

No Stupid Children

I would not advise it, but you could try it. The next time your child pushes aside your instruction or rejects your discipline, you could tell them that they are 'stupid.' Again, I do not advise it, but you could, because Solomon wrote,

**Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
But he who hates reproof is stupid.**
—Proverbs 12:1

The Hebrew term behind the word 'discipline' includes all aspects of instruction, including: verbal instruction, demonstration, correction, re-teaching, & rebuke. This same word also includes all forms of discipline including corporal punishment. When administered, discipline is not pleasant, but it is for the good of the child. *Parents, instruction and discipline are expressions of love for your children.*

Instruction and discipline have the goal of instilling godly principles, proper attitudes, and good behavior. Parents must instruct and discipline in such a way that their child can recognize the benefit in following instruction and discipline. Harsh words do not make for good instruction. Impulsive discipline will not teach beneficial lessons. Homespun ideas that have no

relevance or no basis in reality will teach a child to *stop* listening.

Instruction and discipline are imperative, yet children need to be trained that instruction and discipline are good for them. **They need to be taught to love and desire instruction and discipline.**

To do this, parents must 'tell' children the benefits of instruction and discipline in relation to identifiable, real-life, practical examples. In other words, after having given instruction and/or discipline, a parent should *be on the lookout* for a teachable moment that will illuminate the benefit of previous instruction/discipline. It may take some time. Keep looking.

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Do not make the teachable moment an 'I told you so' moment. Rather, when the teachable moment arrives, point back to the instruction/discipline and explain the connection. Help them to appreciate the benefit that resulted. (You may observe teachable examples in other children.)

Over time you will find less need for discipline and more times when simple instruction is all that is needed...

And your children will not be stupid.

Mark Stinnett