

Family Roles

Dear Facilitator: Today’s lesson is focused on helping parents and children understand their roles. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:1-2, “Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’—which is the first commandment with a promise.” From this passage, we understand that there is an order for the roles of children and parents. Parents are to be honored and are in charge, while children are to contribute by honoring their parents and being obedient. As you help your families understand their roles, it will be important to help parents realize the great responsibility involved in leading their children and helping their children become valuable contributors in the family.

This week we are going to focus on family roles. It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson. Participants will:

1. Identify roles of parents.
2. Identify roles of children.
3. Explain styles of parenting.

This week’s commitment statement is: Be the parents your child can follow; be the child your parents can lead.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God’s love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings

Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing your family.

Last week we spent time talking about how to create a supportive home by setting rules and guidelines for our family.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Today we want to talk about the roles of parents and children in our families. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:1-2, “Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’—which is the first commandment with a promise.” From this passage, we understand that there is an order for the roles of children and parents. Parents are to be honored and are in charge, while children are to contribute by honoring their parents and being obedient.

Today's teaching objectives are to:

1. Identify roles of parents.
2. Identify roles of children.
3. Explain styles of parenting.

This week's commitment statement is: Be the parents your child can follow; be the child your parents can lead.

Each member of the family has a specific role and responsibility and is accountable to one another and to God for the work they do. Let's play a quick game called the Family Web to learn a little more about this subject.



Do: Family Web:

Materials: Yarn, balloon, handouts

1. Start with yourself, and throw the ball of yarn to one person, holding on to one end of the yarn.
2. The person who catches the yarn must say the name of someone in their family who depends on them and for what.
3. When you have thrown the yarn around, you will have created a web which illustrates how we are all connected to one another.

DEBRIEF

- What happens if we aren't connected? (You can throw a balloon on the web and have someone let go to see what happens.)
- What happens if you try to do someone else's role? (Have someone take someone else's yarn.)

In this debrief, it's important to help participants visualize the connectedness we have to one another and to help them see how the effects of dropping our responsibilities or taking on someone else's role changes the connectedness and strength of staying in our play.

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes



Say: As you eat your dinner, discuss the following:

1. What are some ways that parents can help children in their roles?
2. What are some ways that children can help parents in their roles?

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.



Scripture SUPPORT

Psalm 127:3

Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

<i>40 minutes</i>	
<h1>Parent Training</h1>	
<i>Family Tome</i>	FAMILY ROLES

Family members work best together as they understand their roles as God has designed and feel valued for their contributions. Parents are the leaders, and children are the followers, but each one has responsibilities to lead and contribute in ways that benefit each other. We depend on one another for so many things, and it's important that we understand our roles and work to be the best we can in the role that God has given to us.

Parents must be in charge and stay in charge. However, even though parents are “in charge,” the parenting approach that works best is not a dictatorship—it's what experts call authoritative parenting.

Authoritative parents seek input from the children and show love, warmth, teaching, clear expectations, and avoid severe or harsh disciplines. Parents are clear and consistent and give choices to help their children develop the skill of making decisions. There are many positive benefits

for children parented in this manner.

Dictator parents are those who tell their children what to do, how to behave, and when to do so without allowing any room for flexibility, feedback, discussion, or input from the children—or sometimes even the other parent. They are very strict, demanding, and often don't express much warmth or nurturing.

Of course, there are times that you may have to be the boss and give direction to your children with no questions asked.

For example, if a child is about to hurt himself, you wouldn't want to get his input before you give direction!

Permission parents allow children to do whatever they please. There is a lack of rules and little or no discipline. While these parents seem very loving and nurturing, they often act more like a friend instead of a parent to their child. Any rules they do have are usually not enforced, and parents often rely on bribes to get their children to behave.

A permissive or dictator type of parent does not show love. Being loving as a parent includes giving boundaries as well as providing a safe place to learn and grow.

Let's do a role play of different types of parenting.

(Refer to handout at the end of this unit) Choose six participants for each scenario below. Assign two parents to each parenting style: Dictator, Permissive, and Authoritative. Ask each set of parents to act out the scenario as the type of parent they were assigned. It might work best to use the written description shown in Appendix B.

- **Scenario 1:** It's bedtime and children do not want to go to bed.
- **Scenario 2:** Your child came in later than he was supposed to and has a worried look on his face.
- **Scenario 3:** Your child came home from the store with a candy bar that is not hers.

