

“Family Life”
Series: “Slice of Life”
(Part 2 of 2)

Discussion Starter: Give everyone a chance to answer the following question. What is one thing you really appreciate about your parents?

Explore: Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

Ephesians was written by Paul to believers living in a very urban city. He wanted believers to know that they had been saved, not just for their personal benefit, but also to bring praise and glory to God in every area of life.

1. Why should children obey their parents (vs. 1)?
2. What is promised in God’s Word for children who do obey their parents (vs. 2-3)?
3. In what ways can a child show honor to his mother or father today (vs. 2-3)?
4. How should children be reared by their parents (vs. 4)? What does that mean?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. When it comes to parenting, would you say most adults believe a) I’m doing great – my kids are better than most, b) I’m doing okay – my kids aren’t that bad, or c) I really don’t know how I’m doing?
2. What is the best parenting advice you ever received?
3. Do you think parents over- or under- estimate the influence they have on their children? What does Deuteronomy 6:4-7 say parents should impress on their children? How can parents practically do this today?
4. Of the four things children need from their parents, which was most important for you as a child? ...in which area do you believe God is speaking to you today?
5. How comfortable is your family at spending time together talking, praying, serving, or exploring God’s Word together? How can you introduce some of these practices into your family routine?

Live: Take it home.

As a group: Think about the families in your group. How can we help to sharpen and strengthen the parents in our group?

On your own: Think about the relationships you have with your children. Write down one thing you will commit to do this month in order to improve your relationship with them.

Listening Guide Notes

^[1] “These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ^[2] so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ^[3] Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. ^[4] Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ^[5] Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ^[6] These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ^[7] Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ^[8] Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ^[9] Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

–**Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NIV)**

What Children Need to Know:

1. Unconditional Love.
2. Always be Truthful.
3. Security: You’re stuck with me!
4. Disobedience will have Consequences...Every Time!

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” –**Exodus 20:12 (NIV)**

^[5] “And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: ‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,^[6] because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.’” –**Hebrews 12:5-6 (NIV)**