

Metro Women's Bible Study
Ephesians 6:1-4

Lesson 14

Authority is a divine plan. Therefore, God has instructions for both the one who is to obey and the one given authority. This Lesson deals primarily with Parents rearing their Children in the Lord. If you do not have children or your children are grown, please don't disregard this lesson as it is the Word of God. You can use this lesson as a grandparent with your grandchildren, or if you are single, it can be an encouragement for the future. Whatever your status; married with children, married without children, or single, may the Lord use you to encourage others with His truths!

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase.

a. List below the subjects(s) covered in Ephesians 6:1-4.

Verses 1-4

OPTIONAL: From the list below record the key words on your chart.

God and Jesus (Christ/Lord/Master)

New to this lesson: *children, parents (father, mother),*

Contrast: *but*

OPTIONAL: Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words every time they are used in Ephesians 6:1-4. Remember, as you mark the words for *God, Jesus*, and many of the other words that are new to this lesson, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

2. This section of Ephesians continues Paul's teaching on submission. List the instructions given below. (**Note:** we will look at the instructions in detail as we continue this lesson. For now, simply record the basic instruction.)

Children:

Fathers:

3. God rewards obedience. What reward for obedience does God give to:

Children:

4. God also warns those who rule over others. What is His warning to:

Fathers:

DAYS TWO & THREE: Read Ephesians 6:1

Having examined the marriage relationship in lesson 13, we now turn our attention to the attitudes and actions of the *parent/child* relationship. **Paul continues to emphasize the necessity of Spirit filled believers in these relationships, particularly as the Spirit's control is evidenced by a submissive spirit in the believer.

1. What is the first relationship addressed in Ephesians 6:1 and what are they commanded to do?

The word obey (5219) (**hupakouo**) means to hear as a subordinate with attentiveness, and to respond positively to what is heard. **Hupakouo** implies an inward attitude of respect and honor, as well as external acts of obedience. Obedience on the part of children consists in listening to the advice given by parents. Paul does not use **hupotasso** which describes submission between equals (husband and wife) but **hupakouo** which speaks of one who is not the other's equal.

Elisabeth Elliot emphasizes the importance of obedience when she wrote, *"Throughout the Bible ... when God asked a man to do something, methods, means, materials, and specific directions were always provided. The man had one thing to do: obey."*

2. To **disobey parents** is a symptom of a disintegrating, and decaying society. We have a huge responsibility as Christians before the Lord to not to contribute to this collapse and decay. We have specific instruction from the Lord in helping our children grow in becoming healthy and productive Christian adults, but it begins while they are young. What do the following passages reveal about your responsibility as a parent?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

a. Share an example of how you do this in your home with your children.

3. What do the passages below reveal about correction?

Proverbs 15:10 "Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die."

Proverbs 3:11-12 "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights."

Proverbs 12:1 "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid."

Proverbs 15:5 "A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent."

Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him."

Proverbs 23:13-14 "Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

a. After reading the above passages how do you see the value of correction from God’s perspective?

b. How do you follow through in disciplining your children after there has been an incident of disobedience?

c. A lot of unbelievers and some believers shy away from God’s instruction to parents in disciplining their children with the rod. (spanking) Have you struggled in this area? Why?

A lack of discipline will make a child insecure, miserable, and self-centered. That is what we call "a spoiled child"--one who grows up to expect to have her way in everything and who rides roughshod over the feelings of everyone else. This is created by a spirit of indulgence on the part of parents who allow their children to make decisions that no child is capable of making. Parents must learn that they need to make decisions for their children for quite a while in their life and only gradually help them to learn to make those decisions as they mature. In the early years of childhood parents must make almost all the decisions. One of the terribly tragic things about life today is the degree to which many parents let children make decisions they are incapable of making.

4. Why is it important to represent God correctly when disciplining your children? What do you learn from Numbers 20:7-12?

Numbers 20:7-12 “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink.”⁹So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; ¹⁰and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. ¹²But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

a. If you struggle in this area, how will you change this attitude of not representing God correctly to your children?

b. If you misrepresent God to your children, how could this affect their view of God now & when they are older?

5. It is important to show your Children the heart of God in the way you love them and in the way you discipline them. The danger in the home is parents who are authoritarian but do not exercise loving spiritual authority. How do the following passages reveal God’s heart to our repented sin?

