

(1) If you are married with children, what are the biggest challenges you face, the major obstacles you encounter, the most pressing questions about child-rearing that you encounter? I encourage the others to speak into this. If you are single, or are married with no children, what can you share about your own experience while growing up in relation to your parents? I have in mind what they did well and areas where they may have fallen short.

(2) Read through the 25 practical guidelines I gave in the sermon notes and talk about which ones you find helpful and which ones you fear may not work or even be a possibility.

(3) The subject of slaves and masters is an obviously controversial one. Why is it dangerous to pull texts out of their historical and biblical contexts to try to prove that the Bible endorses slavery?

(4) In what ways did the NT authors labor to undermine the institution of slavery? You might wish to read aloud through Philemon (it's short!) and discuss the implications.

(5) Paul tells bondservants that they are not primarily working for earthly masters but in all that they do they are "serving the Lord Christ." What does this mean and how should it affect all of us? In what ways does this principle transform the way you view your career and your relationship with your employer?