

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE FAMILY

Ephesians 6:1-4

Stuart Jones - May 8, 2016



INTRODUCTION

A parent-child relationship is not built upon friendship; rather it is set on a stronger foundation. Paul writes in Ephesians, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." He instructs children to "honor your father and mother," and charges fathers not to frustrate their children, but to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Ezra Taft Benson summed up a mother's role as this, "It is mother's influence during the crucial formative years that forms a child's basic character. Home is the place where a child learns faith, feels love and thereby learns from mother's loving example to choose righteousness."

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Tell of a time when you were really mad at your parents. Why did they make you so mad?
2. Tell of a time when your parent's actions/words/etc. really humbled you.
3. If you're a parent, what parental skills of your parents have you implemented yourself?

EVALUATE IT

1. How did Christianity change the way the first world saw the parent/child relationship?
2. Stuart said, "We are to share in respect at home." What does a healthy biblical respect between a parent and child look like? How is that achieved?
3. In Colossians 3 the Apostle Paul wrote, "Parents, don't come down too hard on your children or you'll crush their spirits." Parents must discipline their children, so where is the balance between the constantly critical parent and the lackadaisical parent? What can parents do to find the balance?
4. Have someone read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. What does this look like in 2016? How do we do this today?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Stuart quoted Earl Hobner (leader of Central Brazil Mission) who said, "Where Jesus goes, things get better." Where does Jesus need to go in your family and your home? In what areas does your family need Jesus the most?
2. What practical steps can you do to cultivate greater respect within your family?

ILLUSTRATION

"Spare the rod and spoil the child—that is true; but beside the rod keep an apple to give him when he has done well." -Martin Luther

Parents should sustain confrontation faithfully, diligently and habitually. I went to have my ear examined once and couldn't help overhear what was going on in the other room between the doctor and an emotional mother. She was saying, "You've got to do something about this boy of mine." And the doctor responded, "What do you want me to do, ma'am? You're the mother. Now if you don't keep him out of the swimming pool, he will have constant ear infections." She said, "He's too big for me to handle. I can't keep him out of the pool. You have to help me with medicine or something that will take away the problem and the infection."

And I thought as I listened, man, it's obvious who's in charge in that home. And I expected when they walked out of the room that her boy would be about 6'2", you know, seventeen-year-old boy. But he was a kindergartner. He was! He was little. And I thought, confrontation is missing, and it has been missing too long. That boy is controlling the home. -Chuck Swindoll



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

Jason Fox
270-765-4994
jason@fccetown.com