

Youth Group Plus

Episode 4

“How Can I Live for Christ at Home?”

- **The Setup**

- Living and revealing the Kingdom of God
 - By doing the things God wants you to do with the attitude God wants you to do them, because the way you live tells a story.
 - What story are you telling?

- **Here's the Tension**

- You're growing into an adult, and adults want to make their own decision and set their own rules.
- Your parents are adults, and you're dependent on them for food, shelter, etc.

- **A New Way of Thinking**

- Becoming an adult means you're becoming less dependent on your parents.
- As a follower of Jesus, that's not the whole story.
 - As you become less dependent on your parents, you should become more dependent on God.
- Most of your parents know they're not perfect, and they're doing their best. Regardless ...

Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

- What if you stopped focusing on things you didn't like, and started focusing on reasons you can be thankful for your family?

- **A Few Ideas**

- Say and write nice things.
 - MFT – Let's brainstorm a quick list of all the things your parents do for you (safety/love/house/food/clothes/transportation/phone)
 - What if you said thank you EVERY TIME your parents did something for you?
 - What if you wrote a thank you note every week, thanking them for doing the things they do.
- Be responsible.
 - Scientific study: Teenagers who have chores are less likely to grow up being a jerk.
 - If you don't have chores, ask for some! Ask, "Is there anything I could do to help y'all around the house?"
 - If you do have chores, tell your parents, "thank you!" Then do your chores on time without being asked.
- Watch your attitude.
 - We all have bad days, and at some point, we'll all struggle with a bad attitude ... STOP IT!
 - It's OK to have a bad attitude in your mind, it's not OK to stay there.
 - Philippians 2:14 – "Do everything without ..."
 - ILLUS: When you, "Thank you," at Chick-Fil-A, what do they say? "My pleasure!"
 - What would your parents do if every time they asked you to do something you said, "My pleasure!"?
 - Figure out your phrase, and say it every time.
- Pray
 - I always remember to pray when things are terrible. I often forget to pray when things are going great.
 - What if you committed to start each day by praying for everyone who lives in your house?
 - For God to bless them in whatever they're doing, to help them manage the pressures they face, and to help you honor them on everything you say and do.
 - What might God do in YOUR life if you started each day praying for your family?

- Be an example
 - Everyone in your family is on a spiritual journey. Some are far along, others are just getting started.
 - The way you live – the story you tell with your life – is a part of their journey.
 - I know lots of teenagers who started out as the only Christ-follower in their family, and God used their lives to eventually help their parents and siblings say “yes” to Jesus and begin a relationship with Jesus.
 - What kind of example are you setting for your parents? For your younger or older siblings?

• TBH

- It may be harder to live for Jesus at home than anywhere else.
 - Your family knows you at your best and at your worst.
- Some of you are thinking, “My family is terrible ...”
 - You don’t like them, in fact, you may say that you hate them.
- Making sense of your family relationships at home is one of the most important pieces of learning how to live and reveal God’s kingdom outside of your home.
- The good news, God can help, if you ask.

• Your Turn

- What are some things that stuck out in today’s teaching?
- What are some questions you have?
- How does today’s teaching apply to your lives?
- What do you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you through this teaching?
- What are you going to do about?

• Go-To Question

- How do you make sure you’re growing in your relationship with Jesus?
- Why is that so important?