

I Thessalonians 2:7-12 (NIV)

⁷ Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

Exodus 20:12

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

Ephesians 6:3

If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.'

Luke 14:26

If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

3 ways Christians should respond to their non-Christian parents:

- 1. Love unconditionally.**
- 2. Live with integrity.**
- 3. Listen intently.**

1. Take some time to tell your group about the relationship you have with your parents. What was the relationship like when you were young, and what is it like now? Were/are your parents Christians?

2. If your parents (family) are not Christians, what is keeping them from taking that step? If your parents (family) are Christians, how has their faith influenced your faith?

3. How hard is it for you to take the advice of your parents? Is it complicated by the mistakes they have made in their lives? How do you react when they give you bad advice?

4. How much responsibility do we have to convince our family to be Christians, and what motivates Christians to keep trying? When should we stop trying?

5. What are some ways that you can share Jesus with someone who believes you are wrong in your beliefs? How do you teach someone who doesn't want to be taught or someone who truly believes they are right?

6. If you have time, spend some extra time praying for specific people who need to put their faith in Jesus.

If you would like to use the "Let's Talk About It" videos in your devotions, go to: www.youtube.com/NewLifeGillette