



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Fatherly Advice | April 16, 2023

Summary

This sermon is the first of a four-week series to help all of us, but especially Christian dads, moms, sons and daughters know how to navigate the family in the un-friendly culture that we are living in.

Scripture

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. -Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT)

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. -2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NLT)

We love each other because he loved us first. -1 John 4:19 (NLT)

... keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. Jude 1:21 (ESV)

Let's Start

What do you think is the most challenging aspect of parenting?

Gratitude and Prayer

How did God work in your life since the last time we were together?

Let's Talk

1. In Ephesians 6:1-4, what does God ask of all children, and with what promise? How can parents “bring their children up in the Lord?”
2. How has social media impacted parenting?
3. Pastor Dale shared that the Holy Spirit calls on parents to practice certain parenting principles:
 - #1: Parent out of love
 - #2: Believe and receive the fact that God loves you no matter what
 - #3: Point them to the right path and walk in it with them

Did your parents practice these principles? If you are a parent, are you practicing these? If you aren't a parent, do you have opportunities to mentor the next generation with these principles?

4. Jude 1:21 talks about keeping “yourselves in the love of God....” How do you do that? Why is it so important to “soak” in the love of God?
5. Pastor Dale said that when we soak up the love of God, we will be more likely to avoid the “don'ts” in parenting, which are:
 - Don't aggravate your children
 - Don't humiliate your children
 - Don't live your dreams out through your children
 - Don't let them feel they can't make mistakes

Do you struggle with these “don'ts”? How?

6. Pastor Dale talked about how we can take an active role in teaching children how to filter truth through a biblical worldview by asking them questions and then helping them—not just telling them—come up with a truth-based viewpoint. Do you have any examples?
7. Pastor Dale ended the sermon by asking parents to make these three commitments:
 - Let God love you by soaking in His love every day.
 - Out of God's love lead your family in the truth by what you say and what you do.
 - Plan your work as a parent and work your plan.

Let's Act

A resource Pastor Dale shared were the books *Mama Bear Apologetics* and *Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality* by Hillary Morgan Ferrer. These guides equip you to teach children how to form their own biblical beliefs about truth and how to face the culture's lies. There is also a website, mamabearapologetics.com, which includes podcasts, a blog, resources and other ways to train yourself and equip your kids.

Wooddale also has groups that discuss Mama Bear Apologetics. To be a part of the Mama Bear Mingle, go to the Wooddale Women's website: www.wooddale.org/women and sign up under "Mama Bear Mingle," which will also keep you up to date on other Mama Bear studies. Mama Bear studies attract an intergenerational group of women, married and single—women who want to understand what children today are facing.

For men: A "Papa Bear Apologetics" study is coming soon. Please email info@wooddale.org and mention your interest in joining this group.
