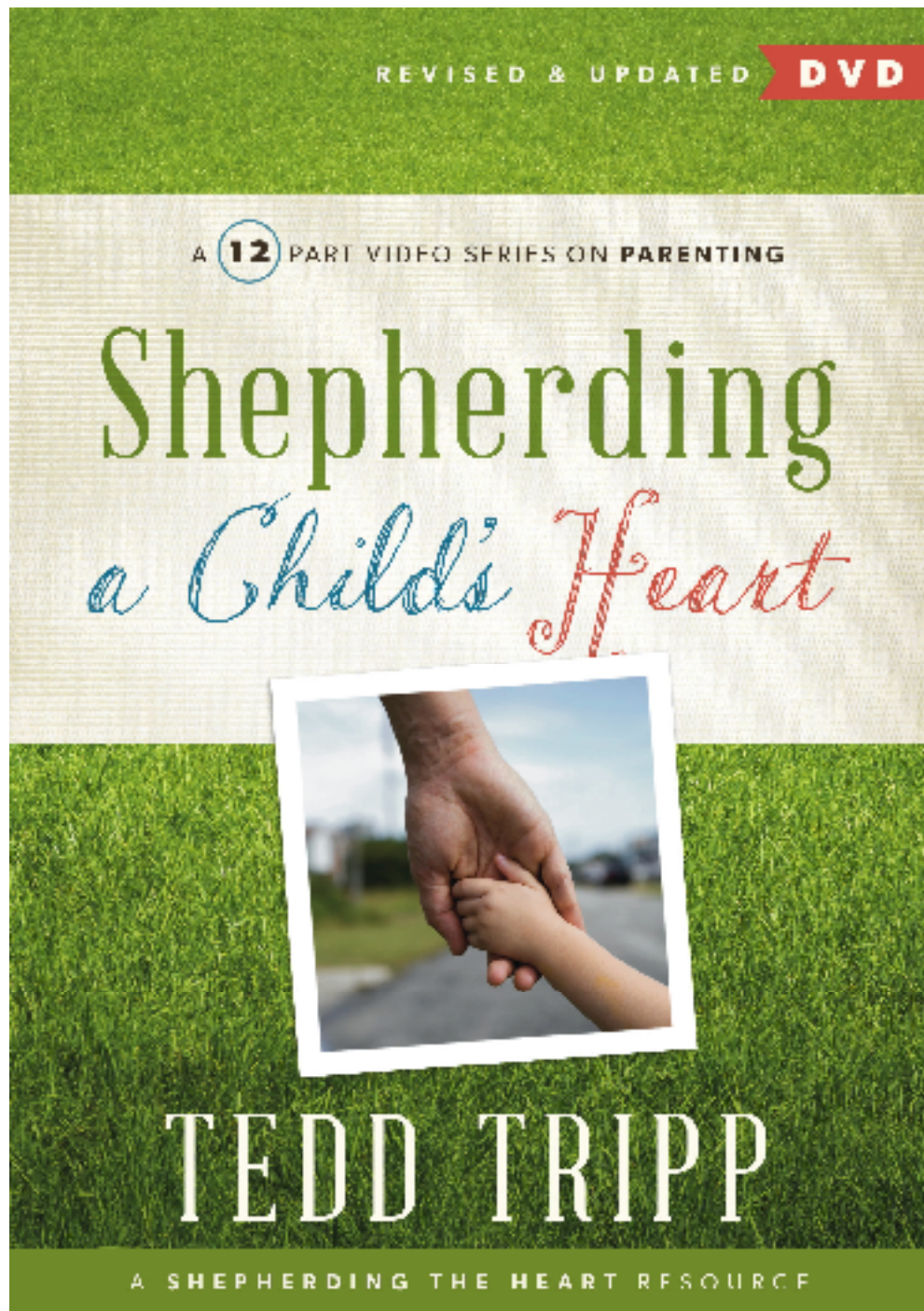


Shepherding a Child's Heart
DVD Study Outline



Shepherding a Child's Heart **DVD Study Outline**

Important Note: Due to a production error certain sets of the *Shepherding a Child's Heart DVD* have the sessions in an incorrect order on discs 1 and 2.

In some sets, Sessions 2-4 are incorrect. Session 2 contains the lecture from Session 3; Session 3 contains the lecture from Session 4; and Session 4 contains the lecture from Session 2.

In some sets, Sessions 3-4 are incorrect. Sessions 3 contains the lecture from Session 4, and Session 4 contains the lecture from Session 3.

We suggest that you preview the beginning of these sessions to make sure that the lecture content matches the content of this outline. If it does not, you want to watch the sessions in the order that they are presented in this outline. So if you discover that Session 2 is not "You're in Charge" on your disc, you'll want to skip ahead to Session 4 on disc 2 to watch "You're in Charge."

