

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 25

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 6:4 – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

READ

Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

This week begins with Father’s Day, and we are going to take a look at what the Bible has to say about what it means to be a man and a father. We are suffering in this culture, and even in our church culture, from a lack of biblical fathers. The stress of equality between the genders in our day is taking its toll on both society and the church. The long held assumptions about what it means to be a man have been confused and are no longer sufficient. One of the church’s greatest needs is for fathers to pick up the mantle of biblical manhood and begin to lead as they were created by God to do. We’ll see one of these biblical admonitions for men and fathers in this text. However, we will also see what responsibility children have to respond to the leadership their father provides. Not only are fathers supposed to lead their children by instructing them in the Lord, but also children are to listen to their father’s instruction and honor them with obedience.

Questions:

According to these verses, what are fathers supposed to do for their children?

What are fathers supposed to avoid doing to their children?

How should children respond to the leadership of both their fathers and mothers?

Bottom Line: Fathers are to instruct their children in the Lord, and children are to honor their fathers with obedience.

SING

In light of this week’s passage about fathers and that we are also celebrating Father’s Day, we chose “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” as our worship song this week. Through His grace God has given us earthly fathers to give us an idea of how our Heavenly Father loves and cares for us. As you sing the words of this powerful song, let your heart be filled with praise for God, whose mercy and grace are boundless.

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin gather items needed to make a paper chain: a pen or marker, strips of construction paper and tape, glue, or a stapler.
- Read Ephesians 6:4 to your preschooler.
- Spend time together making the paper chain and write the name of each family member on a link in the chain. The first link should have Dad’s name on it. When you have completed the chain take turns pulling the chain across the table or floor. Point out that wherever the first link in the chain is pulled, the rest follow. The first link in the chain is the leader just like dads are the leaders of families. Tell your child that a loving father takes good care of his children.
- God’s perfect plan for a family is for a child to have moms and dads who take care of their children. Parents are supposed to teach children how to love God and live a life that pleases Him.
- The Bible says that children are to honor their father by obeying. We should obey our parents because it keeps us safe. Obeying helps us do the right thing. But the most important reason we should obey is simply because obeying our mom and dad is one of the ways that we obey God. Every time you obey your mom or dad, you are obeying God. God wants to teach you and me what to do. He teaches us through the Bible.

- Let's pray and thank God for our family.
- *Note to parents: If there is not a father in the home, then discuss how this passage could also be applied to mothers and put the mother at the beginning of the paper chain.*

Children

- What a great opportunity we have this week to talk about the role of the father in the home and how children are supposed to respond to fathers! Let's begin by reading from God's Word.
- Read Ephesians 6:4.
- According to this verse, what is the job of fathers in the home? What are fathers supposed to do? (Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.) What are they NOT supposed to do? (Provoke them to anger)
- Work together to create a job description for fathers based on these verses and other commands from God.
- Next, back up a few verses and read Ephesians 6:1-2.
- According to this verse, what is the job of children in the home? What are you supposed to do? (Obey your parents, honor your father and mother)
- Work together to create a job description for children based on these verses and other commands from God.
- Now read Ephesians 6:3. What promise is given in this verse to children who obey and honor their parents? (Things will go well and you may live longer.) Talk about how God promises to bless us when we follow His commands, including the one to obey and honor our parents.
- Talk about how both parents and children don't always do everything right. If needed, take some time to discuss ways that each may have fallen short of this command and seek forgiveness. But then recommit to obeying God's command, both as fathers (and mothers) and children.
- Pray and ask God's help in obeying His commands about how we should treat each other as parents and children.
- *Note to parents: If there is not a father in the home, then discuss how this passage could also be applied to mothers.*

Students

- Imagine a game without rules. Would it be fun? Would there be any point in playing it?
- As a family, walk through games you love to play together, e.g. monopoly, baseball, basketball, dominos, etc. Most games would not exist unless there were rules and boundaries.
- What are some of the rules and boundaries in ANY family? What are some rules and boundaries that are unique to OUR family?
- Reread Ephesians 6:1-4. As a family list the rules contained in the text. Now rewrite the entire passage as if it gave the opposite instruction (Ex.: "Children, disobey your parents for this is what the Lord likes, and it is right..."). Can you imagine a life in which we followed these rules? What do you think would happen?
- Remember, the Lord desires your good and He knows what's best for you. He has given us fathers as a gift and as a picture to the world of His love for the Church. Sometimes this picture is broken and, please understand, that is not how God originally designed it. However, living under obedience, with boundaries and patience within our families is God's plan. Learning to function this way brings glory to Christ and it also is an example to world of your love for God, your heavenly Father.