



IN THE BIBLE

## PRECEPT

### EPHESIANS 6:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> Honour your father and mother, <sup>3</sup> Then everything will be well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth.

### ROMANS 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour.

## PROMISE

Many stories in the Bible tell us of what *storge*, or family love, looks like. One of which is a story from Luke 8:40-65 of a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, who came and fell at Jesus' feet to plead for Him to come to his house and save his only daughter who was dying. Another is from the book of John 11:1-44, that tells us about the love of Mary, her sister Martha, and their brother Lazarus, whom Jesus rose from the dead. There is also one from the old testament in Genesis 6:10, about the love and support of Noah's family for each other obeying God and building the ark together while the rest of the world did not believe in them, even mocked and ridiculed them. We can observe from these examples how family love looks like; protective, supportive, loyal, and caring. Surely, this kind of love can withstand many trials and problems. However, if this love is not intentionally nurtured, it can fade over time. The Bible also shows us some examples of how families were destroyed because *storge* was not cultivated in the family. The book of Genesis tells us some stories of how one's selfishness wrecked the family like in Genesis 4:1-11 where Cain lured and murdered his brother Abel, and in Genesis 37:18-36 where Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery. We all want to have harmonious relationships in the family where there is love, respect, and forgiveness at all times, but how we do nurture *storge* in the family? We are to express this kind of love by intentionally and wilfully doing our roles.

**PARENTS (Proverbs 13:24, 22:6, 29:17).** Love your child/children by training them to become a disciplined person. Proverbs tell us that *"Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them."* We are to train our children to become responsible inside and outside our homes. Proverbs also tells us that when we discipline our children, we will have peace of mind and it will make our hearts glad (Proverbs 29:17).

**CHILDREN (Ephesians 6:1-3, Proverbs 23:22, Deuteronomy 27:16).** Ephesians assures us that if we obey and honour our parents, everything will be well with us and we will have a long life on earth. Deuteronomy 27:16 warns us that *"God's curse on anyone who dishonours his/her father or mother."* This is how we honour them; by being thoughtful of their needs, by being accountable to them, and by spending time with them. Proverbs also commands us to pay attention to our parents and not to neglect them.

**SIBLINGS (Romans 12:10, 1 John 2:10).** With love comes respect. Romans 12:10 call us to *"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour."* Brothers and sisters does not only refer to our biological siblings, but also to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are appointed to love one another for if we do this we are living in the light (1 John 2:10). If we live in the light, we can find our way out of the darkness and it will guide us to navigate our lives in all troubles and challenges of life. God is our light and if we love, we live with God.

## PRACTICE

**1. Family Love.** Are there people in your life whom you are called to love with familial affection, but you don't want to? Why? How can God help you in this?

**2. Parents:** What do you think is the best way to show love to your children?

**Children:** What do you think is the best way to show love to your parents?

**All:** What do you think is the best way to show love to each other?

## PRAYER

### I. Kids Life Ministry

- Pray that this ministry will thrive and that God will send more volunteers.

### II. Young Life Ministry

- Pray that the youth & young adults be protected from all the schemes of the enemy.

### III. Young Once Life Ministry

- Pray for our coordinators Rene & Lita Alipao as they continue to lead this group.

### IV. Life Link Ministry

- Pray for God's help as they usher people to a more meaningful worship experience.

### V. Life Worship

- Pray that they may lead God's people in worshipping Him with all our hearts.

### VI. Intercessory Ministry

- Pray that many more of us become prayer warriors and seek the will of God always.

### VII. Giving

- Praise God for the generous hearts of our brethren who gives wholeheartedly to those in need.