The correct session order and content is as follows:

Session 2: You're in Charge

Session 3: Your Child's Development: Shaping Influences

Session 4: Your Child's Development: Godward Orientation

If your DVD case has a green dot next to the bar code, the sessions are already in the correct order.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Sincerely,
Shepherd Press

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 1

Getting to the Heart of Behavior

1. We live out of our hearts (Proverbs 4:23)

- a. The heart sets the course of life
- b. All behaviors have their origins in the heart

2. The Bible uses the term *heart* much differently than our contemporary culture does

- a. Culture – *heart* refers to our soft, emotional side.
- b. Bible – *heart* refers to all of the immaterial part of humans, uses terms like *soul*, *spirit*, *mind*, *inner man* as well as *heart*.
- c. 700 passages refer to *heart*.
- d. *Heart* is about thinking, remember, knowing and other cognitive activities.

3. *Heart* is a major theme in the ministry of Christ recorded in the Gospels

- a. Law is applied in terms of the heart
 - i. For example: adultery and murder
- b. Christ does not draw behavior lines but says that your sin is in your heart.
 - i. Note Matthew 7
 - ii. Nothing that enters a man can make him unclean; rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him unclean
 - iii. Concerns about fairness, deceit, and slander are heart issues

4. “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks”

- a. Trees are recognized by their fruit.
 - i. Note the illustration about hanging apples
 - ii. Watch for monofilament apples in your child's behavior
 - iii. Real fruit is not produced by manipulation and behavior modification
 - iv. Manipulation does not address the real need of the heart.

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 1

- b. Behaviorism presents a false basis for ethics.
 - i. Behaviorism trains the heart in wrong ways—whatever parents use to motivate their children will ultimately train their hearts
 - ii. Relying on behavior means the gospel will never be central—you can't tag the gospel onto the end of a threat
 - iii. Behaviorism shows the idols of our hearts

5. See graphic on Ungodly Attitudes and Godly Attitudes

- a. No one has better resources for understanding children than the Christian who has the word of God
 - b. It is the attitudes of the heart that push and pull behavior
 - c. Behaviorism can produce right behavior for the moment, but ultimately these behaviors will wither and die, just like the apples hanging on the tree by monofilament line.
 - d. When training a two-year-old, begin with using the language of the heart
6. Tremendous benefits of focusing on the heart.
- a. Keeps attention on the heart, not just behavior—looking for the sin under the sin
 - i. Behavior shows the overflow of the heart
 - ii. Family photo at Niagara Falls demonstrated a failure to understand heart issues
 - b. If we focus on the heart our focus will be on the gospel
 - c. The most important benefit is to engage our children, not just reprove them

7. The word of God gives us sufficient resources to understand our children

- a. We need to dig deeply into the word of God and live richly out of the word of God.

End of Session 1

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 2

You're in Charge

1. Understanding authority is equally as foundational as the importance of the heart

- a. Our culture sees derived authority produced in one of two ways:
 - i. Overwhelming force
 - ii. Consent
- b. The idea of intelligent people willingly submitting to the authority of others is increasingly foreign in our culture
 - i. Young people view authority as someone over them telling them what to do
 - ii. Many young people want to avoid being in authority—they consider it unfair
- c. So, many parents give away their authority over their children
 - i. Parents end up begging, cajoling etc.
 - ii. The idea of biblical authority is lost

2. The Biblical view is that God has made parents to be authorities

- a. Succumbing to unbiblical pressures, we reduce obedience to a matter of personal convenience
 - i. This undermines biblical authority
 - ii. Authority then becomes about me rather than about God

3. God calls you to be an authority in the lives of your children

- a. Gracious authority is a blessing to your children
- b. Children need parental authority because they lack maturity, wisdom and life experience
- c. God has given parents this role to be his agent, his ambassador in the lives of their kids
- d. Genesis 18:19 — you have a mandate from God; you are on God's errand
- e. You are God's agent for discipline, correction and nurture in the life of your child

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 2

4. Implications for your children

- a. It is a blessing for them to be under authority
- b. God gives authority to parents, to be in charge of children
- c. Thus, it is appropriate for parents to give direction

5. The message for your children

- a. There is a God in heaven
 - i. He is kind
 - ii. He has made you and me and all things for his glory
 - iii. God in his kindness has put you in a family for your good
 - iv. It is blessing for you to obey mommy and daddy
 - v. We insist on your obedience because we know that is what is good for you
- b. Obeying Mom and Dad is good for you
- c. Mom and Dad are under authority too
 - i. The authority of God is mediated through parents
 - ii. Note the story of Tedd's two-year-old grandson

6. Sinful anger confuses children and muddies the waters in family life

- a. Your anger frames discipline incorrectly
 - i. It makes the problem between you and the child, rather than a problem between the child and God
 - ii. When children are not submitting to their parents, they are not submitting to God
- b. If you are thinking rightly about the nature of your authority as a parent, it will keep you from the huge temptation to personalize your child's disobedience
 - i. This makes the disobedience about you the parent
 - ii. Your child's responsibility to obey you is ultimately about obeying God
- c. You require obedience because it is God's plan

