

Week of January 8 - Children & Parents | Small Group Lesson 20

Connect

How has your relationship with your parents and/or with your children changed over the years? How has your relationship with your heavenly Father changed over the years?

Verses - Ephesians 6:1-4 (CSB)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, 3 so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. 4 Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Study

1. Why does Paul say it is “right” to obey your parents? (see also Exodus 20:12)
    a. What blessing has God promised as a reward for such obedience?
    b. How does child’s obedience yield this blessing?
    c. What could interfere with this blessing?

2. How would a father “stir up anger” in their children?
    a. Are we to expect children in the future to be more or less obedient? How do we know this? What will cause it to happen? (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

APPLY

What did Paul mean by the training and instruction of the Lord? In what ways is the Old Testament helpful? In what ways is it not, but rather more emphatic of the New Testament? What does it have to do with applying the gospel?

DISCUSS

In what ways was the way your parents similar to Paul’s teaching? In what ways was it not? How would things have improved if it was?

Share

How do today’s verses help us to understand our relationship with our Father?

Grow

Please pray for all parents, and for all who are involved in helping to raise and to teach children, that we will understand how fundamentally important it is . . . and that the most important thing is for us to bring children up in the training and instruction of the Lord . . . and that we should be careful not to stir up anger in our children or otherwise frustrate their efforts to come to know the Lord.

Pray also that we will honor our elderly parents and preserve all the good things which they have taught us, especially training and instruction of the Lord.