



WHIAM!

Parenting: Making It Count

Discussion Guide | October 13, 2019

Ephesians 6:1-4

Questions for Study and Discussion

**Before you begin, please read Ephesians 6:1-4 as a group.

1. Do you think raising kids today is harder or easier (or the same) as it was 100 years ago? Why?
2. What are some of the biggest problems or struggles that parents face today?
3. Why is it important for the Bible to shape HOW you parent?
4. Look closely at Ephesians 6:1-3. What commands does Paul give to children here? What does it look like to live out these commands as younger children? Teenage children? Adult children?
5. Paul quotes one of the 10 Commandments, "Honor your father and mother." How does the command to "honor" influence how we understand the command to "obey"?
6. For parents, how do you live a life that invites honor?
7. In verse 3, what reason(s) does Paul give for the commands in verses 1 and 2? In your own words, summarize what Paul is saying.
8. What does it mean to "exasperate" your children (v. 4)? What are some practical ways this might look in everyday life?
9. Paul focuses attention on bringing children up "in the training and instruction of the Lord" (v. 4). As a group, brainstorm 6-8 practical ways to do this.
10. What other goals do parents have for their kids? How can you keep the goal of v. 4 ("bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord") as a priority in light of everything else clamoring for your attention as parents?
11. Read the following passages. After each one, share how it adds to (or how it reinforces) what you've learned about parenting from Ephesians 6:1-4.
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-4
 - Proverbs 22:6
 - Mark 10:13-14
 - Colossians 3:20-21
12. **For anyone who has children:** What practical steps do you need to take this week to invest fresh attention and effort into godly parenting? **For anyone who doesn't have kids:** What's your biggest take-away on parenting from Ephesians 6:1-4 and this discussion as a group?
13. **Challenge:** Memorize Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."