

## Discussion Questions

### Parents and Children (The Discipline and Instruction of the Lord)

#### Ephesians 6:1-4

(Share one of the best memories you have of your father or a father figure in your life. What makes that memory stand out as special?)

Scripture teaches that God is our Father and we are His adopted children and that His spirit enables us to call Him “Abba—Daddy!” (Rom. 8:15) And Jesus taught us to pray “Our Father...”

- How do you see God? Do you see Him as a loving Father or something else?
- Has your view of God changed throughout your life? If so, how?
- When you hear that God is a loving Father what parts of you finds that easy to believe?
- Are there any parts of you that struggle to believe that? Explain.
- When you look around our world and think of God as our Father, do you think He’s doing a good job parenting His children?

In Ephesians 6, Paul instructs children to “honor their father and mother.”

(Can you think of a time when you felt honored? If you’d like, share about it.)

- Is honoring your father and mother something you find easy or difficult to do? Explain.
- What do you think it means to honor your father and mother? (In your mind what does that look like in a practical sense?)
- Can you think of a way (even today) you could honor your Heavenly Father—God?

In Ephesians 6, Paul instructs fathers to bring up their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

- What do you think the discipline and instruction of the Lord is?
- How does the Lord discipline and instruct us as humanity?
- How has He personally disciplined and instructed you?
- If you have children, looking at how God parents us, what might it mean to discipline and instruct your children?

In this sermon, Peter pointed out some attributes of God’s discipline and instruction: it’s tolerant, truthful, incarnate, individual and unique, messy, sacrificial and passionate, always purposeful, it’s not a list—but gospel and it always produces faith/trust in God. It is Love and it wins.

Because God is Good and God is Love we can learn so much about how to love those around us from the way He relates to us.

- Take a moment to really look at that list above. Do you see any areas you’d like to grow in regarding the way you relate to those around you?
- Ask the Lord if He might have a specific way He’d like to reveal His Father-heart to someone in your life through you.

*\* These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*