

## Ephesians – Week 16 – Home and Work – Bible Study Helps

### Title: Home and Work

Sermon Summary: This sermon from Ephesians 6:1-9 emphasizes that Jesus Christ must be Lord of every area of life, not just Sunday worship. Christianity must become practical in our everyday relationships and responsibilities—at home with our families and in the workplace. The message addresses three key relationships: children obeying and honoring parents, parents (especially fathers) raising children in godly nurture, and employees/employers working as unto the Lord. The overarching theme is that all of life is to be lived in submission to Christ's authority, with each role serving as training ground for walking with God. The sermon stresses that obedience to God's established authorities leads to blessing and growth, while rebellion leads to destruction.

### Key Points:

- Children must obey their parents "in the Lord" because God established parental authority as part of His divine order
- Honoring father and mother is the fifth commandment and the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well and you may live long
- Obedience and honor are distinct: obedience applies while under parental authority; honor continues throughout life
- Jesus Christ perfectly modeled submission to parental authority despite being sinless and knowing more than His parents
- Fathers must not provoke children to wrath or discouragement but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- Parenting is about cultivation and discipleship, not just control—raising children to follow God, not just be rule followers
- The family is the training ground for all future relationships and authority structures
- Parents can provoke children through inconsistency, hypocrisy, unreasonable expectations, neglect, and harshness
- Work must be done "as unto Christ" with sincerity, integrity, and diligence, not just when being watched
- Employers and leaders must treat workers justly and fairly, remembering their Master is in heaven
- Faithfulness matters more than perfection in all these roles

### Scripture Reference:

- Ephesians 6:1-9 (primary passage)

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- Exodus 20:12 (Fifth Commandment)
- Deuteronomy 5:16 (Second giving of the law)
- Luke 2:40-52 (Jesus as a child submitting to His parents)
- Colossians 3:20-21 (parallel passage on children and fathers)
- Genesis 18:19 (God's commendation of Abraham)
- 1 Samuel 3:13 (Eli's failure to restrain his sons)
- 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15 (Timothy's faithful mother and grandmother)

### Stories:

- Jesus at age 12 in the temple, demonstrating superior knowledge yet willingly submitting to Mary and Joseph's authority
- Abraham as the "intentional father" who commanded his household to follow God, receiving God's commendation
- Eli as the "passive father" who knew of his sons' rebellion but failed to restrain them, resulting in God's judgment
- Lois and Eunice (Timothy's grandmother and mother) who faithfully taught Timothy the Scriptures despite having an unbelieving Greek father
- Absalom's tragic story of rebellion against his father David, showing how rebellion leads to destruction despite great potential
- Joseph's example of faithful service in every circumstance—at home responding "here am I," as a slave in Potiphar's house, as a prisoner, and ultimately as second-in-command in Egypt, always working as unto the Lord
- Nehemiah as a model leader who viewed leadership as stewardship from God, worked alongside his people, and refused distractions

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### Discipleship Questions

How does understanding that Jesus Christ is Lord of everything we do change the way we approach our daily responsibilities at home and work?

In what ways can children honor their parents even when they disagree with them, and how does this prepare them for a lifetime of obeying God?

What does Jesus Christ's example of submitting to Mary and Joseph despite knowing more than them teach us about humility and authority?

How can parents distinguish between healthy correction and provoking their children to wrath or discouragement?

What does it mean practically to bring children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord rather than just making them rule followers?

How does Joseph's consistent faithfulness to God in drastically different circumstances challenge our attitude toward difficult work situations?

In what ways might modern parents unintentionally prioritize extracurricular activities over spiritual formation, and how can this be corrected?

What does it look like to work with fear and trembling as unto Christ rather than as a people pleaser in your current job?

How does the story of Timothy being raised by his mother and grandmother encourage those in less than ideal family situations?

What is the connection between submission to God-given authorities and spiritual growth, and how have you seen this in your own life?

# Small Group Guide: Home and Work

Based on Ephesians 6:1-9

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## Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

**Ice Breaker Question:** Share one piece of advice (good or bad) you received from your parents growing up. How has it impacted your life?

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## Review & Recap (5 minutes)

**Main Points:**

1. **Serving Christ as Children** - Obedience and honor to parents
2. **Serving Christ as Parents** - Raising children for the Lord
3. **Serving Christ at Work** - Working as unto the Lord in all circumstances

**Key Verse:** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)

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## Discussion Questions

### Part 1: Children & Obedience (15-20 minutes)

1. **What stood out to you about Jesus submitting to Mary and Joseph at age 12, even though He knew more than them?** How does this challenge our understanding of submission to authority?
2. **The sermon contrasted two outcomes of being provoked: rebellion (acting out) vs. discouragement (holding it in).** Which pattern have you observed more in your own life or in children you know?
3. **For those with living parents:** How do you practice "honoring" your father and mother as an adult? What does this look like practically, especially when you disagree with them?
4. **The sermon stated: "Submission in Jesus Christ's life produced growth."** How have you seen obedience to authority lead to spiritual or personal growth in your own life?

### Part 2: Parents & Raising Children (15-20 minutes)

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5. **The sermon presented three parenting examples:**
- **Abraham** - The Intentional Father
  - **Eli** - The Passive Father
  - **Lois & Eunice** - Faithful Influencers

**Which example resonates most with your current situation and why?**

6. **"Correction delayed is not correction."** What makes biblical discipline difficult for parents today? How does our culture pressure parents away from God's design?
7. **The sermon listed five ways parents provoke children:**
- Inconsistency
  - Hypocrisy
  - Unreasonable expectations
  - Neglect
  - Harshness

**Which of these do you struggle with most? How can you address it?**

8. **For parents:** How intentional are you about making disciples of your children versus just making them "rule followers"? What's the difference?
9. **For those without children:** How can you invest in the spiritual lives of children in your sphere of influence (nieces, nephews, church kids, etc.)?

### Part 3: Work & Service (15-20 minutes)

10. **Joseph remained faithful to the Lord in different "workplaces": at home, in slavery, in prison, and in Pharaoh's kingdom.** What enabled him to maintain his testimony regardless of circumstances?
11. **Read Ephesians 6:5-8 again.** What does it mean practically to work "as unto Christ" in your current job? How would your work habits change if Jesus was literally your supervisor?
12. **The sermon mentioned working "not with eye service as men pleasers."** When are you most tempted to only work hard when people are watching? How can you develop integrity in this area?
13. **For leaders/managers:** How does verse 9 challenge the way you lead others? What does "forbearing threatening" look like in modern workplace leadership?

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## Key Takeaways

**Mark which of these you need to focus on this week:**

- **Obedience to authority is obedience to God** - How I respond to earthly authorities reflects my relationship with Christ

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- **Parenting is discipleship** - My primary job is raising children who will follow Jesus all their lives
  - **Work is worship** - My daily labor is service to the Lord, regardless of my employer or circumstances
  - **Faithfulness matters more than perfection** - God's grace works through our consistent obedience, not flawless performance
  - **God rewards those who honor His structure** - Blessing follows submission to God's designed authorities
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose **ONE** action step from your area of need:

#### For Children/Young Adults:

- Have a conversation with your parents expressing honor and gratitude
- Identify one area where you've been resistant to authority and commit to obedience
- Memorize Ephesians 6:1-3

#### For Parents:

- Schedule intentional Bible time with your children this week
- Evaluate: Are you being consistent in discipline, or passive like Eli?
- Pray specifically for each child by name daily
- Address one area where you may be provoking your children

#### For Employees:

- Commit to working "as unto the Lord" in one specific task this week
- Improve your attitude toward your boss/workplace
- Be on time and give your best effort, even when no one is watching

#### For Employers/Leaders:

- Evaluate how you're treating those under your authority
  - Encourage someone on your team this week
  - Stop using threats or manipulation as leadership tools
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## Accountability & Prayer (10-15 minutes)

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### Pair up or stay as a group:

1. Share which action step you're committing to this week
2. Share one specific prayer request related to home or work
3. Pray for one another

### Prayer Focus:

- For children to have hearts that honor God through obeying parents
  - For parents to raise children who love and follow Jesus
  - For workplaces to be mission fields where Christ is glorified
  - For those in difficult family or work situations to remain faithful
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## Scripture Memory

**Ephesians 6:7-8** *"With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."*

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## Closing Thought

"Christianity must become practical in our everyday relationships and responsibilities. Jesus Christ is not just Lord on Sunday—He is Lord of your home, Lord of your parenting, and Lord of your workplace. Let Him reign in every area of your life."

