

3 Questions to Ask a Child Who Has Done Wrong

Proverbs 6:23, "Correction and instruction are the way to life...."

1 – What did you do wrong?

- Help child identify their part in the offense and have them say it. This teaches the biblical act of confession.
- Send child back into "break time" to think about it until he/she is ready to talk.

2 – Why was that wrong?

- Discuss the heart issue (i.e. selfishness, disobedience, etc) behind the behavior.
- Briefly talk about what God says is wrong about that. (*Wise Words for Moms* by Ginger Plowman is a helpful resource for this.)

3 – What are you going to do differently next time?

- Help your child think of practical ways to deal rightly with the situation next time.
- Remind child to ask for forgiveness from those he/she offended.

End correction time with forgiveness and affirmation.

- Pray together. Ask God for forgiveness and help.
- Remind child of God's forgiveness: *1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*
- Encourage and hug your child. "Go try again. You can do this!"