

KEY PASSAGES:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth." [Eph 6:1-3]

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart." [Col 3:21]

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." [Deut 6:6-7]

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Review the story of Luke 15 (Prodigal Son). What is the difference between honoring parents and obeying parents?
2. Ephesians 5:31 tells us to leave our mother and our father and become one flesh with our spouse. How can we "leave" our mother and our father and cleave to our spouse, while still showing honor to our parents?
3. Read Genesis 13:8-9. Abram became like a parent to his adult nephew, Lot. Abram rode to the rescue with troops and battle gear when Lot and his family became prisoners of war (Gen 14:14-16). What help is appropriate to give to your adult child? How should you pray for your children (Gen 18:16-33)?
4. Adult children: how do you tend to respond to unsolicited counsel from your parents (or in-laws, if you are married)?
5. What responsibility do parents have towards their adult children? (2 Cor 12:14) What responsibility do adult children have to their parents?
6. There are four types of parents: green light (permissive), yellow light (authoritative) red light (authoritarian), black light (disconnected); what best describes you as a parent? How do you show honor to your children through the type of parent you are? What best describes how you were parented?
7. What is the difference between leading your children and ruling over your children?

WORKING AS A TEAM:

God's Part – How does God treat you as a loving Father? What barriers do you have in your life from accepting the love of the Father?

Your Part – Regardless of whether you "feel" a family member deserves honor, what is your part in showing them respect?

Their Part – The Bible tells parents not to exasperate or frustrate their children. Doing so may provoke them to anger. How can you help those around you do their part by not provoking them?

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS:

Spiritual Infant – The language/behaviors of a spiritual infant is characterized by lack of understanding. Infants (regardless of biological age) may feel trapped within a dysfunctional role in their family because they have learned to be free in Christ.

Spiritual Child - The language/behaviors of a spiritual child is characterized by self-centeredness. Children may be more demanding of respect but not recognize that they have a part within the relationship to extend respect to their family members also.

Spiritual Adolescent - The language of a spiritual adolescent is characterized by a search for identity. Adolescents may be searching for their new role within the family as they grow toward maturity. Adolescents need to be encouraged to discover their evolving relationships.

Spiritual Parent - The language of a spiritual parent is characterized by intentionality and strategy. Parents bring up those who are spiritually younger, unconditionally modeling and encouraging honor.

ADULT STUDY / HOMEWORK: (For your personal daily study time)

Day 1: Husbands: Read Eph 5:25-30; 1 Peter 3:7, Ecclesiastes 9:9, Prov 5:18, Prov 31:10,11,28

- Write out Paul's instructions regarding the husband's part in the marriage relationship.
- What example is the husband told to follow?
- What are the ways Jesus honors His church?
- What attitude and actions does God desire men to have towards their wives?
- What are the consequences when a husband's attitude & actions toward his wife differ from God's plan?
- What does "weaker partner" mean?

Day 2: Wives: Read Ephesians 5:22-24, 33; 1 Peter 2:11-23; 1 Peter 3:1-6;

- What is the model of submission wives are to follow?
- What is meant by the term "be subject to" in this passage?
- What unconditional command has God given wives to show honor to their husbands?
- List the characteristics Paul teaches in 1 Peter 2:11-23 and 1 Peter 3:1-6.
- Read Proverbs 19:13, 21:19, 25:24, 27:15. Write out the contrasts in these verses.
- Women - which type of woman do you identify with in these verses?
- Women - Identify a change in your walk with God that would bring about the attitude in 1 Peter.

Day 3: Children: Read Eph 6:1-3, Exodus 20:12; Prov 4:1-27, 13:1, 10:1, 12:1, 17:25, 20:11, Deuteronomy 27:16

- What does God expect from children towards their parents?
- And what is their reward for obedience?
- List the instructions the writer gives to his son in Proverbs 4:1-27.
- Contrast the blessings and attitudes of those who honor their parents with the consequences of those who do not.
- Write out Hebrews 5:7-8. What is the lesson here you see for your life?

Day 4: Parents: Read Psalm 127:3-5, Prov 14:26, 20:7, 1 Timothy 3:12, Deuteronomy 28:4

- What does God say about children?
- What qualities does God desire parents to have?
- Read Gen 22:2, 49:3, Prov 3:12, 15:4, 22:6, 31:26, Eph 6:4, 2 Timothy 1:2.
- List examples of how we are to lovingly parent our children.
- Read Matthew 3:17, 2 Peter 1:17; How did God the Father refer to His Son?

FAMILY STUDIES / HOMEWORK (For 1st Grade and up):

Discussion Questions:

1. What does obedience look like for a young person?
2. What does disobedience look like to a young person?
3. What does "honor" entail?
4. When you think of a promise, what thoughts come to your mind?
5. What is the promise attached to honoring your mom & dad?
6. How does it feel to "honor" your parents?
7. When your behaviors/attitudes/words let your parents "down" how does that make you feel?
8. Why is it hard sometimes to obey your parents?
9. Is there anytime that disobeying parents is ok? Explain
10. Why do you think God wants you to obey your parents?
11. Is it possible that by obeying your parents in essence you are obeying God? Explain