DISCUSS

- What did you learn about the different styles of parenting?

We've just discussed and role-played the differing styles of parenting, but it's also important for parents to help children become valuable contributors in the family. These skills are first learned in the family and will prepare your child to become a valuable member of society. As a parent, it's important to help your

children feel like they are part of a team. When you are part of a team, you think of others before yourself, learn to be a good follower, and communicate respectfully to your leaders.

Some of the ways that parents can do this is by giving children chores and responsibilities and helping them honor you as their parents and others in authority over them. This is best done by modeling respectful communication yourself and always thinking of others first. Remember, we have also been commanded to not exasperate our children (Ephesians 6:4).

DISCUSS

How do chores and responsibilities help children become valuable contributors to the family? What role does respectful communication play in the family?

Parenting as an authoritative parent and helping your child become a valuable contributor can seem like an overwhelming job! Let's take a few minutes to write a job description for parents.

You might want to share this with your children at home or even involve them in writing a job description for you and for them.

ACTIVITY

Job descriptions for parents

- Write "Parent Job Description" at the top of the board.
- Write "Duties" on the left side of the board.
- Write the word "Benefits" on the chart.
- Write the word "Qualifications" and list experience, personal qualities, or education needed.

How do you feel about this job description?

 **Say:** Sometimes parenting can be difficult or overwhelming because we get tired, stressed, or don't know what to do! It's important to ask for help from God, your family, trusted friends, your church, and other experienced parents. Remember, be the parent your children can follow!

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. Identify roles of parents.
2. Identify roles of children.
3. Explain styles of parenting.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as parent this week?

Notes

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Family Time

FAMILY ROLES

Objectives

- Help children be aware of the role God assigned to parents in the family.
- Help children be aware of what the Bible says about their parents' role.
- Help children be aware of the role God assigned children in the family.
- Help children be aware of what the Bible says about their role.
- Help children be aware of what it means to honor and obey their parents.

In the Bible, Psalm 127:3 says, "Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him." Yes, God wanted to reward your parents, so He created you, wrapped you in His love, and sent you to your parents as a special gift! And the instructions He gave your parents are written in the Bible. Proverbs 22:6 tells parents, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." And in Deuteronomy 6:2, when God is talking

about His Ten Commandments, He tells parents to teach His commandments, decrees, and laws to their children and their grandchildren so they would grow up learning to love and revere Him. God's Word tells parents they are to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength and teach their children to do the same (Deuteronomy 6:5).

The most rewarding yet challenging assignment on the earth is being a parent. There is no substitute for the special

relationship between a parent and a child. Parents need God's input and wisdom in order to be the kind of parent He wants them to be. God has placed parents in the role of authority and as a teacher in their children's lives. Again, in Ephesians 6:4, we hear the LORD telling parents to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the LORD. He is telling them to make sure they teach their children the guidelines in the Bible and to demonstrate for their children the way He wants them to conduct themselves.

God wants parents to raise their children in such a way that they will be more and more like Him. Parents can do this by modeling a godly lifestyle, teaching their children to pray, reading the Bible, listening to Christian music at home or when riding in the car, attending church, and worshiping God together as a family. The parent role is the most important assignment on the earth because God knows that parents are raising the next leaders of this nation, and more importantly, the next leaders of Jesus's church.

We have mostly talked about the role of the parent in the family, but God also spoke to children in the Bible, so they would know what role God expected of them. In Ephesians 6:1-3 God says, "Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'—which is the first commandment with a promise—so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Here, God is telling you that your role is to honor your parents and obey them. God is so serious about your role that He attached a promise to it. He says that if you are faithful to honor your parents and obey them, you will have a good, prosperous, and long life. You may be wondering what you can do to honor your parents. Here are just a few suggestions:

1. Forgive them. Remember there are no perfect parents. At times, your parents may make mistakes. There may be times where they disappoint you, and God is asking you to forgive them when they do.

Jesus tells us to forgive. In Colossians 3:13, God tells us, “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you have grievance against someone. Forgive as the LORD forgave you.”

2. Speak well of your parents. Use your words to say good things to and about your parents. Encourage them, lift them up, and pray for them. Having the responsibilities of a parent is no easy task. When you speak words of love and respect over them and let them know you are praying for them, that truly blesses them.

