

Course Correction Table Exercise

One of the challenges of course correction is that it requires us to look at the heart issue behind a child's behavior. We're not aiming simply to change the behavior; we're training the heart. This exercise is designed to help you start thinking along those lines. Turn to one other person or couple and discuss the following:

1. Share a problem that is a habit of your child. Let the other person or couple do the same.

2. Pray briefly together for your children. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the children's heart attitudes and to show what the process of course correction should involve.

3. What consequences might get at these heart attitudes? What would be appropriately painful for your unique child?

4. How can you build up your child in love, along with imposing appropriate consequences?

5. What is the corrected course you can chart out for your child in these areas?

A Plan for Course Correction

Try following the steps of course correction, focusing on a problem behavior in your household. You can do this exercise on your own, or with your spouse or another adult.

1. What is the problem behavior? Which of your children is doing it?

2. Pray for yourself and this child. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the child's heart attitude and to show what the process of course correction should involve.

3. What is the heart attitude behind this child's behavior? (For example, is it malice, a desire to hurt? Is it insensitivity to others' needs? Is it impatience? Is it a resistance to taking responsibility? Is it fear? Pride? Greed—a resistance to the idea, "I have enough"?) Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to join in on the bigger picture of what He is already doing in your child's life.

4. What consequence could get at that heart attitude? What would be appropriately painful for this unique child?

5. How can you build up this child in love, along with imposing appropriate consequences?

6. What is the corrected course you want to chart out for this child?

Questions for Reflection

1. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life, with regard to responsibility and course correction?

2. How might you come alongside and support what the Spirit is doing?

3. Have you been awakened to any ways in which you've been thwarting what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your home? If so, where have you been off track? What would you like to do differently?
