

Honor Your Parents

NOTES

Dotted lines for taking notes.

WARM-UP

- What’s one valuable thing you have in your bag or your pocket? How is that valuable to you?
- Share a recent fond moment you’ve had with your parent, a guardian, or a mentor.
- Did you ever try to bend the rules in your home? Why? What was the result of that?

WORD

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." **EXODUS 20:12**

The fifth commandment, *"Honor your father and your mother,"* is the first commandment with a promise (Ephesians 6:2). While all of the Ten Commandments are for our own good, this commandment is highlighted for the blessing that it brings to the individual—that s/he will be blessed with a long life. The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God; the next six commandments deal with our relationship with people—starting with the fifth commandment, at home. In this lesson, we will look at three ways we can *honor* our parents.

1 Respect your parents.

Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father . . .
LEVITICUS 19:3

The Bible teaches us that we are to respect our parents; it's a commandment for all and not for a select few. Honor is not given conditionally, if the person seems deserving or if it "feels right." To give our parents honor means to show respect no matter what. What is the relationship between honoring our parents and honoring God? (Malachi 1:6) How do you *revere* your parents?

2 Listen to your parents.

⁸Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. PROVERBS 1:8,9

In Hebrew, the word "parent" is related to the word "teacher." We learn first at home, from our parents, who are meant to guide, discipline, and care for us. Ephesians 6:1 also says: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* Obedience to our parents, when aligned with God's commands, is right and good for us. How does God describe someone who despises wisdom? (Proverbs 1:7)

3 Look out for your parents' well-being.

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 TIMOTHY 5:8

Paul instructed the church, as a family, to care for the widows who were alone and needed help. Children and grandchildren were expected to look out for their widowed parent, for doing so is *pleasing in the sight of God* (1 Timothy 5:4). As children, we honor our parents by valuing them highly, caring for them, and showing concern and affection. In what practical ways can we look out for our parents' well-being?

APPLICATION

- How does the command to “*honor your father and your mother*” affect you? Is this challenging for you? Why? What needs to change in the way you relate with your parents, starting this week?
- What is one special thing you can do to honor your parents this week, to express your love and care for them? Share this with your group.
- This week, think of a friend or family member who’s struggling with honoring his or her parents. How can you encourage this person?

PRAYER

- Thank God for your father and mother, and for God’s blessings over your family. Thank God for His providence in your life.
- Ask God to fill you with His grace and wisdom, and to give you a willing heart to obey and follow Him in every area of your life.
- Pray for your friends, family members, and people in your small group who are believing for reconciliation and restoration in their families.



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