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 2

7. God's call to be an authority provides

- a. Confidence to provide direction
- b. A mandate to act
- c. Parents who are called to shepherd their children on God's behalf
 - i. In contrast to parents who want to be advisors or to make suggestions
 - ii. Don't give children the idea that they are independent decision makers and that the role of the parent is to simply to suggest alternatives—this is not a healthy message to give to a three-year-old

8. When you give away your authority

- a. You give your children an appetite for authority that does not exist
- b. They acquire a mistaken notion of freedom
- c. Nowhere in God's plan for you is the notion that you are an independent person with no authorities over you

9. How the Bible defines freedom

- a. Psalm 119:44-45: "I will continually obey your law forever and ever and I will walk about in freedom for I have sought out your precepts."
- b. Our culture equates parenting with being care provider, not an authority.
- c. The Bible says you are the authority in your children's lives to nurture and develop them
- d. God has called you to be the shepherd of your child

10. Understanding God's calling necessitates:

- a. Clear objectives: What are short and long term goals for each of your children?
- b. Humility in your task
 - i. You function as God's agent.
 - ii. Your children are not yours to do with as you please

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 2

- c. That there is no place for anger in the nurture of children
 - i. See James 1:19-20
 - ii. Unholy, human anger has no place in discipline

11. Living under authority is designed to be a blessing for children

- a. Discipline is *corrective*, not *punitive*
 - i. You are bringing the corrections and reproofs of life
- b. Discipline is designed to restore
 - i. The goal is to restore my child to right relationship with God
- c. Discipline is an expression of love. Proverbs 13:24; Hebrews 12:5; Revelation 3:19
- d. Understanding authority biblically is foundational for doing your job as a parent

End of Session 2

Your Child's Development: Shaping Influences

1. Definition of Shaping Influences

- a. Events and circumstances in a child's development that prove to be catalysts for the person they become
- b. Biblical basis
 - i. Genesis 18:19
 - ii. Deuteronomy 6:2
 - iii. Proverbs 22:6
 - iv. Ephesians 6:4
- c. The person your child becomes is the product of his life experience and how he responds to the shaping influences of life

2. Examples of Shaping Influences

- a. Family structure—includes the myriad of different combinations of relationships that form a family's background and history
- b. Family values—what is important to mom & dad?
- c. Family boundaries—what is private, what do you share?
- d. Family roles—children learn how to be parents as they observe mom and dad
- e. Family conflict resolution—how are issues resolved?
- f. Response to failure—what happens when mistakes and failures occur?
- g. Family history—major events in the life of a family, like marriages, deaths, moves, etc.
- h. Education—type and form
- i. Instability of the culture

3. Two mistakes that are made regarding shaping influences

- a. Denial—saying that children are unaffected by early childhood experiences
- b. Determinism—assuming children are simply the product of shaping influences

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 3

- i. For instance: “If I provide the proper environment, it will automatically produce the proper child.”

4. Your kids are never passive responders to the shaping influences you provide

- a. They are active responders
- b. Children respond to the Godward orientation of their hearts

5. What is this teaching about?

- a. It *is not* about how to get it right
- b. It *is not* to guarantee that you kids will grow up in the faith
- c. It *is* really about living before God in obedience
 - i. Fulfilling the calling God has given to you
 - ii. Trusting God for what God will bring in the lives of my children

6. Then why bother?

- a. You do all that God has called you to do because God has called you to do it
- b. Ultimately, your children are responsible for their responses to your parenting
- c. The condition of your child's heart determines how he will respond to the shaping influences of his life (see Proverbs 4:23)
- d. Proverbs 9 provides the balance needed
 - i. The wise person responds well to instruction and grows wiser
 - ii. The foolish person resists instruction and sinks more deeply into rebellion

7. We have three reasons for hope

- a. God's purpose is to work through families
- b. The gospel is suited to the deepest needs of your children
- c. The gospel is powerful—it can transform your kids

End of Session 3

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 4

Your Child's Development: Godward Orientation

- 1. Children interpret the shaping influences of their lives through the Godward orientation of their hearts**
- 2. Your children are designed for worship**
 - a. They will either respond with praise to God or they will bow before idols
 - b. Our children are instinctively and compulsively worshipping people
 - c. See Romans Chapter 1
- 3. Why do children fail to worship the God they are made to worship?**
 - a. They do not cease being worshippers
 - b. They end up worshipping and serving created things rather than the creator
 - c. They exchange the truth of God for a lie
 - i. This is what happens with all children, they will worship God or idols
 - ii. Your children are dazzled by God or they make the great exchange and worship created things rather than the Creator
- 4. These idols are not statues, but the subtle idols of the heart**
 - a. Note the graphic depicting the Idols of the Heart
 - b. Examples
 - i. Power and influence
 - ii. Pride and performance
 - iii. Possessions
 - iv. Pleasure and sensuality
 - v. The fear of man or the desire for the approval of others
 - c. All of these things are indications of worshipping the wrong things

