

punishment. Some kids just don't respond to anything but a little physical discipline.

23. (Maria: Each child's discipline must be tailored for his particular needs, his individual personality.) Yes, a lot depends on the child and what really gets through to him. It just seems like nothing gets through to some kids except a good swat, and that's what it takes.

24. Mother Eve's tactics were nearly always evasive, to kind of work around the edges of the subject, don't hit it head on. Distract their attention, get their mind on something else, which in some ways is sometimes a very good tactic, but you're not solving the problem. You're letting the child get away with something, just to keep him from getting upset.

25. If you just say, "Now here, you play with this instead", when the kids are fighting over a toy, that's not really teaching them anything. That's almost teaching them that crime pays! "If I fight over this one, then maybe Mother will give me another one", see? But that was often Eve's tactic.

26. If it's not so serious, you can try to distract them and get their attention elsewhere, get their mind on something else. It often worked pretty well and sort of helped keep peace a lot of times. But on the other hand, sometimes I felt like it was letting them get away with something and not really hitting the problem head on and not really solving the thing.

27. That might avoid trouble for the moment, but what about the future? Maybe you're not really teaching the child some of the things which he needs to learn in the way of discipline and what he should and shouldn't do. (Maria: Especially when he gets old enough to reason, like Davidito.

28. (With Davidito you can sit down and talk to him about it instead of distracting him. You can sit down and show him the spiritual principles and the reason why he's being bad, and help him be able to stop.)

29. (Sara: In a way, it sort of releases his frustrations for him to see that you understand.—Like when he was a year old and used to get so mad over his cracker. You would hand him a little cracker and he would just cherish it and put it in his mouth, but then when he'd bite it, it would break into two or three pieces

and he'd just explode and throw it on the floor broken-hearted!

30. (I was shocked and I learned so much from one little sample when Maria offered him a cracker and I thought, "Oh no, Lord, please don't let it break!" But he put it in his mouth and it broke and he screamed and cried! But Maria just squatted down beside him and said,

31. ("Well, Honey, why are you crying? Did that make you angry that your cracker broke?"—And he stopped crying, like, "Oh, she understands! She understood exactly why I cried!" Then she said, "Why don't we share the next one", and she took half and he took half. It was already broken, so he was completely content, no problem, everything was taken care of! I thought, "Why didn't I think of that?"

32. (It's like understanding him and sympathising with him so as to avoid that kind of a crisis, helping him.—And you know, he didn't seem to ever make a big scene over crackers breaking any more!)

33. It's funny how certain things are so important to him. We aren't able to spend much time with him, so apparently he really had his heart set on that potato and he was going to show off for us. He was so proud of what he could do with a potato, but we just messed up his whole program, ruined his whole show and embarrassed him before everybody, and he was just heart-broken!

34. (Maria: You show so much love for him! Many adults have a double standard, a more strict one for their children than they do for themselves! They don't sit there for hours until they finish their meal if they don't like it. They leave something if they feel like they're too full or they don't have an appetite.

35. (There are so many sides to discipline, it's a many-faceted subject. You can't always just lay down specific or even general rules for every situation and every child.) Well, frankly, I think almost every child is a separate individual case and you can't make any set rules for everybody in every situation.

36. A lot depends on the child: Ho was so much like Davidito! He was eager to cooperate, eager to obey, he was never destructive nor really terribly disobedient nor stubborn. If anything, he just went overboard trying to please, and was nearly al-