

Provoking Others

Category	Scripture	Example
Management or Oversight	Rom. 1:32 1 Cor. 13:6 Eph. 4:32 Phil. 1:18 -19	Basic instructions for daily living: “You are being unkind right now. Please stop provoking your sister.”
Gospel Nurturing	Isa. 53:3-5	Feeding his soul with grace: “I see that right now you are enjoying hurting your sister. You think your joy is going to come from controlling your sister’s emotions by making her angry. Jesus Christ was hurt for your sake. He was beaten and bruised so that your sin of unkindness could be forgiven. Please ask him to help you learn to love the way you have been loved.”
Gospel Training	Isa. 53:6-8 Matt. 20:28	What Jesus has done: “The entire time Jesus was here on earth he was mistreated, hurt, and rejected so that he could show his amazing love to you. The way you are tempting your sister to sin in anger right now is the very sin that he had to die for.”
Gospel Correction	Matt. 27:27-31 Rom. 5:15-21	Correcting him when he doubts or forgets: “Right now you’re acting like Jesus’s love for you isn’t enough. By hurting your sister, you are saying that you need more than Jesus’s love to make you happy. You are saying that you need to control someone else to be happy. Do you know that Jesus was hurt so that you could be happy? There is only true happiness in his love for you—his love that caused him to hurt. When you see his remarkable love for you, you can love your sister even when you don’t feel like it.”
Rehearsing Gospel Promises	John 8:34-36; 10:15-17 Rom. 6:6 Gal. 5:13-25 Heb. 2:11 1 John 3:16	If he isn’t a Christian: “I can see that you are enjoying hurting your sister right now. You are enjoying the control you have over her. Please understand that the control you are enjoying will trap you. You will love trying to control people, you will love the power you have over people, you will love hurting people, and then one day you will see that you actually have no control at all. The most powerful one who ever existed will have control over how you spend eternity, and you will be called to account for every temptation to sin you placed before your sister. But you can turn to Jesus today.” If he is a Christian: “Right now you are trying to control your sister by hurting her. You are enjoying the anger and pain she is experiencing. You are forgetting that God promises to control you with his love. Jesus Christ was hurt so that you could be loved. The people that were hurting him thought they were controlling what was going on. They thought they were taking his life from him. The Bible tells us that he was actually in control of his death. It says that he willingly laid his life down. Now we can be controlled by his love. Now he looks at you and sees a perfect record of always being loving and kind to everyone. He always loved his siblings perfectly. God sees Jesus’s perfect record of being a perfect brother. Jesus is your perfect brother, treating you with love and kindness. Please remember this and give up trying to hurt and control your sister.”