

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## "RELATIONSHIPS IN HARMONY"

Ephesians 6:1-9

Lesson 10

As we begin Ephesians Chapter 6, we find Paul directing his teaching toward another aspect of the family - children and parents. He also shows us God's plan for the proper relationship between slaves and their masters (employees and employers). If you don't have children, realize that you are God's child and He is your Master.

### FIRST DAY

To begin your study it is important to gain a better understanding of the Biblical view of children.

*We are all the offspring of another. Therefore, we are all children. However, in Ephesians 6:1, the word children is speaking of anyone who is still under the roof of or under the control of his/her parents.*

1. What do all of the following scriptures tell you about children?

Genesis 33:5

Genesis 48:9

Psalm 127:3

2. Children are not only a gift from God. In His eyes they are highly esteemed. What are some of the words used to describe children in these verses?

Psalm 127:3

Psalm 127:4

Psalm 128:3

Proverbs 17:6

- a. How do these verses enlighten your view of children?

3. According to Matthew 18:1-5 and Matthew 19:14, how does Jesus feel about children?

4. How can you incorporate His attitude into your home and mothering?

## SECOND DAY

Although children are God's gifts, there are definite requirements placed upon them by His Word. Blessings always follow the fulfillment of God's commandments.

*In the early church, children were present in the congregation when these letters were read.*

*obey-to be subject to authority; to be ruled or controlled by.*

*right-just; righteous*

*honor-to esteem; reverence; value at high price.*

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

1. What two commands are given children in Ephesians 6:1-3.

2. What does obedience mean to you?

3. What do you think it means to obey "*in the Lord*"? Does this just mean children are to obey their Christian parents? (Also see Colossians 3:20).

4. According to Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20, why are children to obey?

a.

b.

5. How was disobedience dealt with in the Old Testament? (See Deuteronomy 21:18-21).

6. What is the difference between obedience and honor?

7. In Ephesians 6:3 and Deuteronomy 5:16, the commandment to honor your mother and father comes with two promises. Write these promises in your own words and explain what they mean to you.

**Personal:** Take a few quiet moments to consider your attitude toward your parents. Are you dishonoring them in any way? What can you do about these feelings?

*The respect that a young child learns to give parents is a first step to learning respect for God, our Heavenly Father. Therefore, respect for one's parents is not just a natural and moral obligation, but a spiritual principle as well.*

### THIRD DAY

As we have seen, children are required to obey and honor their parents. Today we will study the responsibilities that parents have toward their children.

1. Look up the following verses. What do they say about parental duties?

Deuteronomy 6:7

Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 22:6

II Corinthians 12:14

Ephesians 6:4b

I Timothy 3:4

Titus 2:4

Read Ephesians 6:4

*The word father ("patere" Grk) is usually used for the male head of the household. However, here it includes both parents. The Greek term includes the mother.*

*provoke-to irritate, make angry, exasperate, overcorrect,*

2. What things do you think Paul had in mind when he commanded parents not to "provoke" their children?
3. According to Colossians 3:21, what will be the result when children are "provoked to anger"?
4. The Old Testament contains many examples of parents who caused their children to bring them dishonor. In what ways did each of these go wrong and what was the result?

Genesis 25:28-34

Genesis 37:3-4

I Samuel 3:13

Jeremiah 9:12-14

#### FOURTH DAY

*"...but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4b.* This is the positive side of the parental responsibilities - the "to do's" of children rearing.

*The verb translated "bring them up" is the same word as "nourisheth" in Ephesians 5:29.*

1. What does it mean to 'bring them up' in the training and admonition of the Lord? (See side note)
2. Read the following verses about the training or discipline of children. What are they communicating to you?

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 23:13

*Training=nurture. Means learning through discipline. It is also translated "chastening" in Hebrews 12.*

Proverbs 22:6

Proverbs 29:15,17

3. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. According to these verses, why does God discipline us?

Hebrews 12:6

Hebrews 12:8

Hebrews 12:9

Hebrews 12:10

Hebrews 12:11

4. How does this help you to better understand the necessity of disciplining your children?

5. How are we to always discipline our children? (Hebrews 12:6).

6. The Book of Proverbs is filled with the wise counsel of parents to their children. Just a few of these are listed below. Read them and write down the results of heeding to a parent's counsel.

Proverbs 1:8-9

Proverbs 2:1-5

Proverbs 3:1-2

Proverbs 4:10-12

Proverbs 4:20-22

Proverbs 6:20-23

7. What is the difference between nurture and admonition?
8. In what practical ways can you train and admonish your children?

