

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Children, Obey
Colossians — Week 32

ICEBREAKER: What are the best books you've ever read?

OVERVIEW: So much of what our society believes about family life is backward. Youth is worshiped. Parents are seen as ignorant, uncool, and out of touch with reality. Parenting “experts” discourage any kind of discipline. Many politicians would like to outlaw spanking and make public education compulsory. In many homes the children make the rules and the parents obey. But the Bible provides us with a clear picture of the purpose of the family, and of how children and parents are to relate to each other. Order and peace can be restored in the home and in society at large, but we must return to God’s word. In this study we will go deeper with the responsibility of children to obey their parents.

1. **Read Colossians 3:20-21.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Read Exodus 21:15, Exodus 21:17, and Deuteronomy 21:18-21. What was the punishment for dishonoring one’s parents in ancient Israel? Why was the punishment so severe?
3. Read Colossians 3:20. What does it mean to obey your parents?
4. According to Colossians 3:20, what is the reason for obeying our parents? Does this reason motivate you? Explain. What are some other reasons to obey your parents?

5. Read Ephesians 6:1-3. What are children commanded to do in this passage?
6. What is the difference between obeying and honoring your parents?
7. Ephesians 6:1-3 contains a promise. What is it? How does honoring your parents both improve and extend your life?
8. How do you need to grow in obeying and honoring your parents?

The Last Word: “A foolish son is grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.” Proverbs 17:25