

Digging Deeper: Ephesians 6:1–4

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Day 1

Read through and pray over Ephesians 6:1–4.

Ephesians 6:1: Paul instructs children to obey their parents in the Lord. Our obedience is in the Lord. Tony Evans puts it this way: “In other words, children are to respond to parents out of their response to God because parents are to lead them in the ways of God.” This is the right thing to do. Consider your own responses to your parents. Are you demonstrating obedience to God in your obedience to your parents?

Day 2

Ephesians 6:1: Understanding now that we are to obey our parents in the Lord, what does it look like to obey? To obey, children must recognize and submit to their parent’s authority. Submission is evident in both our actions and our attitude. Have you aligned your attitude in submission? Remember this pleases the Lord (Colossians 3:20). Take some time today to consider and pray that your attitude would also reflect your obedience to your parents and God.

Day 3

Ephesians 6:2–3: Not only are we to obey our parents in the Lord as our authority, but Paul writes we are also to honor our parents. As children grow to adults and leave from under their parent’s authority, in continuance God has still charged us to honor our mother and father. To honor is to value, to give high respect and great esteem. It can be translated to give heavy weight. In adulthood, we should value the wisdom of our parents. Our actions, decisions and behavior should give heavy weight to the instruction from our mother and father. For if we do honor our parents, things will go well. Read Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16. Do you continue to honor your parents in your adult life?

Day 4

Ephesians 6:4: Paul now instructs fathers in their authority just as he instructed husbands in their authority. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. As parents, we have to be careful how we correct our children. Our methods of correction should not discourage our children or bring forth bitterness. More often than not do you respond hastily out of anger when correcting your children? Reflect and pray today on your interactions with your children.

Day 5

Ephesians 6:4: Lastly Paul tells us precisely how we should bring up our children: in discipline and instruction. Instruct our children in the word of God and break it down in a way that they are able to chew. Discipline in love not anger. Read Hebrews 12:5–6, look how God corrects and punishes his children and pray that we would follow his design and format.

Day 6

God’s word is constant, consistent and all encompassing. Read Ephesians 6:3, Deuteronomy 11:19, Proverbs 4:4 and 22:6, and lastly Genesis 18:18-19. God’s promises are extended to those in authority who direct their children and to children who honor their authority in the Lord.