



Raising Passionate Jesus Followers

GOAL

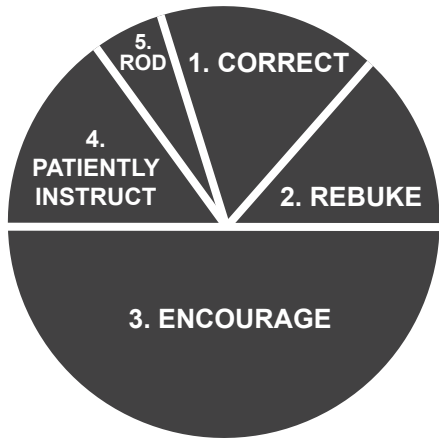
To partner with God in intentionally raising sons and daughters who grow up to become passionate Jesus followers.
Loving God with passion and loving people on purpose. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 22:36-40

Laying the Foundation (birth to 5 years)

The aim is to help your children develop a heart of *obedience* and *self-control*. This early time in the home is like boot camp with lots of training.

Nearing the end of this stage, your child...

- Obeys commands when given. Exhibits self-control.
- Infrequent willful temper tantrums.
- Accepts "No" as a final answer.
- Grasps that they can control their attitude.
- Responds enthusiastically to stories about Jesus & Bible heroes.
- Has started memorizing Scripture.
- Prays authentically.



2. Warn sternly, admonish strongly. This should be done in private, not in a way that publicly shames them. A warning ignored should always be followed by action, not more empty warnings.

3. Come alongside to help, comfort, and bring courage. This is the most important tool—use it **frequently & generously**. Your child will become who you tell them you see them becoming.

4. Train your children through practicing. Actively teach: "Not that way... this way."

5. Spanking can be interpreted as a biblical concept and should be handled **prayerfully, and carefully**... Never in public or in anger, and never to harm.

1. Gently show your child their fault. Don't ignore it, excuse it, raise your voice, or think they'll grow out of it. Use the **Ten Year Rule**—ask yourself "What will this behavior look like in 10 years?"

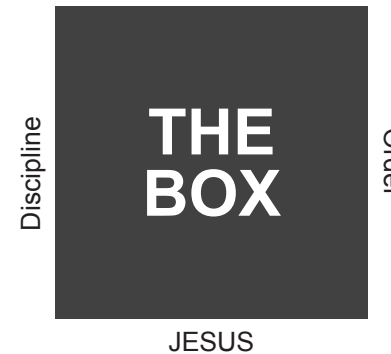
Doing the Framing (6 to 12 years)

The aim is to help your children develop a heart of *wisdom: living life skillfully*. In this stage, do not provoke your children through an ongoing pattern of ill-treatment that breaks their spirit and builds up a deep-seated resentment.

Nearing the end of this stage, your child...

- Has received Jesus as Savior and King.
- Understands and has considered baptism.
- Reads the Bible on their own.
- Memorizes Scripture.
- Has an emerging work ethic.
- Exhibits honesty and integrity.
- Treats people graciously and respectfully.

Affection, Affirmation, and Fun



1. Jesus - He's the foundation / base.

2. Discipline - correct, rebuke, encourage, patiently instruct, rod of correction.

3. Order - routine, bedtime, healthy eating, outdoor play, etc.

4. Affection, Affirmation, and Fun.

If your child is acting up, don't just stomp them with discipline. Tighten every side of the box *simultaneously* and you will see them thrive.

Three areas to focus on during this stage:

1. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT - teach your children to rule their spirit consistently, conduct themselves wisely, walk in integrity, and work heartily.

2. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING - teach your children how to love people on purpose, treating others respectfully, and apologizing sincerely when necessary.

3. SPIRITUAL TRAINING - You want them to fall in love with Jesus, love the Scriptures, and love God's church.

Installing the Functional Systems

(13 to 17 years) The aim is to help your children develop a heart of *godliness*. In this stage, you want to see their faith become their own.

Nearing the end of this stage, your child...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understands the why and the how of dealing with temptation. | <input type="checkbox"/> Is involved in the community of the church. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a personal commitment to purity. | <input type="checkbox"/> Loves hanging out with their family. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knows what they are good at. | <input type="checkbox"/> Has developed a consistent personal time with God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is hard working. | <input type="checkbox"/> Chooses friends wisely. |

4 THINGS YOU WILL NEED...

- 1. COURAGE** to stand against the tide (Joshua 1:9)
- 2. PERSEVERANCE** to keep the training going (Hebrews 5:14, 1 Timothy 4:8)
- 3. DETERMINATION** to keep your family close
- 4. WISDOM** to navigate through this season (James 1:5, 2 Chronicles 20:12)

3 THINGS YOUR TEENAGER WILL NEED...

- 1. DISCOVER** what they're good at (Prov. 22:6, 22:29)
- 2. GUARD** their purity (Proverbs 4:23)
- 3. YOU...**
 - your presence
 - your encouragement
 - your affection

3 SECRETS TO DISCIPLINE DURING THE TEENAGE YEARS...

- 1. THE BOX**
- 2. SWITCH ROLES**
- 3. THE PROCESS AND POWER OF APPEAL**

Completing the Finish Work

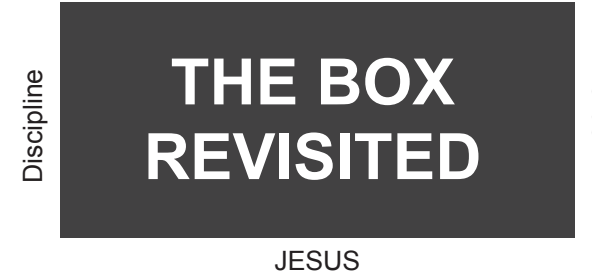
(18 to 21 years) The aim is to help your children develop a heart of *maturity*. Don't quit after the teenage years. Finish what you started.

Nearing the end of this stage, your nearly-adult child...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Has the ability to stand alone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to find key Scripture passages for life's challenges. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently protects their own sexual purity. | <input type="checkbox"/> Is learning to listen to the Spirit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understands how to choose a husband or wife. | <input type="checkbox"/> Lives missionally and loves the Church. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to handle money wisely. | <input type="checkbox"/> Understands a Biblical theology of suffering. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Has consistent personal time with God. | |

1. The box is still there in this stage, but it changes shape dramatically. Remember not to over-discipline, over-structure, or over-correct.

Affection, Affirmation, and Fun



2. In this stage, remind yourself to distinguish between the One GOAL and your personal Values—your goal is still the same for your children, that they would love Jesus and love others as their own values continue to develop.

Opening the Front Door



BLESSING - Bless your kids by believing in them, choosing not to criticize them, listening to them instead of judging them, and praying for them.



BOX - The box is now gone, but the foundation of Jesus remains. You are no longer over them. You are now alongside them.



KEY- Hand them a key to your house to let them know that you will always be there for them. Respect their need to build their own house—differently than yours.