

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5,6

- In the last days God pays special attention to Father and child relationships
- It is God who will turn our hearts towards each other
- How can we be sure to get God's grace to change our hearts to our children?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 38 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

“Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Exodus 20:12

- Parents are to be honoured
- The obligation to honour our parents has no age limit
- The consequences of honouring our parents is related to God's care for us
- How can we honour our parents?

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1

- Honouring our parents relates to obedience
- The obedience has to be 'in the Lord'
- Does this mean that if our parents are asking us to obey them in an area God does not approve of we are allowed to put God's will first?

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 6:4

- Fathers have a duty not to make life difficult for their children
- The parents are to bring their children up to know God
- How could we do that?

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Deuteronomy 6:6,7

- We are to teach our children
- Our relationship with God is to be shared with our children in the daily affairs of our life
- Sabbath is not the only day we are to speak of God
- How could we include children in worship—without exasperating them?

“because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”

Hebrews 12:6

- God disciplines with love
- How has God disciplined you with love?

“He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.”

Proverbs 13:24

- Being an indulgent parent results in a spoilt child
- The rod spoken of here is a shepherd's rod
- How does a shepherd discipline his sheep?

“At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family--from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.”

1 Samuel 3:12,13

- Parents who fail to restrain their children will be held accountable for their children's behaviour
- If we know about our children's sin then we need to deal with that
- How are we to do this—and what is our motive to be?

“And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

- Jesus was appropriately close to children. He blessed them and he held them—in the company of their parents
- Should parents cuddle their children?