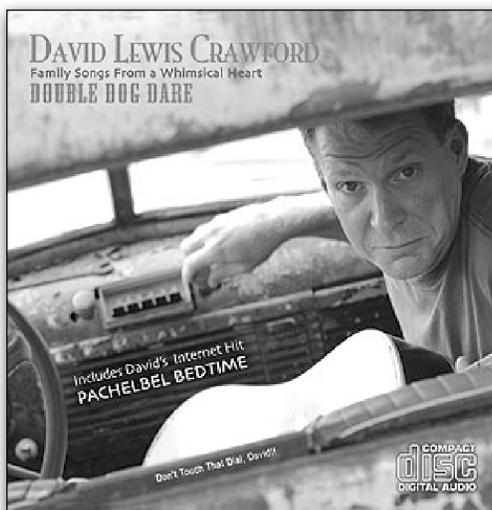


# Facilitator's Guide

## 6 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 6 — Track 6

## "Spoiled Bumblebee"

### TOY CONTROL

#### Potential Topics

- Being a Better Parent
- Enjoying Your Children
- Avoiding parental squabbles
- Pitting Mom against Dad
- Keeping a United Front

#### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE

By the end of the lesson parents will be able to compare and contrast techniques of discipline that will increase their enjoyment of their children.

#### OPENING QUOTE

"A child is weaker than a man if it comes to a fight or to knowledge of the world; but there is nothing to show that the child is weaker in will or in desire." (G.K. Chesterton. "Moral Education in a Secular World," 1908)

#### THE SETUP

Ask the parents in your group for examples in their experience, when they had to receive or give discipline, and try to identify when it was/wasn't instructional. After three or so appropriate examples, stop the discussion and introduce the song along these lines:

For those of you with small children whom you need to discipline, and also for those of you who remember being young and receiving discipline, here is David Lewis Crawford's song with an example of a challenging experience in a toy store. Enjoy.

Play TRACK 6: SPOILED BUMBLEBEE

#### 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 the need for discipline in forming the character of a child (or the parents).

#### Old Testament

- I Samuel 1-4 — Hannah prays to the Lord to remove the curse of her barrenness and give

her a male child. She promises God that the boy will not drink wine nor liquor nor will a razor touch his head. Hannah's perseverance, her understanding of dedication, and her family's regular visits to the temple suggest that this is a family of discipline. When Eli, the priest, sees Hannah praying in the temple, his experience (of a lack of discipline) assumes Hannah is drunk. She explains to Eli she is not drunk, and so he gives her God's blessing. When Hannah returns home she conceives and gives birth to a boy she names him Samuel. She dedicates him the Lord and after he is weaned she brings him to the temple for the rest of his life. Samuel turns out to be a holy and disciplined man. Eli, however, turns out to be a father that did not discipline his two sons when they were children; and when they got older they disrespect God in many ways. Eli and his sons, therefore, receive God's curse; and they all die on the same day, along with the wife of one of the sons while she is giving birth to Eli's grandson.

### **Poetry**

- Proverbs 13:24 — "He who spares [discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."
- Proverbs 19:18 — "Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction."

### **Epistle**

- Ephesians 6:1-4 — "Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise) that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
- Hebrews 12:6-8, 11 — "For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ... For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

### **Gospel**

- Mark 10:13-16 — "And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them."
- Matthew 7:9-11 — Parents give good gifts to their children as a reflection of their heavenly Father's good gifts.

## **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**

- Do you use the same discipline techniques on every child? What discipline techniques work best?
- Where and when should you discipline? What do you do if you're in public when your child acts up?
- What should your tone of voice and demeanor during discipline convey to your child? Could you demonstrate this?
- In David's lyrics, what line showed that Mom & Dad were a team in making decisions for their children? How do you present a united front to your children?
- Can good discipline lead to laughter and enjoyment with our children? How can a successful discipline strategy allow us to enjoy our children more?
- Mom & Dad will not always agree on how to discipline a child. But what are some good techniques to implement so that those disagreements do not create wedges that children can use to manipulate their parents? When and where should these discussions or disagreements take place?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Bible and Church Teaching**

- Compare and contrast Hannah's child, Samuel, with the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phin'ehas. The Bible does not provide a lot of detail about how these children were raised, but there are a lot of hints. For instance, list the ways the Bible describes Samuel's behavior to those in authority over him, compared to the behavior of Hophni and Phin'ehas.
- The attitude of a mother (and a father) toward God with respect to the child in her womb says a lot about the character of the parent and the future behavior of the child. Compare and contrast Hannah's prophecy (1 Samuel 2:1-10) to Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). There are ten parallels and at least one contrasting element.
- In Ephesians 6:1-4 how does St. Paul compare and contrast the responsibilities of the child with those of the parents?
- In Mark 10:13-16 what parallel to parenting do you see in the interaction between Jesus, the disciples and the children present?

- How can our discipline of our children teach us about how Jesus disciplines us? And how can Jesus' discipline of us teach us how to discipline our children?
- What does our Church teach about this topic?

## **MORAL PREMISE**

Getting one's way without consequence leads to selfishness and sin; but  
Learning the virtues of self-discipline leads to strength of character and fullness of life.

## **FINAL THOUGHT**

All children need good, consistent, loving discipline to grow as God's children. *Without parental discipline* a child will not be morally formed with the self-discipline to do the right thing on his or her own. *With a discipline life*, a person will be strong in character, full and complete, ready for anything. (c.f. James 1: 3-4)

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, you discipline us, because you love us and can see the rich fruit that our obedience will bring. Help us as parents to do the same for our children. Give us wisdom to handle each child according to his or her needs; perseverance to consistently follow through on each consequence; and, flavor all of our efforts with a holy love and purpose that would help to draw our children to obedience. We ask this in your own holy love and name. Amen.

## **SONG SYNOPSIS**

Stanza 1: A daughter has her heart set on a doll in the store while the family is shopping and begs her daddy to buy it for her.

Refrain: "No!", dad answers. But the daughter does not like this and stomps off to inform Mom that "Daddy is being mean."

Stanza 2: She tries the same tactic of begging her mom for the doll she loves.

Refrain: "Tell me what Daddy said," mom says. So, the daughter confesses that Daddy said No, but that was because he was "being very mean." Mom is not buying it.

Stanza 3: The daughter switches to Plan B, putting all the blame on her parents, accusing them of not loving her and making her cry all the time. Then she throws a royal fit on the store floor with shouts and moans of not loving her or listening to her.

Refrain: Dad firmly reasons with her that she has a dozen dolls at home that never get played with, and that a fit, though it looks good on the store cameras, will only get her a healthy spanking when they get to the van. So, "get up off the floor and let's go home and play some ball, instead of buying what we don't need."