### FIFTH DAY

Paul now turns our attention to the relationship between servants and their masters. There were about 6 million slaves in the Roman Empire in that day and slavery was an accepted institution. Although slavery is not condemned in the New Testament, the overall thrust of the Gospel is against it. The commands given to slaves and masters can apply to employer/employee relationships today.

*servant-(doulos-Grk)-bondslave  
The word denotes subordination, originally an underrower in a ship with 3 banks of oars. The bondslave was at the bottom level.*

*fear and trembling-respect for rightful authority of the master and anxiety to leave no duty undone.*

*in singleness of heart - means with a sincere heart.*

Read Ephesians 6:5-8

1. How did Paul see himself in these verses?

Galatians 1:10

Philippians 1:1

2. What do you think it means to be a servant or a bondslave to Christ?
3. List as many ways as you can find in verses 5-8 that a servant should be obedient to his master.
4. What types of attitudes was Paul trying to teach his servants?

Ephesians 6:5-8

I Timothy 6:1

Titus 2:9

- a. What wrong attitudes do you think he was steering them away from?
- b. What temptations do you face in your work (in or out of the home) to be a "man-pleaser" or do "eyeservice"?

## SIXTH DAY

Although masters were given complete control over their slaves, a Christian master was expected to show the same justice and mercy which he expected to receive from the Lord.

*Even if you have no formally established subordinates, you probably oversee others from time to time (i.e. babysitters, repairmen, Bible study groups, etc.)*

*threatening-implies coercion and compulsion by those in a position of authority.*

Read Ephesians 6:9

1. What does Paul mean when he tells masters to "do the same things to them"? What is he referring to?
2. Describe the attitudes a master should not have. (Also see Leviticus 25:43; James 5:4).
3. What fact should a person in authority always keep in mind when dealing with subordinates? (Also see Colossians 4:1).
4. How can you show the attitudes of Ephesians 6:9 to those you supervise?

**Personal:** Is there any area of your thought or behavior that you have been convicted of in your study of authority and submission? If so, write it down along with anything you might do to your desire for obedience into action.

*This week, pray that God will help you to see and carry out your responsibilities as a child and/or parent and as a servant and/or master. Concentrate on obeying Christ's commands to you in these relationships whether others are doing so or not.*





# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## "YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW"

Ephesians 6:10-24

### Lesson 11

Our Christian experience begins with sitting and leads to walking - but it does not end there. Every Christian must also learn to **stand**. We must be prepared for the conflicts that we will undoubtedly encounter. We have learned how to sit with Christ in heavenly places and walk worthy of Him down here. Now, we learn how to stand before the enemy. Only those who sit can stand. If we are not sitting before God, we cannot hope to stand before the enemy. In Ephesians 6:10-20, we will study how to stand.

### THE CHRISTIAN'S WARFARE

#### FIRST DAY

Read Ephesians 6:10-11

1. This section of Ephesians begins with the word "finally". Why do you think Paul saved his instructions on warfare for last?
2. What does Paul command us to do in verse 10?
3. Look up all of the following verses. Choose four (4) and write down how they minister to you about the strength and power of the Lord.

I Chronicles 29:12

Psalms 62:11

Psalms 65:6

Isaiah 40:29-31

II Corinthians 12:9,10

Ephesians 3:16

whole armor - panoplia  
(Grk) - meant the complete outfit soldiers needed for battle.

Satan is identified as the great dragon, the roaring lion, the vile one, the tempter, the accuser and the spirit working in the sons of disobedience. He is called Satan which means "adversary" 52 times and the devil which means "slanderer" 35 times.

wiles - "schemes" - methodia (Grk) - comes from the English word method. It carries the idea of craftiness, cunning and deception.

Philippians 4:13

II Timothy 1:6-8

4. What are we commanded to put on and why?
5. As a Christian soldier, it is important to know who your enemy is and how he operates...."lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."(II Corinthians 2:11)
  - a. Who was Satan? (Isaiah 14:12-17)
  - b. How did he first appear on the earth? (Genesis 3:1,14)
  - c. How did Jesus describe Satan? (John 8:44, John 12:31)
  - d. How did Jesus deal with Satan? (Matthew 4:1-11)
  - e. What does Satan do?

Zechariah 3:1

Matthew 4:5-7

II Corinthians 4:4

II Corinthians 11:14

I Thessalonians 2:18

6. What are some of the "wiles" of the devil?

James 1:13-15

I Peter 5:8

Revelation 12:9

Revelation 12:10

## SECOND DAY

In these verses, the enemy's forces are clearly described along with our response to him.

**wrestle - struggle**  
(pale'-Grk.) used of hand to hand combat. It indicates that we are personally involved, not just spectators.