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 4

5. Showing our kids the wonder and glory of who God is

- a. One of the most important callings God has given us
- b. We want to show them that God is the one true object of worship

6. The one truth that will help your children respond well to shaping influences is to have the true maturity of understanding who God is

- a. Therefore we must help them to see the wonder of who God is
- b. Psalm 145
 - i. No one can fathom the greatness of God
 - ii. "One generation will commend your works to another"—*This is parenting*
 - iii. The acts and attributes of God
 - iv. This psalm is a job description of parenting and how to worship God
- c. Remember that your children's worship will tell them how to interpret life
- d. You must give your children a vision for God and for God's glory

7. Note the brief survey of the Psalms that talk about the wonder of God

- a. Psalm 4:6-8 "You have filled my heart with joy."
- b. Psalm 16:11 "You have made known to me the pleasures of life."
- c. Psalm 27 "I want to dwell in the house of the Lord."—Knowing God is the greatest deliverance
- d. Psalm 36—Drink deeply of God's river of life
- e. Psalm 63 "You are my God, earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you."
- f. Psalm 73 "Whom have I in heaven but you?"
- g. Psalm 81 "You will be satisfied."

8. The Kingdom parable in Matthew 13

- a. The man gives all he has to acquire the precious treasure of the field—this is what the kingdom of heaven is like

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 4

- b. Your children must come to the place where they say, "I must have God."
- c. Your most important calling as a parent is to show them the glory of God
- d. If you want your children to have a reason to sing on Sunday, you must present to them a glorious God
- e. Only the worthiness of God will keep your children from the allure of mainstream entertainment

9. Why is the so important?

- a. What we do with God determines how we interpret life
- b. Solid and lasting joys are found in knowing God
- c. Rather than helping kids see the glories of God, many parents are feeding the idols
 - i. We fill our kids' lives with stuff
 - ii. We take joy in seeing their joy in stuff
 - iii. We fill their lives with busyness and activities that relegate God to a place of almost irrelevance in their lives

10. If you are going show your kids the wonder of God, you must be dazzled by God yourself

- a. You can't give away something you don't have
- b. Your children can see and embrace the glory of God!
 - i. Reference the note from one of Tedd's children. Your kids can get it
- c. You must be dazzled by God's glory so you can bring that to your children
- d. Do not focus on your failings, but on your desire to know God's goodness and glory

End of Session 4

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 5

Examining Your Goals

1. Examples of unbiblical goals

- a. Developing special skills
 - i. Special skills are not bad in themselves; they have a place in your child's development
 - ii. What must be sacrificed to achieve these goals?
 - iii. What are the parent's motivations?
 - iv. What are the values that will be taught by the leaders of these activities?
- b. Psychological adjustment
 - i. Where does the Bible encourage a psychologized way of looking at ourselves?
 - ii. Are children taught to have a biblical view of competition and how to return good for evil?
- c. Saved children
 - i. Temptation to think that if my child gets saved, it will be easy to work with him
 - ii. Take note of the important cautions in this section
 - iii. We can't save our kids
- d. Family worship
 - i. Family worship is means to an end, it is not the end in itself
- e. Well-behaved children
 - i. Well-behaved kids are a *secondary benefit* of biblical child rearing.
 - ii. This is not a primary goal
 - iii. Emphasis on well-behaved children can obscure dealing with heart issues
 - iv. The importance of manners is properly rooted in Philippians 2 - preferring others above yourself

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 5

- f. Good education
 - i. Are good grades a biblical objective?
 - ii. Grades don't reflect how much effort and hard work have been done
 - iii. A better gauge: what will produce character strength in adulthood?
 - g. Control
 - i. Goal is to manage kids—this is not a biblical goal
- 2. What is our goal for our children?**
- a. Best summed up the first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism
 - i. "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever"
 - ii. This is where parents need to start with their kids
- 3. What if our kids are not Christians?**
- a. Even if your kids don't know God they are still commanded to obey God
 - b. There is, of course, a tension here. Our kids are called to do something they cannot do without grace
 - c. This tension shows how profoundly we need the grace and power of the gospel.

End of Session 5

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 6

Discarding Unbiblical Methods

1. What are the methods we use to accomplish our goals?

- a. The story of the mother and daughter in the airport

2. We cannot be indifferent to methodology

- a. Biblically, the methods are as important as the objective
- b. God is not only concerned with what we do, but how we do it
- c. If we go to the culture for methods, we open ourselves up to unbiblical influences
- d. Biblical goals require biblical methods

3. Unbiblical methods

- a. "I didn't turn out so bad"
 - i. This parent is unquestioningly accepted the methods his parents used
 - ii. No biblical assessment is made
- b. Pop psychology
 - i. Whatever works is good, e.g. bribery
 - ii. Superficial.
 - iii. Self-interest is the goal.
 - iv. These methods don't address the heart, only behavior
- c. Behavior Modification
 - i. This is the most popular method of child rearing in our culture
 - ii. Reward good behavior; ignore or punish bad behavior.
 - iii. **Don't miss this: Whatever modifies behavior inevitably trains the heart.** In this case, the heart is trained toward greedy self-interest and obtaining rewards.
- d. Emotionalism
 - i. An appeal to pluck the child's heart strings.

