

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## Ephesians 6:1-9

### Lesson 13

Authority is a divine plan. Therefore, God has instructions for both the one who is to obey and the one given authority. Both are to carry out their positions with the Lord as their purpose and their example. As we study God's instructions, may we receive them knowing they are given by our all-wise, all-loving Father.

#### DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 6:1-9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
  - a. Ephesians 6:1-9 has been divided into 2 sections. List below the subjects(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 1-4**

**Verses 5-9**

How would you title this section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

*God and Jesus (Christ/Lord/Master)*

New to this lesson: *children, parents (father, mother), bondservants (slave), and masters*

Contrast: *but*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 6:1-9. Remember, as you mark the words for *God, Jesus*, and many of the other words that are new to this lesson, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

3. This section of Ephesians continues Paul's teaching on submission. List below the instructions given. (Note: we will look at the instructions in detail as we continue this lesson. For now, simply record the basic instruction.)

Children:

Fathers:

Bondservants:

Masters:

4. God rewards obedience. What reward for obedience does God give to:

Children:

Bondservants:

5. God also warns those who rule over others. What is His warning to:

Fathers:

Masters:

## DAY TWO: Read Ephesians 6:1-3

1. Having examined the marriage relationship in lesson 12, we now turn our attention to the attitudes and actions of the *parent/child* relationship and the *bondservant/master* or *employee/employer* relationship. What is the first relationship addressed in Ephesians 6:1-4?
2. What are *children* commanded to do?
  - a. Why (according to verse 1) should *children obey* their *parents*?
    - 1.) What does Psalm 19:8 say about the *statutes* and *commandments* of the Lord?
3. Read Ephesians 6:2. What is the *first commandment with a promise*?

Challenge: Define the word *honor* using a Bible dictionary.

- a. Describe the attitude or behavior of a child who honors this commandment.

4. The *promise* is recorded in verse 3. What two things does God *promise* as a result of keeping this *commandment*?
  
5. God promises to reward obedient *children*. But, He also promises to punish disobedient *children*. What are the warnings of the following verses:  
 Deuteronomy 27:16  
 Proverbs 20:20
  
6. It is not only the responsibility of *children* to *obey* their parents, it is the responsibility of *parents* to teach *children* to *obey*. What are some ways a *parent* should do this?

### **DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 6:4**

1. As *children* are to honor their *parents*, *parents* are to honor their *children*. They are to properly use their parental authority. According to Ephesians 6:4, what are *fathers* **not** to do?
  - a. What are some synonyms for the word *provoke*?
  
2. Colossians 3:21 gives a similar warning. It also adds a consequence to being *provoked*. What is it?
  - a. How might a child become *discouraged* as a result of being *provoked* by his/her *father*?
  
3. Rather than *provoking* a child, what does Ephesians 6:4 instruct the *father* to do?
  
4. According to Proverbs 22:6, what is the result of *training a child in the way they should go*?
  - a. What do you think this means?
  
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9. What is the prerequisite for *parents* in teaching their *children* God's Word?
  - a. In what ways might a *parent* fail to properly teach a *child* if they do not first meet this requirement?
  
  - b. How thorough should *parents* be when teaching God's Word to their *children*?

6. Solomon knew his responsibility as a *father*. What advice did he write to his *children* in:

Proverbs 4:1

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 29:17

- a. If you were to write Proverbs to your *child/children*, what advice would you give them? (If you do not have *children*, what would you write as general advice to *children*?)

#### DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 6:5-8

1. This section of Ephesians addresses a different relationship. What is it?

- a. If you lived long ago and were a slave, what would be the worst part of being someone's property?

- 1.) What would you have expected from a Christian master that you would not from someone who was not a Christian?

Note: We no longer deal with the bondservant/master relationship today. We do, however, deal with the employee/employer relationship. For the purpose of this lesson, *employees* might be a better word than *bondservants* and *employer* might be a better word than *masters*. Keep in mind, we do recognize that an employee has rights that a *bondservant* did not and a *master* had rights that employers today do not. Also, this portion should be applied to many other relationships where one person is sub-ordinate to the leadership of another.

2. According to Ephesians 6:5, how should employees (*bondservants*) respond to their employers (*masters*)?

- a. What might be a modern-day description of behavior described as *fear and trembling*?

3. What should be the condition of the employee's *heart*?

- a. The verse closes with the words *as to Christ*. In Colossians 3 we find a parallel passage on *obedience/submission*. Before giving specific instructions regarding *obedience*, Paul gave general instructions to be applied as we *obey/submit*. What did he write in Colossians 3:17?

4. Describe the godly *obedience* of an employee using Ephesians 6:6,7.
5. Ephesians 6:8 reminds us that God sees and rewards us when we *do good*. What phrase in this verse lets us know that God rewards believers with servant's hearts regardless of their position?
  - a. What is the promise of Proverbs 11:18?

#### **DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 6:9**

1. *And in the same way, you masters must treat your slaves right...* (Ephesians 6:9 NLT). According to this verse, how are employers to treat their employees?
2. What specifically are employers to *give up*?
  - a. Define the word *threatening*.
3. What are employers to *know*?
  - a. Jesus, the perfect *Master* became the perfect *Servant*. What might an employer learn from Jesus' example? See Philippians 2:5-7.
  - b. Read Mathew 20:25-28. How is Jesus' standard for authority contrary to the world's view of authority?
4. In addition to *knowing their own Master is in heaven*, what are employers also to *know*? verse 9
  - a. What does Colossians 3:25 say about this?
    - 1.) What does it mean to you that God, knowing each of us so very well, does not show favoritism or rank social status?

**DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 6:1-9**

1. Each of us has learned from our parents. We have been exposed to both negative and positive parenting. How did you, do you, or will you treat your children differently from the way your parents treated you?

a. What positive behaviors did you, do you, or will you continue to pass along?

2. Rather than *provoke children to wrath* (exasperate them) we should encourage them. Complete the chart below by listing behaviors that *provoke* and behaviors that *encourage*.

Provoke	Encourage

a. Choose two things you will do this week to encourage a child. What will you do?

3. In what ways might you apply the teaching regarding the *bondservant/master* relationship to your life?

4. How does knowing God rewards *obedience* encourage you to *obey* those in authority over you?

5. Describe the believer who serves all people wholeheartedly, as a *bondservant* of Christ.

*Yet He is not partial to princes,  
Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor;  
For they are all the work of His hands.*

*- Job 34:19*