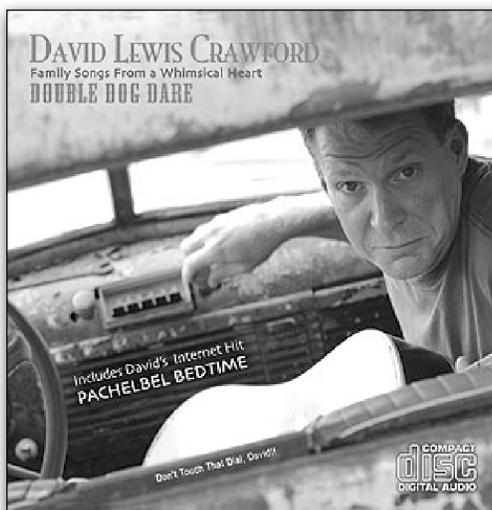


Facilitator's Guide

#1 of 11 Interactive Bible Discussions on Family Relationships

based on the songs of

David Lewis Crawford's Americana CD
DOUBLE DOG DARE
Family Songs from a Whimsical Heart



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Lesson 1 – Track 1

"Behavior Modificationary Blues"

ETIQUETTE FORMATION

TOPICS

- Etiquette: How should children behave away from home and parents?
- Attitudes: How should children act toward parents, authority, elders, and peers?
- Grandparenting: What should be the roll and influence of grandparents on grandchildren?

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE

By the end of this lesson parents and grandparents will be able to explain the Biblical principles surrounding training up a child in the way he or she should go and understand several ways to teach them.

OPENING QUOTE

"Children are simply human beings who are allowed to do what everyone else really desires to do, as for instance, to fly kites, or when seriously wronged to emit prolonged screams for several minutes." (G.K. Chesterton: "The Philosophy of Islands". 1903)

THE SETUP

Begin by asking participants for examples in their children's life or their own, when getting their own way was fun for a while but had natural negative consequences. After three or so appropriate examples stop the discussion and introduce the song along these lines:

For those of you with small children and a grandparent nearby who babysits, or for those of you who remember being small and visiting grandma's house all on your own, here is David Lewis Crawford's tale of woe. See if you identify with it, and what we can learn from it. Enjoy.

Play TRACK 1: BEHAVIOR MODIFICATIONARY BLUES.

BIBLE REFERENCES

As best suits your group, read the following Bible passages and allow a short comment or two about each, as they pertain to raising up a child in the way he should go.

Old Testament

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 — Describes how and when we should teach our children.

Poetry

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

Epistle

- Ephesians 6:4 — "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Gospel

- There are many examples in the Gospels of brothers, sisters, and cousins—all with godly parents/grandparents—who were raised to hear and heed God's call, emphasizing the importance of being raised in a holy home.
 1. Mary, Martha, & Lazarus (siblings) (Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44)
 2. James & John (brothers), Apostles of Jesus (Matt. 4:21-22, Mk. 1:19-20, 3:17)
 3. Peter & Andrew (brothers), Apostles of Jesus (Matt. 4:18-20)
 4. Elizabeth & the Blessed Virgin Mary (cousins and mothers) (Luke 1:39-80)

DISCUSSION SETUP Comment from David

Getting Everything Her Way. We all love to hear people say things like: "Your child is so polite," and "Your child is so well behaved," and "Your child shares so well with others." It makes a parent beam and confirms the direction of the paths they are taking to raise their children. Children learn to be polite by practicing being polite. When they ask for a glass of juice, someone, somewhere, has instructed them to say "please" and "thank you" before they are given the juice. It is not a natural occurrence. It is NOT genetic. It is taught and practiced and is not always appreciated by the child at the time, but they will appreciate it later. Likewise, a child that is well behaved is a child that does not always get their way and can still function within reasonable socially acceptable boundaries. Sharing is not natural, and teaching it will be tough on parents and children. It is difficult to watch a child cry when they have to give up a toy, or not watch the TV show they want, or not get to go to the restaurant they chose, but it is necessary in order to teach children how to deal with these small disappointments.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Facilitator Tips

Before you begin an open discussion, remind your group of the following:

- Every kid in every family is different and responds differently to events and discipline. As you give examples, please preface your remarks with the kind of kid you're talking about.
- Let's openly share our experiences and thoughts realizing that our conclusions are heavily influenced by our personal experiences and that what is a fast rule for one family may not apply to another.
- Try to keep your comments short so others have an opportunity to contribute.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Shared Experiences

- Does anyone recollect the "sigh of relief" that comes with dropping your children off in the care of someone that loves them and that they love being with?

- Does anyone remember the excitement of going to pick them up, and getting to hear them tell all their stories about what they did while they were there?
- Then that magical moment wears off and the reality of cleaning the house, or getting supper ready sets in, the mood changes, the attitude of the sweet little girl has changed drastically and you wonder “where has the little girl I dropped off gone?”
- In the Story of Samuel, Eli and Eli's sons: What is the difference between Samuel and Eli's sons? Is it the godly training and formation in Samuel's early years, the first 4 years of his life? Do you believe what psychologists say that a child's personality is formed during the first five years of life?
- How would you describe the role of grandparents with their grandchildren? Is it okay for grandparents to spoil their grandchildren? How do you define "spoil?"
- Should parents expect grandparents to abide by their parenting rules when watching the kids? Explain.
- What should we teach our children about respect for elders and authority outside the home? How do we do that?
- How can we as parents create a respectful attitude inside the home with family members? What are some principles/rules you would establish for your family?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Bible and Church Teaching

- Reflecting on the Bible verses mentioned earlier and others, what does the Bible say about this topic?
- What does our Church teach about this topic?

MORAL PREMISE

Giving in to kids all the time leads to being spoiled and bad attitudes; but
Setting and enforcing limits with consequences, leads to harmony and maturity.

FINAL THOUGHT

Children need to be taught respectfulness and common courtesy toward all people, but especially their parents. God offers the reward of a long life for those who honor and obey their parents. And, the parents will have harmony and peace in their home if they discipline their children in love.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, in your wisdom, you gave us the family so that children would have the influence of father and mother to love, guide, and mentor them. Strengthen us today in our role as parents/grandparents to exercise the kind of tough love that is not afraid to be unpopular, but rather would prepare our children for standing up against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Amen.

SONG SYNOPSIS

- Stanza 1: It's always a relief to drop off the kids at Grandma's and feel that weight of responsibility just lift off your shoulders. But, when you pick them up the next day, you sometimes wonder if you're getting back the same child.
- Stanza 2: All the way home, the parents are seeing signs of their daughter of being spoiled by her grandmother. The little girl got to do, say, and eat whatever she wanted. If she took advantage of her grandma's good graces over the weekend, then back at home she is going to have to get used to discipline and justice.
- Stanza 3: Back home, it's a big adjustment for the little girl, having to follow the rules and do as she's told. She tries using her "ifs, whys, and buts," but Mom and Dad are ready with appropriate discipline if she gets sassy. She was princess for the weekend at Grandma's, but the reality of being a peasant is hitting home.
- Stanza 4: When she woke up this morning, the daughter was in such a good mood, because she knew it was the day to go to Grandma's, where she'd be "princess," and her parents wouldn't even know.