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DVD Session 6

- ii. Example: A pastor told his daughter that her poor behavior would reflect badly on his ministry
- iii. "The Chair"
- e. Punitive correction
 - i. The idea is to make children pay for what they have done
 - ii. Grounding is the most popular form of punitive correction
 - iii. Does not address heart issues.
 - iv. Not designed to improve character, but to punish behavior.
- f. Erratic eclecticism.
 - i. A catch-all methodology—because parents don't know what to do

4. Where do unbiblical methods take us?

- a. Since the heart determines behavior, these methods all lead to superficial parenting rather than shepherding the hearts of our children
- b. These methods address behavior and miss the point of biblical discipline
- c. The deep needs within the heart are ignored
- d. Unbiblical methods provide children with functional idols to organize his life
- e. These methods train the heart away from Christ
- f. It is impossible to have a preoccupation with behavior and end up at the Cross

5. By focusing on the heart we see that the only hope we have is at the Cross

- a. Our children need transformation from the inside out
- b. We want to see the shepherding of our children bring them to confrontation with God

6. Imagine you are trying to deal with a child's failure to do his homework

- a. Bribery: "Do your work, I'll take you to the ball game."
- b. Emotionalism: "PLEASE, do your work."
- c. Behavior modification: "Everyday you do your work, I'll put your name in a jar."

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 6

- d. "I didn't turn out so bad": "I didn't do my work. I got smacked. So I learned to do my work."
- 7. What do each of these approaches accomplish?**
- a. Do any of these approaches lead to the truth that God sent his son into the world to free people from their sin?
 - b. These approaches all train the heart away from the Cross
 - c. All of these approaches produce distance between parents and children
 - i. The child will eventually resent the attempts at manipulation
 - ii. Depth of relationship will be lost
 - iii. Note the illustration of Tedd's friend from college
- 8. We need to think of the methods that God has given us to address issues of the heart**

End of Session 6

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 7

Embracing Biblical Methods: Communication

- 1. Goals and methods should be complimentary**
- 2. Life that is worth living should be lived under the Lordship of Jesus Christ**
- 3. Proverbs 23: instruction on rich, full communication and appropriate use of physical discipline**
 - a. See Proverbs 23:13-19, 22, 26
 - i. Physical discipline of children along with rich, sensitive communication
 - ii. We tend to separate these—the harsh disciplinarian vs the tender sensitive parent
 - iii. Proverbs 23 puts them together
 - b. This passage describes rich communication that prohibits cold, tyrannical discipline
 - c. Provides a context for honest, open communication in which the child:
 - i. Can feel known and understood
 - ii. Can even grow in the understanding of himself
- 4. Communication: dialogue, not monologue**
 - a. Communication is not just the ability to express ourselves
 - b. Learn to talk *with* your children and not just talk *to* them
 - c. The finest art of communication
 - i. Is *not* your ability to express your ideas
 - ii. It *is* the ability to *understand your child*
 - iii. Skilled communication enables you to help your children articulate their thoughts
 - d. We need to be people who are able to draw others out
 - i. Learn to ask good qualitative questions that can't be answered by "yes" or "no."
 - ii. We need to listen to what is being said
 - iii. Also listen for what is not being said
 - iv. Let you child know that you delight in them

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 7

- e. Certain questions can be used to gain certain types of information
 - i. “What?” questions reveal information
 - ii. “How?” questions reveal process
 - iii. “What did you want to accomplish?” questions reveal motivation
 - iv. “Help me understand” questions also reveal motivation
 - v. “How often?” or “where?” questions reveal patterns
 - vi. Understand the value of multiple-choice questions
- f. Parents need restraint to ask good questions, using pleasant words to promote instruction

5. When something has gone wrong

- a. Focus on understanding your child
- b. Your goal is to engage your child
 - i. You want more than “what”
 - ii. You want to understand “why” — focus on what is going on inside your child
- c. The example of the new sneakers
 - i. Focus on the explanation that shows what the child was thinking
 - ii. Helps you see the hopes and struggles of your child's heart

6. Your good desire can be summarized in several ways

- a. Your child's behavior reflects his heart
- b. What is the abundance of the heart?
- c. Internal issues of the heart are more important than behavior
- d. You want to be able to look at the world through your child's eyes
 - i. This is a tremendous encouragement to your children
- e. You want to bring the encouragement of the gospel to your children
 - i. The incarnation of Christ is a wonderful model for us
 - ii. He lived in our world and he understands our struggles

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 7

- iii. Christ is able to sympathize with our weaknesses
- iv. Great encouragement in Hebrews 4

