

STUDYING THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 11 - Children and Parents - Ephesians 6:1-4

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- [3] "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

EPH 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 11 - Children and Parents - Ephesians 6:1-4

113. Why is a child's obedience to his or her parents pleasing to the Lord? (6:1)
114. Why should children obey parents? (6:1)
115. How is obedience to parents part of a child's obligation to Christ? (6:1)
116. What does it mean to "honor your father and mother"? (6:2-3)
117. What was promised to Israelite children who obeyed their parents? (6:2-3)
118. How does God's commandment and promise to children hold true today? (6:2-3)
119. What does God want fathers not to do? (6:4)
120. What does God want fathers to do? (6:4)
121. How should children be reared and nourished? (6:4)
122. How is the Lord to be the center of parent-child relationships? (6:4)
123. How does honoring your parents bring you blessing?

Lesson 12 - Slaves and Masters - Ephesians 6:5-9

EPH 6:5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. [6] Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. [7] Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, [8] because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

EPH 6:9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 12 - Slaves and Masters - Ephesians 6:5-9

124. Why did Paul tell slaves to obey their masters "with respect and fear"? (6:5)
125. What did Paul tell slaves to do? (6:5-8)
126. What responsibilities did slaves have to their masters? (6:5-8)
127. How did Paul transform the work of the slave? (6:5-8)
128. How could slaves serve the Lord while working for their masters? (6:5-8)
129. How would slaves benefit from winning the favor of their masters? (6:6)
130. With what attitude should the slave serve his master? (6:7)
131. What reward for Christian service could the slave expect? (6:7-8)
132. What directives did Paul give slave owners? (6:9)
133. Why did Paul warn owners against abusing their slaves? (6:9)
134. How does God view rank or social status? (6:9)

Lesson 13 - The Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-24

EPH 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the

breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. [18] And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

EPH 6:19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

EPH 6:21 Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. [22] I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

EPH 6:23 Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [24] Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 13 - The Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-24

135. What did Paul say to exhort his audience? (6:10)
136. What did Paul tell the believers to put on? (6:11)
137. Why do Christians need to put on God's armor? (6:11-12)
138. What can Christians dressed in the full armor of God expect? (6:13)
139. What mandate does God give all Christians? (6:14)
140. How should Christians be armed for battle? (6:14-17)
141. What last two pieces of armor did Paul tell all Christians to take up? (6:18)
142. Why did Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for him? (6:19-20)
143. Who took Paul's letter to the Christians at Ephesus? (6:21)
144. How would Tychicus help the Ephesians? (6:21-22)
145. With what kind of words did Paul bless his audience? (6:23)
146. What did Paul say in benediction? (6:24)

147. Why do you think Paul used the detailed description of a Roman soldier's armor to explain spiritual warfare?

148. How would you describe the armor of God in your own words?

149. What is spiritual warfare?

150. In what way is the Christian life like a battle?

Bibliography

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