

Life Group Homework

For the week of March 5, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

MY STORY

- 2) What theme or idea has God been speaking to you personally about throughout this study?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 4) Did you do something different in your family because of last week's study, and if so, will you share it with your group?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ²“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

We recognize that many of us are in different stages regarding this passage. Some people are parents while some are not. When answering these questions, please answer them from your current circumstances. If your parents are not around or are no longer in your life, answer them from the perspective of God as the Father in your life.

- 5) What does it mean for children to obey their parents?
- 6) Is Paul (the author of this passage) referring only to believing parents or to all?
- 7) What does the word “honor” mean?
- 8) What are some ways we can honor and obey even when it's hard?

- 9) Two weeks ago, Pastor Craig discussed submission being an action and not a feeling. How does that apply to this passage?

Billy Graham has some great thoughts for those among us who have had painful experiences with parents. He says, "Allow me to say a word to those who have not had the joy of being reared by godly parents. This kind of pain is severe because the relationship between parents and their offspring is meant to be positive, nurturing and wholesome.

Nonetheless, there are many who hurt deeply because of various kinds of parental abuse. How does a believer carry out God's commandment here, and what would God have to say about this? May I suggest six things to consider?

- Pray for your parents.
- Keep on trying to help them, even though that may be difficult at times.
- Model Jesus for them.
- Exercise restraint in front of them.
- Weep for them before the Lord, pouring your heart out to Him on their behalf.
- Forgive them. The Lord can help you do this!

- 10) Of these six points which is the hardest for you to do personally?

TAKING IT HOME

Ephesians 6:4

⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

- 11) Is Paul only addressing fathers in this passage or does it include mothers and other members of the family who are in authority?
- 12) What are some ways we provoke children to anger, and what can we do differently?
- 13) What are some common areas of conflict between parents and children?

- 14) What is the area of family relationships that you have become *too comfortable* with and are hearing God's challenge to do something different?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Over the last several weeks we have been putting together a Vision Statement. In the past three we have been writing values based on the framework found in the first two weeks of the study. This week we are going to seek God and ask Him and ourselves a couple of questions.

- 1) What am I most passionate about? If your answer is about a leisure activity or yourself, dig deeper and seek God to find what moves you in His kingdom. This can take some time, but is important to prayerfully figure out. I encourage you to seek Him here because God knows the answer.

Read and think about Psalm 139.

- 2) Who knows what you were made for according to the Psalm?

The next question to ponder is what experiences in my life has God allowed me to walk through that can be of benefit to others?

TOO COMFORTABLE?

When my comfort meets God's challenges

Pastor Tim Layfield

Eph 6:1-4

Children – This is not just “little children”. It is the idea of any child living under the roof of a parent—any age at any time.

Obey – listening carefully for the orders and instructions of his commanding officer. It's a word of action.

Honor – To give **VALUE**, to **CHERISH**.

Note: Even when honoring our parents becomes difficult, when we do, we become more like who God wants us to be.

Fathers – fathers, mothers, step-parents, standing in the gap as a parent.

REACT VS. RESPOND

REACTING is **LOSING** our cool.

This shuts people down.
They won't listen and receive.

RESPONDING is **LISTENING** it through.

Caring in that moment.
Meeting them in that moment.

Responding is **LACED** with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal.5:22-23).

Changing a Mindset:

Think of the **POSSIBILITIES** for your families.

- What would it look like if your kids actually HEARD you?
- What will it take to RESPOND so that my kids are open for business?

Don't be afraid to **RESPOND**.

- You will gain ground in your family.
- Let Gal. 5:22-23 guide you.

Be **HUMBLE**.

- Dive deep within your family to serve up.
- It's a powerful thing to ask your kids for forgiveness.
- The goal is to win your family not the argument.

Change what you believe about **YOURSELF**.

You are not defined by your past.

When God chose from all the names and relationships in our human vocabulary to describe Himself, He chose the title “*Father*.”