

# Why We Discipline

## Discipline

- Discipline means to **disciple**, not to **punish**.
- Proverbs 13:24 – Those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are careful to *discipline* them.
  - The rod was used to guide ignorant sheep, not to beat them into submission.
- Psalm 23:4 – Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Discipline and punishment are often used as the same word. However there is a significant distinction between the two. Punishment is used as a deterrent for a continuing misbehavior but does not teach the way one should behave; discipline always shows the way for acceptable behavior.

## Why We Discipline

- To safeguard
- To guide
- To correct

## The Importance of Positive Behavior

- Obedient Living is a key element of Christian formation.
- We can both model this and expect it of our children.
- We model this through mission, witness, and service.
- Within the context of the classroom, children also need the security of positive consistent behavioral expectations. If we do not provide this, we can be assured children will test us to find out where the boundaries are and - until they are established - we will be hard pressed to move the children toward other elements that will help connect them with Christ.