



SDG Discussion Guide

Ephesians 6:1-4

June 17, 2018

For starters:

What kind of season is it for you now? How are you making the most of it or not?

What is your favorite food to eat this wet time of year in the Philippines?

What was a quality of your parents or parent figures that you have appreciated and why?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Provided you can, read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the ESV after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. What reasons are given for obeying and honoring parents (vv 1-3)?
2. Why does Paul contrast making children exasperated with "bringing them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (v 4)?
3. How can parents bring up their children "in the training and instruction of the Lord"? If you are a parent or otherwise have had the care of children in this regard, what has worked for you regarding the imperative from Paul -- in the practical sense? Was there anything that did not work for you that would be helpful to share?
4. What does God ask of all children and with what promise?
5. What may God be saying to you from this passage about your role in your church community regarding your children or the young people?
6. What are some ways - perhaps fresh or creative - you can honor parents, or young people in your care, or both?
7. How have you seen verse 4 in action in your small group or church? How would you like to see verse 4 in your small group or church?
8. How does the passage contribute to the theme of the church glorifying God through visible unity?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to usher you further into his presence. Ask God to remind you of your identity before him -- a beloved child of God whom he loves and is well pleased. Pause a while. Now ask God to turn your hearts and attitudes anew toward the young people in your church and community. Pray that God would grant you renewed compassion and conviction to build up the younger and upcoming generations. Now be still awhile and listen. Go forth this week encouraged of both who you are before God and who the young people in your life need you to be for them.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).