

Notes for Taming the Lecture Bug

By Joey & Carla Link

Parents need to learn the art of asking questions of their children. When parents ask the right question, they will find out what their kids are thinking which helps parents get to the root problem. This also allows parents to discover areas their children need additional training in and how to motivate their children to make right choices the next time the same situation arises.

When Do Parents Need To Ask Questions?

1. When your child: Knows he has done something _____ but doesn't want to confess it.
2. Has _____ to you or someone else and he doesn't want to admit it.
3. Tries to steer you off -track by _____ you.
4. Has not followed through on a task or _____ as he knows he should, yet goes on to enjoy something he wants to do.

What's the Problem?

In general, parents know when their child did something wrong, is not telling the truth or is irresponsible. However, while parents know their child is capable of wrong-doing (Romans 3:23), they don't want to believe their child did something he knew was wrong because the parents want to think the best of their child.

Parents have difficulty _____ wrong-doing by their child when they have worked with them to do what is right in a given area.

Parents:

1. Need to look for _____ of wrong-doing in their child and be willing to accept these weaknesses in him and take the _____ to work on them.

The _____

- Born leaders
- Visionary
- Delegate to others
- Are not afraid of confrontation

Negative side

- Argumentative
- Domineering
- Demanding and must have their own way
- Need to be on control

The _____

- Life of the party
- Don't know a stranger
- Out-going
- Cheerful
- Positive and encouraging

Negative side

- Easily distracted
- They Lie

The _____

- Quiet
- Only need a few friends
- Genius, artistic and creative
- Perfectionists

Negative side

- Overly Sensitive
- Moody

The _____

- Good in crisis
- Negotiate well
- Laid-back
- Good with numbers
- Analytical

Negative side

- Procrastinate
- Hard to motivate
- Stubborn

Some Recommended Resources on Temperaments:

- *Spirit-Controlled Temperaments*
- *The Treasure Tree*
- “*Dealing with Your Child’s Besetting Sins, Parts 1-3*” (4 hours of teaching from in Mom’s Notes presentations,

All Available at www.parentingmadepractical.com

2. Typically _____ their children instead of asking questions of them.

Lecturing:

- √ Does not give parents new _____
- √ Does not _____ children to right behavior
- √ Teaches children to _____ parents or tune them out
- √ Does however make parents _____ better

When parents want to lecture their child, they need to think of _____
_____ what they want to say in a question.

3. When parents think their child is giving them false information, they need to ask questions to _____ the truth.

Asking Questions of Children will Accomplish Two Things:

1. Reveal the areas parents need to _____ their children in that are lacking.
2. Expose the _____ in their child’s heart.

How Can Parents Find the Truth?

1. Look in your child’s _____.
2. Look at their _____ language.

3. Listen to their _____.
4. Watch and listen to their _____.

What Kinds of Questions Should Parents Ask?

1. The questions need to reveal whether the child _____ what the parents' have been trying to train him in. If he doesn't, then the parents know they need to do more training in this area
2. Parents are often focused on correcting their kids' behavior when they need to be more concerned with the _____ their kids acted inappropriately rather than "WHAT" they did.

3 Types of 'Why' Questions:

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
(From *Growing Kids God's Way* defining the type of questions children ask.)
3. Parents need to ask questions that challenge the _____ of their child's thought process to get the right response from him. Parents should not accept answers that don't make sense or are the opposite of the parents' convictions.

Types Of Questions Parents Can Ask:

- √ Why did you do (or not do) that?
- √ What were you thinking?
- √ Why didn't you do what I asked you to do?
- √ Did you feel guilty for not doing what I asked you to do?
- √ How do you think I felt when I found out you didn't do it?
- √ Did you think you would get away with it?
- √ Did you think what you did was the right thing to do?
- √ If not, what do you need to do about it now?
- √ What will you do the next time you are tempted in this way?
- √ How will you make yourself do what is right when you don't want to?
- √ How are you going to regain my trust?

Unacceptable Responses To Questions Parents Ask:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| √ I don't know | √ Kind of |
| √ I am not sure | √ Sort of |
| √ I think so | √ I am pretty sure |
| √ Maybe | √ Whatever |
| √ Possibly | |

Remember: When parents get these types of responses, they need to say,
“That was a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ question and needs a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer.”

James 5:12 (NIV) “*Let your yes be yes and no be no* _____.”

What To Do If A Child Doesn't Answer Questions With A Good Attitude:

1. He needs to _____ where he can't be disturbed until his attitude changes and he is humble and teachable and ready to answer the question _____ . Asking questions of a child with a bad attitude will not accomplish anything positive.

Recommended Resources for Training Kids in Obedience:

- “Understanding First Time Obedience”
- “Why Can't I Get My Kids to Obey”
Available at www.parentingmadepractical.com

2. Parents must remain _____ no matter what answer a child gives them, which will help avoid getting into a power struggle with their child.
3. The child needs to go through the _____, _____, and _____ process when his attitude is good.
4. When this is done, parents need to look for an opportunity to _____ their child's heart by asking the question again. If the R/F/R process was genuine on the child's part, the parent should get the appropriate response.

What to Do if a Child Doesn't Give the Answer Parents are Looking For:

Keep asking questions that will make him _____ at a deeper level to deal with the issues he doesn't want to deal with.

Parents!

Stop talking and start _____ questions!!