



MAKING Relationships **NEW**

DIGGING DEEPER:

(Read Colossians 3:18-25)

Start by asking the question, “Does God have a plan for our family?” Spend some time considering that question. Don’t necessarily answer the question, but talk about what it means if the answer is yes: “Wouldn’t we want to figure out what that plan is?” “Do you think that plan affects how we live as a family?”

This week focus on two main points from this portion of scripture, the idea of children obeying their parents and parents exasperating their children:

1. Do you think it’s fair that God directs children to obey their parents? Why or why not?
2. What does it look like to “obey” your parents? Consider things like:
 - 1) Blind obedience
 - 2) Obedience to step-parents or adopted parents
 - 3) Non-Christian parents

Focus on God’s love for all of us. If He’s asking children to obey, it must be because it is the best for everyone, including the kids. Also, there is no exception made for step-parents, adopted parents, or non-Christian parent. But there is a principle of God’s ultimate authority. Therefore, if it isn’t illegal or immoral, children are charged biblically to obey.

3. What are some ways we provoke you?

Talk about the meaning of provoke. Some translations use the word embitter and in Ephesians we find the word exasperate. Try to create a safe environment to encourage your kids to really share with you the things that embitter them. Then be willing to own your part of that, to sincerely apologize for the ways you’ve provoked (or embittered or exasperated) your kids. Avoid saying, “I’m sorry, BUT...” as a way to apologize and then dive into how they are at fault because of such and such. Instead simply address your part of the problem and trust the Holy Spirit to direct your children.

Work hard this week to not get defensive. Invite your children to share honestly with you. Come back to the first question, “Does God have a plan for our family and what does that mean?”

ACTIVITY:

Working with ALL your heart!

Prepare envelopes with Colossians 3:23 written inside and hide somewhere for your family to find. *(For a challenge, put one word in each envelope and have them put the verse together when they find it.)*

Tell your family that they’re going to look for a secret mystery envelope with a special message inside! *But first*, they must complete special instructions to find it. Have everyone stand up and do each task you give to them. The point is to make them work hard! 1) Do 5 jumping jacks 2) Spin around 3 times 3) Run to the door (or another place across the room) and back 3 times 4) Hop (until you say to stop) 5) Skip around in a circle (until you say to stop) 6) Any other tasks you want to make them do!

Once they’re done, give them a clue of where to find the envelopes. Then say: “*So now I would love for someone to tell me WHY you did all that hard work? (Let a kid answer.) That’s right, it was all so that you could learn where the special, secret envelope was hidden! Let’s open the envelope and read our message now.*” Read Colossians 3:23.

**(You can do this devotion without the movie clip, just skip this section) “Did you know the movie Monsters University can help us understand God’s word? We are going to watch a clip about a character named Mike Wazowski, a monster who wants to become a professional scarer. He goes to Monsters University and must prove that he’s a really scary monster! I want you to pay attention to what Mike does, and especially HOW he does it.” Clip: MU Work Hard (1:01:49-1:04:45) “Would someone like to tell me about what happened in that video?” (Let a kid respond.) “So, Mike and his friends got up early in the morning, did crazy exercises, and practiced really hard to become great scarers! They realized that even though other monsters weren’t doing it, they needed to work really hard to get the reward of being a good scarer.”*

Read Colossians 3:23 again.

1. What do you think it means to work at something with your whole heart?
2. What do you think it means to work for God instead of for humans?

Make it personal: a) Can someone tell me about a job or chore you do during the week that you really hate doing? b) What about something that you love doing? c) What is something you could change about doing that job that would help you do it for God?