

Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey
301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-2 Parenting, Step-Parenting, Grand-Parenting & Mentoring Essentials

**LESSON 7: How To Keep Dennis From Becoming a Menace.
Words That Discipline.**

1. Two Key Biblical concepts (Words and Actions): Use Words = Clear Instructions
Proverbs 3:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,

¹² because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

2. Four ways to use words to bring correction.

- ? Say "No" firmly
- ? Spank age appropriately
- ? Use contracts
- ? Use consequences

3. Practical tips for balanced parenting. Avoid these pitfalls:

- ? Screaming parent
- ? All-talk parent
- ? Abusive parent
- ? Close-lipped parent
- ? Light-bulb parent

4. Develop a game plan:

- ? Identify the top two behavior problems
- ? Honestly evaluate your present parenting pattern
- ? Have a family conference
- ? Join hands together and pray

5. Be ready. They will test you.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you feel like you are doing with using the right words to bring discipline and instructions to your children?
2. Which of the "pitfalls" do you sometimes fall into (screaming, all-talk, abusive, close-lipped, light-bulb)? What can you do to catch yourself and change?
3. Do you stick to your "Yes" and stick to your "No" when you give them? Why or why not?
4. What is your experience in using contracts with children (verbal or written)? What seems to work for you and your family?
5. What "consequences" have seemed to work best at the different ages for you and your family?
6. What is your experience with doing "family conferences"?
7. Close in prayer, especially for the children.