

Lesson #24
Hebrews 12:5-11
April 22, 2015

Raise your hand if your mom and dad love you. All of you should have your hand raised because I know that all of you are loved! Can you tell me some of the ways your mom or dad show that they love you? (*Give the kids several minutes to tell you how their parent(s) love them. They might say, "they give me presents" or "they make me dinner," etc.*) Thank you for those great examples of how your parents show their love for you. Here's another way that maybe you haven't thought of: Our moms and dads show love when they discipline us! Does that surprise you? Think of this:

- When they won't let you eat candy before dinner, but make you eat a healthy meal first, they are showing love by training you to take care of your body, and have self-control.
- When they give you a time out because you were not nice to your brother or sister or friend, they want you to stop the wrong behavior and think about the right way to behave because they love you and want you to grow up to be kind to others.
- When mom or dad take away your toy because you won't stop playing with it and get into bed it isn't because they don't love you—it's because they do! They want you to get enough sleep and they know it's important that you learn to honor and obey them.

Yep, one way your parents prove their love for you is by disciplining you. You are their precious child so they discipline you because they deeply care about you and want you to live a good life.

In the book of Hebrews we learn that one of the ways God proves that we are His children and that He loves us is also by His discipline! Right now, while you are young, you have parents that discipline you. Parents are human so they may make mistakes sometimes when they discipline. They may get frustrated and yell or they may ignore bad behavior when they really should do something about it, but they are doing their best. Our Heavenly Father, however, is perfect and His discipline is perfect. It is ALWAYS for our good. God's discipline trains us to live a holy life. God's discipline produces right living and peace in us.

Raise your hand if you like being disciplined. Do you like it when you are given a time out or when your mom or dad take away something of yours or tell you "No," or when you get a spanking? I doubt that any of you enjoy those things. I'm sure, too, that your parents don't like having to discipline you. But, they do it because they love you and want you to learn to live in a right way.

As you grow older, your parents will no longer discipline you because you won't be a child anymore, but God will still discipline you. God disciplines me because I belong to Him and He loves me. God doesn't give me a time out and make me sit in a chair so I can think about my wrong behavior! God doesn't come down from Heaven and spank me for

something I did wrong! But, He does allow challenging things to come my way. When difficult things happen, it helps me to stop, think about my behavior and look to the Lord. Through difficulties He teaches me and trains me in His ways. He wants me to learn from Him and live a holy life full of right choices and peace. He wants that for you, too, because you are His child and He loves you.

Let's thank God for His great love for us...

"Father God, thank You that prove that we are Your children and that You love us when You discipline us. Amen"

Grow At Home #24
Hebrews 12:5-11
April 22, 2015

Today the children learned this God fact:

- God proves that we are His children and He loves us when He disciplines us.

Live it Out: Remind your child that one way you show that you love her is by your discipline. We learned from Hebrews today that one of the ways God proves that we are His children and that He loves us is also by His discipline! Moms and dads may make mistakes sometimes when they discipline, but our Heavenly Father is perfect and His discipline is perfect. It is ALWAYS for our good. God's discipline helps us to share in His holiness. It produces right living and peace in us. God allows us to go through a difficult time to train us and teach us to make right choices.

Tell your child about a time when you were young and your parents disciplined you (in a positive way). Include how you felt, how you responded and what you learned from it. Now, ask your child those same questions. "How do you feel when I discipline you?" "How should you respond?" "What is a lesson you've learned when you've been disciplined?" Then, hug your child and assure her that you discipline her because she is precious and you want her to live a good life, pleasing to God.

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank You that prove that we are Your children and that You love us when You discipline us. Amen"

Bible Verse: "They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness." Heb. 12:10