

SESSION 7: CORRECTING & PUNISHING

Welcome and Review Last Week's Challenging Question (10 minutes):

Welcome back, everyone. Let's take a moment to discuss your patience levels with your spouse and children, and implementing strategies for disciplined and consistent parenting.

Session #7 Teaching: Punishment vs. Correction (5 minutes):

When you hear the words "correcting" and "punishing," what comes to mind? According to Merriam Webster, punishing means to impose a penalty for a fault, while correcting means to make or set right. Our mindset and motivation when guiding our children make a significant difference in how they receive discipline and the foundation we build in their hearts.

Having a Gospel-focused perspective helps us lead our children in righting their wrongs. Ask yourself: what is the goal for your children? Do you want to correct or punish? Correction focuses on setting right the heart, while punishment may not always teach what we hope it will.

Jesus took our punishment to bring correction to our wrongs. Similarly, as parents, we should aim to correct our children's behavior with the goal of repairing relationships and promoting growth. Talking openly with our kids about our own struggles fosters humility and creates a relationship where correction is understood and accepted.

Small Group Discussion (30 minutes):

- *Reflect on how your own upbringing influences your approach to disciplining your children.*
- *Do you tend to approach wrong-doing with a punishment or correction perspective?*
- *Discuss whether you and your spouse have a unified plan for correcting your children.*
- *Share your experiences of being open with your children about your own heart issues and behaviors.*
- *Share examples of natural consequences you've used or allowed your children to experience.*

Wrap-Up Question (10 minutes):

Reflect on the discussion about punishment vs. correction. What key insights did you gain, and how will you apply them in your parenting moving forward?

Challenging Question for Couples During the Week:

Discuss the topic of spanking as a parenting tool. Reflect on your own heart and the application of the Fruit of the Spirit in your approach to discipline. Remember, God instructs parents not to exasperate their children.