

Focus Topical series - Family (Leader's guide)

Aim of Series:

The aim of the series is to help students understand the God's will for them in their relationship with their parents. Students often have tensions with their parents and these tensions are magnified after they come to Australia. We want to help our Christian students to love and honour their parents in the right way. We also want non Christians to see how the bible puts parents in a high place without idolizing them (like in some cultures).

This guide should help leaders understand what the aim of each bible study want to achieve. As usual I will not provide sample answers as I want all the leaders to work through the studies yourselves. If you have questions about the studies please feel free to ask me about them.

Study 1. Honor father and mother.

Aim : The aim of this study is to show that Bible teaches us to honor our parents. But in the Bible honor does to equal obedience. (help your members to see this point). The bible passages show the following :

Genesis : that the man and the woman forms the base family unit. They leave their parents when they get married to establish their own family.

Abraham example shows the importance of sons for inheritance.

Deuteronomy : Parents are to instruct their children

Exodus : the command to honor parents, please note that it is not the first command. The first command is to have no other Gods (i.e put God first)

Ruth passage shows that while sons are important daughters and daughter in laws are also still important in God's sight.

Proverbs passage show how parents should relate to Children and vice versa.

Summary.

In all these passages, we learn that

- a. both sons and daughters are valuable in God's sight
- b. it is good to obey parents
- c. children grow up and leave parents when they marry
- d. God is first not parents

Application

Compare the bible's view with western culture (of individualism) and the students own culture (filial piety). Explore what changes they need to make now that they have learnt what the Bible says. What things are difficult to change and pray to God for help?

Study 2.

Aim : The aim of this is to help students see that Jesus asks us to put him first before our parents. This is a hard one for many.

Talk about the issues involved (e.g. potential conflict) and use the case study for discussion.

Study 3.

Aim : To help students think about sharing the gospel with their parents. If students come from Christian families ask them to share about how their parents brought them up to know God. Also if you have time discuss how students can bring up their own children in the instruction of the Lord (in the future).

Study 4.

Aim : To help students understand that they can be involved in more than one family. The church is a spiritual family which is also very important to them. Help them to see the importance of being part of a church family.