Psalm 103:12 ‘As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

Jeremiah 31:34 “³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his

brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- a. In what way do you respond to your child after you have disciplined them?
- b. Do you struggle with **not** holding their sin against them after you have disciplined them? Explain?
- c. How will you correct this attitude?

6. Verse 1, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right*. The phrase "**In the Lord**" was added by the translators for better readability in the English. Paul's point is that it is the child's obligation **to Christ** to obey their parents whether or not their parents are believers. (Children are not commanded to obey their parents if their parents tell them to disobey the Lord.) Why (according to verse 1) should *children obey their parents*?

7. For this is right does not speak just in the sense of befitting the child, **It is right** because it is according to the will of God. It is actually more than **right**; it is **just**. It is righteous for Children to obey their parents because it is **God's way**. What do the following passages say about what is right or righteous?

Hosea 14:9 "Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are **right**, And the **righteous** will walk in them, but transgressors will stumble in them."

Psalms 19:8 "The precepts of the LORD are **right**, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Psalms 33:4-5 "For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice."

Proverbs 4:11-13 "I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life."

Romans 7:12 "So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and **righteous** and good."

J Vernon McGee says,.. The first lesson that a soldier must learn is obedience to those in authority. He must follow orders. **This basic training is learned FIRST in the home**. After the soldier has learned to obey, then he is in a position to be promoted to the rank of an officer where he gives commands to others. To know how to give orders depends largely on how the soldier learned to obey. This basic training is found in the home with the parent-child relationship.

DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 6:2-3

1. Read Ephesians 6:2-3. What is the promise that follows the command to children?

2. **Paul** is quoting from the "Ten Commandments" here in Ephesians 6:2. (Exodus 20:12) **Obedience** and **honor** sum up the duty of the child's obligation to their parents. Define the word *honor* using a dictionary or your Concordance and write out the definition.

Honor-

3. Honor your father and mother describes the disposition out of which obedience is born. In other words; **OBEDIENCE** is the **duty** while **HONOR** is the **disposition**. An act without the proper attitude is **hypocrisy**. If the child does what your parents tells them to do but hates it and are unwilling and nasty about it, then their a hypocrite. God is after the **attitude** much more than He's after the act, because if the attitude is right, the act will follow. A right act with a wrong attitude is nothing but hypocrisy. How do you help your child develop the right attitude and disposition regarding obedience?

4. What are the warnings to Children who dishonor their parents?

Deuteronomy 27:16

Proverbs 20:20

5. McGee observes that "*Dishonor & disobedience to parents is the last and lowest form of lawlessness to occur on this earth. Disobedience to parents is one of the characteristics of the last days. Today we hear of many cases of children rejecting parental authority and even killing their parents! This is indicative of the times in which we live.*" How do we see this in 2 Timothy 3:1-4?

2 Timothy 3:1-4 ¹"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

6. The example of honor and respect start in the home between a husband and wife. How they respect one another will impact the child's attitude towards respecting others. How are you doing in the area of respecting your husband?

There are several sound reasons why we should honor others.

First: Christ set the example for us in giving honor where it is due.

Second: the image of God stamped on us by our Creator qualifies each one for honor.

Third: it is part of Christian humility to give honor to others.

Fourth: it helps unify the church when we honor other Christians.

7. Read Ephesians 6:3. What two things does God *promise* as a result of keeping this *commandment*?

8. What do the following passages reveal about this truth from Ephesians 6:3?

Deuteronomy 4:40 "So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go **well** with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

Deuteronomy 5:29 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it may be **well** with them and with their sons forever!

9. What is your response to the quote below?

Wiersbe writes that long life does not mean that everyone who died young dishonored his parents. He was stating a principle: when children obey their parents in the Lord, they will escape a good deal of sin and danger and thus avoid the things that could threaten or shorten their lives. But life is not measured only by quantity of time. It is also measured by quality of experience." God enriches the life of the obedient child no matter how long he may live on the earth. Sin always robs us; obedience always enriches us. An Israelite who persistently disobeyed his parents was not privileged to enjoy a long, stable life in the land of Israel."

DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 6:4

1. As *children* are to honor their *parents*, *parents* are to honor their *children*. They are to properly use their parental authority. According to Ephesians 6:4, what are *fathers* **not** to do?

2. Look up the word *provoke* in your Concordance and write out the Greek translation.

Provoke-

a. What are some synonyms for the word *provoke*?

3. Colossians 3:21 gives a similar warning. It also adds a consequence to being *provoked*. What is it?

a. How might a child become *discouraged* as a result of being *provoked* by his/her *father*?

4. Rather than *provoking* a child, what does Ephesians 6:4 instruct the *father* to do?

5. Look up the words *training* and *admonition* in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Training- (nurture)

Admonition-

a. This exhortation is to fathers, but does not exempt us as Mothers to apply the same principle. How are you applying Ephesians 6:4 in your home?

Training is any word of encouragement or reproof which leads to correct behavior. It conveys the idea of giving one counsel about avoiding or ceasing an improper course of behavior.

6. There are several ways in which a parent can provoke a child: favoritism, comparison, unrealistic standards, over-indulging, rescuing, discouragement, lack of rewards, unfulfilled promises, treating them like boarders rather than children, not admitting mistakes, ridiculing, neglect, abusive & harsh words, sarcasm, mental abuse, and physical abuse. Which of these areas do you struggle with?

There might be some of the above areas in which you shouldn't share with your group because their sensitive nature. I don't want you to continue to feel ashamed or not have hope in overcoming these struggles. Satan would love to keep you bound up in pride by not asking for help. If you would like some personal Biblical counseling please feel free to contact me. Valerie Cimino (Pastor's Wife) metromom@yahoo.com

7. In what ways might a parent fail to properly *train a child in the admonition of the Lord*, if they do not first meet the commandment of Deuteronomy 6:5?

8. Solomon knew his responsibility as a *father*. What advice did he give to his *children* in the following passages: Highlight your answers.

Proverbs 4:1-5 "Hear, *my children*, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth."

Proverbs 19:18 "18Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives."

Proverbs 29:17 "17Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul."

a. Was their a personal exhortation or encouragement that stood out to you? In what way?

9. Each of us has learned from our parents. We have been exposed to both negative and positive parenting. How did you, do you, or will you treat your children differently from the way your parents treated you?

a. What positive behaviors did you, do you, or will you continue to pass along?

10. Please read the quote below and respond to the following questions:

- a. Were you a rebellious child that came back to the Lord? What drew you back to the Lord?
- b. Are you a parent of a rebellious child? How did this quote encourage you?
- c. How were you encouraged by this quote?

James Montgomery Boice offers the following thoughts for those parents who have done the right thing and yet still have seen the child grow up rebellious...

Yet I must say a word on the matter of the child's own responsibility, as I promised. Children are their own people, and they have their own set of responsibilities both before God and others. Consequently, although they may be taught wisely and raised morally and that instruction be supported by parental example, they nevertheless sometimes do go astray, and that is not necessarily the parents' fault. The first example of child-rearing in the Bible should teach us that. We know that Adam and Eve were a sinful man and woman after the Fall, as we all are. But they were undoubtedly model parents nonetheless. They were highly intelligent and knew God intimately. Moreover, they are numbered in the godly line of the age before the Flood, the line which contained such outstanding spiritual giants as Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. There is no question but that they raised their children to know and honor God. Yet in spite of this their first child, Cain, turned out to be a murderer. Why? The Bible says it was the result of the outworkings of his own sinful heart. So I say to parents: If your child has abandoned the Lord and is living a worldly life, it is not necessarily your fault. It may be, but not necessarily. Do not abandon hope. God has called many such children. Your duty is to continue to live as Christians and pray for your child regularly. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16)

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Choose two things you will do this week to encourage a child or your children. What will you do?
2. Record on your worksheets, "Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the believer, & Instructions."

The Bible Friend has the following Recipe For Child Rearing...

1 cup of **Proverbs 22:6**

2 Tablespoons of **Proverbs 19:13**

1 Dash of **Proverbs 23:13**

1 Teaspoon of **Proverbs 3:5**

1/2 cup of **Titus 2:3-7**

Mix all the ingredients, add a pound of persistence, one cup of love, and whip until right consistency. This recipe is recommended by the Creator of Mankind.

Please add a pinch of **Ephesians 6:4**