



EPHESIANS 6:1-4

GETTING STARTED...

Did you have a rebellious phase growing up? Most kids at some point will hit a point in time where they will want to rebel against their parent's rules. Have you ever been frustrated as a parent, watching your child rebel against you? These are both normal parts of being a child and being a parent but it can still be difficult to know how to navigate those situations. God calls us to reflect Him in how we interact with our parents and how we parent. Both realities should show the watching world what it means to live out every aspect of our lives as a follower of Christ, modeling ourselves after his perfection.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 6:1-4

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), **3** "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." **4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Looking back at 5:18-21 and 5:22-3, how does this passage fit into the overall pattern that Paul is working through? How does this help us understand obeying parents as part of being filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the purpose of discipline in parenting? How does God's discipline help us understand this? See Hebrews 12:9-11.

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

<i>Agassiz/Lake Errock</i>	What has been several of the most challenging aspects for you of raising your children? What things have you done that have "worked" in helping your children to have a foundation for life of faith and trust in God? What advice would you give to a first time mom and dad about how to incorporate godliness into your home?
<i>Chilliwack</i>	Is the command for children to obey their parents a bit harsh? What is to be gained by it? How do parents provoke their children to anger? What are some primary means for parents to disciple their children? How much is 'caught' vs 'taught'?
<i>Harrison</i>	Paul's command to parents to bring up their children in the instruction of the Lord has implications for every adult believer, regardless of whether you have biological children or not. In your context, how are you pointing the next generation towards Jesus?
<i>Promontory</i>	How can you grow in reflection of Jesus as you deal with your parents as adults? How does this help us in our parenting? If you don't have kids, what are ways in which you can support and help parents in this?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*