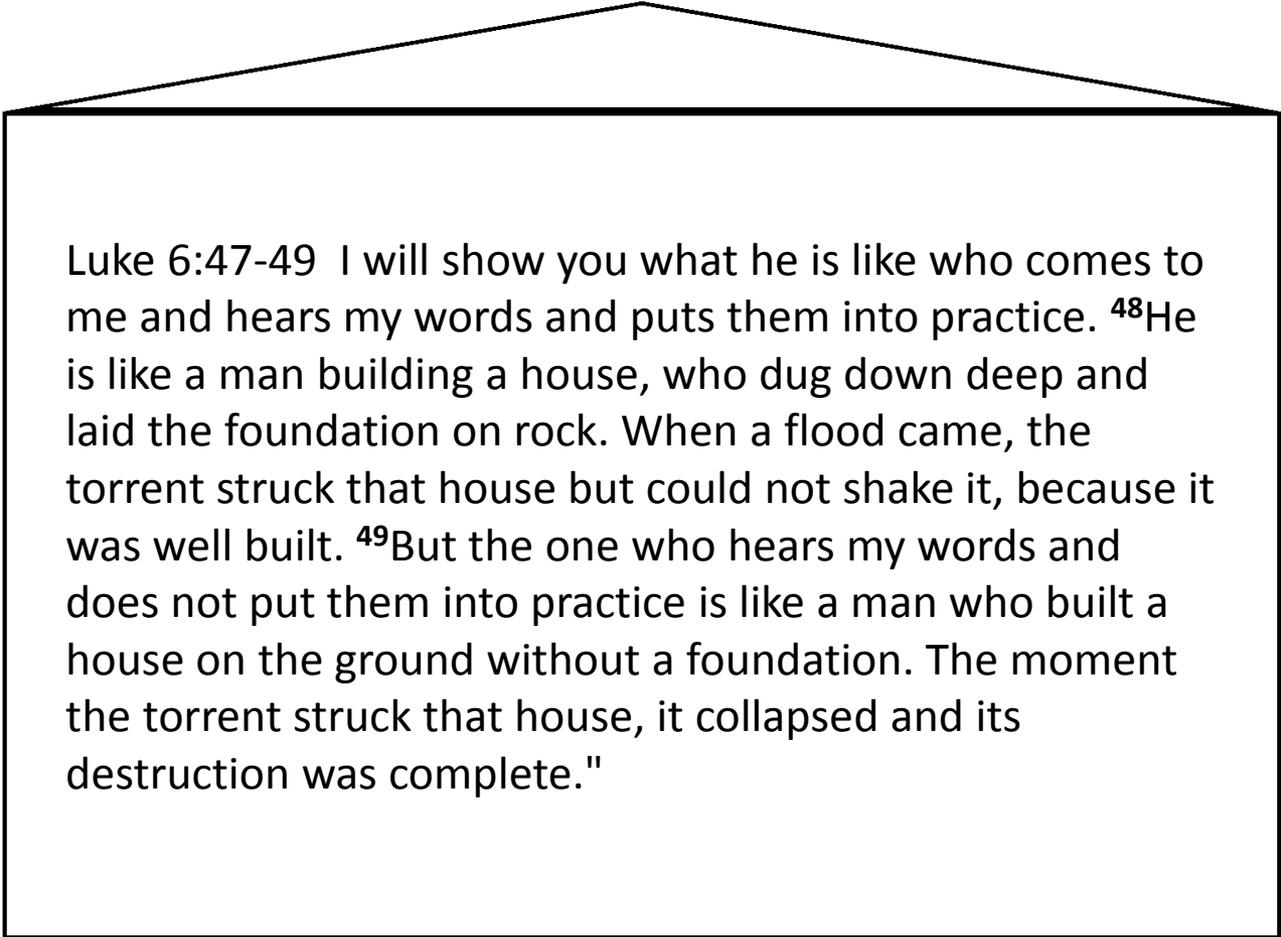


Building Your Home

A large, black-outlined frame shaped like a house with a triangular roof. Inside the frame, there is a paragraph of text.

