

LIFE Group Discussion Questions

Eph. 6:1-4, Deut. 6:4-9

Week of May 17-May 22, 2010

Summary: The Lord clearly exhorts fathers to bring their children up in the admonition of the Lord. We are deeply impacted by our relationships with our fathers. If the parenting we received was not biblical, we have hard work to do to change the course of our families and the following generations' families. In a wholeistic fashion, we are to model, teach, and encourage our children. This is best understood in the context of relationships – our individual relationship with Jesus, our relationship with our spouse, and our relationship with our children.

Discussion Questions:

1. We are, indeed, relational. Does this encourage you, discourage you, or have no real effect upon you? Describe your relationship with your parents
2. Did you desperately seek your father's approval? Was he affirming of you? Did he speak of *his* relationship with his father?
3. What other scriptural references to fathers or fathering come to mind?
4. Read Eph 6:1-4. How have you seen verse 4 "play out" in your family (with your children if you have them)?
5. If you are willing, share any "bad dad" occurrences you experience. Can you recognize the factors that contribute to them? What possibilities come to mind in terms of passing along the faith to your children? (See Deut 6:4-9) What have you done consistently that has impacted your children?
6. What resolve to good works in three relational areas can you make? The three relational areas are: your relationship with the Lord, your marriage, and your children.
7. Where are you strongest with your children? Pray, play, or pay (as in 'pay attention to them' not 'pay for whatever they want you buy them.')

Rabbit Trail of the Week: Life before the fall was life as it was meant to be. Cain & Abel are born in Genesis 4 – after the fall. It appears that Adam & Eve had no children. Does scripture support this notion? Why or why not?