

Discipline That Connects® With Your Child's Heart

Book overview by Connected Families co-founders Jim & Lynne Jackson



Strengthening our own **foundation** of faith as parents is the basis from which we effectively **connect** with, **coach**, and **correct** our kids. The *Discipline That Connects* approach communicates four guiding messages for peaceful, purposeful discipline, flowing from these four key aspects of parenting.

This proven model grows out of Jim & Lynne's almost daily experience with parents since 1993. **Get the book** (disciplinethatconnect.org/book) for in-depth teaching and stories about these four messages in response to everyday discipline challenges.

In discipline situations, effective parents communicate the messages:

"You are SAFE with me!" Effective parents stay calm and are anchored in a sense of God's presence and love, even when kids misbehave. They discipline gently (Galatians 6:1), which keeps kids focused on what they have done wrong, not on parents' angry reactions (James 1:19). "Safety first" is an important starting place because *kids learn best when they feel safe*. Safety also builds kids' true respect of their parent who models self-control.

"You are LOVED no matter what!" Knowing that *misbehavior is the golden opportunity for unconditional love*, effective parents respond with kindness and empathy during corrective discipline. This paves the way for kids' sincere repentance and brings true gospel grace into the messes of daily life (Romans 2:4 and 5:8).

"You are CALLED and CAPABLE!" Kids often use God-given strengths for selfish purposes when they misbehave. Effective parents can identify those God-given talents and skills that have come out unrefined and even tainted by sin, and redirect them for honoring use as part of the correction process (Ephesians 2:10). Kids learn they are called to God's purposes and capable of wiser choices.

"You are RESPONSIBLE!" The goal of correction is to put the responsibility on the child to make right what they've made wrong. Distracting privileges can be withheld as needed to guide kids to complete their number one priority of reconciliation (Matthew 5:23, 24). The goal is not to punish into fear-based compliance, but to nurture the joy of true repentance and restoration (Galatians 6:1).

This approach to parenting will deepen both love AND accountability in your home. One mom said, "Discipline that Connects isn't a quick fix, it's a lasting fix!" When parents shift their primary focus from managing behavior to mentoring belief, kids learn to manage their *own* behavior. More importantly this brings God's love, grace and truth to life in the daily squabbles and challenges with your kids!

Wonder if your kids are getting these messages? Take a **brief assessment** (goo.gl/QE1L0Z) to see how you're doing and get some encouragement at connectedfamilies.org.



Your Guide to Peace and Connection at Home