



*from the desk of*

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## They are all different...

...but yet are all the same.

### **Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

<sup>16</sup> Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Dear Parents,

If we are really being honest, we can identify in one way with Jesus in this text - but not in another way.

If you think back to your childhood, we must admit that there is nothing that our children are tempted with today that we weren't tempted with. Whether it's telling a lie (OK, you might remember only "stretching the truth"), being envious, not doing what your parents wanted you to do (at least not the first time), or when older tempted with underage drinking, driving a wee bit too fast, or whatever -you were tempted in every way that your children are.

The second part of this, however, we can't get away with. Jesus faced all the temptations that we are faced with, "yet was without sin." That's something none of us can say - that we faced all our childhood temptations but didn't sin.

In a web article entitled, "A New Goal for Discipline,"<sup>i</sup> authors Jim and Lynne Jackson give four "You are..." discipline suggestions based on Hebrews 4:16. The first is ***You are safe:***

*The Bible tells us that God's children are safe to approach Christ in the midst of struggle and receive mercy and grace (Hebrews 4:16). Modeling this safety for your children means setting aside stress, baggage and judgments, and responding to kids' misbehavior with calm mercy and grace. When parents slow down, breath and even pray for insight before engaging with children who are misbehaving, their kids feel safe and learn better.*

So you see the behavior that really bugs you. These authors are not saying to ignore it - they are saying as a first step to keep calm. Flying off the handle at your kids might come oh so naturally to us - but we are called to model Christ to our children. If Jesus were to be the angry judge and fly off the handle each time we mess up, we certainly wouldn't want to seek His company. As the writer of Hebrews says, we have someone we can approach.

So the first of our four "You are" statements is to make sure our children know that they are safe around us. Show them first that you can control your own emotions.

The world around your children is pretty unsafe - make sure they know that they are safe around you.

Next week we'll look at a Biblical example of showing love.

Need further ideas with specific needs? I'm only an email away! (dcerandy@blcbcs.org).

DCE Randy

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/effective-biblical-discipline/discipline/new-goal-for-discipline>