

**Lesson Aim:** To consider how Paul's discussion of parents and children contributes to the theme of glorifying God through our unity.



*connecting*

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

**Prayer:** Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion or devotional time.



*growing*

1. **READ Colossians 3:20-21.** What reason is given for obeying parents?
2. In your own life (or the lives of others) how have you seen God bless those who obey their parents?
3. **Read Ephesians 6:1-3.** These verses parallel Colossians 3:20. One difference is that Paul also quotes Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16 which include the command for children to honor parents as well as obey them. Is it possible to obey parents without honoring them? Explain.
4. What are some practical ways you can obey or honor your parents (even if it is limited to their memory)?
5. How can fathers (or mothers) embitter or discourage their children?



*raising*

6. **Read Ephesians 6:4.** What might be some reasons that Paul contrasts exasperating (embittering or discouraging) children with “instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”?
7. If you are a parent, what can you do to follow Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4 more closely this week?
8. If you are not a parent, how have you seen Colossians 3:21 or Ephesians 6:4 in action, either in positive or negative ways?



*reaching*

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

# Jesus + nothing = Everything

a study in Colossians

## Family Matters

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Colossians 3:20 – 21

**Part 1: Children, worship the Lord by obeying your parents.**

Obedience is extremely valuable. Luke 2:51-52, Ephesians 6:1-3

Rebelliousness is extremely serious. 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Deuteronomy 21:18-21

**Part 2: Fathers, don't provoke your children to bitterness and discouragement.**

As fathers, we have the incredible responsibility to raise our children to follow Christ. Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

As fathers, what we do and say has a direct impact on our child's decision to follow Christ.

Ways We Embitter Our Children:

1. By being unfair in our discipline.
  - a. Punishing without fair warning.
  - b. Showing favoritism in the exercise of discipline.
2. By being hypocritical in our teaching and example.
  - a. "Do as I say, not as I do" has no place in the vocabulary of Christian parents.
  - b. Not only does hypocrisy provoke children to bitterness, it often is the underlying reason why children leave the faith!

### 3 Kinds of Family Currency

	Parents	Children
<u>Acceptance</u>		
<u>Respect</u>		
<u>Kindness</u>		