7. Two functions as parent

- a. Stand above your child as his authority
- b. Stand alongside your child as one who has experienced these same struggles

8. Various types of communication

- a. Our communication needs to be multi-faceted and richly textured
- b. I Thessalonians 5:14
 - i. Different types of communication for different circumstances
 - ii. We can wound our children with a rebuke, when instruction is what is necessary
- c. Types of communication (from Proverbs)
 - i. Encouragement
 - ii. Correction
 - iii. Rebuke
 - iv. Entreaty
 - v. Instruction
 - vi. Warning
 - vii. Teaching
 - viii. Prayer
- d. Your communication will take many forms
 - i. Subtle, rich nuances for each form
 - ii. This is necessary for them to understand God's ways and God's truth

End of Session 7

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 8

**Embracing Biblical Methods:
Appeal to Conscience, Life of Communication**

I: Appeal to Conscience

- 1. The conscience is our ally in making our correction and discipline effective in our children**
- 2. What is the conscience?**
 - a. The capacity that reasons about good and evil, that distinguishes between right and wrong
 - b. The conscience is always at work (Romans 2)
 - c. Your most powerful appeals to your kids will be appeals that smite the conscience
- 3. Jesus' interaction with Pharisees in Matthew 21 is a graphic example**
 - a. Parable of the two sons—Jesus asks a question that appeals to the conscience
 - b. Parable of the vineyard—Pharisees indicted themselves by their answer to Jesus
 - c. Christ appeals to their conscience, dealing with root issues, not just surface issues
 - d. Christ is answering their original question (verse 23) that challenges his authority
 - e. Although the Pharisees didn't repent, their own responses indicted them
 - f. This what we want to do with our children
- 4. Appeal to our children's conscience**
 - a. Deal with issues of Godward orientation
 - b. Take correction beyond simply dealing with behavior to looking at issues of the heart
 - c. Address the heart by exposing sin
 - d. God has given your children a conscience to help them understand right from wrong
 - e. Example of the boy and the offering plate—his conscience was smitten by the gospel
 - f. Help your child to see himself as sinner, in need of the mercy of God
 - g. Help your child to see his need of grace
 - h. The focal point is to expose the inability to obey
 - i. Discipline exposes child's inability to love from the heart
 - ii. The goal: lead your child to the Cross to find grace, transformation, and help

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 8

5. Don't lower God's standard

- a. Lowering the standard allows children to keep that standard without grace
- b. Hypocrisy and self-righteousness come when we give our kids keepable standards

II: Life of Communication

1. Communication is not just an event, it's a lifestyle

- a. Communication *disciplines* and *disciples*
- b. Often parents are too busy to talk unless something is wrong
- c. Communication must be ongoing, all the time

2. Goal of communication: shepherd the heart

- a. Help children understand themselves
- b. Help them understand how God works
- c. Help them understand how sin works

3. Counting the cost of making communication happen

- a. Honest, true communication is expensive, it takes time
- b. Children require time and flexibility from their parents
- c. Kids don't pour out their hearts on schedule/on demand
- d. A wise parent learns to talk when their kids are in the mood to talk
- e. It is challenging to be a good listener to your kids
- f. When your children are ready to talk, you have to be ready to engage them
- g. We must be prepared to be honest with our kids

4. Blessings of good communication within the parent-child relationship

- a. Note the chart about authority and influence
- b. Influence reflects the willingness of a child to place himself under the parent's authority because of trust

Shepherding A Child's Heart
DVD Session 8

5. Benefits of Influence

- a. Your child will trust you when
 - i. He knows you love him
 - ii. He knows you understand him
 - iii. He knows you have invested yourself in him
 - iv. He knows you seek to see things through his eyes
 - v. He knows you help him flourish as himself
- b. This kind of communication is tremendous preparation for relationships
- c. Sensitive communication leads to a full-orbed understanding of life

6. Only biblical communication will expose the important areas of life

- a. All of life must be viewed from the perspective of God's redemption and restoration of mankind
- b. Christ will be relevant all the time in every situation

7. Parenting is the main job that God has called you to do

- a. There is no way to measure the costs against the benefits
- b. This biblical communication is what God has mandated us to do as parents

End of Session 8

**Embracing Biblical Methods:
The Discipline Process**

I. The training objectives for the first five years of life

1. The first five years are marked by development and radical change

- a. Physical
- b. Social
- c. Intellectual
- d. Spiritual
- e. This can be overwhelming

2. Overarching goal for the first five years: help your children be people under authority

3. The Circle of Blessing (Ephesians 6:1-3)

- a. Obey → Long life → Honor → Go well
- b. We must make a gourmet presentation of this truth to our kids
 - i. Negative presentation invites rebellion
 - ii. Make a presentation that is attractive
- c. Key definitions for terms in the circle of blessing
 - i. *Obey*: Submission to God's authority that causes a child to do what he is told by his parents immediately, without excuse, without complaint and without question
 - ii. *Honor*: Submission to God's authority that causes a child to speak to his parents with respect for their role as God's agent of nurture, direction and discipline
 - iii. *Go well*: The natural and spiritual blessings of obedience
 - 1. The spiritual blessing is being where God wants you to be
 - 2. There are also practical, natural blessings
 - iv. *Long life*: The blessings of prosperity and protection, richness and fullness of life that God provides for a child who lives under His structure of authority

