

# Love, Dates, Heartbreaks and Kids

## Lesson 8

Ephesians 6:1-4

Mother's Day—May 8, 2022

### Parenting in a Broken World

#### INTRODUCTION

Functions and behaviors of motherhood fall within a wide spectrum. Monnica, St. Augustine's mother, prayed more than two decades for her son's conversion before he finally accepted Christ at age 32. In his *Confessions*, Augustine tells of his disregard for Ephesians 6:1, "despising the religion which was in my boyhood ingrafted into me by my parents." Nearly four centuries earlier, the mother of James and John sought a different goal than did Monnica, asking that Jesus grant privileged places for her sons in his kingdom (Matthew 20:21), as though the "kingdom" was a board of directors rather than the eternal home. Although their aspirations were different, both mothers were concerned for their sons' futures, eager that certain incidents would occur to enrich their lives, although one hoped for something more praiseworthy than the other.

This brings us to the question: What is the secret to effective parenting (even when the child has become an adult) that pleases God and benefits the offspring? God's vision for this awesome task is scattered throughout scripture.

***Memory verse: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." — Proverbs 31:28***

Pray, and read Ephesians 6:1-4. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. Why should children “obey your parents in the Lord?” (Ephesians 6:1)
2. What is the commandment for children? (Ephesians 6:2)
3. What is unique about the commandment cited in Ephesians 6:2 (i.e., the fifth commandment [Exodus 20:12])?
4. What is the promise that accompanies this commandment? (Ephesians 6:2-3)
5. In what ways should fathers (or parents) not exasperate their children? (Ephesians 6:4)



4. Obedience to parents is justified when we recognize the related attention and guidance God has had available for parents since the pre-Christian era. Are God's instructions of "how" to enforce commandments too radical to be observed today? (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 11:19)

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. How can you impress upon your children the importance of absorbing God's word and will? (Psalm 78:1, 4; 2 Timothy 3:14-15)

2. The Apostle Paul credited Timothy's mother and grandmother for his scriptural knowledge (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15). How can mothers today achieve the ideal of teaching children about Jesus, especially when it has become "normal" for them to work outside the home?

3. How do you pass Christian values on to your children when they are exposed to unbiblical beliefs by worldly educators, advertisers, social media, TV, film, etc.?