

#FORCHILDREN

Community Group Curriculum for the week of September 28, 2014

Big Picture

Psalm 127:3 says all children are a heritage from the Lord and whether your child is an infant, child, young adult or older adult, the Bible gives us great lessons about God and living a life for God that can easily be shared. So what are those lessons? Just walk through the Bible by reading and meditating on these simple verses: Proverbs 1:8, Colossians 3:20, Matthew 19:14, Luke 12:34, Proverbs 15:20, Philippians 4:13, John 3:16, Romans 3:23, 1 John 5:3, Romans 6:23, John 1:12, Psalm 46:1, Hebrews 9:27, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 34:15, Philippians 4:19, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 21:22.

Let's Explore Together!

1. Read Exodus 20:12. The fifth commandment links the first four commandments with the remaining five. Commandments one through four teach us how to love and respect God. Commandments five through ten show us how to love and respect our fellow man. Proper respect for our fellow man begins in the home. The fifth commandment teaches us how to honor and respect our parents. Webster's New World Dictionary defines the word honor as, "High regard of great respect given; something done or given as a token of respect."
 - a) What does "honor" include (Leviticus 19:3)? Share your thoughts with the group. How does a young child learn to honor a parent? In what ways does a parent teach a child this commandment?
 - b) This is the first commandment with a promise...what is it? Look also at Ephesians 6:3. How does this long life come? Below are two possibilities about this long life. After reading below discuss your thoughts with your group:
 - 1) Obedient children bless their parents and will take care of their parents in their old age – as a result, parents generally live longer. The aged parents, in turn, will continue to provide wisdom and guidance out of their rich experience that will help their children to prosper and weather the storms of life.
 - 2) That your life, whether short or long in duration, will have God's presence and favor.
2. Read 1 Samuel 22:1-3. What did you learn about David's care for his family? Now read 1 Kings 2:13-19 and read how David honored his mother. Finally, read Luke 2:51 and John 19:26-27. How did Jesus show honor and respect to his earthly parents? Share in your group how you (adult child) have helped your parents and, likewise, how your parents have been a help to you (adult child).

3. Read Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20. We are directed to listen attentively and obey our parents "in the Lord." Are children raised in a non-Christian home required to obey their parents in all things? How would you advise someone whose parent (non-Christian) instructs them to do something contrary to Scripture? Here are some examples to discuss:

"You will stop going to church and help me with chores around the house."
"You will stop attending that church small group during the week. You need to study more."
"You can go to "that" church but I don't want to hear anything about them and what they believe in my house."
4. Read Proverbs 1. This chapter talks about wisdom and how to obtain it. To know wisdom is to use the knowledge given to us by God to live in a way that pleases and glorifies Him.
 - a) What truths stand out after reading this chapter?
 - b) Discuss how children are to listen and respond to their father and mother (vv. 8-9). Do your children believe you are wise? Why or why not? Do you believe your parents are (were) wise? How so?
5. All children (including us) can learn from God's Word. Go to the "Big Picture" at the beginning of this study and read as a group each passage (there are 19) listed. Which of these passages has impacted your life and drawn you closer to God? Share with your group.

Prayer for Children

Here are seven (7) specific things to pray for your children (whether young or adult in age):

1. That Jesus will call them and no one will hinder them from coming (Matthew 19:13-15).
2. That they will respond in faith to Jesus' faithful, persistent call (2 Peter 3:9).
3. That they will experience sanctification through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and will increasingly desire to fulfill the greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-39).
4. That they will not be unequally yoked in relationships, especially marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14).
5. That their thoughts will be pure (Philippians 4:8).
6. That their hearts will be stirred to give generously to the Lord's work (Exodus 35:29).
7. That when the time is right, they will GO (Matthew 28:18-20)!

Personal Responsibility for Children

Responsibility involves being a dependable and reliable person who is committed to following through on obligations. Being responsible includes demonstrating positive character skills such as self-control, perseverance, initiative, effort and goal setting. Demonstrating responsibility in all areas of life is an important part of becoming a person of character. Key concepts to discuss with your child: DEPENDABILITY, INITIATIVE AND EFFORT.

Suggested Reading

"You Never Stop Being a Parent – Thriving in Relationship with Your Adult Children" by Jim Newheiser & Elyse Fitzpatrick

"How to Really Love Your Adult Child" by Ross Campbell M.D. & Gary Chapman PhD

INTRODUCTION:

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:13-16 (Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17)

EXPOSITION:

1. The parents _____! (10:13a)

2. The disciples _____! (10:13b)

3. Jesus' _____! (10:14-16)

a. _____ (10:14a)

b. _____ (10:14b)

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c. _____ (10:15)

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d. _____ (10:16)

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BOTTOM LINE:

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APPLICATION:

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