

God's way may sometimes seem \_\_\_\_\_ in the short-term, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ in the long-term.

Always remember: this course is not focused on the child's responsibility

to \_\_\_\_\_; it is focused on the parent's responsibility to

\_\_\_\_\_.

This is not so much a course on how to get your children to obey as it is a course on how *you* can train them. The parent is not primarily accountable for the obedience of the child but for his or her own faithfulness in training.



## ● Be \_\_\_\_\_

Commitment is the total

\_\_\_\_\_ of yourself to do what is \_\_\_\_\_, no

matter what the \_\_\_\_\_ (see *Colossians 3:23*). Most parents

say they want what is best for their children, but that is not enough. If listening to a workshop or reading a book or making a decision to pursue after training your children for the Lord would make us successful parents, some of us would be in good shape. But those things within themselves are not enough.

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, was once asked what the secret of his spiritual power was. He replied, "There was a day in my life when I vowed that God would have everything there was to have of William Booth."

At Booth's death, a friend reminded his daughter of that vow. Her comment was incisive: "That really wasn't the secret. The real secret was that he kept that vow."

Making a decision to do something about training your children is not enough — you must commit yourself to it. Someone has said that children are more \_\_\_\_\_ than you thought they would be — and more \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember, accomplishing the God-given imperative to train our children is the pinnacle of \_\_\_\_\_, the greatest expression of \_\_\_\_\_ and the source of greatest \_\_\_\_\_ for the parents.

## ■ OUR PARTNER

We are certainly not alone in our quest. The parents are \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in making \_\_\_\_\_ of His children.

Remember, they are His children, not just ours. God has loaned them to you to train for Him. In His Word and through His Son and the Holy Spirit, He has given to you all the resources you need to accomplish that training.

Do you love your children? God loves them more. Pray each day that God will use you and your family to affect generations to come.

## ■ A POEM

A child is young only once and only for a short time. So much depends on the training you provide. This poem by an unknown author expresses it well.

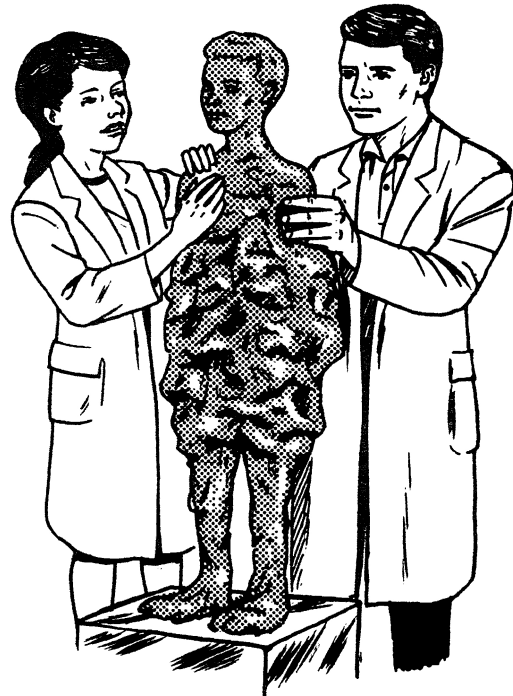
### The Sculptor

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day;  
And as my fingers pressed it still,  
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again, when days were passed,  
That bit of clay was hard at last.  
The form I gave it, still it bore,  
And I could change that form no more.

Then I took a piece of living clay  
And gently formed it, day by day,  
And melded with my power and art,  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone,  
It was a man I looked upon.  
He still that early impress bore,  
And I could change it, nevermore.



# Lesson 2

## A Parenting Perspective

### ■ TWO PHILOSOPHIES OF PARENTING

There are essentially two philosophies of parental training. One of these two philosophies is biblical; the other is not. We shall mention these two differing parenting philosophies and then refer to them in later lessons.