Luke 6:47-49 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Friendship Phase

Coaching Phase (13-22 years)

Training Phase (6-12 years)

Discipline Phase (0-5 years)

Foundation

I. Laying the Foundation

A. Parents' relationship with God & His Church.

- We must keep growing in our relationship with God if we want to succeed in building relationships in our home.
- Only if you put God's words into practice will you be successful in building a strong home.

I. Laying the Foundation

B. Marriage

1. God completed the family with marriage, not when children arrived.
2. For single parents, don't forget Psalm 68:5
God is a "father to the fatherless"
3. Make your marriage the priority relationship of the family.

You will never be a better parent than you are spouse!

I. Laying the Foundation

B. Marriage

4. Ongoing discipling in your marriage is key to maintaining a healthy marriage.
5. Couch Time (mom and dad spending time together in front of the kids), praying before bed, and dates are also helpful in maintaining a healthy marriage.

I. Laying the Foundation

C. Unconditional Love

- Learn your spouse and children's love languages.
- It helps to know (and love) each person's God given temperament (strengths & weaknesses).
- Discuss your current weaknesses (child-appropriate), so that God gets the Glory for who you are and who you are becoming (John 3:21).

Friendship Phase

Couching Phase (13-22 years)

Leading your child by the strength of your relationship.

Training Phase (6-12 years)

Focus on teaching & training your child's heart (to think biblical).

Discipline Phase (0-5 years)

Establish & lead by your God given authority.

Foundation

III. Areas in Each Phase

A. Parent-Child Relationship

1. Discipline Phase 0-5 years.

- a) It is during these years that you must establish your authority.
- b) During these years, children obey because of fear of punishment, not because of moral thinking

III. Areas in Each Phase

A. Parent-Child Relationship

1. Discipline Phase 0-5 years.

c) Between ages 3-5 years old, children start to understand moral teaching, but will not take ownership of most moral behaviors until age 5 or 6. That is why when angry, a young child will only show restraint out of fear of punishment, not out of love of virtue.

III. Areas in Each Phase

A. Parent-Child Relationship

1. Discipline Phase 0-5 years.

d) Actions precede beliefs.

Children learn to act morally, before they think morally. Actions come first, understanding comes second. In other words, during these ages, you should focus on their actions not their heart.

III. Areas in Each Phase

A. Parent-Child Relationship

2. Training Phase 6-12 years:

- a) Focus on teaching & training your child to think biblically about how they conduct themselves on a daily basis. In other words, you are focused on their heart (moral character) which is motivating their behavior.

III. Areas in Each Phase

A. Parent-Child Relationship

2. Training Phase 6-12 years:

b) You must have your authority established before you can ever train their heart. Matthew 10:24 “A student is not above his teacher...”

