

PARENTING ON PURPOSE

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Session 5: Guidelines for Obedience

Big Idea

The greatest legacy a parent can pass on to their children is not money or material things, but a legacy of obedience and faith. Obedience is an act of faith while disobedience is the result of unbelief. Teaching your children first-time obedience instills in them a greater faith and trust in the decisions you are making for their good based on God's direction. Often, consistency is the hardest part for parents in teaching their children obedience. How much more would your home life thrive if you were giving clear commands, having swift responses, and remaining consistent in your discipline?

Discussion Questions

1. In this session, Pastor Chris outlines five incorrect methods of gaining obedience: threatening, repeating, bribing, negotiating, and misusing compassion. Did you experience any of these as a child? Are they currently displayed in your home?
2. In all of our homes we have experienced behavior challenges with our children. Share with the group a story of your challenge in trying to establish obedience in your children. How did you overcome the challenge?
3. Consistency is the key to gaining obedient behavior. How can we increase our consistency as parents?
4. What area of discipline and obedience is God asking you to work on in your own life?

Next Steps

Great obedience is not going to happen overnight or even in one day. It will take root and flourish over the course of eighteen years. It is important to remember that you are instilling a principle that will serve your children for the rest of their life. Essentially, you are establishing their understanding of lifelong accountability. If they can grasp the gravity of obedience to you, then they will understand the gravity of obedience to God. Intentionally point out the first act of obedience you see them do and encourage your children's efforts throughout their life.

Prayer Focus

*"Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.
Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged."*

Colossians 3:20-21

Leader Tip

Have group members pair off (men with men, and women with women) and exchange prayer request and phone numbers or email addresses with other. Encourage them to pray for each other throughout the week and contact each other to let them know they are praying.