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## Next Steps

- Read Ephesians 6:10-20 before next week
- Journal about one way you saw God work through your obedience this week
- Follow up with your accountability partner mid-week

# 5-Day Devotional: Living for Christ in Every Relationship

## Day 1: Obedience That Leads to Growth

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:1-3; Luke 2:40-52

**Devotional:** Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, chose to submit to His earthly parents even though He knew more than they did. At age twelve, He amazed the teachers in the temple, yet He willingly returned home and "was subject unto them." This profound example teaches us that submission to God-ordained authority produces spiritual growth. The Scripture says Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." When children honor and obey their parents "in the Lord," they position themselves for God's blessing and maturity. Obedience isn't based on whether authority figures are perfect—it's rooted in trusting God's design. As you submit to the authorities God has placed in your life, you create space for Him to develop character, wisdom, and spiritual depth within you.

## Day 2: The Sacred Trust of Parenting

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**Devotional:** God entrusts parents with an eternal assignment: raising children who will follow Jesus Christ all their days. The command to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" reveals that parenting is fundamentally spiritual work. Like Abraham, who commanded his household to follow God, faithful parents intentionally cultivate their children's souls. This isn't about perfection but consistency—teaching God's Word, modeling authentic faith, and correcting with grace. Your home is the training ground where children learn to trust God, respect authority, and live with integrity. Every decision should filter through this question: "Does this draw my child closer to Jesus?" Whether you're a father, mother, or grandparent, your faithfulness matters eternally. Like Timothy's mother and grandmother, your investment in God's Word can shape a life that impacts generations for Christ's kingdom.

## Day 3: Working as Unto the Lord

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:23-24

**Devotional:** Your workplace is your mission field, and Jesus Christ is your ultimate employer. When you approach your job "as unto the Lord," everything changes. You're no longer merely working for a paycheck or human approval—you're serving the King of Kings. This transforms mundane tasks into acts of worship and difficult circumstances into opportunities for testimony. Joseph exemplified this principle perfectly. Whether serving in his father's house, Potiphar's estate, prison, or Pharaoh's palace, he remained faithful. His circumstances changed, but his Master never did. People noticed that "the Lord was with him" because his work ethic reflected

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his relationship with God. Today, show up with excellence, integrity, and a servant's heart. Work diligently even when no one is watching. Your faithful service honors Christ and positions you for His blessing and promotion in His perfect timing.

### Day 4: Leadership That Reflects Christ

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:9; Nehemiah 5:14-19

**Devotional:** Christian leaders carry a sobering responsibility: leading others as Christ would lead them. God's instruction to masters is simple yet profound—treat those under your authority with the same goodwill, fairness, and respect you desire from God. Threatening, manipulation, and harshness have no place in Christ-centered leadership. Nehemiah demonstrated godly leadership beautifully. He viewed his position as stewardship from God, worked alongside those he led, and refused distractions from God's work. He didn't exploit his authority for personal gain but served sacrificially. Whether you supervise two people or two hundred, remember that your Master is in heaven, and He shows no partiality. Lead with humility, serve with integrity, and treat others as image-bearers of God. Your leadership should make people think more highly of Jesus, not of you. When you lead like Christ, you create environments where people flourish and God receives glory.

### Day 5: Christianity in Real Life

**Reading:** Colossians 3:17-25; 1 Corinthians 10:31

**Devotional:** Christianity must become intensely practical. It's not confined to Sunday mornings but permeates every relationship and responsibility. The thread running through Ephesians 6 is clear: do everything "in the Lord," "as unto Christ," "as to the Lord." This transforms ordinary life into God's service. At home, children honor parents because they're honoring God. Parents raise children not for themselves but for the Lord. At work, employees serve diligently because they're ultimately serving Jesus. Leaders treat people fairly because they answer to the Master in heaven. When Christ is truly your life, He becomes Lord of everything—your words, work, relationships, and responsibilities. This isn't burdensome legalism; it's liberating purpose. Every task, no matter how small, gains eternal significance when done for God's glory. Today, live every moment conscious that Jesus is your life, your Lord, and your reward.