

Ephesians 6:1-9

EPHESIANS GC DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Living Out the Gospel at Home and at Work

Big Idea

The gospel transforms every relationship. Whether as children, parents, employees, or employers, believers are called to reflect the character of Christ by honoring, serving, leading, and working in ways that display the gospel.

Main Theme

Following Jesus is not confined to Sunday worship—it reshapes our homes, workplaces, and everyday relationships.

Opening Icebreaker

Who has had the greatest positive influence on your work ethic or character growing up?
What made that person so influential?

Transition: Many people separate their spiritual life from their home life or work life. Paul reminds us that the gospel reaches every relationship we have.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul begins this section by addressing children (vv.1–3)?

Leader Notes: Paul recognizes children as valued members of the church family.

Obedience is one of the earliest ways children learn to honor God.

Discuss why obedience is ultimately an act of worship, not merely respect for parents.

2. What does it mean to "honor your father and mother," and how does honoring parents change throughout different stages of life?

Leader Notes: Obedience and honor are related but not identical.

Young children primarily honor through obedience.

Adult children continue honoring through respect, care, gratitude, and wisdom.

Discuss practical ways adults can honor aging parents even when they no longer live under their authority.

3. Why does Paul specifically warn fathers not to provoke their children to anger (v.4)?

Leader Notes:Fathers carried primary responsibility for leadership in the home.

Provoking can happen through:

- Harshness
- Neglect
- Unrealistic expectations
- Inconsistency
- Lack of affection

Paul balances authority with tenderness.

4. According to verse 4, what does biblical parenting aim to accomplish?

Leader Notes:Parents are called to raise children in:

- The discipline of the Lord
- The instruction of the Lord

The goal is heart discipleship, not merely behavior management.

5. Although Paul addresses bondservants and masters, what principles apply to employees and employers today (vv.5–9)?

Leader Notes:Without minimizing the differences between ancient servitude and modern employment, emphasize enduring principles:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Respect
- Fairness
- Accountability before God

6. What does it mean to work "as unto the Lord" rather than merely for people?

Leader Notes:Our ultimate employer is Christ.

Discuss how this perspective changes:

- Difficult jobs
- Unfair supervisors
- Unnoticed service
- Everyday tasks

7. Why is it difficult to maintain integrity when no one is watching?

Leader Notes:Paul warns against "eye-service."

The gospel calls believers to faithfulness whether or not anyone notices.

8. How should knowing that God shows no partiality affect the way Christians exercise authority?

Leader Notes:Whether in leadership, parenting, management, or ministry, everyone answers to the same Lord.

Authority is stewardship, not privilege.

9. What does this passage teach us about the dignity of everyday work?

Leader Notes:All honest work can glorify God.

Discuss how vocation becomes an act of worship.

10. In which relationship do you find it hardest to live out the gospel—family, work, or another area? Why?

Leader Notes:Encourage honest reflection and mutual encouragement.

11. How can our group encourage one another to honor Christ in ordinary, everyday responsibilities?

Leader Notes:Ideas may include:

- Praying for one another's workplaces
- Encouraging parents
- Supporting families
- Accountability

12. What would change in your daily routine if you truly believed every task was ultimately done for Christ?

Leader Notes:Help the group connect theology with everyday faithfulness.

Digging Deeper

Notice Paul's repeated emphasis on the Lord throughout this passage.

How does remembering Christ's authority reshape:

- Parenting?
- Working?
- Leading?
- Serving?

Leader Notes:The Christian life is lived before an audience of One.

Gospel Connection

Jesus perfectly obeyed His heavenly Father.

Jesus served faithfully in humility.

Jesus is the Master who treats His servants with perfect justice, mercy, and grace.

Because Christ has served us, we joyfully serve Him in every area of life.

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Parents raising children
- Children growing in obedience
- Employers and managers
- Employees facing challenges
- Integrity at work
- Homes that display the gospel