

# *Family Remodel: Remodeling Discipline in the Family*

Todd Kleinhans June 4, 2017

We're continuing through our series on Home Remodeling. We started with Ruth who spoke about being a mother. They we talked about the family topics of anger and jealousy, and also self-esteem. Today we're going to discuss Home Remodeling in the area of discipline.



Now I don't stand here this morning pretending to be the perfect father. I've made more than my share of parenting mistakes. And if I had it to do all over again, I'd do it a lot differently. The main thing I would do is spend more time with my kids.

When we think of the word discipline, many things come to mind.



There's a military type of discipline – Where strict training brings about a stern obedience to rules and controlled behavior and fierce loyalty.

Discipline in for form of punishment – This happens after the fact. After someone breaks a rule, there is punishment, to show them that what they did was wrong, hoping the punishment will prevent them from doing it again.



There's discipline in the form of training, teaching, carefully showing someone how things should be done. Discipline by example – not only teaching, but also showing through our own lives, the kind of behavior that is expected. This type of discipline requires us to spend a lot of time with someone and really invest ourselves in the lives of others. It requires

us to be involved and interested in their lives.

And this is the kind of discipline we should hope to have with our children. In order to instill this kind of discipline in our children, we must first have discipline in ourselves.

Throughout the Bible, there are many good examples of good parenting and bad parenting. A lot of good discipline, and a severe lack of discipline.

Today we're going to look at King David in the Old Testament. He is a good example we're going to look at of how a lack of discipline affects our children and our families.

David was a great king. He was a man after God's own heart. He loved God and trusted him. He was a great military leader and a wise king. He wasn't perfect. He messed up, big time. But so do we.

And when it came to parenting, we see a lack of discipline in David as a father, and therefore he had some undisciplined kids.

Specifically, we're going to look at three of King David's kids today.

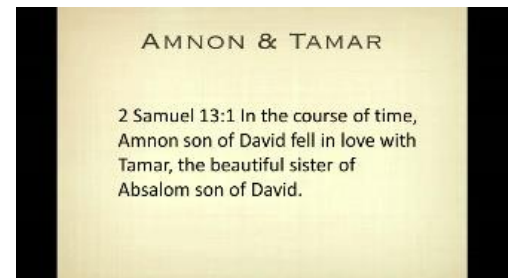
### *Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah. Three of David's sons.*

Now David had at least seven wives and at least 19 children, that we know of from the Bible. May have been more. Probably was more. We know that he also had at least 10 concubines, which are not quite wives, but women he had at the palace to help carry on the family name even further, by having more children.

### *Not part of God's plan for marriage, but this is how the rich and famous did it back then.*

So, we're going to look at these three children of David, what they did wrong, David's reaction, and then talk briefly about how David and how WE can do better as parents in this area of discipline.

*The first is Amnon.* His account is found in 2 Samuel 13. If you think reading the Bible is boring, read through this story sometime. It's more scandalous than any soap opera or anything you'd see on Jerry Springer.



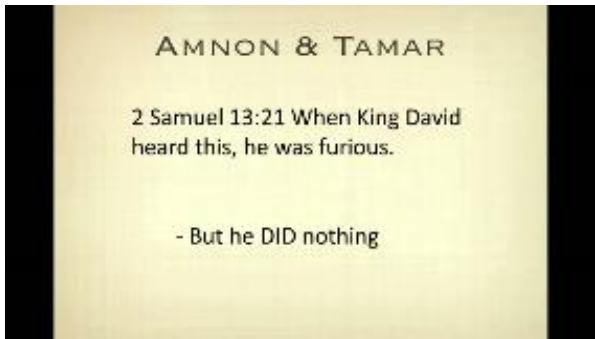
Chapter 13 starts like this, "In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David."

Amnon was in love with his own half-sister. He was frustrated and wanted to be with her. So, he pretended to be sick and asked his Dad to have his sister Tamar come over to his house and make him some bread and feed it to him. This was his plan to get Tamar alone in his room.

So David had Tamar go over there and when Amnon and Tamar were alone, Amnon raped his sister.

Her brother, Absalom, was mad about it and wanted to get revenge, but we'll get to him next.

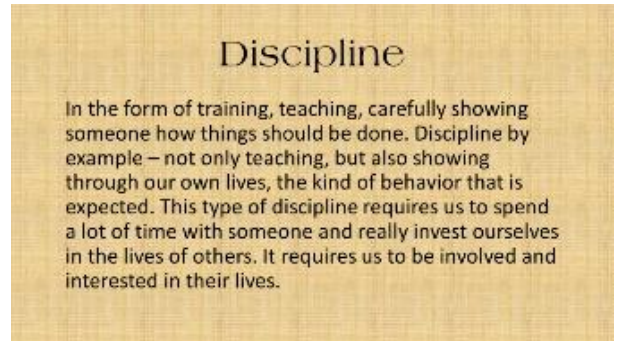
First, let's look at David's reaction to all this.



In vs. 21 it says, “David was furious.” That’s all it says about the father’s reaction. He was upset, but he DID nothing. He was uninvolved in his children’s lives. He lacked discipline as a parent.

