

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Angels We Have Heard, O Holy Night, Beautiful Savior, Here in Your Presence

WELCOME

Family Signature. Share one characteristic or adjective that best describes your family.

WORD

COLOSSIANS 3:20–21

²⁰Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they will not lose heart.

Our family is important. It is a place where children are supposed to know who God is and learn that the most important thing they can do in life is love God. It is within the family where children are to first witness what a Christ-centered life looks like in practice.

When we are Christ-centered, the peace of God rules in our hearts, the Word of God richly dwells in us, and we are motivated to do everything for Jesus (**Colossians 3:15–17**). But what does it mean to live a Christ-centered life in relation to our family?

OBEDY AND HONOR YOUR PARENTS

The first impression and image of God for a child are the parents. Young children are to obey their parents and adult children are to honor them.

The sad reality is none of us have perfect parents but regardless of who they are, we are to still honor them because the Bible tells us so. To honor our parents does not necessarily mean to copy them, but it means to give them weight, value and importance. It is a decision to treat them with dignity, respect, kindness and courtesy. It is also a decision to care for them and seek their best interest.

If we do not learn to obey and honor our parents when we are young, we may struggle with honoring and submitting to other God-structured authorities in life which includes: the husband (**Ephesians 6**), the government (**Romans 13**), your employer (**Colossians 3**) and church leaders (**Hebrews 13**).

Children receive special blessing when they honor and obey their parents unto the Lord (**Ephesians 6:1–3**; **Exodus 20:12**). They will live well and live longer as obedience to God brings blessings.

BRING UP YOUR CHILDREN

Parents exasperate their children when they are: self-centered, not Christ-centered; always correcting, not affirming; fighting with each other and shouting at home; unreasonable, always saying “NO”; playing favorites; hypocrites; inconsistent in their discipline; and when they’re not training or teaching their children from wrongdoing. If parents repeatedly embitter their children, they may be discouraged with no hope, no joy, and no confidence.

Instead of provoking their children, parents should bring them up (**Ephesians 6:4**). To bring them up means to nourish them, so that they can stand on their own someday, follow the Lord, make decisions, and fight the battles of life on their own.

To bring up children, parents need to model being Christ-confident, and thus raise up children who are full of hope and joy in Christ.

BUILD UP RELATIONSHIP

The closer the relationship, the greater the influence. Here are some ways on how parents can nourish their children and build relationship with them:

1. Time – eat together, play games, have fun, create “magic moments”
2. Words of Affirmation – complement their character more than just their appearance or performance
3. Model – live out what you teach; accept mistakes, be authentic Christ-centered followers.

EMBRACE DISCIPLINE

Children are disciplined based on the instruction of God. Discipline to children must be redemptive and

WORD (cont'd)

corrective, not punitive. It is not to punish them for their disobedience but to discipline them out of love and for their own good (**Hebrews 12:5–6, 10–11; Proverbs 13:24**). This can be done by being consistent and clear in the application of rules (by both the father and the mother).

PROVIDE BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION

Children need Godly advice from parents. Therefore, parents should cultivate open communication with them. This can be done by being intentional, asking questions without force, listening intently and reading body language and facial expressions. It is by intentionally communicating and making time that children open up to their parents.

SURRENDER TO THE LOVE OF GOD

God has entrusted children to their parents for guidance, discipline and protection especially when they are younger. But children need to grow up someday and be free from their attachment with their earthly parents.

The greatest thing parents can teach their children is to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength day in and day out (**Deuteronomy 6:5–7**). But someday children need to stand on their own, to surrender their life to the love of God, and follow God on their own. No parent can give the kind of love God gives. Our earthly parents have limitations and weaknesses, but God's love for us is unconditional and unlimited.

The family is a learning community built on a covenant of lifetime loyalty. - Tim Keller

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Father and Children.** What is the command to children and to fathers according to **Colossians 3:15–17**?
2. **Obeys and Honor.** How do you obey and honor your parents? What usually is the response of your parents?
3. **Christ-Centered Life.** In what ways can you be a Christ-centered child or parent in your family?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Honor your parents in obedience to God, especially if they are not yet committed followers of Jesus, to win them for Christ. Below are samples how to honor your parents:

1. Pray for them as unto the Lord – do it regularly
2. Appreciate them as unto the Lord – send them a special note of appreciation
3. Care (call, visit, listen) for them as unto the Lord
4. Serve them as unto the Lord – fix things at home for them regardless how busy you may be
5. Forgive them as unto the Lord – as Christ has forgiven you
6. Grow up in the Lord – it will be unfair for your parents to expect so much from them because understandably they are not perfect

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends