

Ephesians 6:1

Keys to a Happy Home = Chores for Children

This message is a bit different in that it is aimed toward children. Parents are welcome to listen in or read up, but the primary audience is intended to be children. God wants us to have happy homes, and part of the responsibility for that happiness falls upon the children. This one verse tells us three things about the child's part - a who, a what and a why.

Notice first the **who**. This verse uses the word, children. That is who this is speaking to. The Bible not just for big people, which is the thought that many children have. This verse is addressed to you, children. Have you ever gotten a letter in the mail with your name on the front? Usually you are excited and you tear it open. When this verse says children, it is like a letter with your name on front! It is talking directly to you!

This verse also uses the phrase, in the Lord. This is talking especially to children who believe in Jesus. The TEV translates the verse like this; "children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents . . ." Many children have accepted Jesus as their Savior. All children should obey their parents, but especially those who are Christians! We often tell our older children that their good behavior is an example for their younger brother. Christian children obeying their parents is an example for other children as well. Children, especially you children who know Jesus, this verse is for you. You are the who that this verse is talking to!

The verse also gives us a **what**. It tells us to obey our parents. The Bible was written in Greek. Let me teach you a new word. It is the Greek word hupakouo. This word means "to hear under." As children you are "under" your parents. That is how God made it. One day you will have children and they will be under you. But for now, you are under your parents. Being under somebody means being obedient to them.

To hear under is to listen. Many children hear what their parents say but do not listen to them! For example, what is that Greek word for obey? Remember, it is hupakouo – it was just mentioned. Perhaps you had to re-read to remember. In other words, you heard but did you listen? I remember when I was in first grade. My dad had put my swing set out by some woods and had the trash cans not too far away from it. My dad had told me to be careful back there because he had seen some snakes. Well, I was out playing on my swing set and for some reason I walked over to the trash cans. I saw what I thought was a string down in one of the cans. It was a funny looking piece of string because it had black stripes on it. I bent down, picked it up, and it started to wiggle. I realized then that it was not a piece of string; it was a snake. I went running to my father and told him what happened. He said "didn't you hear me? I told you to be careful." Well, I heard, but I did not listen!

There is one more thing in this verse I want you to see. It is the **why**. The scripture simply says, this is right. Now, there are a lot of practical reasons why you should obey your parents - they have more experience at living than you; you will not get hurt if you obey; you will stay out of trouble. But the best reason is simply because God says it is the right thing to do! Jesus never asks us to do anything He would not do. When He lived on earth He was obedient. Listen to these verses:

Luke 2:51 - *Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.*

John 15:10 - *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

Hebrews 5:8 - *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.*

Jesus is the best example for all of us. He obeyed and so should you. Why? Because it is the right thing to do!