

# *How to Use a Chainsaw*

by Dr. Dale Simpson

Have you ever seen a chainsaw at work? It is one incredible and powerful instrument. You can accomplish great things in a very short time almost effortlessly.

However, have you ever heard of someone experiencing the wrong application of a chainsaw? A leg will be dangerously damaged in a millisecond if touched by the spinning, powerful chain.

Scripture is called a chainsaw (a two edged sword). It can be powerful in the hands of someone using it properly. It can be damaging if used inappropriately. As Christian parents, we want to raise our children with God's Word. Here are some do's and don'ts when wielding your Biblical chainsaw.

1. **Do** read the Bible regularly with your children and alone in your private times with God.
2. **Do** help children see the applications of Biblical Truths in their daily lives.
3. **Don't** punish children by making them write 500 Bible verses with mindless boredom. This only conditions the child to dislike scripture.
4. **Do** use all of the Scripture instead of just the parts you like ("Fathers, don't provoke your children to anger" is in the same Bible as "Children obey your parents".)
5. **Don't** use scripture as a way to avoid feelings or issues in relationships. If a child is angry, explore what is causing the anger with them; don't quote a Bible verse to hush them up.

Remember: "A timely word is healing to the bones" (Prov. 16:24). An ill-timed truth...even if it a truth....causes damage. A well-timed truth illuminates and heals. Be careful with your chainsaw when around children.

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