



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: "Grace in Parenting" - Ephesians 6:1-4

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

If you found buried treasure in your backyard, what would you do first? Why? How would finding this impact your life?

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. What is your perspective of society's view of parenting?
2. In what ways did Christ become obedient?
3. Have you ever been put in a hard position of obeying your parents or obeying God? How did you work it out?
4. Why do you think family relationships are so trying?
5. Have you ever felt called to do something "more important" than parenting? If you aren't a parent, have you seen this in the lives of those around you or in your own family?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ephesians 6:1-4]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

Who is Paul addressing in verse 1?

Who should children obey? Why?

What is the promise for those who honor their father and mother?

Fathers are called to avoid what?

Parents are called to bring children up in _____ and _____?

What have we previously learned in Ephesians, chapters 1-5, that help us understand this chapter?

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Why is it important to obey your parents as a child? How do you think obedience has changed through the years?

Why is it important to honor your father and mother? How has this been difficult or easy in your own life? What does honor look like as an adult?

Why do you think this is the first commandment with a promise?

Have you ever experienced your parents' exasperation? Or have you been exasperated by your own kids, or if you don't have kids, have you seen exasperation in parents around you? Do you have ways to avoid this?

Do you think the parent/child relationship is a reflection of God's relationship with us? Why or why not?

How does training and instruction differ? Can you do one without the other?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?