I. Slide1 Announcements:
   A. Slide2 Baby Dedication (2nd) - Joel & Morgan Cox. Kennedi Blayke
   B. Slide3 Baby News - Congrat’s to Z & C. Meet Harper James & Owen Scott.
   C. Slide4 Married Couples Conf - Sacred Promise. (read bulletin) THIS Fri/Sat.
   D. Slide5 Children at Risk mtg - today at 3pm. Conference recap.
   E. Note: Save the Dates, at bottom of Bulletin.

II. Intro:
   A. Regarding discipline: A little boy who wasn’t getting good grades in school, made his teacher quite surprised. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, *I don’t want to scare you, but my daddy says, if I don’t get better grades...somebody is going to get a spanking!*
   B. Slide6 Rock climbing analogy. You cannot make your children back-slid-proof no matter how many years they live with you. But, what we can do is provide as many hand and foot grips as possible, & provide them w/as many tools as possible, so that they will not slide down life’s slippery slope.
      1. Every discipline gives them, one more hand grasp, one more foot hold, to keep them from sliding back.
      2. It also helped them to climb one step closer to The Top.
      3. No home can function in a scriptural way w/o discipline.

III. Slide7a THE TELEOLOGICAL WOODSHED (4-11)
   A. Teleological - The branch of philosophy that deals with ends or final causes.
      Aristotle claimed that an acorn's intrinsic telos is to become a fully grown oak tree. *In our context today God’s discipline towards us is always w/an end in view!*
   B. The proverbial Woodshed is where one would be taken for their correction. [Although, my dad didn’t need any woodshed, any place would do for him]
   C. Do you ever see suffering/trials/discipline as signs of God’s disfavor?
      1. The recipients of this letter might have jumped to that conclusion as they started to face opposition & persecution.
D. **Slide 7b Chastening** - means discipline. To teach or instruct as one would a child. It is the discipline for the purpose of education/correction.

1. There is a difference between punishment & correction.
2. Sometimes discipline is corrective, other times preventative, other times still... instructive.
3. Discipline can come when we are doing poorly, but also when we are doing well (e.g. Job)
4. God is like a wise coach who brings greater stress & challenge to us that we might ascend to undreamed levels of spirituality.
   a) Interesting we expect our soccer/football/track coaches to run our kids tails off, & get them into shape & condition; yet we get nervous or upset when God does the same for their/our spiritual lives.

E. The writer here gives us 7 reminders regarding God's loving parental discipline:

1. **Slide 8 DON'T FORGET IT** (5a)
   a) Yes, many have forgotten today the importance of disciplining children.
   b) Parents seem too distracted & too exhausted to protect & care for their children in this way.
   c) The ancient world found it incomprehensible that a father could possibly love His child & not correct him.

2. **Slide 9 DON'T DEPISE IT** (5b)
   a) Some despise it by blowing it off, regarding it lightly.
   b) **Physical discipline**: Spanking/corporal punishment. It's not like the new mini-series “The Slap”. It's not disciplining out of anger. It's not punishment. It is correction. It is the parent representing God & disciplining out of love, not anger. It gives a sting (painful) but never a mark. It's bathed with prayer & forgiveness. [explain my process]
      1) It is an ongoing process of helping your children ultimately to become self-controlled & self-disciplined.
   c) **Spiritual discipline**: in all of our discipline/trials/chastisement from God...We remember God has brought or allowed it. We are to
welcome it from Him. We are to glorify Him in it. We are to look for Him to make it a blessing.

3. Slide10 DON’T BE DISCOURAGED BY IT (5c,6)
   a) The other pitfall is to go completely the other way.
      (1) e.g. “My trouble is more than I could bear.”
      (2) Yet forgetting...“God is faithful; He will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear”; forgetting..."His grace is sufficient for us, for His strength is made perfect in weakness."; forgetting...“that all things work together for good to those who love God,”.
      (3) They become paralyzed by discipline.
   b) Note: this is all cuz He Loves You. [you don’t discipline the neighbor kids]

4. Slide11 ENDURE IT (7,8)
   a) Patiently endure it – “It is the divinely ordained path to a deepening relationship w/God & a growing love w/Him!”
   b) Slide12a Tom Landry, former coach of the Dallas Cowboys, said, “The job of a coach is to make men do what they don’t want to do, in order to be what they’ve always wanted to be!”
      (1) Slide12b If you have a boy you have a man-in-the-making;
      If you have a girl you have a woman-in-the-making.
   c) It is a fact of forestry that very often when small trees are cleared away, some of the big trees will subsequently come down. Why? The smaller trees shielded the trees from nature’s assaults & thus the large trees never developed to stand alone. :
      (1) So, God regularly allows his children to undergo hardships to prevent their falling.
   d) Immunity from Gods discipline is the badge of the reprobate.

