

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Ephesians 6:1-4

Ice Breaker: What is your craziest childhood memory?

Ice Breaker: Name a time when you were growing up that your family or another family had a spiritual impact on your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Ephesians 6:1-4:** What is the context of this passage? How does this passage fit into the rest of the book of Ephesians?
2. Who is verses 1-3 addressed to? What is different about the "child-parent" relationship than the "husband-wife" relationship in the above passage?
3. What does "in the Lord" add to or change about the command to "obey your parents"? Why is this addition so necessary for children and for our church?
4. What happens if you remove "in the Lord" from the command to obey? What are the spiritual consequences from doing this? For children? For families? For the church?
5. Greg Palys said on Sunday, "Children need to be converted not just christianized." What does this mean? How might this change your own parenting/grandparenting/spiritual-grandparenting? How do we make sure that "good behavior" is not our goal?
6. If you do not have children, what role do you currently play in the life of children at Castleton?
 1. If you do play a role, what have you learned from your role and how do you bring the gospel into that relationship?
 2. If not, what role can and should you be playing in the life of children at Castleton (children's ministry, spiritual-grandparents, supporting families, praying regularly)?
7. **Read Eph. 6:4:** Why are "Fathers" the only ones identified in this verse? Are mothers off the hook? Why do you think Paul specifically called out Fathers in this passage?
8. What role did your own father play in your life? If you are a father with young kids now, how does this change your understanding of your role?
9. What does it mean "bring them up" or "nurture" children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord? How can parents do this well? What resources are available for families (lots....but don't forget about the church body!)?
10. How might you help a family that is struggling with their children or whose children are struggling with obedience? What does it look like to come alongside of them and support their calling? If you have children, who have you asked to help you in this mission of discipling your children?