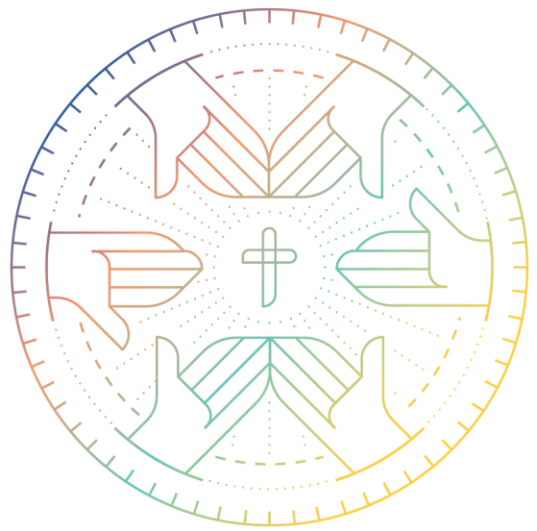


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

In this week's study, we will be covering Ephesians 6:1-4.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What is one Children's Story that impacted you as a kid?

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

In this week's passage, Paul continues the discussion of how we are to imitate God and our identity in Christ impacts our relationships with our parents and children.

### INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

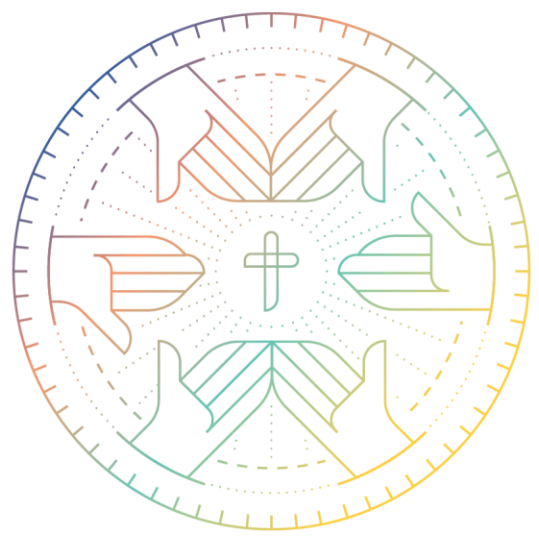
1. **Read Ephesians 6:1-2. Paul uses the word "obey" in verse 1 before switching to the word "honor" in verse 2 when instructing children on their relationship with their parents. What do you think is the difference between obedience and honor?**

#### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Obey in Greek means to listen, to harken to command, to submit, to be obedient. Honor is translated from Greek to mean to estimate, fix the value, revere, or venerate. Obedience deals with actions, whereas honor is a matter of attitude. The progression from obedience to honor mirrors the relationship as a child grows up and moves away from direct supervision of their parents to coaching. With this in mind, Eph 2:2 is directed at how adult children should treat their parents. Note that directly after these commands to children, we see the responsibility of the father to nurture his children in discipline and knowledge of God. Denoting the importance of humility from both children as well as parents.]*

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2. Read Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:2-3. What do you think Paul means when he says that it “may go well with you” as he references the Exodus passage to the believers in Ephesus?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Honoring one's parents has blessings attached to it. For the Israelites, this commandment claimed obedience would cause it to "go well" with them. This is a general blessing rather than a specific one. The idea is that honoring parents is something God both commands and rewards. This blessing was originally given to Israel, yet Paul's teaching in Eph 6:1-3 clearly extends this blessing to believers today.]*

3. Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:12-17. Can you share a time when you have personally experienced or witnessed one of these characteristics lived out and how it impacted you?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Some of the qualities we see are compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another, forging each other. In verse 4 of Ephesians, we see the Greek word for provoking here implies exasperation or frustration. Paul here instructs us to avoid unfair and cruel behavior or blatant favoritism. The believer who is growing in the characteristics listed in Colossians will live out those in a way that points or instructs others to Christ in a way that doesn't provoke or anger others.]*

## **APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)**

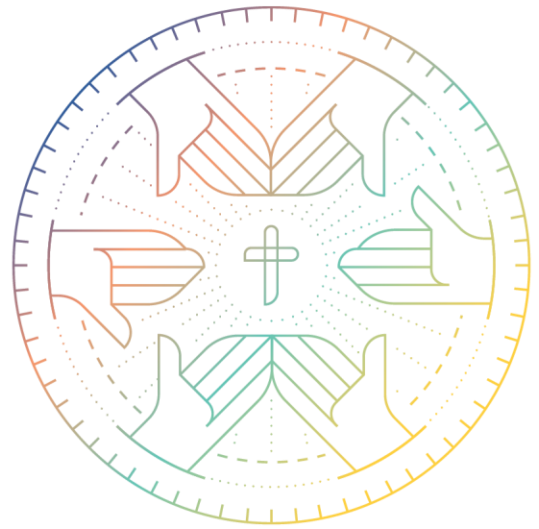
1. After discussing the importance of honor in relationships between children and parents what would it look like for you to practically honor your family or a spiritual parent/mentor this week?

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

*[Answers will vary. Family can be complicated and chances are someone in your group has or is navigating some challenging dynamics within their family. Remind the group that our ability to honor those around us flows from humility that comes out of our understanding of what Christ has done for us. Encourage your group to create action steps or the next right step.]*

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2. **Understanding Eph 6:1-4 applies to all believers and knowing we all have influence, who is one person you could be intentional with to help them grow in their faith?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

[Answers will vary. Influence is defined as the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself. We are often unaware of our influence on others and as a result, are not intentional in our interactions. "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16.]

3. **Read Hebrews 13:1-3. Our homes are a place where we can model and live out our faith in practical, tangible ways. How does your home or how you show hospitality to others reflect your relationship with Christ?**

### **H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE**

[Answers will vary. Our homes are a place to speak truth lovingly, work honestly, encourage regularly, worship constantly, gather with other followers fervently, love unconditionally, address conflict biblically, give cheerfully, be generous openly, pray consistently, read scripture habitually, forgive avidly, and enjoy life daily.]

## **PRAYER (10 MINUTES)**

Dear heavenly Father,

Thank you for the Christian community you have placed in our lives. Help us to imitate you in how we honor those you have placed in our lives through your Holy Spirit. May we cultivate a spirit of humility and reflect your love as we seek to imitate you. Help us to honor those in our lives who have impacted our faith journey. Bring to our awareness people in our lives that we can impact this week. In your heavenly name, we pray. Amen.