

SESSION 12 (Solo): A FAMILY MAN (Ephesians 6 v 1-9)

THE BIG IDEA:

Christians who are dependent on their parents for somewhere to live and for their finances should obey their parents.

GUIDANCE FOR QUESTIONS:

3. Obey their parents.

4. Life goes better, and life lasts longer.

5. In lots of ways! By asking for, and seriously considering, their advice. By keeping in regular contact. By not criticising them or moaning about them to other people. By helping them when they need it (this is particularly an issue as parents get older). By spending time with them, even when that means missing out on something else.

6. Not to exasperate their children (ie: not to be unfair, or inconsistent, or use them to look good).

But to bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (ie: teach them who Jesus is, and how people can live for Him). A father can't make a child a Christian (only God can do that); but they can show and teach them what a Christian believes about Jesus, and why it's great to live Jesus' way.

SCENARIOS:

It's worth looking at the last one together at the start of the next session. Christian children should obey God first and foremost; so if a parent tells them to do something which would disobey God, then a Christian child, respectfully and honestly, needs to disobey their parent so they can obey God. Of course, the vast majority of times when a teenager wants to disobey a parent, it is not because of how God tells them to live, but because of how they themselves would like to live!