5. Slide13 BE IN SUBJECTION TO IT (9)
   a) God is concerned w/our attitude with His discipline.
      Is your attitude complaint or surrender?

1 Kent Hughes, Hebrews 12
(1) **14a** Sometimes we accept it *with resignation* - They believe that, since nothing happens outside the will of God, I guess I have to accept it. This is accepting not the fathers *love*, but only his *power*.

(2) **14b** Sometimes we accept it *with self-pity* - I’m the only one that’s ever disciplined/hurt/given trials/etc.

(3) **14c** Sometimes we accept it *with let’s get it over w/mentality* - I’ll take this discipline & struggle thru it *with defiance* but not *with gratitude*.

(4) **14d** Sometimes we *resent* God for it - Some only see God as vindictive, they ask, “what did I do to deserve this?” Instead of, “What is God trying to *teach me* & to *do w/me* through this experience?”

(5) **14e** Other times we accept it *gratefully* - from a loving father. Jerome said, “The greatest anger of all is when *God* is no longer angry *w/us* when we sin!” The supreme punishment is when God lets us alone... as *unteachable*.

b) Every earthly father will admit he has meted out *imperfect* discipline at best. We’ve all learned by doing. Sometimes we were too severe other times too lenient. Other times showing favoritism. Sometimes the kids *got it* because we *got it* that day. *Ever* punish the wrong child?

(1) Yet *God*, makes no mistakes, is never ill-informed, nor ill-tempered. None of *His* discipline has ever been misplaced.

c) **Talk about the rod, spanking:** [Explain what I mean by *proper* spanking]

d) The problem is, the child is a *sinner*. [we are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners]

e) Distinguish between *behaviors* & *accidents*. [spilled milk & defiance]

f) Don’t *bribe* your child. (*Johnny if you come over here I’ll give you a candy*)

g) Slide15 It’s a *heart* issue. Prov.22:15 *Foolishness is bound up in the heart* of a child; *The rod of correction will drive it far from him*[rod 9 x's in Pr]

h) Children *challenge* authority. But look whose authority you are letting them buck when you don’t discipline them...*God’s*. Will you continue to let them live under their own authority? They don’t want you to rule them.
i) **Other methods** of disciplining children. **Time-out**, for helping them to foresee evil. **Natural consequences**, the removal of a privilege, or paying for the broken toy.

j) **Give both communication & discipline.** Each parent seems to be really comfortable w/1 of these. [Discipline only & no communication lack kindness; Communicate only & no spanking lack firmness]

(1) **Slide16a** To do only one is like a cargo ship w/all its cargo on one side...it won’t sail well.

k) **Slide16b Quote from Ann Landers** [Letter by a Father to his son]
   Dear Son, As long as you live under this roof you will follow the rules. In our house we do not have a democracy. I did not campaign to be your father. You did not vote for me. We are father and son by the grace of God. I consider it a privilege and I accept the responsibility. In accepting it I have an obligation to perform the role of a **father.** I am not your **pal.** The age difference makes such a relationship impossible. We can share many things but you must remember I am your **father.** This is a hundred times more meaningful that being a **pal.** You will do as I say in this house. You are not to disobey me because whatever I ask you to do is motivated by **love.** This may be hard for you to understand at times. But the rule holds. You will understand perfectly when you have a son of your own. Until then, trust me…**Love, Dad**

6. **Slide17 PROFIT BY IT** (10) [partake of, have share in]
   a) All of God’s disciplines for us have **one grand aim**…which is nothing less than to make His people like Him…**HOLY.**

   (1) So the **most holy of us** have endured the **most discipline.**

   (2) What a gift then **discipline** is.

b) **How do the values of God’s discipline listed here help us to respond to discipline?** (holiness & peace & rt.)

c) **The profit? – Holiness & the fruit of peace/shalom.**

d) (vs10) **Contrast:** Earthly fathers for a short time & for immediate ends
   And our **Heavenly Father** for both **holy lives & eternal ends.**

e) God’s goal for us…discipline for **maturity.**
f) Slide18 Rev.3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

g) Job 5:17 Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

7. Slide19 BE TRAINED BY IT (11) [be exercised by it]

a) Christian suffering is not sheer circumstantial misery or the result of blind chance.

b) Paul says, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Rom.5:3,4 NIV

c) Peter put it this way, These(trials) have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Pet.1:7

d) Slide20 “Oh that we would not only bear…but kiss the Rod.” William Jay

e) The peaceable fruit is when the hurricanes of life our blowing on the surface but deep down w/in you…all is serene…all is quiet…all is well.

(1) The Christian life is not a life w/o waves, but simply a life that lives below them.

F. Slide21 Discipline: It’s Source is Love. It’s Aim is at Good. It’s Recipients…only His Children.