

#5. Honor Your Father and Mother

(Exodus 20:12)

Introduction

Polite, respectful children don't just happen automatically. Kids must be taught everything! It's your parent's duty to God to teach you how to live God's way.

Today we'll learn that you are to always honor your parents. Honoring your father and mother means respecting and obeying them because they are God's gift to you.

Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven, You are holy. Your commandments are wise. You ask us to honor our fathers and mothers. Please help us to understand what that means. Help us to obey You by respecting and obeying our parents. Sometimes it feels as though the world around us would rather forget You and Your commandments. But not us, Lord. Help us to honor our parents and, in so doing, honor You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first four without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.

3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the fifth commandment.

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.

This was the first commandment with a promise attached...

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. (2) "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: (3) If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

When you respect and obey God by honoring your parents, your life will be happier.

To honor means to prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable. Why are your parents valuable to you? They are God's gift to you. Think of all they do and have done for you. They protect you from many dangers. They provide things you need like food and clothing. They even give you things you do not need but like to have — toys, bikes, special treats. You can honor them by obeying them, by being kind to them, by speaking *to* them and *about* them with respect.

Perhaps you have substitute parents. God wants you to honor them, too. Even if you don't live with your parents all the time, honor them in

every way you can. People who honor their parents are people who please God and receive His promise of blessing.

- What are some ways you can show your parents honor? (By respecting and obeying them!)
- What are some ways you break the fifth commandment? (By being sassy or pouting, by refusing to obey them.)

God told us to honor our fathers and mothers, which means obeying them and treating them with respect. It also means speaking *to* them and *about* them in nice ways.

- When you don't feel like honoring your parents, what should you do?

It can be really tough to do then when you're mad at them, but God doesn't just *ask* us to honor our parents, He *commands* it!

Sass or Pout—You're Out!

[Use this activity to teach the children how to honor their parents' requests.]

- What are some answers to parents that you should not use?
- What are some answers that honor your parents?

Preparation: Photocopy the “*Watching Our Responses*” cards onto card stock, and cut them apart.

Play: Have kids stand in a circle and each take a *Watching Our Responses* card. Ask a child to start this game as the “*parent*”. Have the “*parent*” tell the child to his right, “*It's time to feed the dog.*” The child reads his or her response aloud. Ask the other children if the response honored the “*parent*”. If it did, the child remains standing; if not, the child sits down. Continue around the circle until each child has read a response. The children who remain standing are examples of how to honor parents.

After the last round, gather the children and ask:

- How did some of these responses honor the parent?
- How would your parents feel if you responded with some of the sassy comments we just heard?
- The next time your parents ask you to do something you don't want to do, how will you answer them?

[Teacher, reread the response card that begins, “*I really don't have time because...*”] If you were to say this to your parents, you would be honoring them, even though you would not be obeying. You would be explaining in a respectful way why you can't feed the dog. Most parents are reasonable if you talk to them using respectful words. You can disagree with your parents, but do it with respect.

We have all been disrespectful to our parents at one time or another. Following God's commandments to honor your parents is hard to do sometimes. There will be many times you won't want to respect and obey them.

Ask God and He will help you honor them, even when you don't feel like it.

Closing Prayer

Today, instead of praying with our hands folded and our eyes closed, we're going to do something a little different. I want you to stand up in two rows facing each other.

In the military, soldiers sometimes form an archway of swords as a way of honoring someone. So, I want you to form an archway to honor your parents. Pretend your arms are the swords. Make an archway by touching the hands of the person across from you. Each of you will take a turn walking under the archway. But first I want you to think about why your parents are valuable to you and what things they do for you that deserves your honor and respect.

Then I want you thank God for your parents and tell Him why you want to honor them. For example: *“Thank You, Lord, for my mom and dad. I honor them because they give me such good food to eat.”*

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Declaration of Dependence

Let each child make, sign, and date a certificate telling how they plan to honor their parents.

<p>I Will Respect and Obey My Parents</p> <p>I Promise to Honor My Father and Mother</p> <p>by: _____</p> <p>Signed by: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
--

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What must you do to be saved? Are you supposed to keep the Ten Commandments? Or do good deeds? (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross.)

2. In order to be perfect as God is perfect how many of the Commandments do we need to keep? (All of them all the time.)
3. What does it mean to honor your father and your mother? (To prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable.)
4. What do the first four Commandments teach us? (How to love God.)
5. What do the other six Commandments teach us? (How to love other people.)
6. What promise does God make to you if you keep the fifth Commandment? (That things will go well for you and that you'll have a long life.)
7. What does it mean to honor someone? (To show them respect; to treat them as precious or valuable.)
8. Why are your parents valuable to you? (They are God's gift to you.)
9. What are some of the things that your parents do for you that deserve your respect? (They provide things you need and give you things you don't need.)
10. How can you honor your parents? (By obeying them and being kind to them. By speaking *to* them and *about* them with respect.)
11. What are some ways that you break the fifth Commandment? (By being sassy or pouting.)
12. When you don't feel like honoring your parents, what should you do? (Pray and ask God to change your attitude.)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Say, "I'm sick of that job!"	Sass, "So?"	Say, "Sure, where's the dog food?"
Say, "Why can't somebody else do it?"	Grumble, "It's always time to feed the dog!"	Say, "No!"
Complain, "I hate that job. That smelly food makes me sick!"	Say, "You're so mean!"	Whine, "I fed the dog yesterday. Why does that dog eat so much?"

Say, "OK, Ill do it right now."	Yell, "I don't want to!"	Say, I really don't have time because I'm leaving for soccer practice. If Taryn will do it tonight, I'll do it tomorrow."
Say, "Yeah, yeah, later, later."	Whine, "Why can't Dad [or Mom] do it?"	Say, "Yes ma'am" or "Yes, sir."
Say, "OK, but I'm busy playing right now."	Mutter, "Why do I have to?"	Say, "OK, OK, after I finish watching TV."