



MILLION DOLLAR CHARACTER

# Parenting a Child's Heart

Parent Course Guide

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# Session 1

## What is a Covenantal School?

BCA's covenantal policy is that at least one parent of each student must be a confessing believer in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior in order for their child to be enrolled at BCA.

At BCA our core foundation is the understanding that the Bible establishes Christian education as a unique and necessary responsibility of Christian parents and not that of any church or school. The Bible clearly instructs parents to bring children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

**A partnership between BCA and the family implies some degree of accountability and consistency among what is taught at BCA, what is taught in the family's church, and what is practiced at home.**

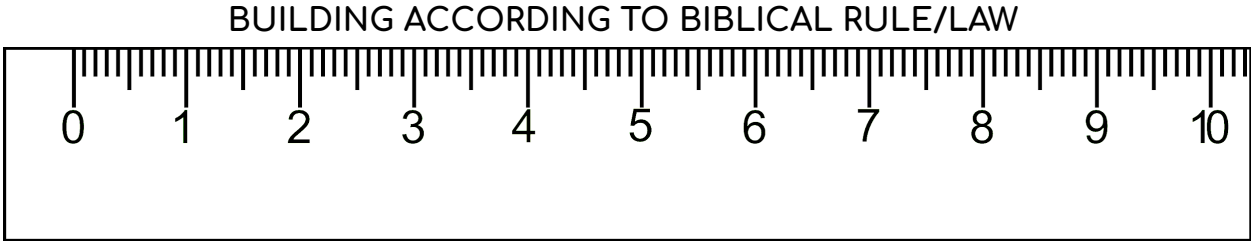
Consistency (shared standards, beliefs and practices) among the family, the church and the school is an empowering factor in the life of a child. Therefore, it is critical that BCA families have regular Christian fellowship outside of school activities for support, encouragement and spiritual maturity.

At BCA, we desire to teach and discipline in a manner that is consistent with the Bible, the church and a Godly home environment. This goal is only fulfilled through supporting parents who are already dedicated to similar goals in their home. This is the most important implication of BCA being a Covenantal School Model.

Pastor Joshua Caleb Bernard Sr.

## The Call

Childhood experiences strongly impact adulthood behaviors. As such, childhood is a critical time to lay the groundwork for building character.



What is a ruler? Sets a measured outcome.

Parents are responsible and hold the ultimate influence of order, submission and direction of their child's decisions and behavior.

**Galatians 3:23-24 NKJV**

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

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# The Command

## Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

### Note

Concerns over changes in family circumstances, such as those caused by financial strain or a faltering economy, can cause stress. Children can be affected directly by changes in their family’s financial circumstances or stress they see in their parents, or more indirectly by general anxiety over problems they hear.

Children look first and foremost to their parents and other significant adults to gauge the seriousness of their concerns.

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When our communication is not aligned with God's Divine Rule, our communication will persist

to be \_\_\_\_\_,

and/or \_\_\_\_\_.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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### **Note**

Explain your anxiety and or responses

While you don't want your child to witness every anxious moment you experience, you do not have to constantly suppress your emotions. It's okay—and even healthy—for children to see their parents cope with stress every now and then, but you want to explain why you reacted in the way that you did.

Let's say, for example, you lost your temper because you were worried about getting your child to school on time. Later, when things are calm, say to her: “Do you remember when I got really frustrated in the morning? I was feeling anxious because you were late for school, and the way I managed my anxiety was by yelling. But there are other ways you can manage it too. Maybe we can come up with a better way of leaving the house each morning.”

Three needs that sow seeds towards a child's development:

1. Spending time
  2. Expressing love
  3. Speaking the Word of God
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Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

#### Note

The Lord doesn't tell us to teach a child, but instead, we are to train a child. That means we are to mold into shape by discipline and practice.

How do we do that?

## The Communication

# Praise - Instruct - Praise

It is **never** beneficial to be un-constructively critical.

## Note

This only creates resentment and causes people to concentrate on their weaknesses rather than on their strengths. It is much better to be constructively helpful. Using the P-I-P method allows you to do just that.

## When correcting your child:

1. Always praise them first. This puts them at ease and allows them to feel better about themselves.
2. Secondly, show them how to improve what they are doing. (I would consider trying this way.)
3. Finally, praise them after they have made the appropriate adjustments.

Always make sure that your praises are \_\_\_\_\_ and  
not \_\_\_\_\_.