

Christian Parenting
Ephesians 6:1-4

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I. Be a parent who listens well. Ephesians 6:1

If we want our children to have good listening skills, we must first realize listening is a _____ behavior.

1. Jesus Christ must be first and _____ within our lives.

Christ followers place their _____ on Him above all else.

2. Spouses must be placed _____ of children in the family.

Children who are placed above a spouse within a family are out of sequence and they tend to become _____.

3. The Lord wants us to pass our _____ for Him down to our children by always talking about Him.

The Lord first asks parents to listen and obey and then He tells them to _____ up their children to do the same.

II. Parents need to communicate honor. Ephesians 6:2

Honor literally means to prize, or to fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere and _____.

III. When we do things God's way, it works out. Ephesians 6:3

God has a structure for how things in life are to operate. If we follow that structure, we will be _____. If we decide we know better than God, life becomes a struggle.

- When we do not do things the Lord's way, we will wander _____. Instead of making it to the Promise Land, we will suffer needlessly in the desert.

IV. Our home should be an encouragement center. Ephesians 6:4

"Do not provoke" or exasperate. Do not push our children into _____.

V. Our home should be a training and education center.

Our children need training and discipline with both _____ and _____ corrections.

VI. Our home should be a worship center.

The key is to teach our children and train them to have the _____ of Jesus. **Philippians 2:5-8**

- Let's teach others around us what it means to be Christ followers by the way we live! _____ Jesus loud!

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. *How easy or difficult is it for you to obey someone in authority over you? Why?*
2. Read **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**. Discuss the importance these verses had to Jewish children who grew up during the Old Testament times. Discuss the meaning of the Shema.
3. Read **Ephesians 6:1**. Discuss the three priorities the Lord gives Christ followers found in point I. of the sermon notes. **Matthew 22:37-40, Philippians 2:13, Genesis 1:31, 2:18, 2:24**
4. *Read Ephesians 6:1-9. What does it mean for young children to honor their parents? What about adult children?*
5. Read **Ephesians 6:3**. Discuss the statement made during the sermon, *"God has a structure for how things are to operate."* Do you agree with the question, *"If we decide we know better than God, life becomes a struggle"*? **Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:5, Matthew 7:24, Proverbs 16:16**
6. Read **Ephesians 6:4**. *How can fathers avoid provoking their children to wrath? How can fathers nurture and instruct their children instead? Give some examples.*
7. *How can we make our home an encouragement center? How can we make our home a training and education center? How can we make our home a worship center?* **Romans 15:14, Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 11:23, James 1:19, Mtthew 28:19-20**

Some questions taken from Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich (Ephesians)*