



Welcome back!

This month's Online Parenting Class is focused on helping your child develop good study habits. Paul talked about "studying" in 2 Timothy 2:15, reminding us to "Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Though Paul was speaking about studying God's Word, there are principles that can be drawn from this truth that can carry forward into all areas of your child's life.

However, kids don't tend to love doing homework or studying, and parents often wrestle with crossing that line of helping to motivate their kids and nagging. Consider the following ideas to avoid homework battles and develop good study habits that will carry with them into adulthood.

First, set some reasonable goals. If your child's attention runs short, set a timer for, say, twenty minutes. After he or she works for the agreed-upon time, allow them to take a break for five minutes before returning to their studies. Set weekly targets, as well. On a day where your child is not stressed or weighted with other distractions, sit down together and talk about reasonable goals they feel they can meet to set them up for success.

Next, brainstorm an appropriate reward system for completing a week of homework. Together you can create a chart to document progress and meaningful rewards that will motivate your child. Does your child enjoy computer time? Perhaps thirty minutes of computer time would be an agreeable reward. Does he or she like to bake with you? If the child's goals were met, maybe making cookies with mom is the perfect reward. If your child is social, consider hosting a play date the following week. Make sure to follow through with these rewards—or the whole system will fall apart!

You may even teach your child the verse: "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty" (Proverbs 14:23). Help them to connect this verse with how hard they have worked—to connect their success with their effort.

I am with you in the journey, and am praying for you and your family. Please don't hesitate to email me if you have questions or concerns as you are working through these Online Parenting Classes.

Serving you and your family,
Pastor Greg