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- d. Note how the diagram is extended to illustrate what happens when the child moves outside of the circle of blessing
 - i. Discipline and correction—a rescue mission designed to restore the child to the circle of blessing
 - ii. Discipline and correction is not what I do *to* my children, but *for* my children

II. Physical discipline in the early years

1. Illustration of little girl with her doll

2. What is a child's most basic problem?

- a. Not a lack of information
- b. The child's problem is that he is a sinner

3. Appropriate use of the rod of correction

- a. A parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness towards his or her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured, and controlled use of physical discipline to underscore the importance of obeying God
- b. This rescues the child from continuing in his foolishness and coming to destruction
- c. The description broken down:
 - i. A parental exercise—all of the passages about physical discipline describe the parent as the one who is responsible for physical discipline
 - ii. An act of faith—parents must do this trusting God
 - iii. An act of faithfulness—recognizing that there is hope in discipline
 - iv. A responsibility—the parent determining to obey God
 - v. Physical discipline
 - 1. It is never a time for venting wrath
 - 2. It is a rescue mission to restore your child to the circle of blessing

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4. Some distortions of physical discipline

- a. It is not a right to sinful anger
- b. Anger in physical discipline is always wicked and wrong
- c. It is not a right to hit our children capriciously
 - i. Parents are not to use physical force whenever they want
 - ii. This is a violation of Ephesians 6:4
- d. It is not venting frustration
- e. It is not something you do when you don't know what else to do
- f. It is not retribution
 - i. It is not a child paying for his sins
 - ii. Instead, physical discipline has the positive goal of restoration
- g. It is not associated with vindictive anger
- h. Your child should be restored and happy after physical discipline

End of Session 9

Shepherding Children Ages 0-5

1. Physical discipline is out of style in our culture

- a. Often rejected by people who have been physically abused by their parents
 - i. This kids never knew when they were going to be disciplined
 - ii. The discipline was often done capriciously and in anger
 - iii. Their response was, "I will never do this to my kids"
 - 1. This response is appropriate - you must never to that to your kids!
 - 2. Don't throw out what the Scriptures say because you were abused
- b. The Bible is not unclear about spanking children
- c. Don't be taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophy about physical discipline that denies the Bible

2. The Biblical basis for physical discipline

- a. Proverbs 13:24 — "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."
- b. Proverbs 19:18 — "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death."
- c. Proverbs 22:15 — "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
- d. In the Bible a fool, one who does folly, says there is no God. This is serious.
- e. Proverbs 23:13-14 — "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death."
- f. The child is on a trajectory headed for death if he is not challenged.
- g. Proverbs 29:15, 17 — "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.... Discipline your son and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul."

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- h. The meaning of these passages is clear, they are not hard to understand. There is an amazing amount of effort against doing what God has commanded.

3. The “How of Spanking:” A plan for how to do physical discipline biblically

- a. Take your child to a private place—discipline is not a spectator sport
- b. Tell the child specifically what he has done or failed to do—the child knows what is coming and why
- c. Secure an acknowledgement from the child—it is so important for the child to acknowledge the discipline process
- d. Remind the child of your objective
 - i. To restore the child to the circle of blessing
 - ii. Child has placed himself in danger because of not submitting to mom and dad
- e. Tell the child how many swats he is going to receive
 - i. You can deal with your children according to their different personalities, etc.
 - ii. Let them know you are in control and your actions flow out of love
- f. Remove his drawers
 - i. Layers of clothing can keep the spanking from being effective
 - ii. Important reminder: If your child is old enough to care for his own hygiene needs then leave his underpants on
- g. Restoration
 - i. When you are done tell him how much you love him.
 - ii. If the child will not be restored here are two things to check.
 - 1. Was my spirit wrong while disciplining? If so, ask for forgiveness
 - 2. The child may still be outside the circle of blessing
 - iii. Pray with the child and for him.