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

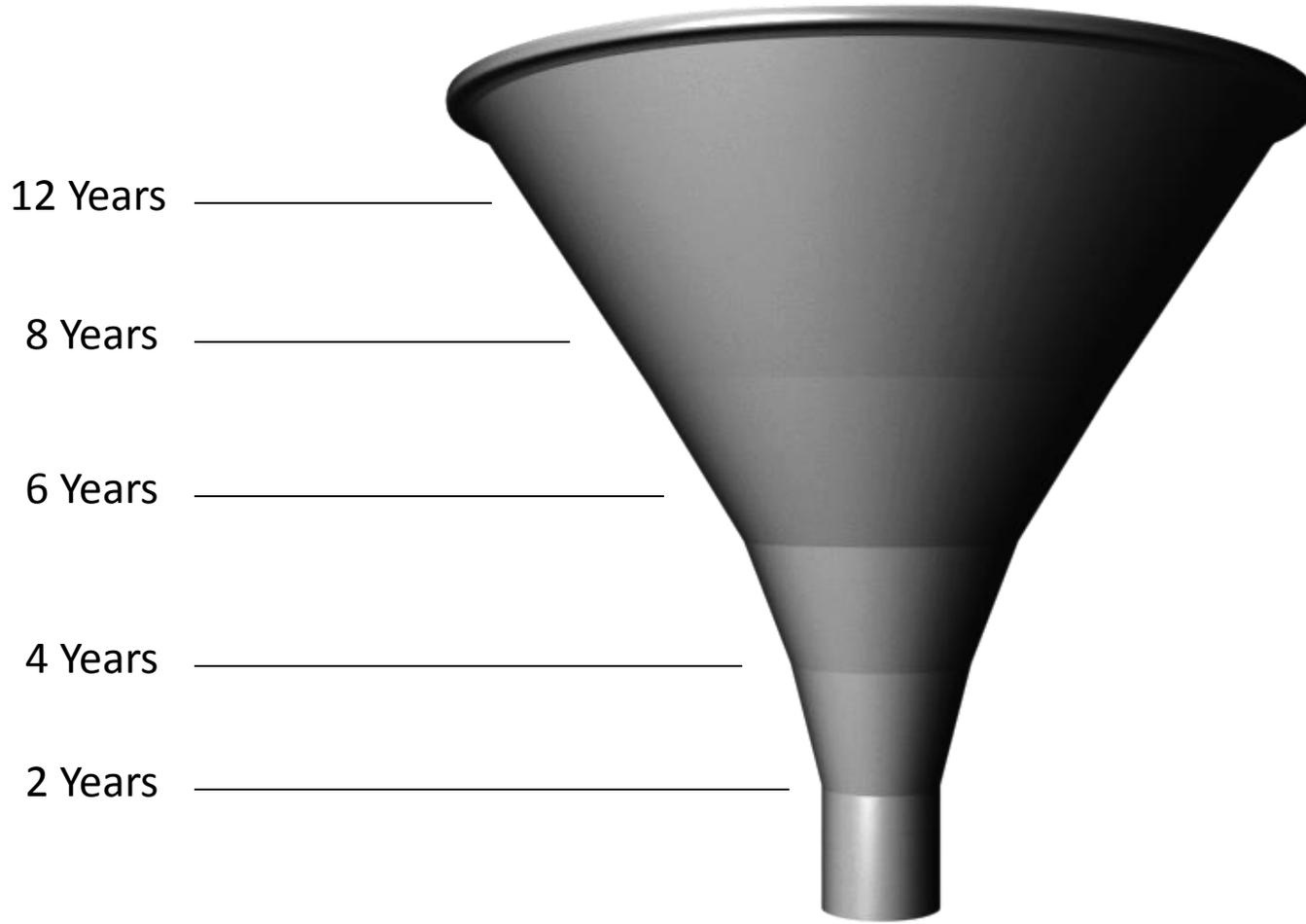
III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

We often expect or allow our children to do things they are not capable of doing either *physically, intellectually, or morally*. Doing so can either exasperate them or make them 'wise in their own eyes'.

Best way to describe this concept is by comparing their development to a funnel.

The Funnel



III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

1. First, parents exasperate their children by holding to unrealistic expectations that cause unnecessary parent-child conflict.
- One difference between frustration and exasperation is as follows. Your children get frustrated with you when you ask them to do something that they don't want to do; they get exasperated when you ask them to do something they are incapable of doing.

III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

2. Secondly, when your children are given privileges prematurely, they can become 'wise in their own eyes' and feel entitled to choices they haven't earned.

Instead, help your children to practice Proverbs 3:6 "In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight."

III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

- Physical privileges

If your child eats, sleeps and plays whatever he wants most of his day. Who is leading?

These should be earned freedoms

III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

- Verbal privileges contribute to your child's pride as well.

Is your child allowed to speak to you and others with an unkind tone, unkind words, or with authority?

