

Guiding a Child through Their Trials

If you are serious about leading your children to goodness according to God's plan, you cannot afford to be the naive parent who thinks that their child is not capable of making bad choices. Everyone is capable of sin and error.

As a parent, it is your job to discipline and guide your offspring so that they can right their wrongs and return to virtuous living. Below is a process that you can use in your discipline and guidance. It includes three steps with questions that will take you through the process. The steps include: acknowledge the problem - show them what they have done wrong, give them ownership of the situation – this is their problem not yours, give them direction as they solve the problem. In short, this process will help you help them own the problem, fix the problem and learn from it.

Directions: Use this sheet when your children get themselves in a negative situation. Begin by using your own words to describe the situation. Then schedule time to talk with them. Ask them the questions listed under each step. As they give you answers, record them.

Remember to be patient with your child. Truthfully answering your questions will take time and effort. In fact, depending on the nature and severity of the situation, you may have to schedule several conversations with your child. Persevere.

What is the Problem: _____

Own It (Acknowledge the Wrong)	Fix It (Listen and Guide)	Learn from it (What's the life lesson)
What caused this situation?	How will you fix this?	What should you have done?
Tell me what happened?	How will you fix this with God?	What did you learn?
Where did you go off track?	What do you need to fix this?	How will you handle this in the future?
<p><i>Remember to detest their poor behavior but to love them.</i></p>		