

Series - Better Together!

Date/s - 6 August 2017

Topic - Children &amp; Parents (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Speaker/s - Pastor Ben KC Lee

**Welcome** [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[www.thesource4ym.com/games/](http://www.thesource4ym.com/games/)

[www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html) < [go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS](#) >

**Worship** [15 min]

Suggested songs: Glorious One, When You Walk Into The Room, Good Good Father, Build My Life

**Spiritual Objectives**

At the end of the cell discussion, cell members will:

1. Commit to model after Father God and His way of loving in the roles we play at home
2. Conduct ourselves to honour one another in our home

**Word** [45 min]

The Bible speaks of godly ways to relate to our parents and our children in Ephesians 6:1-4

Pastor Ben shared the importance of upholding the spiritual laws of parenting. Parents need to take their spiritual authority and find the balance between letting the children run the household versus not lording over their children. He exhorted us to put on our new selves as God renews His image in our lives.

As children, **honour** our parents.

1. Obey (verse 1) "in the Lord", "this is right". Pastor Ben encouraged us to listen and submit to your parents. Our parents want the best for us. Pastor Ben shared about his experience where he obeyed his mother's call to be confirmed as a Christian and found spiritual renewal in the process. We are serving the Lord when we obey our parents and this is right in the sight of God.
2. Respect (verses 2-3). Honour has an attitude of respect. We value the contributions of parents in our lives.
3. Pastor Ben spoke more about the rewards of honouring our parents (Exodus 20:12)
  - "it may go well with you" - We glean wisdom, make wise decisions & avoid mistakes from their lessons.
  - "you may enjoy long life", add years to our life, add life to our years!

Honouring our parents is not conditional upon the behaviour of our parents or their ages or whether we live under their households. It is right and rewarding to honour our parents.

As parents, live worthily of **our children's honour** (vs 4).

1. Encourage (verse 4a)  
Do not provoke or exasperate our children. He shared the example of priest Eli who did not restrain his sons after rebuking them of what is wrong (1 Samuel 2:22-34, 3:13). Pastor Ben exhorted parents to manage their own emotions before speaking to their children about what is wrong, and for children to

reflect on their own actions.

2. Model (verse 4b)

Parents are to model God's love, God's ways, to model a personal walk with Jesus. He shared of an example where parents did not allow their child to go to church or cell group for a year to prepare for her primary school leaving examination. Though the child got into the school of her choice, she later found it unnecessary to go to church. It is important to put God first. It is also important for parents to disciple their children and not outsource to the church.

Pastor Ben also shared about the difference in the way fathers and mothers discipline. Mothers tend to be nurturing (1 Thessalonians 2:7, Deuteronomy 6:6-7) while fathers provide spiritual leadership (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12). Parenting needs both nurturance and spiritual leadership. One cannot do without the other. These two are essential as children want to be led to live godly lives.

### Discussion Questions

1. **Read Ephesians 6:1-4. What is God's intention for us in living out Ephesians 6:1-4?** [10 min]

**Leader's Notes:** A recap question. Leaders may invite members to share on what they resonated with from the sermon as a reply. What is God's heart behind Ephesians 6:1-4? Is it only for us to obey out of duty, or to experience the freedom that comes from appropriate boundaries and agape love?

2. **Share a joy and a challenge that you face either honouring your parents or living worthily of your child's honour.** [10 min]

**Leader's Notes:** A relate question for members to share a personal experience they learnt or had with family. This question aims to let members share their real-life struggles and happiness, for the cell to cheer and support alongside. Leaders can also consider talking through the following common mistakes that fathers make (reference: "Better Dads, Stronger Sons" by Rick Johnson, Chapter 5):

Mistake #1 – Emphasizing Weaknesses, Not Strengths

Mistake #2 – Avoiding Physical Affection

Mistake #3 – Giving Too Little Time

Mistake #4 – Pushing for Performance

Mistake #5 – Forgetting to Have Fun

Mistake #6 – Fearing Failure (and therefore, avoiding to act)

Mistake #7 – Abusing Your Power

Mistake #8 – Neglecting Your Need for Friendships

Mistake #9 – Being Inconsistent

Mistake #10 – Being Complacent and Passive

Do members have these struggles as parents? Do they have these challenges with their parents?

3. **What did you learn about God or discover about yourself due to the recent joy or challenge from Q2 that you have faced with your family?** [10 min]

**Leader's Notes:** A reflect question for members to share how their life experiences have shaped their faith journey. What did they learn about God and about themselves through it, and how did they grow through it? What did they learn about God's love for themselves and for others?

**4. What is one area of your family life you have been asking God for a breakthrough?** [10 min]

**Leader's Notes:** This is a response question. The aim of the question is for the cell to share with each other – it could be reaching out to a family member, for restoration in relationships, for the chance to bless other relatives or serve together. Colossians 3:13 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 offer areas members can consider to enrich in their relationships with their parents or children. Members to pray for each other and commit this to God.

**Works** [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Every family member will always choose to honour one another, modelling God's love and God's ways.

**Announcements****1. Marriage Preparation Course**

Sat, 19 Aug | 9am-5.30pm & Sundays, 27 Aug, 3, 10, 17 & 24 Sep | 1.45pm-5pm

\$260 Per Couple | Classrooms 214/ 215, RiverLife Church

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 13 Aug.

For enquiries, please contact Christine Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg or 65114141

**2. Child Dedication**

- Sat, 9 Sep | 2-4pm | Grace Chapel

- Sun, 17 Sep | 2-4pm | Faith Chapel

Please register for one session only. Both parents are required to attend the class.

Cost: \$20 (includes course materials and refreshments)

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 3 Sep. For enquiries, please contact Christine

Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg or 65114141

**3. Leaders' Retreat (22 - 24 September 2017)**

at KSL Resort, Johore Bahru

Registration Link: <https://riverlife.churchretreat.com.sg/>