Does your child seek your permission before playing something new, going outside, etc.?

Does your child tell you what to do or what they will do?
If so, they are "outside of the funnel."

III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

3) To keep your child in the funnel:

- Provide structure and routine. Around 8 years old, they can start helping you plan their day. If they are a responsible child by age 12, they should be able to make their own daily routine.

Proverbs 29:15b: “but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.”

III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

3) To keep your child in the funnel:

Require them to ask for permission before doing things (playing, eating, etc.) until they earn the privilege.

III. Areas in Each Phase

B. Expectations & Privileges at Each Phase

In conclusion, children are not entitled to certain privileges simply because of their age or ability. Rather privileges are earned to the extent that responsible behavior is demonstrated and privileges can be taken away at anytime that responsible behavior is not demonstrated.

III. Areas in Each Phase

C. Build Child's Moral Warehouse for Each Phase

1. Discipline Phase (0-5yrs):

- a) Start giving the Moral Reason Why for behaviors for 3 years and up.

0-2 yrs. "Don't touch flowers."

3-5 yrs "Don't pick flowers so that those coming behind us can enjoy them too."

0-2 yrs. "Stop running" is the action.

3-5yrs. "Be courteous of those around you (pregnant woman, elderly, young children, etc.)" is the moral reason why we don't run at church.

III. Areas in Each Phase

C. Build Child's Moral Warehouse for Each Phase

Quiet Times: At 0-5 years, get them in a habit by reading and praying with them daily.

Daily memory scripture

Weekly Family devotionals

III. Areas in Each Phase

C. Build Child's Moral Warehouse for Each Phase

2. Training Phase (6-12 yrs)

a) Continue to build their Moral Warehouse.

If you already taught them the moral reason why, then don't tell them but ask them why.

"Why should we not pick the flowers?"

"Why should you not run at Church?"

III. Areas in Each Phase

C. Build Child's Moral Warehouse for Each Phase

2. Training Phase (6-12 yrs)

b) Daily Quiet Times

c) Add Weekly discipleship time for each child over the age of 6 yrs.

III. Areas in Each Phase

D. Training During Each Phase

Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

III. Areas in Each Phase

D. Training During Each Phase

Best to train in times of non-conflict.

Schedule these training times as part of your day.

1. Discipline Phase (0-5 yrs)

a) Start with First Time Obedience (FTO)

- Define FTO: use the Bible to define your standard, not your child or society.
- FTO is not just getting them to do what you asked, but FTO starts with getting their attention before you ask them to do something, and them being attentive to your instructions.
- “All the Way, Right Away and with a Happy Heart” before and after instructions have been given.

1. Discipline Phase (0-5 yrs)

b) Self-Control

Work on Verbal and Physical Self-Control.

- Self-control Sit-time
- Playpen, Blanket, Room Time
- Waiting for Host before eating.

1. Discipline Phase (0-5 yrs)

c) Manners

- What to do when guests arrive (everyone gets up and goes to front door).

Lev 19:32. *“ Rise in the presence of the aged.”*

- At church (look person in eyes when speaking to you. The moral minimum is “Thank you” or “Hi”).

Mark 12:31 *“...love your neighbor as yourself.”*

- Table Manners. Don't chew with mouth open. Preciousness of others.

I Cor. 13:5 *“love is not rude”*

1. Discipline Phase (0-5 yrs)

d) Stewardship

e) Start chores at 3-5 years.

We do not financially compensate our children for contributing to the family. If we pay them to be responsible or take care of our home, they will not do it because of the moral reason why (good stewardship, courteous of others in the home).

2. Training Phase (6-12yrs)

- a). FTO. If your child is not characterized by biblical FTO 80% of the time, start working on this first.
- b). Start working on attitudes. Around age 6, children start wrestling with attitudes of the heart.

Mental self-control. 1 Corinthians 10:5: *"...we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

Verbal self-control. How to express themselves appropriately.

