



One-to-Ten Pound Privileges



This example privileges list offers suggestions geared toward a seven-year-old. (see *Critical Issues in Biblical Counseling: Autism in Children*, pp. 76–78). Parents can frame correction in terms of the Y-diagram, saying: “I want to give you all the privileges! But when you choose the path of destruction, I cannot give you the good things I desire for you.” (p. 77). Privileges are the good gifts that result from walking the path of life. Missing out on privileges is a consequence of choosing the path of destruction. Parents and counselors should adjust the privileges to match the child’s developmental stage, personality, and which truly feels “light” versus “heavy” to them when they are withheld. The goal is not to find a punishment that “fits the crime,” but to help children build the habit of responding to sin biblically through repetition and observation (pp. 77–78).



Parent: “I want to give you all the privileges! I want you to walk the path of life because that is where the good things are found. I cannot give you all the privileges I want to if you walk the path of destruction.”

1-pound privileges:

- You get to choose the TV show we watch.
- You get to pick between two choices for dinner.
- You earn minutes of one-on-one time for us to play a game or talk together.
- You get to hold the remote control during the show.
- You get to have five extra minutes to run around the playground or backyard.
- You get to choose if you take the first bath or the second bath.
- You may have a bubble bath in the tub.
- You get your toenails painted.
- You get to choose which chore you will do tonight: taking the dishes out or putting them in.
- You get an extra special tuck-in bed and a song. ✧
- You get to read two extra books before bed.
- You get to wear your favorite cool socks to school tomorrow.

5-pound privileges:

- You only have to complete two sentences of handwriting practice instead of eight.
- You can play any game you like on the playground instead of just walking laps.
- You get to receive your regularly scheduled allowance.

10-pound privileges:

- You get to play with all your Legos for the whole week.
- You get to have a sleepover at Grandma’s house.
- You get to go to the birthday party this weekend.
- You get to leave your playset pieces laid out exactly as you like without being moved.