#### ● The Philosophy Of \_\_\_\_\_

The philosophy of indoctrination is the acceptance of a system of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, which is deemed \_\_\_\_\_ to be instilled \_\_\_\_\_ into the next generation. For the Christian, this system of beliefs and values is drawn from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (*John 17:17*). Scripture recognizes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Scripture recognizes moral \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, Scripture *condemns* certain practices as wrong, evil and sinful:

- *Exodus 20:3-17* – idolatry, murder, adultery, stealing
- *Leviticus 18:22* – homosexuality
- *Galatians 5:19-21* – fornication, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, drunkenness
- *Ephesians 4:25-31* – lying, anger, corrupt communication, evil speaking, malice

...and Scripture *commends* certain practices as good and right:

- *Matthew 22:37-39* – loving God, loving your neighbour
- *Ephesians 4:32* – being kind, tender-hearted and forgiving
- *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* – rejoicing, praying, giving thanks

Parents who practice the philosophy of indoctrination recognize the vital importance of taking positive steps to instil certain traits, beliefs and values in their children.

The philosophy of indoctrination is \_\_\_\_\_ directed.



The founding fathers of the United States recognized the importance of this philosophy. They understood that the philosophy of indoctrination was crucial to the perpetuation of our democracy.

They realized that self-\_\_\_\_\_ was not viable without self-\_\_\_\_\_. And self-discipline implies the existence of \_\_\_\_\_ between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

The forefathers of America called it "Republican Virtue." It simply stated that moral values must be transmitted through moral indoctrination. Early

American education was based upon the philosophy of indoctrination. Schools and teachers were as concerned with influencing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as they were with teaching \_\_\_\_\_. Why? Because they knew that strong moral character influences and strengthens all other academic disciplines.

\_\_\_\_\_ (discipline) must precede \_\_\_\_\_. You cannot teach until you control.

## ● The Philosophy Of \_\_\_\_\_

The philosophy of choice stands in direct contrast to the philosophy of indoctrination. The philosophy of choice is the acceptance of the belief that there are no \_\_\_\_\_ values or beliefs. All values and beliefs are \_\_\_\_\_ and thus, should be left to individual \_\_\_\_\_ and not be \_\_\_\_\_ on the next generation. Truth and error, right and wrong, good and evil are all relative. There are no absolutes.

Thus, homosexuality may be good or bad; the choice is yours. And you certainly shouldn't force your opinion on anyone else. Abortion may be good or bad; the choice is yours. But don't force your values on others. Let each individual make his own choice (cf. *Judges 21:25*). Sexual violence in song lyrics, explicit pictures and any other perversions that you would care to name are not subject to absolutes; they are subject to each individual's determination.

The philosophy of choice is not new. Its first advocate was \_\_\_\_\_; its first victim was \_\_\_\_\_. God *indoctrinated* Adam and Eve with only the good; Satan's strategy was to *expose* them to both good and evil and let them make the choice.

The philosophy of choice found renewed life in the 1960s. It was called the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. Sex outside of marriage was no longer right or wrong; it became an individual's choice. Drug use was neither right nor wrong, it was an individual's choice. And remember: you must not impose your choices upon others.

Many parents practice the philosophy of choice. They would advise you: "Expose your children to good and evil and hope they will choose good (if there is such a thing). Don't force them. Don't make moral choices for them."

Which philosophy do you believe dominates our culture today? The philosophy of choice has left our children's character bankrupt. The failure of the philosophy of choice has gutted the integrity of our nation. In many nations you can burn the flag, desecrate the national anthem, spend tax income to promote pornography in the name of art and murder innocent children by the tens of millions via abortions — all in the name of freedom of choice.

God's Word teaches us a \_\_\_\_\_. There are \_\_\_\_\_. There are values worthy to be instilled involuntarily into the next generation. As Christian parents, we must \_\_\_\_\_ from God's Word what values and teachings must be passed along. We must \_\_\_\_\_ a plan for transmitting these values. And we must \_\_\_\_\_ indoctrinate those values into the lives of our children. That's what this course is all about. One way that we pass God's teachings along to our children is through...

## ■ THE PARABLE PERSPECTIVE

God's Word instructs us as parents to be constantly instructing our children and instilling God's truth into them. "Constantly" implies teaching, not simply in a

classroom setting or at pre-set times, but at all times — wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7* says, “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” In other words, a parent, seize upon the countless opportunities available to teach your children spiritual truth.