- c) Communication skills. Practice asking each other questions. Teach why it is important to get to know others especially their elders.

Job 12:12 "Is not wisdom found among the aged?"

III. Areas in Each Phase

E. Correction During Each Phase

Types of Correction:

Verbal Reminder: Remind them of what you require and then expect them to do it right.

Child says: "Get me a drink".

Mom says: "No. You may say 'Mommy, will you please give me a drink?'" Or for an older child ask them, "How do you ask me for something?"

Don't give them a drink until they say it the right way.

Use mostly during pre-accountability phase .

E. Correction During Each Phase

Logical Consequences: Losing the freedom of whatever is being misused.

This includes losing a toy if he won't share or throws it, losing a book if he is mishandling it, losing his cup if he throws it off the table, etc.

For younger children, set a timer for 10 minutes and then they may have the freedom back. If they misuse the same thing a second time, then they lose it for the remainder of that day, or longer if needed.

E. Correction During Each Phase

Logical Consequences: Losing the freedom of whatever is being misused.

- Children can lose the freedom to speak. If they are being verbally unkind, screaming or whining, you can tell your child to put their hand over their mouth and not to speak for a certain amount of time.

Proverbs 30:32 *"If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!"*

E. Correction During Each Phase

Isolation: Temporarily taking away the privilege of social contact.

They sit on chair or bed with hands folded.

This is different than a cultural time-out. A 'time-out' simply applies an amount of time for an offense. The child can then decide whether or not the offense is worth the amount of time they are going to be 'punished'. In isolation, the child must be ready to repent before being permitted to leave isolation.

E. Correction During Each Phase

Chastisement (pain):

- Never chastise your child for an offense they have not been trained on or are not accountable for.
- Do not chastise for every offense. . .
- . . . or when you are angry (Do not sin in your anger)
- Send the child to a private area (bathroom or bedroom) to receive their chastisement. Never chastise in front of friends/siblings. Chastisement is not for humiliating.
- For 3 years and up: Always discuss the offense and try to bring around Godly repentance prior to applying punishment. But punishment is still necessary.

Proverbs 29:15a "The rod of correction imparts wisdom"

E. Correction During Each Phase

After a consequences is given,
show your child lots of love, so
they know your relationship is
restored!

E. Correction During Each Phase

1) Correcting 0-3 years:

At this age, make sure they can consistently give the appropriate response/behavior, before you hold them accountable for their response/behavior.

Logical and natural consequences, and isolation are appropriate forms of correction to use when your child is in the pre-accountability phase of training regarding a specific behavior or is NOT directly defying you.

Example: When a child is whiny, losing self-control (temper tantrums), refusing to share, etc., put them in isolation (crib, playpen or chair). Stay close by as they forget quickly why they are in there. Ask them if they are ready to obey the right way "Are you ready to share now?" Take them out and try again.

If they won't obey the right way, put them in isolation longer (10 minutes) and try again, OR change their activity.

E. Correction During Each Phase

1) Correcting 0-3 years:

Chastisement is the appropriate form of correction to use when your child is in rebellion, that is – he refuses to acknowledge your right to be in authority over him, or you are focused on changing a specific behavior/attitude.

- Examples of when to use chastisement for FTO issues: staying in bed, stay sitting on a chair, don't touch something or tell your child to come and they run the other way.
- These are serious offenses because they could result in harm to themselves or to someone else.
- Usually a quick swat on the thigh is all that is needed to bring about change. If the swat doesn't work, isolate the child in his/her crib or playpen until they are ready to obey.
- Teach them to say "I'm Sorry for [offense]." Give lots of love to restore relationship.

E. Correction During Each Phase

1) Correcting 4-12 years:

- Start training Repentance, Forgiveness, and Restoration (RFR).
- Parents often correct for ACTION and remind for ATTITUDES. A child needs to work through RFR for every foolish behavior especially for attitude and disrespect!

a) Repentance:

To achieve repentance, send the child to think (Reflective Sit-Time) about what they did.

