

ESP

(EXPLAIN, SHOW & PRACTICE)

CHARACTER

TRAINING

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

(in preparation for week one, read introduction)

WEEK ONE -- INTRODUCTION

Icebreaker:

What is the most memorable thing your mom and dad taught you growing up?

Study Questions:

1. What is character? In your own words define character?
2. What character are you strong in? Did your parent(s) help you develop it or exhibit that character

Read the following verses:

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Proverbs 23:26

Proverbs 6:20-23

Proverbs 7:1

Proverbs 23:22

Proverbs 22:6

3. According to these verses, has God given us authority over our children?
4. In these verses, who does God instruct people to learn from and be trained by?

Read the following verses:

Deuteronomy 5:16

Proverbs 13:13

Proverbs 23:22

5. Why do you think God added consequences and/or blessings to these verses?
6. In the example of the basketball coach (pg. xii) what rings true for you?
7. What is your parenting vision?

PRAY

For next week:

Read chapter one (and introduction, if haven't already)

Write down your parenting vision with your spouse.

WEEK TWO – OBEDIENCE

Icebreaker:

Ephesians 6:1 “Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.”

Share a time when disobedience got you in trouble?

Study questions:

“Obedience: doing what you are told, when you are told, with a good attitude.”

1. Based on the following, who and what are we to obey?

John 14:15

Col. 3:22

Ephesians 6:1-3

I Timothy 3:4

Titus 3:1

2. Which part of the definition is easiest for you to overlook? What, when or with?
3. Do bribing, pleading, repeating or threatening hold an unwanted place in your parenting? Which? What can change that?
4. Of the ways given for training children in obedience, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in obedience?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea to training your children in obedience.

Read chapter two.

WEEK THREE—HONESTY

Icebreaker:

Numbers 32:2 “Be sure your sin will find you out.”

Has the sin of lying ever found you out? Can you tell a story of when and how?

Study questions:

“Honesty: Telling the truth even when it is hard.”

1. What do you think the following verses say about honesty?

Eph. 5:8-11

I John 1:6

2. How is the following verse applicable to “honesty” today?

Acts 20:30-31

3. According to the following verse, what is a fruit/benefit of “honesty”?

Acts 20:32

4. Of the ways given for training children in honesty, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in honesty?

PRAY

For next week:

Commit to applying one idea to training your children in honesty.

Read chapter three.

WEEK FOUR—RESPECT

Icebreaker:

I Peter 2:17 “Show proper respect to everyone.”

Is there someone you’ve struggled to respect in your life? Why is it hard?

Study questions:

“Respect: Honoring others with my actions and my words.”

1. How does the following verse apply to parenting?

Ephesians 5:33

2. Is the following verse meant for today?

Leviticus 19:32

3. What action makes you feel most respected?
4. Of the ways given for training children in respect, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in respect?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea of training your children in respect.

Read chapter four.

WEEK FIVE—ORDERLINESS

Icebreaker:

I Cor. 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

What area of your life flashes into your mind when you hear this verse? Why?

Study questions:

“Orderliness: Caring for my personal possessions and grooming.”

1. Read the following verses; is it possible that God just made me a slob?

Colossians 3:17 I Corinthians 14:40

2. What does this verse have to do with orderliness?

Colossians 1:10

3. Does God care about our appearance?

I Timothy 2:9-10

4. Of the ways given for training children in orderliness, which will be used in your home?

5. What other ideas do you have for training children in orderliness?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea to training your children in orderliness.

Read chapter five.

WEEK SIX—CONTENTMENT

Ice breaker:

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have...”

Fill in the blank. I recently thought...“I wish I had_____.”

Study questions:

“Contentment: Flexible and thankful for what I have.”

1. What gain is there to be found in the following verse? How do we get it?

I Timothy 6:6-8

2. Being anxious or covetous is not being content. Read what the Bible says about how to overcome them.

Philippians 4:6-7

Exodus 20:17

3. What chases contentment away?

James 4:1-2

4. Of the ways given for training children in contentment, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in contentment?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea to training you children in contentment.

Read chapter six.

WEEK SEVEN—PATIENCE

Ice breaker:

James 5:7 “Be patient then until the Lord’s coming.”

When do you find yourself short on patience?

Study questions:

“Patience: Quietly waiting my turn.”

1. Patience is part of living_____.

Colossians 1:10-11

2. How do we live out the following verse?

Colossians 3:12

3. Have you any testimony of having lived this type of patience?

Romans 12:12

4. Of the ways given for training children in patience, which will be used in your home?

5. What other ideas do you have for training children in patience?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea to training your children in patience.

Read chapter seven.

WEEK EIGHT—WORK HARD/PEREVERANCE

Icebreaker:

Proverbs 13:19 “A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul.”

Ever have a project be hard to finish, but in the end bring great satisfaction? Share.

Study questions:

1. What do the following verses indicate about hard work?

Genesis 2:15

Lamentations 3:27

2. Do you feel guilty giving your children work? Why or Why not?

3. What do the following verses indicate about perseverance?

Romans 5:3-5

James 1:2-4

4. Of the ways given for training children in hard work and perseverance, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in hard work and perseverance?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea to training your children in working hard and perseverance.

Read chapter eight.

WEEK NINE---SELF-CONTROL

Icebreaker:

Proverbs 16:32 "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty."

What is a situation where you had to exercise extreme self-control?

Study questions:

1. What is the difference between these verses and what the world says about self-control?

Proverbs 25:28

I Timothy 3:2

Titus 2:12

2. How is self-control meant for protection?

I Peter 5:8

3. Where can we look for help regarding self-control?

Galatians 5:22-23

4. Of the ways given for training children in self-control, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in self-control?

PRAY

For next week:

Apply at least one idea to training your children in self-control.

Read chapter nine and conclusion

WEEK TEN—WISDOM

Icebreaker:

Proverbs 13:20 “He who walks with wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

Give an example of a time you gave into the crowd.

Study questions:

“Wisdom: Ability to judge what is best, most just, most proper, most conducive to happiness; exercise of sound judgment either in avoiding evil or attempting good.”

1. What does the rod have to do with wisdom?

Proverbs 29:15

2. What does this verse say about wisdom vs. foolishness?

Proverbs 10:1

3. “Fool: One who follows his own inclinations; who prefers temporary pleasure to the service of God and eternal happiness.”

Give an example of what a fool looks like in our society.

4. Of the ways given for training children in wisdom, which will be used in your home?
5. What other ideas do you have for training children in wisdom

PRAY

Application:

Apply at least one idea to training your children in wisdom.