**withstand - stand against; resist; oppose.**

**evil day - every day since the Fall of Man has been an evil day. It can be understood as the time of temptation whenever that may come to us.**

Read Ephesians 6:12-13

1. According to Ephesians 6:12, we do not "wrestle" against a physical enemy (flesh and blood). Write down how Paul describes the enemy we do fight.
2. What is Paul's counsel in verses 11 and 13 for engaging in the struggle defined in verse 12?
3. What do you think is the difference between the words "withstand" and "stand" in verse 13? (Read this verse in a modern version.)
4. In verses 11 and 13, Paul tells us how we can withstand the enemy. How?
5. Why do we need the **WHOLE** armor of God?

## THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR

### THIRD DAY

To withstand the attacks of Satan and his forces, Christians must put on the whole armor of God. Paul would have been well acquainted with the military gear of his day. Remember - he was chained to a soldier in Rome while he wrote Ephesians!

1. What two things does II Corinthians 10:4 say about the weapons of our warfare?
  - a.
  - b.

2. On the following chart, list the various pieces of armor in Ephesians 6:14-17.

| ARMOR | SYMBOLIZES | OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE | APPLICATIONS |
|-------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
|-------|------------|------------------------|--------------|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**belt** - girding your loins meant gathering up long, flowing garments with a belt. This was necessary for speed and agility.

**truth** - an awareness of the real facts about ourselves and God.

**breastplate** - a tough sleeveless piece of armor that covered the Roman soldier's full torso.

**righteousness** - moral integrity.

**feet** - soldiers needed shoes that gave them firm footing. They usually had metal or nails on the bottom to give greater traction.

3. What specific parts of the body were protected by the armor?

4. Why is being girded with **truth** essential for success in spiritual battles?

5. What vital organs will be protected by the breastplate?

a. How can a life of righteousness be a protection against spiritual attacks? How does a guilty conscience weaken us?

6. Compare Ephesians 6:15 with Isaiah 52:7. Why is good footwear such an important piece of armor?

**shield** - a large body shield (9 ft x 2 1/2 ft)- served as a moveable protection against anything that was thrown at the soldier.

**helmet** - used to protect the head from injury.

**sword** - varied in length from 6-18". It was the principle weapon in hand to hand combat. It was always ready at hand and ready to use.

7. What importance does Paul put upon the shield as a part of the Christian's armor?
  - a. How can our faith in Christ become a protecting shield against the enemy's darts?
  
8. Why does the head need special protection? What attacks might be made on Christians through their minds?
  - a. How does the assurance of salvation equip us against these attacks?
  
9. What is the one offensive weapon necessary for us as Christians?
  - a. How can it be used defensively?
  - b. Read Hebrews 4:12. How is God's Word described?
  - c. How can you use God's Word to fight the enemy?

#### FOURTH DAY

Perhaps the armor seems complicated and cumbersome to you. God's Word offers us a simplified way to be dressed and ready for battle.

1. What is the girdle of truth? (John 14:6)
  
2. What is the breastplate of righteousness? (Jeremiah 23:6)
  
3. What are the sandals of the preparation of the gospel of peace? (Ephesians 2:14)
  
4. What is the shield of faith? (Hebrews 12:2)

5. What is the helmet of salvation? (Psalm 27:1)
6. What is the sword of the Spirit? (John 1:1, Revelation 19:13)
7. In light of these scriptures, what is the most important thing that we must do to be ready for battle? (Romans 13:14)

### FIFTH DAY

Paul now turns from military comparison to speak directly of a crucial weapon that Christians must use in the battle against evil - **PRAYER** - unceasing intercession before the Father.

Read Ephesians 6:18-24

1. Why do you think Paul wraps up his discussion of the "whole armor of God" with this exhortation to pray?
2. Read Ephesians 6:18 carefully. List the six instructions on how to pray given in this verse. After each, explain the specific instruction in your own words. Put a star by any that you are not sure you practice.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
3. For whom does Paul ask prayer in Ephesians 6:18-19?
4. What are Paul's prayer requests? (Ephesians 6:19-20)