For 4-6 year olds, send them to think for a period of time (5-10 minutes). Tell them when you get back, you will ask them if they are ready to make it right with you and change. THIS IS NOT PUNISHMENT, but a time provided for the child to soften his heart and take responsibility for his sin. (Read the story of Jonah. Jonah needed time to repent.)

“You spoke rudely to your brother. Go sit on your bed and think about what words you can use to express your feelings of anger instead of being rude.” When the timer goes off, I’ll come and get you.

For 6 years and up, send them to their bed and allow them to come find you when they are ready to make it right.

Psalm 4:4 “In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.”

b) Forgiveness:

They must ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness begins with the offender and ends with the offended.

Train them to say “I’m sorry” for mistakes, but seek forgiveness for sin.

Difference between “I’m sorry” and “Will you forgive me?”.

“Will you forgive me for being rude? I was wrong.”

**Don’t make a child seek forgiveness if their heart isn’t ready.
They may sit on their bed all day if needed.**

c) Restoration: Continues to heal the relationship.

(How did people in the bible restore relationships?)

They must restore the relationship by verbalizing that they will not repeat the offense.

“I will not talk to you rudely when I’m angry.”

Sometimes you need to add more to the restoration process: maybe the child will now pick up the other child’s toys for him. If a child broke something, they must replace or fix it. If their disobedience wasted your time, they can help you do your chores.

Most important:

Lead by your example!

Make sure you walk through RFR
when you sin against your children.

IV. Things that can tear your home down.

- A. Too much or inappropriate TV shows, video games, and music
- B. Poor authority figures and/or peer relationships.

Friendship Phase (Adult Children)

Couching Phase (Ages 13-22): Lead by the influence of your relationship.

Training Phase (Ages 6-12): Train their heart.

6-9 years

Parent-Child Relationship

- Train & teach them how to THINK biblically.
- You are focused on the HEART, which motivates their behavior.

Funnel

- Continue to increase privileges as responsible behavior increases.
- Privileges must be earned and can be taken away when privileges are abused.

Child's Moral Warehouse

- Teach MRW at deeper level.
- Independent Daily Quiet Times
- Weekly Discipleship Time

Training

- FTO
- Attitude/Feelings
- Communication skills
- Stewardship
- Chores
- Life skills (cooking, money)

Types of Correction

- Correction same as below.
- Require RFR for EVERY attitude, disrespect or foolish behavior.
- Parents must go through RFR when they sin (strengthens relationship).

Discipline Phase (Ages 0-5 Years): Establish your authority.

3-5 years

Parent-Child Relationship

- Parent must lead by their authority.
- Children will be motivated by consequences from the parent rather than the parents moral teaching.
- Actions precede beliefs. Parents require their children to ACT right before they can THINK right.

Funnel

- Still tight boundaries, but increasing privileges as responsible behavior increases.
- Require them to ASK permission.

Child's Moral Warehouse

- Give Moral Reason Why
- QTs & Memory Scripture
- Family Devotionals

Training

- FTO: "All the way, Right away and with a Happy Heart"
- Manners
- Stewardship
- Chores

Types of Correction

- Start training Repentance, Forgiveness & Restoration (RFR)
- Correction same as below.

0-2 years

Parent-Child Relationship

- Tight boundaries. Few privileges.
- Provide Structure & Routine

Funnel

- Tight boundaries. Few privileges.
- Provide Structure & Routine

Child's Moral Warehouse

- DO NOT give moral reason why.
- No moral comprehension.

Training

- FTO: Coming to their name.
- Obey simple commands.
- Self-control: playpen, blanket and self-control sit time.

Types of Correction

- Verbal Reminder
- Logical/Natural Consequences
- Isolation
- Chastisement (rebellion issues)

Marriage & Unconditional Love (Accept Love Languages & Temperaments for every member in the family)

Relationship with God & His Church