



WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Because of Your Love, His Mercy is More, Grace So Glorious

WELCOME

What is one movie or TV series you've watched that portrays the concept of training? How were you inspired (or not inspired) by that movie or TV show?

WORD

PROVERBS 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

EPHESIANS 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

We continue our series on MOTIVATE: 8 SECRETS OF IMPACTING the lives of our children, loved ones, and disciples FOR LASTING CHANGE. Today we will focus on **TRAINING and TEACHING**; specifically, to understand the principle of TRAINING. For many of us, we think of training as the responsibility of the government, school, or church. GOD says clearly though, that parents are responsible for training their children. The training principle that we will look at today is this: **PROPER INTENTIONAL TRAINING RESULTS IN TRANSFORMATION.**

In **Proverbs 22:6**, the word **TRAIN UP** a child comes from a very interesting word **CHANAK (ha-nak)** which means to dedicate or set apart; it also means "creating an appetite". **The foundation of training is to guide the will of a child.** Parents and disciples take responsibility in setting the direction for children/disciples to the direction God intends for them to go. **Proverbs 22:15** reminds us that foolishness is innate in us, and that is why we really need training! Training involves teaching, but training is much more than that. **Training is really DISCIPLESHIP.**

Training is not just transfer of information. It is God guiding us to internalize values, helping us become Christ-like. Training involves modelling. It involves teaching your children a way of life that they can internalize through your intentional action, behavior, and words. Teaching children to count is fine but teaching what counts in life is more important. Biblical training has to do with **CHARACTER** and **PURPOSE**. You want your children to grow into **CHRISTLIKENESS**. You want your children to learn to obey the Lord. **The root problem of humanity is really SELF-WILL** so proper training begins with **OBEDIENCE**. You want them to not only obey externally, but also to delight in their heart as they obey. The Apostle Paul gave a few reminders on this in different epistles. In **Galatians 4:19**, his process of discipleship aims at "Christ-likeness", and in **Ephesians 6:1-3**, he describes the **command, manner, and blessing of obedience**. True obedience involves not just external behavior. It has to do

with your heart and attitude. **TRAINING focuses on obedience.** We also need to instill the concept of "**ONE COMMAND OBEDIENCE**". Obedience must not be delayed; children must learn to obey immediately not wait for the command to be repeated several times! This also includes learning to **OBEDIENT WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE**—not grudgingly, but joyfully.

Discipline without relationship will lead to rebellion, and love without discipline will lead to disrespect. So, you always have to balance discipline, love and relationship in training. Here is the secret: **LOVE plus CONSISTENT DISCIPLINE, over TIME, will lead to CHRIST-LIKENESS and GODLY CHARACTER.**

How can parents TRAIN their children across ages? The overarching principle is that across life stages, you **ADJUST YOUR STYLE**. For example:

0-6 years old – Focus is obedience and respect. Be direct. Three important words can help parents as they TRAIN their children: **NO** (which trains them to delay gratification or avoid *whining*), **WAIT** (which trains them patience), and **OBEDY** (which trains them to follow immediately). The suggested approach: be stricter when they are younger, and you start loosening up as they grow older. Here is something that you need to learn. We must discipline diligently and not withhold the rod (**Proverbs 13:24**). When we discipline children, we must remember that the goal is **to impact the heart**, so you need to make sure you are able to connect with the heart of your children. Explain why they are getting spanked and remind them of your love and intention to correct.

7-12 years old - At this point, **you have to increase responsible behavior based on internalized values.** When they were still young you have to be stricter. As they grow older, your goal is to help them learn to choose wisely and consider consequences. This is where we emphasize things like **SELF-CONTROL**, training in **RESPONSIBILITIES**, and even **OWNING UP TO THEIR CHOICES and DECISIONS**. These things must be **MODELED** to them, so we also better shape up!

WORD (cont'd)

13-19 years old – In their teenage years, it is important to train them to **develop CONVICTIONS that are rooted in the Bible**. Apply a lot of respect and listening. You also have to reinforce remembering what Scripture says as their decision-making will be impacted by what they know about God and the faith that they should have understood from the heart. Remember to **connect them to JESUS!**

20 years old and above – At this age, we listen more and process with them more. Parents assume the role of a **coach or a guide** as their children traverse adulthood issues and challenges.

Across life stages, we must all learn the importance of **OBEDIENCE & SUBMISSION**. Submission to authority is submission to GOD, the Ultimate Authority, and obedience is done for the Lord's sake and purpose (**1 Peter 2:13-15, Proverbs 21:1**).

OBEDIENCE BRING BLESSINGS. The principle of obedience is that it is God's way of protecting us. Submission applies not just to parents and children, but even to workers and "masters" (**1 Peter 2:18-19**) including those who are unreasonable! We are to submit to the government (**Romans 13:1**). We submit to AUTHORITY as long as it does not go against the standards of GOD. In **Acts 5:29** we are reminded to OBEY GOD rather than men. We can appeal, but what is expected of us is to give **HONOR, OBEDIENCE**, and **RESPECT** ultimately to GOD who is the Ultimate Authority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Self-Check**. In what ways are you modelling submission and respect to authorities? In what ways are you not?
2. **Setting It Right**. What have you missed out on in TRAINING your disciples or children? How will you improve?
3. **Living It Out**. In what area of your life do you need to practice submission to God right now (apply "one command obedience" to the Lord)?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for submissive hearts to the Lord for the people you are reaching out to. Be submissive and obedient to your spouse (husband), parents, bosses, government, in order to win them over to the Lord. Share God's Word—the good news that Jesus Christ transforms hearts and lives!

GOD-HONORING OBEDIENCE, PURPOSEFUL DISCIPLINE

1 Peter 3:1 is a good reminder about submission. While it was addressed to wives to be submit to their unbelieving husbands in order to win them to Christ, it is also a reminder for us that **obedience is anchored on faith in GOD**. God wants us to trust Him as we submit to authorities. We are to teach our disciples and children about the concept of submission and obedience which ultimately is **UNTO THE LORD**.

God wants us to really believe that when we obey and trust Him, we're allowing Him to be the One to work on our behalf. **All obedience is ultimately obedience to GOD**. When you obey GOD, you must obey authorities. Jesus Himself said in **John 14:15** that obedience to God is a marker of our love and commitment to Him. In an adjacent concept, **Hebrews 12:5-8** and **10-11** reminds us of God's purpose for discipline. It is always for the purpose of diligently driving us into Christlikeness. Training and discipline in Paul's letters use the same concept as *gym-training*, and when you see it that way, you understand that TRAINING especially from GOD leads to a greater and eternally impactful purpose. **Romans 8:28-29** reminds us that the Lord is achieving His purpose through it all. God's desire is for us to be Christ-like. **Discipline** from the Lord is not just aimed at our salvation, but more so for our **sanctification into Christlikeness!**

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends