



Today, we continue our series, Help! My Family is Crazy. Over the past few weeks, we've laughed, reflected, and hopefully grown by looking at how doing family God's way can seem "crazy" to the world around us. Today, we're diving into what it means to parent with God's wisdom, not cultural advice. The Bible offers us timeless truths for parenting, whether we're raising toddlers, navigating the teenage years, or relating to adult children. Let's consider how godly correction and direction—given in love—can shape how we parent.

**Key Passage:** Proverbs 1:8-9 and Ephesians 6:1-4

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What two key things does Proverbs 1:8–9 say children need from their parents?

Children need instruction and teaching. Proverbs speaks of a father's correction and a mother's direction, reflecting the need for discipline and nurturing. These are essentials for raising children spiritually and for their overall development.

2. Why might parenting "God's way" seem crazy to the world?

God's parenting principles often go against the grain of culture, which promotes independence over authority and permissiveness over discipline. Loving correction and intentional direction may look extreme or outdated to those around us. But God's way aims to raise mature, godly adults, not just well-behaved children.

3. How can you apply the idea of parenting with a "30-year goal" in mind this week?

Parenting with a "30-year goal" requires thinking long-term about how small decisions today will shape a child's future. For example, prioritize the teaching of responsibility over avoiding conflict. Ask, "Will this matter when they're 30?" before responding.

4. What are the consequences of unhealthy correction, and how can you recognize them?

Unhealthy correction—whether harsh or absent—can create fear, resentment, or rebellion. It lacks self-control and teaches the child to ignore authority or fear it instead of respecting it. A pattern of discipline without connection often leads to long-term relational damage.

See Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 29:11.

5. According to Proverbs 13:24, what is the connection between love and discipline?

This verse teaches us that withholding discipline is not love but neglect. Discipline done right—calmly and consistently—is a demonstration of love. It reflects God's own discipline toward His children.

6. Why is direction just as important as correction?

Correction shapes behavior, but direction shapes values and purpose. Children need to know where they're going, not just what not to do. Direction gives clarity about a family's spiritual and moral trajectory.

7. How does helicopter parenting differ from backup parenting, and which one do you see more of in yourself?

Helicopter parenting is overly controlling, rescuing kids from consequences and limiting growth. Backup parenting supports, guides, and sometimes steps aside to let real life teach the lesson. Evaluating your parenting can reveal whether you're empowering or enabling your children.

8. Design a parenting rhythm that balances correction and direction. What would that look like in your home?

A balanced rhythm might involve clear boundaries, loving discipline, daily encouragement, and shared spiritual practices. For example, implement family devotionals, discuss choices, and use consistent consequences. It's about both guiding (shepherding) your child and walking alongside them.

9. How can your spiritual life model discipleship for your child more than formal Bible studies can?

Daily integrity, prayer, and service speak louder than structured lessons. When kids see you walking with God, it normalizes faith. Invite them to participate in what you do for God—not just watch it.

10. If you're parenting adult children, how can you adjust your role to still have godly influence without overstepping?

Parenting adult children is all about navigating the shift from authority to influence. Parents can make this shift through availability, humility, and servant-heartedness. Ask yourself, "How can I help serve their family?" Your faithfulness and presence may impact more than your advice!