APPLICATION

- Check your heart. What motivates you to do things? Is it just a
 desire to meet requirements or do you desire to honor God in
 everything you do? What's one thing you can do to honor God
 this week?
- What do you do to grow in your relationship with God? How can you know Him more every day?
- Are you in right relationship with God? What areas of your life need to be realigned to His Word? How can you live to love Him above all else?

PRAYER

- Thank God for who He is in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to point out areas in your heart that need to be surrendered to Him. Pray that you would become closer to God as each day passes and live to honor Him always.
- Pray that you would gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.

 Pray for the grace to obey and honor Him in every area of your life.
- Pray that you would live a life that encourages others to love and honor God too. Ask God for opportunities to tell others about your relationship with Him.



© 2015 by VICTORY® All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale. victory.org.ph



WEEK 1

Honor God with Your Heart

NOTES	

WARM-UP

- Who is one person you respect a lot? Why do you respect this person?
- What are some of your family traditions? Tell us about them.
- What popular motto do you know? Do you agree with it?
 Why or why not?



⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' ⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." MARK 7:5-8 (READ ALSO MARK 7:1-4.)

In every new season, we seek to do many things. But, as Christians, everything we do should be driven by one thing—honoring God. Living a life that honors Him is the appropriate response to all that God has done for us. We are called to honor God and make Him known. But what does it really mean to honor God? As we begin a new season, let us look more closely at what it means to live a life that honors God.

1 Honoring God begins from the heart.

And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me . . . '" MARK 7:6

When the Pharisees questioned Jesus about His disciples' actions—eating with unwashed hands—Jesus called them hypocrites. A hypocrite is one who claims to have certain beliefs but does not truthfully live according to these beliefs. The Bible tells us that if we truly honor God, it will not be merely with the outward expression of our words or actions. Honoring God ultimately begins internally—from a heart that is genuinely surrendered and close to Him. What does it mean for one's heart to be near to God?

Honoring God means being in right relationship with Him. 4"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7 Israel was God's chosen people—He was their God and they belonged to Him. God's command to Israel was to love Him. This

command is relational, a command to love God and remain faithful

to Him. In the same way, as God's children, we are called to a

relationship with Him, to love Him with all that we are. Without

does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and might?

"'. . . ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the

commandments of men.' 8You leave the commandment of God

To honor God means to be devoted to Him, to regard Him with

utmost reverence and awe. And this necessarily means treasuring

every word that comes from God. If we desire to honor God and

worship Him in truth, we are to live our lives in obedience to His Word—not what we think pleases others, or following our own standards. Why do the hypocrites worship *in vain?* How is this

3 Honoring God means obeying His Word.

and hold to the tradition of men." MARK 7:7.8

different from how God expects His people to live?

being in right relationship with God, we cannot honor Him. What