

## What Does God Expect of Parents and Grandparents?

We are now entering into what could be a sensitive area for class members. Most of us have grown up in churches where no one really spelled out what the Bible says about the responsibilities parents and grandparents have before God. If this is so, then discovering in the Bible that these family leaders have special and identified assignments might be a shock to some people hearing this for the first time. Therefore the leader needs to be aware how the material in this lesson is hitting people.

Now, obviously, we are not saying that parents and grandparents are doing a bad job, not loving their kids and doing their best. What we are saying is no one ever gave them a job description or laid out clearly for them just what God is expecting of them. I did not say anything like this to people when I was their pastor for seven years. How did this get overlooked? One of the reasons might be that there has often been the assumption that parents and grandparents know what they are doing and so why say more.

Here is a goofy illustration of what we might be dealing with in regards to some in the class. Suppose a talented man, George, had never gone fishing. He knew nothing about fishing. Then he moved into a house where someone had left a fishing pole. There was reel on it, at the end of the line was a bobber, two hooks 14 inches apart and a weight at the end. Now George had driven by a lake where he had seen at a distance fishermen casting their lines out into the lake from shore. George thought he might give it a try. He already had the hooks and everything. So he goes down to a lake and watches a man 100 yards away casting out his line. He practices and finally get his line out there from shore. He waits for a fish to bite but no luck. When he goes home he calls a friend and tells him he tried fishing but didn't catch anything. The friend asks, "What kind of bait were you using?" George is caught off guard. He asks his friend, "What do you mean "bait"? The friend says, "Did you use worms or minnows or what?" What did you put on the hooks?" Now George is embarrassed, red in the face. He finally admits to his friend. "I'm new at this. I thought the fish just came and bit on the bare hook. I guess I've got some things to learn."

This sounds unreal. Still it illustrates we only know what we know. If someone has been going to church for years, we might assume they have been told everything they need to know. But when it comes to the specifics as to what God expects of a parent, a grandparent what if nothing has ever been talked about, no Bible passages identified? This session six could be a startling revelation to some so we don't want to assume anything. George was not a dumb guy but he was totally ignorant of what successful fishing involves. Such things happen. In this session what is being said might be totally new to some people. It is good for the leader to be aware of that and tread lightly. We are not here to blame people but to help them come to terms with what God asks them to be responsible for. Done well, this might open the door for some class member to launch a whole new adventure with his or her offspring.

As leader or facilitator make sure you do seven things.

1. Go back and review briefly the Leader's Guide for Session One. Remind the class of the rules.



## Adults Saving Kids

2. Prepare by yourself filling out the questionnaire you have handed out on “What Does God Expect of a Parent and Grandparent?”
3. Read through the written material for Session Six.
4. Review the power point you will be going through with the class.
5. Write down any examples from your own life and thinking that touches on what this session is about.
6. Pray for each person in the course.
7. Print off the questionnaire leading to Session 7 on “Ministry of a Wife and Ministry of a Husband”. Hand it out at the end of the class.

Remember, if you have questions or concerns you can always call 612-708-1875 to discuss those.