

## Methods of Discipline - Communication

### *Answer Key*

#### I. **When** to Communicate. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

A. **All** the time. "... when you lie down and when you get up ..."

1. "... when you sit at home ..." You need to **be** at home **with** them.
2. "... when you walk along the road ..." During the activities of life. This includes traveling, watching a sports event, shopping and eating at a restaurant.

#### B. **Planned** Times

1. Family Devotions
  - a. 3-4 times per week.
  - b. 15-30 minutes depending on the age of the children.
  - c. Bible reading (story book for younger children)
  - d. Discussion
    - i. Have them tell the story back to you (young children).
    - ii. Ask them questions and have them answer.
    - iii. Answer their questions.
    - iv. Discuss what it means. Make sure they understand the application.
  - e. Prayer
    - i. Sometimes "ordered prayer" is easier for younger children.
    - ii. Conversational prayer works well for older children and teens.
  - f. It **MUST** be enjoyable for the children. Be enthusiastic as you teach.
2. Set aside times to talk with your children in groups and individually.
  - a. After devotions – cuddle time.
  - b. Breakfast for two.
  - c. Develop your own activity.

#### B. **Unplanned** Occasions

1. While listening to a radio program or song. Talk about what is good and what is wrong with what is being said or sung.
2. While watching television. Review it with your children after it is over. (Or shut it off and review what has been said and done up to that point and why it is sinful.)
  - a. Watch for evolution.
  - b. Watch for radical ecology.
3. Watching other people drive. Talk about how to respond when someone cuts you off.
4. Watching other people behave. Do not make fun of other people. The purpose of this exercise is to point out when someone is doing something good or to point out when someone is doing something sinful.

II. **How** to Communicate: 4 Rules of Communication. Ephesians 4:25-32.

- A. Be **honest**. Resist the temptation to rationalize or excuse your sinful behavior or mistakes. Take responsibility for your actions and speech. Tell the truth even when it puts you in a bad light. Ephesians 4:25.
- B. Keep **current**. Don't let the same conflict go on from day to day. You end it at the end of each day. Sit down and talk it through. Finish today's problems today. Ephesians 4:26.
- C. **Build up**, don't tear down. Your conversations should be helpful to them, not harmful. This doesn't mean that sin is not addressed. It means that it is addressed constructively. Ephesians 4:29.
- D. Attack **problems**, not people. Do not demean or belittle. Address sin, not their personal value. Ephesians 4:31-32.

III. **What** to communicate: 4 Types of Communication.

- A. **Training**. The purpose is to point out sinful behavior and instruct the child on how it is to be corrected. Ephesians 6:4
  - 1. Stopping sinful behavior is not enough. (Put off – Ephesians 4:20-32)
  - 2. Children must then be taught what to do in its place. (Put on – Ephesians 4:20-32)
  - 3. Instead of fighting over the last piece of cake a child should be given the piece and told to choose the sibling he/she would like to give it to.
- B. **Instruction**. The purpose is to teach the child what they should and should not do with an eye toward prevention. Ephesians 6:4
  - 1. Teach them how to react when they are sinned against.
  - 2. Teach them how to do good to others (share, help).
  - 3. Make a list and start working down your list. Add to it as new ideas come to mind.
- C. **Encouragement**. Edification. Children desire to please their parents. Encourage them when they do what is right. This is perhaps the most unused tool in the parents' toolbox. Ephesians 4:29-32.
  - 1. Make it a habit to do this on a regular basis. Set an alarm. Put it in your planner.
  - 2. Teach your children to encourage each other.
- D. Appeal to **conscience**. Romans 2:12-16.
  - 1. God has given us the ability to understand right and wrong.
  - 2. Appealing to the conscience is done as follows:
    - a. Through the use of questions and discussion help the child to understand what is right and what is wrong.
    - b. Then ask them whether they will choose to do what is right and please God or what is wrong and rebel against Him.
    - c. Will they do what is right or what is wrong?

## **Methods of Discipline - Communication**

### *Student Worksheet*

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ to Communicate. Deuteronomy 6:6-9
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ the time. "... when you lie down and when you get up ..."
1. "... when you sit at home ..." You need to \_\_\_\_\_ at home \_\_\_\_\_ them.
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- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Times
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II. \_\_\_\_\_ to Communicate: 4 Rules of Communication. Ephesians 4:25-32.

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- B. Keep \_\_\_\_\_. Don't let the same conflict go on from day to day. You end it at the end of each day. Sit down and talk it through. Finish today's problems today. Ephesians 4:26.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_, don't tear down. Your conversations should be helpful to them, not harmful. This doesn't mean that sin is not addressed. It means that it is addressed constructively. Ephesians 4:29.
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