



Gospel-Centered Families

*Children Part 1: Gospel-Centered
Obedience*

How to Prepare

Ephesians 6:1-3

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/parents-require-obedience-of-your-children>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/obeying-god-will-make-you-wise>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/gospel-obedience>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/obedience-for-our-good>

Sermon Outline:

Ephesians 6:1-3

1. Gospel-Centered Obedience is Unto the Lord.
2. Gospel-Centered Obedience is Smart.
3. Gospel-Centered Obedience is Loving.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Family Relationships

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 6:1-3.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

1. What was one thing you took away from the sermon or the text? In your own words, what does it mean to be gospel-centered in your obedience?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. Gospel-Centered Obedience is Unto the Lord.

2. How is obedience to earthly authorities (like parents, governments, employers, teachers, and pastors) linked to obedience to God? (See also Romans 13:1-4, Colossians 3:20-25, and Hebrews 13:17)

3. In what ways can parents help their children see the connection between obeying them and honoring God? How can we remind ourselves about the connection between obeying earthly authorities and honoring God?

4. How does obeying "in the Lord" change the focus from simply following rules to worshiping God? When is it right to disobey earthly authorities? (See Acts 4:18-20)

II. Gospel-Centered Obedience is Smart.

5. What does Ephesians 6:1-3 (which is quoting the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5:16 and Numbers 20:12) say is the outcome of obeying parents and by implication other earthly authorities? In other words, what is generally true about your life when you obey the authorities God has put over you?

6. How is disobedience a foolish rejection of God's design in life and reality? What do people usually mean when they say they have to "learn things the hard way?" What would it look like to learn things the easy way?

7. How does practicing obedience as a child prepare a person to make wise decisions as an adult? What effect does our obedience or disobedience to earthly authorities have on other people that we influence in life?

III. Gospel-Centered Obedience is Loving.

8. How does obeying parents and other authorities show our love for our parents and respect for authorities? How does our obedience to earthly authorities reflect our love and respect for God?

9. What was Jesus' motivation for His obedience to accomplish the gospel? (See John 15:9-13) What makes His obedience so astonishing? (See Philippians 2:8)

10. How does faith in the gospel produce a desire for obedience within us? What are we lacking if we have no desire to obey God or the authorities He has placed in our lives, and what do we need to do to address what we lack? (See John 14:15, 23-24)

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Eph. 5:21–6:9 Submission to One Another. Verse 21 is transitional, connecting with the previous section and leading to what follows. Submission is illustrated in various family relations in 5:22–33 (wives/husbands), 6:1–4 (children/parents), and 6:5–9 (servants/masters). See also Col. 3:18–25.

Eph. 6:1–4 Children and Parents. The submission of 5:21 is further explained as meaning that children should submit to their parents. This submission takes the form of obedience to them. Parents are to nurture their children in the Lord.

Eph. 6:1 Children. The second family relationship illustrating submission to proper authority (5:21) is that of children and parents. The Mosaic law prescribed death for the child who struck or cursed a parent (Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 20:9), and Paul lists such disobedience as one of many grave sins (Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2). However, Paul urges in Eph. 6:1–3 the positive duty of children to obey their parents. Obedience is due to both parents; the mother's submission to her husband does not remove her parental dignity but rather increases it. In the Lord modifies the verb "obey." right. What makes such obedience "right" or "just" is that it conforms to God's holy commandment, quoted in vv. 2–3.

Eph. 6:2–3 Honor. Children obeying their parents (v. 1) is in part how they honor them; see also Prov. 31:28, which describes children rising to bless a wise and godly mother. promise. There were earlier commands of God with promises (e.g., Gen. 17:1–2), but this is the first and only of the Ten Commandments to contain a promise (see also Ex. 20:12). In the new covenant the promise of the land is not physical land on earth but eternal life, which begins when one is regenerated here and now and comes to full reality in the age to come. Paul is not teaching salvation on the basis of works. The obedience of children is evidence that they know God, and it results in receiving blessings from God.