It’s important as parents that we know what’s going on in our children’s lives. When they come home from school, ask them what happened that day. Find out who they’re hanging out with. Know their friends. Know what they like to do and encourage them in their interests.

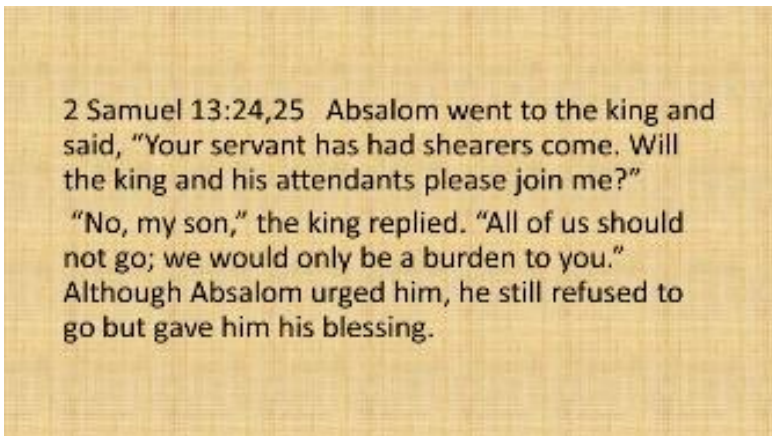
Remember that definition of discipline? - Discipline by example – not only teaching, but also showing through our own lives, the kind of behavior that is expected. This type of discipline requires us to spend a lot of time with someone and really invest ourselves in the lives of others. It requires us to be involved and interested in their lives.



*David didn’t do this with his children, and their behavior was out of control.*

Now David was king, yes. And he was very busy. But if he had taken time to be involved in his kids’ lives, these terrible things might have been prevented. If he had shown discipline as a parent, his children would have had more discipline and better behavior.

We’ll come back to Amnon.



Now let’s move on to Absalom. He waited two years for his father to do something about Amnon’s behavior, and he didn’t do anything. So, he took matters into his own hands. Lack of discipline.

2 Samuel 13:24,25

24 Absalom went to the king and said, “Your servant has had shearers come. Will the king and his attendants please join me?”

25 “No, my son,” the king replied. “All of us should not go; we would only be a burden to you.” Although Absalom urged him, he still refused to go but gave him his blessing.

He planned his revenge. And in vs. 24 Absalom goes up to his Dad, the king, and says, “Hey Dad, we’re going to go out and shear the sheep, wanna come along?”

Now his whole plan to get revenge on his brother for raping his sister hinged on the fact that he knew his Dad would say no to this request. He knew his father. He knew David would not want to go spend time with his son shearing sheep.

Hey Dad, you wanna play catch? Nah, I’m busy.

Wanna go to my ballgame? Nah, I’m busy.

And, predictably, David says, “No son, I’d only be in the way, you go ahead without me.”

So, according to his plan, Absalom asks his father to have Amnon go with them instead. So he does. And while they’re out shearing sheep, he gets Amnon drunk and they kill him.



*Now Absalom is in trouble for killing his brother because his brother raped his sister!*

Scandalous!

Undisciplined parents have undisciplined children.

Absalom runs away and he stays gone for three years.

After three years he returns to Jerusalem, where his father lives, the capital city. But at David’s request, he stays away from his father. For another two years, Absalom is living in the same town as his Dad but he never saw his face. David actually said, my son can come back, but I don’t want to see his face.

Then Absalom does something else really bad. He was very handsome and charming. He lived in Jerusalem for two years and he charmed all the people and he won their favor.

2 Sam 18:18 [Absalom] built a pillar as a monument to himself. And he named the pillar after himself.

He was so vain that in 2 Sam 18:18 it says, “He built a pillar as a monument to himself. And he named the pillar after himself.” Absalom was kind of full of himself.

He wanted to overthrow his father from the throne and become king. He got an army together and announced what he was going to do.



When David heard about this . . . he got scared ran away. As David was wandering around with his followers and his army, his son Absalom sent his own army out against him.

1 Kings 1:5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, 'I will be king.' So he got chariots and horses ready with fifty men to run ahead of him.

During the battle, Absalom was killed. And David mourned for his son and returned to Jerusalem.

Because of a lack of discipline in David's family, now two of the sons have been killed.

This brings us to the one more of David's kids.

Adonijah was younger. His story occurs much later when David was old. And since his father was old, here's what he did, we read in 1 Kings 1:5, "Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, 'I will be king.' So he got chariots and horses ready with fifty men to run ahead of him."

Sound familiar. A lot like what his older brother Absalom tried to do. Didn't end well for him. But he tries it anyway.

And here's some more insight into David's lack of discipline as a parent, in vs. 6 – "(His father had never interfered with him by asking, 'Why do you behave as you do?' He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom."

1 Kings 1:6 **(His father had never interfered with him by asking, 'Why do you behave as you do?'** He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

I would say David's biggest flaw as a parent was not being involved in his children's lives.