3. Esteem your parents publicly and privately. When given an opportunity, thank them publicly as well as privately. Give them recognition for the values they have instilled in you and other meaningful ways they have impacted your life. You can even write a special tribute to your parents and read it out loud to them.

4. Seek their wisdom. You can honor your parents by confiding in them and asking them to share their knowledge on a subject. When you come against challenges or tough decisions in life, you honor your parents by sharing your struggles with them and asking for their advice. By doing this, you let them know you value their opinion.

5. Obey your parents. Obeying your parents is the most important way that you can show honor to them. Obedience goes along with honor. Though obedience honors your parents, it is really for your own good.

God has appointed your parents to be in charge of you, and He expects them to make decisions and set rules and restrictions in your life according to what they feel the Bible has instructed them to do. Parents are to lead, and you are to follow their leadership. Your parents understand what is necessary for you to grow up to become the person God created you to be. He has given them the responsibility to raise and train you in the way He wants you to go. However, children need to realize that true obedience comes from the heart. God

wants you to obey with a pleasant attitude. When you obey your parents, you are also obeying God. And when you obey your parents it not only pleases them, but it also pleases God!

DISCUSS

- What instructions did God give parents about raising children?
- In Ephesians 6:4, what does it mean for parents to raise their children in the training and instruction of the LORD?
- How can parents raise their children to be more like Christ?
- What responsibilities do the parents have in the family?
- What responsibilities do the children have in the family?
- What instructions did God give children about their role in the family?
- What are some ways to honor your parents?



Scripture SUPPORT

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Activities

Activities are age appropriate. This activity is focused on ages 4-16, all children.

AGES 4-16

Materials

iPad (If not possible, do activity without iPad)

“Family Roles” worksheet

Pencils, crayons, or markers

Children will create their own YouTube video. After the lesson discussion, have the group understand that the main role God has given to parents in the family is the role of authority. Parents are to be the authority and God has instructed children to follow and respect the authority of their parents.

Next, guide the children in filling out “Family Roles” worksheet. Help them write on the lines other things that the father, mother, and children are responsible for in the family. Have children share with the group the responsibilities each of their family members have. As they share, use the iPad to record the students. When all are finished, upload the video to YouTube.

*Smaller children can color picture of how they help the family.

AGES 12-16

Ask the older children to use the responsibilities they listed on their combined sheets to create a rap song about family roles to end the YouTube video. As they share, use the iPad to record the students. When all are finished, upload the video to YouTube.

To create a rap song, have children work in a group to write a rap song about family roles. On paper, along with being the authority in the family, list several father responsibilities from their lists.

Next, list the responsibilities in the best sounding order. Then have the children tap the beat on the table top adding the words. Have them perform the song.



————— **CHALLENGE QUESTION** —————

DO I SHOW RESPECT FOR MY PARENTS
AS THE AUTHORITY FIGURES IN MY LIFE?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING
TO DO TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE
QUESTION THIS WEEK?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>I follow the leadership of my parents as they are led by God's Word.</i>

FAMILY ROLES HANDOUT

CHOOSE 6 PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH SCENARIO BELOW

Assign two parents to each parenting style: Dictator, Permissive, and Authoritative. Ask each set of parents to act out the scenario as the type of parent they were assigned.

Dictator definition: Tell their children what to do, how to behave, and when to do so without allowing any room for flexibility, feedback, discussion, or input from the children—or sometimes even the other parent. They are very strict, demanding, and often don't express much warmth or nurturing.

Permissive definition: Lack of rules and little or no discipline. While these parents seem very loving and nurturing, they often act more like a friend to their child than a parent. Any rules they do have are usually not enforced, and parents often rely on bribes to get their children to behave.

Authoritative definition: Seek input from the children and show love, warmth, teaching, clear expectations, and avoid severe or harsh disciplines. Parents are clear and consistent and give choices to help their children develop the skill of making decisions.

SCENARIO 1:

It's bedtime and the children do not want to go to bed.

DICTATOR PERMISSIVE AUTHORITATIVE

SCENARIO 2:

Your child came in later than expected and has a worried look on his face.

DICTATOR PERMISSIVE AUTHORITATIVE

SCENARIO 2:

Your child came home from the store with a candy bar that is not his or hers.

DICTATOR PERMISSIVE AUTHORITATIVE

FAMILY ROLES

Father

Mother

Children