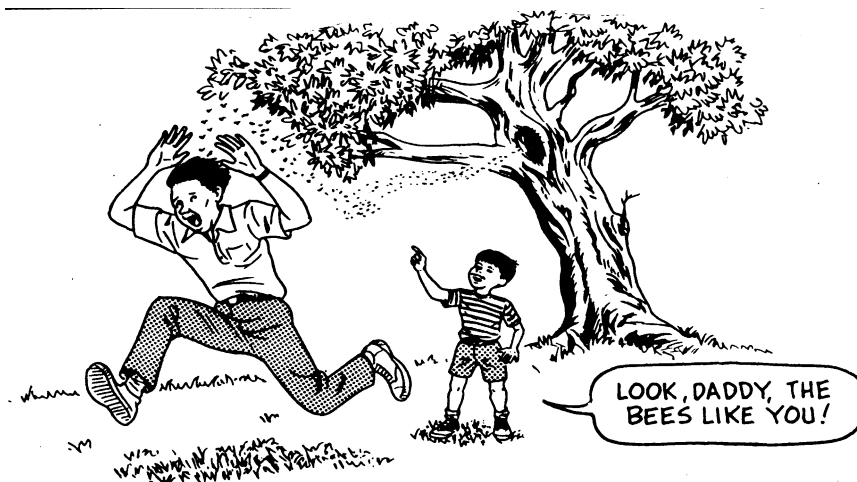
We will refer to this method of teaching as the \_\_\_\_\_. A parable is an \_\_\_\_\_ story with a \_\_\_\_\_ meaning. A parable uses the \_\_\_\_\_ to explain and make understandable the \_\_\_\_\_.

As we note the parables of our Lord, we discover that He taught \_\_\_\_\_ truths from \_\_\_\_\_ objects: water, fig trees, mustard seeds, coins, bread dough, sheep, grape vines, pearls, tombs, tares, cups and plates, fishing rods, foxes, light and myriads of other things.

We can use the parable perspective to teach our children truths about God’s \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_.

*Psalms 19:1-2* says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.”

- We can teach our children truths about God through \_\_\_\_\_, through \_\_\_\_\_ and through the common daily experiences of life.



- We can teach our children to have \_\_\_\_\_ that see God in the heavens, the clouds, the intricate design of the flowers, the movement of the planets, a sunrise or sunset or the havoc of a hurricane.
- We can teach our children to \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of God in the song of the whippoorwill, in the chirp of the cricket or the rush of a waterfall.
- We can teach our children to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the blessings of God in the scent of a rose, the aroma of freshly baked cookies, the tangy taste of an orange or the sweet delicacy of a chocolate cake.

Parables are all around us. God is speaking to us in everything. Teach your child spiritual, truths from the fruit trees in the back garden, the raindrops on the roof, the

buzzing bee as he goes from flower to flower and the industrious ant who works so diligently.

Make it a habit to look for \_\_\_\_\_ . Share it with your family. By consistent daily practice at this method you will soon begin to see for yourself the hand of God everywhere. You will begin to live your life pre-occupied with the presence of God. And being thus preoccupied you will pass along to your children the knowledge of God.

Begin prospecting for parables today.

## ■ A POEM

Let's close this session with a poem that points up the importance of parents' making diligent use of the time that they have to train their children.

### My Little Boy's Dad

I may never be as clever as my neighbour down the street,  
I may never be as wealthy as some other people I'll meet.  
I may never have the fame that other men may have  
But I've just got to be successful as my little boy's Dad.

There are certain dreams that I cherish that I'd like to see come true,  
There are things I'd like to accomplish before my working days are through,  
But the task my heart is set on is no mere passing fad.  
I've just got to be successful as my little boy's Dad.

It's the one job I dream of, the task I think of most,  
For if I fail my little boy, I've nothing else to boast.  
For all the wealth and fame, I'd gather, my fortune would be sad  
If I fail to be successful as my little boy's Dad.

