

WALK: Taking Steps Toward Maturity in Christ

“Children and Parents” (Ephesians 6:1-4)
Community Group Curriculum for the week of May 17, 2015

Big Picture

Ephesians 5:21 urges Christians to submit to one another according to the authority and order established by God. Ephesians 6:1-4 considers the relationship between parents and children. God's Word gives the basis for correct parent-child relationships in just four verses. Paul first addresses children directly, but the child-parent relationship is not one-sided. Parents also have a responsibility. Our sinful nature is the root of every human problem including those involving the family. Only when we follow God's plan (and He spells it out for us), can families fulfill the purpose God intended.

Bottom Line: Christ-centered parenting leads to Christ-centered kids. Let's Dig In!

Icebreaker: How do you treat children differently from the way your parents treated you?

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

1. Paul quotes the fifth Commandment (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16) and states it was the first to give a promise. What can the child who obeys expect in return? Explain.
2. The call to honor our parents goes beyond mere outward obedience. How can adult children dishonor parents?
3. How does honoring your parents bring you blessing?

Read Ephesians 6:4

1. What are some specific examples of ways parents exasperate their children?
2. What are some specific examples of ways to bring children up in the training and instruction of the Lord?

3. What do the following scriptures indicate in regards to submission to proper authority within the family (Exodus 21:15, 17; Proverbs 1:8, 4:1-4; Colossians 3:20)?

4. What guidelines do the following scriptures give parents regarding their responsibility (Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 1 Samuel 3:11-13; Colossians 3:21)?

Pray

“Heavenly Father, we lift up the family to you. Please, release us from the stress and worries this world imposes on a daily basis. Help us to strengthen our family bond. Remind us of the example we have in Jesus – the respect, honor and love He gave to Mary and Joseph, and the God-centered guidance they used as they raised Jesus to maturity. Thank you, Lord, for providing your plan through your Word; for giving us concrete instructions on how to submit to one another in love. Amen.”

Final Thought

Here is what you should take away from this passage:

- Kids: Obey your parents out of love for Christ and out of love for yourself.
- Adult Children: Respect your parents in their old age and take care of them like they took care of you.
- Young Adults and Singles: Invest in our children and our youth here at RCC. Help parents disciple their kids toward maturity in Christ.
- Parents (especially fathers) of young kids: Repent of the ways that you have provoked your kids to anger, and be committed to disciple your kids toward maturity in Christ.
- Parents of Adult kids: Come alongside your parents and disciple them so that they will know how to disciple their kids.