

Home Group Study Questions

History (Making it Personal)

How you were raised....were you taught so show respect to older people in any particular way? How did you address/greet an older people? Were there particular things you would or would NOT say?

Respect begins in the home. Talk about the concepts of authority you learned as a child. How were you told to respond to teachers, coaches, employers? How was this modeled for you – were your folks a + or - example?

If you could give one piece of advice to “kids these days” - what would it be?

If you could advise a new parent on the most important values they could instill in their children – what would those values be?

How do we raise the bar on “respect” between the generations? What part do older people need to play – what part do young people need to play?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

Read Ephesians 6:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:16; Exodus 20:12; and Proverbs 3:1-4 and talk about the responsibility we have as children to honor our parents instructions. Talk about the application of these texts in the various seasons of life – how is it different for a child, an adolescent, a young adult, and finally an adult parent/child relationship.

What are the under-lying principles of “*that it may go well with you...*”

Read Judges 13:1-8; 14:1-4; & 16:18-20: talk about the rebellious nature of this boy. He was born to older parents, and as far as we know was an only child.

Where did his folks go wrong? Is a strong-willed child destined for destruction? How can the rebellious spirit be broken?

Read I Kings 12:1-17 and talk about the arrogance of youth. In today's world that worships the youth culture, what does this text have to teach us about looking to the older generation for wise counsel and advice? Have we been guilty of setting aside our “elders advice” and taking our cues from the “hip” new generation that is on the rise? Where will this take us?

Proverbs 30:17; Leviticus 20:9 are strong words for the rebellious child. Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:1-3 and Matthew 10:17-21 talk about the rebellion of children in the “last days.” How do you respond to these passages?

I Samuel 15:23 says that rebellion is like the sin of divination (or witchcraft). Do you think we see a misbehaved child in these terms? God apparently takes a rebellious heart VERY seriously. Why?

Ephesians 5 & 6 has a long section on interpersonal relationships (marriage, children, employment) – the conversation begins in 5:21 by saying “submit to one another”. Why is mutual submission such a critical issue?

Taking It Home (Application)

As you look at the “ills” of Canadian society, how many of them can be traced back to a break-down in the family unit? Spend some time in prayer for the fabric of Canadian culture, and for strong families, strong relationships between parents and children, and a culture of respect and honor to be seen.

Choose a person older than yourself that you will “honor” in some particular way this week....a note, a phone call, a small gift. Determine that you will not “write-off” the older people in your life as having nothing to say – but rather – honor them for the wisdom they have.

If there is an older person who has sinned against you – or hurt you – begin the journey toward healing that relationship – by offering forgiveness to them for what they have done. Even if they do not “receive” your gift – it will begin the process of setting YOU free!

