

## Home Group Leaders Discussion Guide

### Ephesians 6:1-4

(\*\*\*Note, the comments are short this week, and there are more questions than usual. As always, just pick a few that you think would be beneficial to your group...or use them as fodder to generate questions as you see fit. Enjoy your group discussion😊\*\*\*)

As was mentioned in the previous sermon and discussion guide, this particular section of Scripture addressing husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and slaves, was patterned after ancient near East household codes. In each relationship there was an understood power dynamic. But Paul throws a curveball to his readers in that what he said to husbands, fathers, masters was completely revolutionary (remember, he was breaking down “submitting to one another”). The “power player” in the relationship was called to a pretty major paradigm shift, a shift that happens in light of the present reality of the Kingdom of God, being “in Christ”, being filled with the Spirit.

In Christ we learn to relate differently with one another. No person looks at another person as property or as an object. There is no reason for power struggles when we recognize that we are safe and secure in God’s Kingdom (despite the situation/circumstances we find ourselves in). As we live “in Christ” and “filled with the Spirit” (main messages from the book of Ephesians) we alert the world around us to the presence of God’s Kingdom and the resulting new humanity.

- Q. Describe your relationship with your parents while you were growing up. What challenges/tensions did you experience? (How would your parents describe you as a child and teenager?)**
- Q. What do you appreciate about how your parents raised you? What do you wish was different in how your parents raised you?**
- Q. What are some of your favorite memories with your parents?**
- Q. For those of you who are parents, what challenges have you faced (or are currently facing) in raising children?**
- Q. For those who are parents, how are you allowing your church family to help/support you in the child raising process?**
- Q. For those without kids, how can you (or in what ways do you) help/support those with kids in your church family?**
- Q. For those who are single, how has the church been a family to you (or how would you like to see it be so)?**

- Q. For those who have grown kids, what do you look back on wishing you would have done differently? What do you look back on and think, “Yeah, I/we did well there.)?”**
- Q. What does it look like to honor your parents now that you are an adult?**
- Q. For those of you who are parents, how are you bringing up your child in the training and instruction of the Lord?**
- Q. As a group, brainstorm ways in which parents can bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord.**
- Q. Some people consider the nuclear family (the household of dad, mom, 2.5 kids) as the “traditional” family, and hold it up as the ideal/model. In reality, the nuclear family is a historically new phenomena (coming about in the 1940’ and 50’s). Typically, historically, globally, the “family” was much bigger/broader and included the larger extended family. We could even say that the concept of the nuclear family has been what has contributed to the breakdown of the family. The nuclear family is too isolated, and lacks the resources to raise healthy families. All that said...here comes the questions—what do you think of that assessment? And, how can we go about enlarging our view of family?**
- Q. From the various presenters/sharers this past Sunday, what was something that really stuck out to you?**
- Q. As you think about the imperative/command this entire section of Scripture is predicated upon, “Be filled with the Spirit...”, what/how do you imagine family and home life could look like if people did that?**