

Week 26: "Children: Honor and Obey"

Day One: "Children Obey"

Read: Ephesians 6:1-3

Reflect: What evidence is there in our culture that we are losing respect for parental authority?

Dig: Who does this verse (Eph. 6:1) mention beside children and parents?

Why is that significant?

What is the reason given for children to obey their parents?

Read Proverbs 6:20-23 and answer these questions:

1) What are we called to keep and not forsake?

2) Is memorization encouraged?

3) What effects are promised if children follow their parents' direction?

Apply: How should you examine and reassess your attitude toward obedience to parents based on this text?

Choose at least two children to pray for by name.

Week Twenty-Six: "Children-Honor and Obey"

Day Two: "Honor Your Father and Mother"

Read: Ephesians 6:1-3

Reflect: When you honor someone, how does that affect a relationship?

Dig: How might this command, honor your father and mother, be connected to the heading for this whole section, Ephesians 5:21?

When children grow into adults, how might they still honor their parents even if they no longer are expected to obey them?

What does Ephesians 5:31 have to do with the limits of how long a child "obeys" his parents?

How did Jesus honor his parents even as he grew into independence? See Luke 2:41-52 for a biblical answer to this question.

Apply: How should you adjust your heart attitude so that you "honor" your parents?

Week Twenty-Six: "Children-Honor and Obey"

Day Three: "Honor's Promise"

Read: Ephesians 6:1-3

Reflect: If you honor and respect people, what benefits come back to you?

Dig: What are the two parts of the promise that are given to children who honor their parents?

Look up Deuteronomy 5:16. How is that verse different than what this author says in Ephesians 6:3?

According to 2 Timothy 3:1-5, what will the last days be like?

Apply: Again, choose two children known to you personally and pray that they would honor those in authority over them.

Week Twenty-Six: "Children-Honor and Obey"

Day Four: "Honor is Wisdom"

Read: Proverbs 4:1-8

Reflect: How would you define wisdom?

Who is the wisest person you know?

Dig: Read Proverbs 4:1-3 and answer these questions:

1) Is this written from the perspective of a child or an adult?

2) What is the son's role and what is the father's role?

3) List the words (I counted 4) that are synonyms for wisdom in verses 1 and 2.

Read Proverbs 4:4-8 and answer these questions:

1) How diligently are we to pursue wisdom from our parents? (What verbs are used?)

2) What benefits come to us if we get wisdom? (See verse 8.)

Apply: In prayer, repent of any arrogance or disrespect toward your parents and teachers.

Week Twenty-Six: "Children-Honor and Obey"

Day Five: "Lectio Divina"

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

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness: after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life: write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition.

Write out a prayer based on the passage.