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4. Common questions:

- a. When do you spank?
 - i. Many things (especially with little children) require correction but not discipline
 - ii. Discipline for defiance
- b. What do you use? — Something that stings without bruising.
- c. When is the child old enough? — When the child is old enough to *understand* your words and not obey
- d. What if I am too mad? — Never discipline when you are mad or angry
- e. What if we are not home? — If you are not at home, don't discipline your kids
- f. What if he did not hear me? — Would he have heard you if you whispered "would you like ice cream?"
- g. When is he too old? — Spanking is most effective with little children
- h. What if it doesn't work? — The primary reason spanking does not work is because parents discipline in anger
- i. Can I use time out instead? — No (note the clarifications Tedd makes)
- j. If I listened to you, all I'll ever do is spank my kids! — If spanking is done biblically this will not be the case
- k. What if it is too late?
 - i. It is never too late—but you must train and instruct first
 - ii. It is not wise to implement a physical discipline process with older kids who were not disciplined as young children

End of Session 10

Shepherding Children Ages 6-12

- 1. Many issues cannot be reduced to obedience—we need to get to the sin beneath the sin**
- 2. The heart directs behavior**
 - a. Note the illustration from Matthew 15
 - b. It is what comes out of the heart that makes a man unclean
 - i. Ungodly behavior flows from ungodly attitudes
 - ii. Godly behavior flows from godly attitudes
 - c. The danger is that parents isolate behavior issues from heart issues
 - i. Very easy for parents to focus on behavior instead of the heart
 - ii. The temptation: trying to produce behavioral change without addressing heart attitudes behind behavior
 - iii. Note the “Shut up Jar” illustration
 - iv. A fight over a toy is really a fight between two selfish kids
- 3. Does God commend right actions for wrong motives?**
 - a. This is what Jesus condemned the Pharisees for
 - b. If you deal with the heart, the right attitudes will follow
- 4. See chart for a suggested list of attitudes of the heart**
- 5. The attitudes of heart push and pull our children's behavior**
 - a. As parents we want to give our children these truths
 - b. Develop a heart notebook
 - c. Address practical concerns (e.g., what does revenge look like for an eight-year-old?)

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- d. Concerns about electronic media
 - i. Children are ready to deal with the Internet only when they gain insight into the attitudes of their heart.
 - ii. Technical proficiency is not enough to prepare kids for the internet world
- 6. Attitudes of the heart are about much more than information transfer**
 - a. Yet we say to our kids, "I can't believe you would be so selfish"
 - b. We act as if having the right information is all that matters
 - c. The attitude of the heart is what matters most
- 7. Dealing with issues of the heart**
 - a. Allows parents to stand in solidarity with children, since they are facing the same issues
 - b. The beauty is that Christ has come to transform the heart
 - c. When we are dealing with the heart we are naturally led to the gospel
 - d. Goal is to give children a way to understand themselves in light of the grace of the gospel
 - e. We want our children to have an intelligent grasp of the grace and power of the gospel

End of Session 11

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Shepherding Teens

1. Common characteristics of teenagers

- a. Insecurity
- b. Vulnerability
- c. Instability
- d. Emotional instability
- e. Apprehension
- f. Tendency to rebel

2. Common pitfalls for parents

- a. Cops and robbers—parents always checking up on children
- b. Parents Disengage—give up on trying to influence their teenagers
- c. Authoritarianism versus influence
- d. Reckless words—derogatory, nasty words do great damage
- e. Majoring on the minors—focusing on matters of style and taste

3. Goals with our teenagers

- a. Internalization of the gospel
- b. Passing on the baton of faith
- c. Shepherding their interaction with the truth of God's word
 - i. Parents need to be bringing God's word to their kids all the time
 - ii. Apply God's truth to think through issues of culture
 - iii. Apply scripture to relationship struggles
- d. Shepherding teenagers through the inevitable periods of doubt
 - i. Teenagers *will* come to the point of wrestling with issues of faith
 - ii. Parents need to be ready for these periods
- e. Develop a relationship that leads to mutuality as adults under God

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4. Three foundational things for interacting with teenagers

- a. The fear of the Lord
 - i. Proverbs 1:7—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
 - ii. This is the first step in the path of wisdom
 - iii. The fear of God has been de-emphasized in modern evangelical culture
- b. Proverbs 1:9-10—Remember your parents' words.
- c. Disassociation from the wicked
 - i. Equip your teenagers to get out of places of danger
 - ii. Wicked people present evil as something attractive, and offer acceptance

5. Communication

- a. Communication with your teenagers is dictated by your parenting paradigm
 - i. If your paradigm is *control*, you will use harsh words
 - ii. If the paradigm is *nurture*, your language will be different
- b. Biblical communication has spiritual foundations that reflect a life of faith and confidence in God
 - i. Proverbs 15:33—The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom
 - ii. Proverbs 9:10—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
 - iii. Proverbs 17:27—Wise people speak with restraint
 - 1. Shouting trivializes your words
 - 2. Avoid wordiness (see Ecclesiastes 6:11; Proverbs 17:28)
 - 3. Too many words make your words meaningless
 - 4. If you say too many words you will say things that are unguarded
 - 5. Think first, speak second (see Proverbs 15:28, 29:20)
- c. Use pleasant words (Proverbs 16:20-24—Pleasant words promote instruction)

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- d. Your goal is understanding
 - i. The finest art of communication is not the ability to express your thoughts; it is the ability to understand your kids (Session 7)
 - ii. Heed the warning of Proverbs 18:2—"The fool does not delight in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions"
- e. Communication is what enables you to have a relationship with your teenagers that makes you an influence in their lives

End of Session 12