**Child Training Goal & Objectives**

Objectives will help us reach the ultimate goal. What is God’s job description for parenting? Nothing in this lesson is profound or new—we constantly need to refocus on goal and objectives. We get distracted by pressures of world. Purpose of assembling is to apply Word of Life to life. If you have problems, think of how to use God’s wisdom in scripture for solution. Compartmentalized thinking leads to seeking worldly solutions to problems in this world.

**God’s Will for Children**

**Psalm 127** children are a blessing from God

“Not mine!” they don’t listen, etc.

Also consider **Proverbs 10:1**

**Prov. 22:15** explains why he needs guidance

God didn’t make him a smart-mouth; God didn’t intend for him to be rebellious;

The child need not be selfish & miserable. God wants parent & child to be happy together. These principles apply to all relationships in life. **3 John 4**

**God’s Goal for Parenting**

Clear view of goal is key:

Verifiable objectives to meet in process of the goal

Objectives determine methods to effectively reach goal

**Ephesians 6:4 training** and **warning** of the **Lord**

Allusion to **Proverbs 3:11-12** father is to give **God’s** **instruction**

Children are **God’s** children **Heb. 12:9**; parents are stewards, ~~caretakers~~, caregivers

**Heb. 12:3-11** also applies **Prov. 3:11-12**

God’s instruction for relationship to Him

**V.5** “*you have forgotten the exhortation…”* Problems distract (don’t let them—**v.1-2**)

**V.5-6** quotation of **Prov. 3:11-12**

**V.7** God chastens us because He is a father

Child without training = child without father

**V.8** Child can reject discipline and make themselves illegitimate (**v.5**)

**V.9** choose to submit to God’s discipline & **live**

**V.10** recognizes that fathers make mistakes

**V.10** for our **good**; share in God’s holiness

**V.11** unpleasant at **present** (physically & emotionally); all training (not just punishment) is sorrowful for **both** parent and child. Goal is peaceable fruit of righteousness. Goal is **godliness** (“training of the **Lord**”) **v.10;** Godliness is by choice—**independent** godliness **v.9;** child to **choose** life, God’s holiness, peaceable fairness

**Spiritual maturity, independent godliness**

What if every parental decision was deliberately made with God’s holiness in mind?

We usually give little long-term thought to the effects of our decisions (often “little” issues)

Does this bring child closer to God & His way or closer to the world and farther from God?

Does this encourage child’s love for **God** or **world** or **self**?

**Objectives to Reach God’s Goal**

**Self-control** vs. self-indulgent (selfishness)

Actions based on what is right, not by feelings or passions **1 John 2:16, Prov. 14:12**

**Wisdom** vs. foolishness **Prov. 1:7**

Child must know what godliness is to strive for it; understand need for control

**Control** implies **authority**, God’s standard of behavior

**Responsibility** vs. irresponsibility **2 Cor. 5:10**

Subjects himself to control, chooses actions

**Self-control + Wisdom + Responsibility**

**Self-control** **vs. Self-indulgent**

Self-control:

Will is in control (not passions) educated by God’s word as to what is right

Free of bad habits, able to choose what is right

Less focus on self leads to selflessness

What is good for others

Self-indulgent:

Can’t accept “No” (control)

Can’t tell self “No”

Feels entitled to every impulse he has

no reason not to have what he wants

If you give him a reason, he will scoff at it

Impatient, instant gratification **Hb 11:25** no care for work or service but fun

Not “What can I do for you?” but “What can you do for me?”

Ungrateful for gifts, food, etc. happiness based on taste, feelings, etc.

Not easily satisfied

Bored “I’m bored” = “I’m thinking of ME.”

Inconsistent application of principles as only affects self

**Wisdom** **vs. Foolishness**

Not born with understanding

Learn from mistakes (consequences)

See beyond the superficial; knows what is best

Keeping a level head; doesn’t panic

Wisdom is controlling process to avoid destructive actions based on warnings

Foolishness repeats mistakes

Can’t be trusted to be left alone

Impulsive in speech and action; retaliatory

Difficulty with time and money management

**Responsibility** **vs. Irresponsibility**

Responsibility

Accepts personal responsibility for his actions

How rebuke is received; accept or blame others

Conscientious work habits; Dependable; punctual; keeps his word

Takes initiative; not just do what you’re told

Finish what he starts

Know what is right, chose what is right, do what is right

What do I do to help him choose right on his own?

Irresponsibility

Denies guilt

Blames others

Resents punishment

Resents anything requiring effort

Gives up easily, doesn’t finish

Not interested in helping others

These principles apply to everyone! **Heb. 12:9-11, Matt. 5:3-10, Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 2:38**