Undisciplined Adonijah rallied a bunch of people around himself in support of his selfish plan, and he tried to overthrow his father behind his back.

But David heard about it and he made his other son Solomon king instead.

Adonijah got scared because he knew he'd messed up and they were probably going to kill him for what he did. And eventually he was killed.

Three of David's children who were undisciplined because their father was undisciplined as a parent. He wasn't involved in his kids' lives.

A study was conducted to determine how much time fathers spent with their one-year-old children. The fathers estimated that they spent 15 to 20 minutes a day interacting with them. But microphones were placed on the kids to find out how much their parents actually interacted with them.



The average time each dad spent with his kids was 37 seconds.

As parents, we can't be detached from the lives of our children. We need to get inside their world and lead them by word and by example.

How are things going in your kids' lives?

Should we let them do whatever they want? Should we bring them to church? Should we send them to church while we stay home?

I've seen a lot of this kind of parenting. A parent will say, "I want my child to make his or her own decisions. I'm not going to force them to do anything they don't want to do. They can decide if they believe in God or go to church when they're older."

That's not how it works.

We are responsible for the decisions our children make. If we raise them thinking they can do whatever they want, when they get older, that's what they're going to do.

We don't have to be super strict. We don't have to punish them all the time for every little thing they do. It's ok to make mistakes, that's how we learn.

But we do need to be involved in their lives. teaching, training, guiding them.

Discipline in the home involves training that develops self-control and appropriate behavior. It isn't done with just words, but also by example.

Sometimes this involves punishment. When one of David's sons killed the other, David got mad, but did nothing. His behavior, his lack of discipline in this area, showed his other son that it was ok to take matters into his own hands and get revenge.

He didn't spend time with his children. He didn't go to their ball games. He let them do whatever they wanted.

Now, let's look at our own families. A parent's primary motivation for discipline in the home should not be simply to make their own lives easier. It goes far deeper than that. We're shaping our kids' hearts for the rest of their lives.

Proverbs 22:15 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."

Proverbs 22:15 says, "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."

Folly here means foolishness. A fool is an adult whose parents never trained and disciplined the foolishness out of him. It's every parent's job, through godly discipline, to drive out foolishness and replace it with wisdom.

The rod it talks about here doesn't mean we are to beat our children with a stick. It refers to any kind of loving training and teaching we use to impart godly discipline into our kids.

Here's what a lack of discipline in the home looks like today:

If we have to tell our kids six times to do their homework, we have not established discipline in the home. We have not conditioned them to do what we tell them.

It takes time, and it's not too late to start.

If we have to threaten them to get them to do things, there is a lack of discipline.

Parents are not negotiators, we're parents.



If a parent tells their child, "Look at them and say 'thank you' nice and loud." The child looks down at the floor and mumbles a thank you. He's willing to give you 50%, but he will keep the other 50% for himself. To some parents this is acceptable, but it's not obedience.

So the parent tells him again, and he says, 'thanks,' a little louder. Now he's willing to give 75%, but keep 25% for himself. And if the parent gives in to this, we have just established a rule with our kids that they can pull out that 25% any time they want, as a wild card, and use it against us. If we let them get away with it, they'll hold onto it and use it all the time.

And when we grow up, it continues. I will obey God, except when there's a little something I want to do for myself. I will live 25% for myself and 75% for God. It's no wonder so many people are not willing to trust God with their whole lives.

I give you my life God, but I'm going to maintain control of my bank account.

I am a Christian, but I'm still going to go out and party on Friday night.

How do we instill discipline in our homes today?

## Consistency is Key

One of the most important elements in discipline in the home is **CONSISTENCY**.

Children like structure in their lives. They need consistency. If I go home and act like a good parent for a week, and then stop showing discipline, that's not going to cut it.

Here are some things we must do to instill discipline in our homes today:

1. Spend time with your kids. This is the number one way to discipline them. We don't have to be perfect parents. We don't have to read books on parenting and take classes. Just spend time with them. Do things with them that you like to do and things they like to do. This goes a long way. It shows them you're interested in their lives. It shapes their behavior, it makes them feel loved and appreciated. It makes them feel important. Everyone needs this growing up.
2. Ask them questions. How was your day? And don't accept "fine" as an answer. Talking to my oldest son is like pulling teeth . . . I called him yesterday . . . Find out about what's going on in their lives. Find out who their friends are and what their interests are. Communicate with your children. This is an important part of discipline in the home.

## Discipline in the Home Today

- Spend time with them
- Find out what's going on in their lives
- Set the example
- Show them God



3. Be an example to them. If you tell them one thing and go do something else, they're going to see a hypocrite, and they'll grow up to be a hypocrite themselves. They'll do what you do, not what you say.
4. Show them God. Don't just say, "Go read your Bible. Let me know if you have any questions." Let them see you reading your Bible and praying. Pray for them. Pray with them. Spend time in the word with them.

And there are many other important things we can be doing as parents to develop this kind of Biblical discipline in our homes. Parenting isn't easy. It is the most important job we'll ever have.