**God’s Style of Parenting**

**STYLE #1: The Authoritarian Parent (The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

•Heavy punishment carried out through anger.

•Quick to tell their children to obey, but slow to tell them why.

**The Faults of the Authoritarian Parent**

•Requires the presence of an authority to keep the children in line.

•Children conform to a set of rules not because it’s good for them, but because they are afraid otherwise.

•Children will succumb to mindless conformity, instead of thinking for themselves.

**Warnings about about this approach to parenting?**

*Ephesians 6:4: Fathers do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*Colossians 3:21: Fathers do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

**STYLE #2: The Permissive Parent (\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

•Discipline is not needed.

•Children can make the right choices on their own without the parent’s interference.

•A child shouldn’t be told to do anything until he/she comes to the opinion that it should be done.

**The faults of the Permissive Parent**

•Without discipline, it is difficult for the child to respect other forms of authority.

•If my children are not taught to exercise self-control, they are unlikely to learn it on their own.

**Warnings about this approach to parenting?**

*Proverbs 23:13-14: Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.*

**STYLE #3: Parenting the Lord’s Way (\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

* **Help your Kids understand what your goals are.**

*Hebrews 12: 9-11: Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our Fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

* **Stay Focused on your goal: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” your kids in the right direction!**

*Psalm 127: Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand in guard in vain. In vain you rise up early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to those he loves. Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons in one’s* youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

**Week 4: Parenting Styles**

The World’s Way

Parenting Styles: God’s Way

Recognizing that my child bears the image of God

Genesis 1:26: Then God said, “Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness…”

My child is unique and special to God

Psalm 139:13-14: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Mark 10: 13-14: People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Recognizing that my child is a sinner and needs me to teach him of God’s ways

Psalm 51:5: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Proverbs 22:15: Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.