

The Church ... a *Master* Planned Community
Kids and Parents (Eph 6:1-4)
Small Group Study Questions for the week of May 10-16

Getting Started

What sorts of things have you promised yourself “my family will (or won’t) be like the family I grew up in because we will (or won’t)...?” Do you think your parents ever thought like this? What will your children someday be saying about their family of origin?

Digging Deep

Read through Ephesians 6:1-4 together as a group.

1. What individuals are addressed in this passage? What individuals are affected by the advice given in this passage?
2. There have been many interpretations of what it means to “obey your parents in the Lord;” which of the following do you agree with (or disagree with)? Why?
 - a. Obey them if it’s in accord with God’s will
 - b. Obey them if they are your “spiritual parents” (parents “in the Lord”)
 - c. Obey them if they are raising you “in the Lord”
 - d. Obey them in any case not obviously sinful, since they are given to you by God and He is working through them even if it’s not obvious.
3. What would be examples of fathers “exasperating” their children? You might check some other translations of Bibles in your group or refer to Col 3:21 for more thoughts about how to interpret this.
4. Why do you think Paul goes out of his way to point out that this command is the “first commandment with a promise?”
5. According to this passage, what are the implied purposes of parenthood?
6. In Roman society of the time, fathers literally had the power of life and death over their children (at least in theory). Why do you think Paul specifically mentioned fathers in this passage? How would the message of Ephesians be good news to fathers and children? How would Paul’s reference to the commands in the Old Covenant help to maintain a healthy family?
7. What is the purpose of parenthood according to “common wisdom” or society at large? How are these purposes affirmed by Paul? How are they inadequate?

A Matter of Prayer

8. What is one area of parenting you could use some coaching and encouragement?

Next Week: Ephesians 6:5-9