

Life Group Homework

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

Let's Get Started:

When God called the Hebrews to be His chosen people, He destined them to be the people through whom “all families of the earth would be blessed” (Genesis 12:3). They were the channel through which their generation and the next generations would learn about the one true God. According to Deuteronomy 6:7, what was the first step, or the strategy, that God commanded Israel to obey that would propagate God's truth?

The Bible is God's owner's manual for the family. In your group time, share your childhood experiences of being exposed to the Bible and learning about God in your early years. Did you go to church? Did you go to Sunday school? Or perhaps did you grow up in an environment where the Bible, church, or discussion about God was not a family value?

Let's Dig In:

1. What is the main message God has for children in Ephesians 6:1?
2. In verse 2 we see that children are to obey their parents—why? See Exodus 20:12.
3. Respect and honor of parents was so important to God that He included it in the Ten Commandments. Which one? _____.

4. According to Exodus 21:15 & 17 and Leviticus 20:9, what was the punishment for dishonoring a parent by striking or cursing them? (Aren't you glad you don't live under the conditions of the Mosaic Law?)

5. What does Paul mean in verse 2 where he says "this is the first commandment with a promise?"
What are the two promises?

In Pastor Jerry's message, you learned three "secrets" every parent should know about raising healthy, balanced children. Below are some discussion questions to stimulate conversation about experiences and wisdom you learned as a parent or as a child.

SECRET #1: Learn to encourage your children, don't exasperate them.

What are some things parents may do that exasperate, frustrate, or even cause deep fear and resentment in a child?

What are some specific behaviors and choices parents can make to help children to grow up with a healthy sense of self-respect, dignity, and feeling confirmed, loved, and confident?

SECRET #2: Correct your children, don't coddle them.

Read Hebrews 12:5-11. How have you experienced your heavenly Father's discipline (for your good) in your life?

SECRET #3: Instruct your children—don't ignore them.

Read Proverbs 22:6.

The problem many Christian parents face when they read the “promise” in this verse (“he will not depart from it”), is that on paper, it looks like an absolute promise. Therefore, every time an adult child of a Christian family strays from their faith and trust in God, the tendency is to think that their departure is a failure of the parents to obey the first half of the verse – namely, to train the child properly.

But, consider the Old Testament. It is the story of a perfect Father who had a son who was rebellious in nearly all his choices and desires for all of his life.

Who was that perfect Father? _____.

Who were those rebellious children? _____.

Read Hosea 11:1-2. Get the picture?

Remember that much of the wisdom in Proverbs is the wisdom of Solomon who cultivated it through the pain of the school of hard knocks, mistakes and terrible choices. Raising a child in the instruction of the Word of God is not a guarantee that they will not depart from it when they get older—but the likelihood they will come to their spiritual senses at some point is far more likely than if their parents ignored Godly parenting and Biblical instruction.

Let’s Live It Out:

Many, if not most parents experience the pain and struggle of children who rebel, stray or even depart from their Christian roots. To the extent that members of the group feel comfortable, have a time of prayer for children and grandchildren.