

Week 3: Experiencing Generational Blessings

WARM-UP:

1. Share with the group a recent blessing you received.
2. Tell us about one unforgettable family time or a moment with your dad or mom you had growing up that has become unforgettable for you.
3. What is one prayer request you have currently for your family?

WORD:

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

*- Ephesians 6:1-4
(Also Read Ephesians 5: 1-2)*

The family unit has always been God’s idea and design for us to grow in our relationships. But because of the fallen condition caused by sin, certain dramas and traumas are experienced inside the family. God designed family for his glory and for our good. And He desires that we experience His transforming, restoring, and healing grace continually. The following are instructions on how we could continue to live honoring God in our family.

1. A Culture of Obedience & Honor Can Be Cultivated

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

-Ephesians 6:1-3

Obedience should not be a mere duty but a response of love and respect toward parents. Honoring God and people is not natural to us. Doing with a right heart is only possible through the gospel we have received. And since we

have been given a new heart in Christ, honoring God and people is a muscle that we should train our hearts and minds to do by the enabling grace of God. This is why creating and cultivating it at home is necessary especially with our kids so that when they go out into the world, they would be people who honor and obey authorities as well. Honoring our parents involves valuing, respecting, and appreciating their role in our lives, regardless of their imperfections.

(For the leader: Share simple ways on how to honor people especially our parents. Tell an example of how you have recently honored your parents and it made them really feel valued.)

2. Discipleship Begins at Home

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

*-Ephesians 6:4a
(See also Colossians 3:21)*

Parents have been called by God to represent Him well in their family dynamics. They are also expected to partner with God in the parenting of the child towards adulthood (See *Psalm 127*). The heart of parenting has always been to lead children to faith in Jesus and not be hindrances to them (See also *Mark 10:13-16*). Being dependent on God and careful not to aggravate our children's emotions are God's clear instructions to us as we raise them up. Discipline and discipleship is expected to begin at home.

(For the leader: Share one of the best lessons you learned from your father or mother growing up.)

3. Lordship Starts with Love

1 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

-Ephesians 5:1,2

Our response to submit to the Lordship of Christ in our lives was a natural response to the great love we have received from Him. In the same way, love must be felt and experienced at home if we would inspire each other to follow and imitate God. However, there will always be imperfections and areas of sanctification in our family relationships as long as we are on this side of eternity. There will always be areas of healing and restoration emotionally and relationally. In order to keep honoring God in and through our family, we are to continue in our walk of faith with Jesus and pursue a progressing transformation that will be a blessing not only to us but to the generations after us. We should never lose sight of the gospel love and forgiveness that we have received and keep abiding in Christ to bear the fruit that God wanted our families, to have lasting fruits that will last for His glory, honor, and praise. Following God always happens with God's love as the foundation.

(For the leader: How has the gospel empowered you to respond in a particular conflict in a way that honored God in your family relationships?)

APPLICATION:

1. What is one take away from this topic that has hit you personally? What Bible truth can change the way you walk with God today?
2. How can you be more intentional when it comes to parenting your children?
3. Is there a hurt and offense from the family that you have not yet dealt with? How can God minister to that area in your life today?

PRAYER:

1. Take a moment of silence together, praising God for the gift of family. And thank Jesus for his promise of household salvation and restoration for the family.
2. Pray for one family member that really needs a breakthrough from God.
3. Ask God for grace for all the parents you know, to be effective ambassadors of God at home, and to lead their children well towards faith in Jesus.