

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 6:1-4 “Spirit-Filled Family Life”

Ephesians 5 and 6 instruct us on God’s plan for the Spirit-filled (or Spirit-controlled) life. Chapter 5 wraps up addressing Spirit-filled marriages, Chapter 6 begins with instruction on Spirit-filled parenting.

Before digging into Chapter 6, let’s look a little more deeply at the “Spirit-filled life” and exactly what that means.

Read Ephesians 6:18-20, then Colossians 3:16-17.

- **They say two different things that happen to be the same. Contrast and/or compare the two passages.**
 - What is the Spirit-filled life?

Read Eph. 5:21 and 6:1-4

- **Verse 21** gives valuable context to all of the instruction found in Ephesians 5:22 - 6:9
- What does it mean to be “submitting to one another” within the family unit?

I. Children Obey...

- **Read Eph. 6:1-3** What is the difference between verse one and verses two- three? (Hint: It is who each verse applies to.)
- What does Paul’s directly addressing the children (rather than instructing parents to tell them) imply?

- How is “obey” different from “honor?”
- What is the promise associated with the command (the Fifth Commandment) in verses 2 - 3?
 - How does this relate to having a good life and living long?
- How is the familial order related to harmony within the Church?

II. “Fathers” ...

- **Read Ephesians 6:4**
- Why is it important for Christian fathers to avoid provoking their children to anger?
- Does this imply that it’s okay for mothers to provoke their children? Why (or why not)?
- What does the word “discipline” mean in Eph 6:4? (Hint: Look at someone’s study Bible notes or concordance.)
 - Why does the world reject this aspect of discipline when training?
- What are the three things fathers are told to do (or not do) in Ephesians 6:4?
 - Practically, how should parents (and grandparents!) do/not do these things?
- How does one faithfully educate a child “christianly” in the home? More simply asked: How do we “train up a child in the way that they should go?” (Proverbs 22:6)
- What part (if any) does the Holy Spirit play in parenting?
- In what ways are being a parent “sanctifying?” (meaning “How does parenting grow us in Christ-likeness?”) *Any humbling stories to be shared?*

Read the following quote and discuss this as a group.

There are no classifications of Christians. Every believer in Jesus Christ has exactly the same salvation, the same standing before God, *and the same divine nature* and resources, and the same divine promises and inheritance (Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11;

James 1:1-9.) But in matters of role and function God has made distinctions. Although there are no differences in intrinsic worth or basic spiritual privileges

and rights among His people, the Lord has given rulers in government certain authority over the people they rule, to church leaders He has given authority over the church, to husbands He has delegated authority over wives, and to parents He has given authority over their children...

MacArthur

- **How might this impact the way we live (as parents and grandparents)? Why?**

What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Take some time to pray for the families at Country Oaks.