culturally-informed definitions.
  - The Correction Phase is the Bible study phase.
  - As long as you are leading and your child is participating in the process of knowing the mind of God as it applies to their current sin-struggle, then you're in the Correction Phase.
- **Are you leading your child to determine how they need to biblically change in their lives?**
  - This is the moment to help our children nail down super-biblical, but also practical, precise, and personal application. But this needs to be more than a lecture or a speech.
- **Is your child participating in determining how they need to change?**
  - "When you're tempted to \_\_\_\_\_, what do you need to do to say 'No' to the temptation and 'Yes' to God's will for your life?"
  - And then you wait. You ask questions, you provide Scripture and illustrations to lead them along, but the key is that the child is participating. They're not grudgingly sitting there with their arms folded saying things like, "I don't know."
  - Though we all know that our kids need to change by heading to God's destination for their lives on the path that leads them there in the most Christ-honoring way, they will never reach the destination or take one step down the path unless they have the right motivation.
- **Are you leading your child to determine why they need to biblically change in their lives?**

- James 4:3
- One of the best ways to determine if your child is truly interested in Biblical Correction is to teach them the importance of motivation.
- Correcting that which is incorrect must not be about avoiding consequences, manipulation, a better life, more friends, more privileges, or about simply pleasing yourself. God gives us the grace to change when we have the right motives. We must do all to His glory.
- **Is your child participating in determining why they need to change?**
  - All it takes is a few careful questions to determine your child's motivation for wanting to do right.
  - When they inevitably explain their very self-focused reasons for changing, then I recommend sharing key passages with them about the importance of why we do what we do, and then ask them why God wants us to change.
  - It's a vital conversation, it rarely happens in a couple minutes, but it has to happen lest your kids try to change without the Lord.
  - If your child is participating with you to understand the foundational reasons for his or her spiritual maturity, you're likely in the Correction Phase.

### III. Level 3: The Product

- **Are you consistently discipling your child to do the right things?**
  - As your child participates in the correction, are you faithfully and consistently coming along side them, leading them, nudging them, and discipling them?
  - It's not enough to have a one-off conversation about the right things in the right ways for the right reasons and in the right power. Change is a process, an often long and difficult process. If you are patiently and consistently there with them, helping them move toward the right beliefs, desires, actions, words, and feelings, you're correcting them.
- **Is your child changing the right thing?**
  - This isn't about a one-sided conversation. Your child has to do their part to be in the Correction Phase with them.
  - It's this moment right here that signals that you are in the Correction Phase. Your child has turned the ship and is sailing due west. They're taking your advice, they're doing things differently.
- **Are you consistently discipling your child to do the right things in the right ways?** As you do so . . .
- **Is your child changing in the right ways?** And—most importantly . . .
- **Are you consistently discipling your child to do the right things in the right ways for the right reasons?** And furthermore . . .
- **Is your child changing for the right reason?**
  - According to James 1, when your child is no longer just a hearer of the Word as you teach and reprove them, but they have now become a doer of the Word "*who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*"
  - They will be blessed in their change, their maturity, their correction.