**boldly** - "fearlessly"  
can also mean with  
good humor and high  
spirits.

5. Pretend you were in the Ephesian church and write out a one or two sentence prayer for Paul.
  
  6. Why is prayer so crucial?
  
  7. Read Ephesians 6:21-22. Who was Tychicus (Acts 20:4)? Why was he sent to the Ephesians?
  
  8. Read Ephesians 6:23-24. What 5 Christian attributes are interwoven in this concluding benediction?
- 

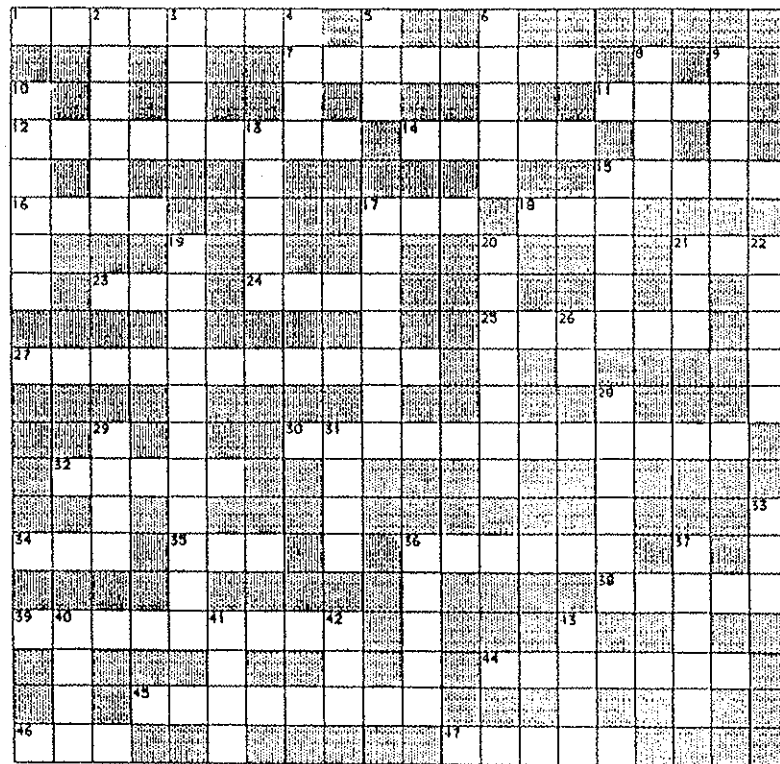
## **SIXTH DAY**

### **LOOKING BACK....A REVIEW OF EPHESIANS**

The study of the Book of Ephesians has been both exciting and challenging! You have gone from sitting before the Lord to walking with Him and finally....standing to fight the enemy. Your life has been undoubtedly changed through the work of the Holy Spirit. Read Ephesians once again today. Think back on all the principles you have learned - your riches in Christ, the old man, the new man, the worthy walk, unity, marriage, children, prayer, spiritual warfare - to name a few!!!

Choose one of these themes (or select one of your own) that ministered to you the most. Write a paragraph on how God spoke to you and how you have (or will) apply it to your life. Be prepared to share with your small group.

## EPHESIANS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Slaves, or hirelings.
7. Unresisting.
11. Opposite of die.
12. Tenth book of the New Testament.
14. With what must you gird your loins?  
(Ephesians 6:14)
15. Eph. 1:17 calls God "the Father of \_\_\_\_\_."
16. Opposite of find.
17. Who shall leave his father and mother?
18. Not near.
21. "...and the two shall become \_\_\_\_\_ flesh."
23. Death's wages.
24. What we are trading for God's riches.
25. \_\_\_\_\_ of faith (Eph. 6:16).
27. Foreordained.
30. Unfathomable, untraceable, unable to  
be measured, without any bottom.
32. Oneness, harmony.
34. Not later.
35. "...put on the \_\_\_\_\_ man."
36. \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation (Eph. 6:17)
38. Only offensive weapon in God's armor.
39. Above reproach.
44. Brought as an heir into God's family.
45. Who wives are called to be subject to.
46. Guided.
47. Ephesians 5:22 - who submits?

### DOWN

2. Wealth, possessions.
3. Conversion of Paul is found in this New  
Testament book.
4. Presently.
5. Allow.
6. Paul is an apostle of Christ \_\_\_\_\_.
8. To occupy the whole of.
9. Dread, awe, terror.
10. 'Marked' with Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13).
13. ".....take up the full \_\_\_\_\_ of God."
15. Unmerited favor.
17. Superiors, lords.
19. Legacy.
20. A sacred secret (Eph. 3:3).
21. Not new.
22. "\_\_\_\_\_ good gift and \_\_\_\_\_ perfect gift."
26. Not out.
28. Holy ones.
29. Understand.
31. Close by.
33. Another name for the Almighty.
36. Psalms, \_\_\_\_\_, and spiritual songs.
37. Authority, strength.
40. In what way does Paul tell us to walk, in  
Ephesians 5:2?
41. For fear that (conj.)
42. Offspring, as in \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
43. A sure expectation