

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF OCTOBER 12, 2009

**THIS WEEK'S FOCUS**

**Gospel Parenting**

"It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours."

**-Joyce Maynard**

"A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus."

**-1 Tim 3:12-13**

"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:  
Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

**-Pr 31:26-31**

**THIS WEEK'S TEXT**

Eph 6:1-4

**RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE**

Deut 4:9, 5:16, 6:4-9; Col 3:20-21; Pr 3:11, 13:24, 17:5, 31; Luke 18:29; 21:16; 2 Tim 3; 2 Cor 12:14-15; Eph 4:31; Ps 128; Gen 1

**STUDY GUIDE**

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - The way Paul addresses the two intended audiences of this passage
  - The reasoning behind Paul's encouragement in verse 1
  - How that compares with modern conceptions of behavior
  - The way that Paul grounds this command to children (v. 2)
  - The parenthetical note in verse 2
  - The relationship between the command to children and the command to Fathers
  - The picture of proper parenting drawn here
  
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Corinth then, what do they mean for us now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- Do you consider children a blessing from the Lord, or a burden? How does that affect the way you think about family?
- What's the difference between a child-centered home and a Christ-centered home? What does that look like practically?
- In what ways did your folks parent you well? In what ways did they parent you poorly? How are those things shaping you now and how will they affect your parenting?
- If you're a grown adult, you aren't necessarily still bound to "obeying" your parents, but you are still bound to "honoring" them. How are you doing that? How are you failing to?
- What is your vision for a legacy? Is it informed more by the message and mercy of Jesus, or by the world? How is the way you're interacting with children (your own or others') bringing about that legacy?

"To bring up a child in the way he should go, travel that way yourself once in a while."

–Josh Billings

## MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: 1 Cor 7:35

This Week: Eph 6:4

## PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (October):

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for the revealed reality of what is right and good
- Praising God for his promises to us
- Confessing our neglect of our parents and/or children
- Confessing our tendencies to show disrespect and achieve dominance
- Thanking God for being a perfectly good Father
- Thanking God for His provision in our own parents
- Asking God to make us children who honor Him in our relationships with our parents
- Asking God to give us great love and faithfulness in the way we (will) deal with our children

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Authentic Parenting in a Postmodern Culture* – Mary E. DeMuth
- *Bringing Up Boys* – James Dobson
- *Shepherding a Child's Heart* – Ted Tripp
- *Grace Based Parenting* – Dr. Tim Kimmel
- *Family Driven Faith* – Voddie Baucham
- *Treasuring God in Our Traditions* – Noel Piper
- *Sacred Parenting* – Gary Thomas

## NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 6:1-4