

Open House: Living a Christian Life at Home

- I. Announcements and Testimony
- II. Journal Time
 - a. What is your relationship like with your parents?
 - i. Do you always argue with them over the littlest things?
 - ii. Would you share spiritual things with your parents?
 - b. *If you have older siblings*, what are some things you learned through their relationship with your parents?
 - c. *If you have younger siblings*, what are some things you think your little brother/sister picked up with how you interact with your other siblings or parents?
 - d. *If you are the only child*, what are some things you've learned from how you've seen your YG brothers and sisters interact with their family members?
- III. Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52
 - a. Question: How do I show Christ's love at home when my parents don't always seem to understand what I'm going through?
 - b. What did Jesus mean when he said "I had to be in my Father's house"? (vs. 49)
 - c. What did Jesus do, even though he just couldn't stand being away from the Temple?

The important lesson to learn here is that Jesus could not stand being away from worshipping God. After all, he is a member of the Trinity, and the Temple is the earthly center of worship. I believe he has the right to protest against his parents and argue 1,001 reasons why he should stay in Jerusalem. Furthermore, his parents just don't get it (I'm sure you've run into situations where you try to explain your predicament to your parents and they just don't get it). However, Jesus obeyed his parents and followed them home. Were Joseph and Mary doing the right thing by taking Jesus away from the Temple? Who knows? But whether it was right or not, Jesus obeyed his parents, and that is an example for all of us to follow.

- d. Isn't Jesus God? Then why did Jesus listen to his mother?
- IV. Application: Ephesians 6:1,2
 - a. What is the biblical way to treat your parents?

It is perhaps necessary to note that I believe Paul wrote this with the assumption that parents always have their children's well-being in mind. In other words, parents will not tell their children to disobey God. At the same time, between God and parents, God is first. With that said, your parents do have more "real-life" experience than you do, so it is not smart of you to disregard what they say. The best thing to do would be to take everything they say seriously.

 - i. Does Paul mean, "Do whatever your parents tell you to do?"
 - ii. What does it mean to honor your parents?
- V. Basic points:
 - a. The right thing to do is obey your parents.
 - b. Does that mean to do everything they say? No, but it means to (1) give serious thought to everything they say, (2) pray about it, and (3) respond to it in a wise manner.