

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Children and Parents

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Q1. How do you define obey?

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 Obey: (1) to follow the commands or guidance of. (2) to conform to or comply with. [Merriam-Webster]

 Submit: (1a) to yield to governance or authority. [Merriam-Webster]

² "Honor your father and mother" -- which is the first commandment with a promise -- ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Q2. What “is the first commandment with a promise”? And what is the promise?

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Q3. How would you explain the “promise”?

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Exodus 20 (NIV)

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor”.

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Q4. How would you define “exasperate”?

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 Exasperate: (1a) to excite the anger of: ENRAGE (1b) to cause irritation or annoyance to [Merriam-Webster].

Q5. Paul warns fathers “do not exasperate your children”. Can you provide examples of behaviors that Fathers are to avoid?

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Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Q6. How does a father walk the line between training a child (Proverbs 22:6) and “exasperating” a child?

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Q7. In verse 4 Paul seems to imply a promise. What promise do you find? What are some outcomes that may result from bringing a child “up in the training and instruction of the Lord”?

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Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Slaves and Masters

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

Q8. There were many “slaves” in the age that Paul wrote this letter. Does this verse apply only to the “slave” of Paul’s time or is there an application for our time?

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Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Q9. If every Believer in Christ Jesus followed Paul’s suggested work behavior in verses 5 & 6, how would our work environments change?

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Q10. Are you a “slave of Christ”? And how can you do “the will of God from your heart”?

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Q11. How would we act if we “were serving the Lord”?

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Q12. What gets in the way of “Serve wholeheartedly”?

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Q13. “I want a reward now!” When will the Lord reward us for our good deeds?

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Q14. I thought that I will go to Heaven when I die because of my belief in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross for my sins. Verses 7 & 8 seem to imply that I need to perform good deeds. How would you explain this apparent contradiction? [See James 2:14-26]

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Q15. Does this reference to “masters” apply to us in this present age?

Q16. This world seems to place such emphasis on the rich and powerful. Do you think that God makes a distinction between the rich and poor? [See James 2:1-12]

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