

HONOR YOUR PARENTS

Small Group Study Guide | June 9, 2024

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discuss: What do you think it means to honor your parents?

Key Text: “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 5:16)

With Commandment #5, we get into the second section of the 10 Commandments—these final six commands (#5-10) deal with our relationship to others. (The first section of the 10 Commandments is made up of Commandments #1-4 which pertain to our relationship with God.)

In Commandment #5, God is telling us to honor—that is, to value, respect, and obey—our parents. Children are not wise enough to know what is best for them, so God has entrusted parents to teach and show them. When children honor their parents, they will likely enjoy a good life as they grow up because they understand the worth of humility, trust, leadership, and wisdom. This is the general blessing associated with Commandment #5: “*that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you*” (v.16b).

Discuss: What are some rules you grew up with in your family that you disagreed with at the time, but later appreciated as being good for you?

Discuss: If you are a parent, how do you determine what rules to set for your children?

Discuss: How does Hebrews 12:7-11 compare our relationship with our earthly parents to our relationship with our heavenly Father—especially regarding discipline?

Jesus demonstrated honor toward His parents. It is interesting and significant that the only glimpse we have of Jesus’ childhood years tells us that following His experience at the Temple in Jerusalem when He said He must be about His Father’s business (Lk.2:49), He “*went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them*” (Lk.2:51) for the next 18 years until He began His public ministry.

This submission likely included Jesus’ learning Joseph’s trade of carpentry. People called Jesus “*the carpenter’s son*” (Mat.13:55) and “*the carpenter*” (Mk.6:3). Scripture indicates that Joseph died while Jesus was still living at home. The last mention of Joseph in the Bible is when Jesus was 12 years old (Lk.2:51). If Joseph had died, it could be that Jesus stayed at home until He was 30 to take care of the family since He was the oldest son (Mt.13:55-56). Also, when Jesus was crucified, He arranged for His mother, Mary, to be taken care of by the apostle John (Jn.19:26-27), thus indicating that Mary was a widow. The point here is that Jesus obeyed Commandment #5 throughout His entire life, demonstrating for us what it means to “*honor your father and mother.*”

Discuss: What do Proverbs 1:8; 23:22; Ephesians 6:1, and Colossians 3:20 teach about honoring parents?

Discuss: How would you counsel a Christian young person to honor his parents if his parents do not follow Christ?

Discuss: In what ways can we honor our parents when we are adults and they are elderly?

1. Revelation – What is God teaching us about Himself in Commandment #5?

In Commandment #5, God is teaching us that He is good and caring. His plan for us to honor and obey the authorities He has placed in our lives—beginning with our parents when we are children—is for our benefit and His glory.

Discuss: Who are some authorities God has placed in our lives according to these verses: Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:14; Hebrews 13:17?

2. Introspection – What is God teaching us about ourselves in Commandment #5?

In Commandment #5, God is teaching us that we tend to resist authority, so we need to be intentional about honoring those God has placed over us, beginning with our parents. A child's obedience to his parents is a matter of obedience to God. Ephesians 6:1 connects our obedience to our parents to our obedience "*in the Lord.*"

God is also teaching us that our families are the foundation of society. This is why the second giving of the 10 Commandments in Deuteronomy 5 is in the same context of God's wise instructions to the family (Deut.6:1-9) and two of the 10 Commandments pertain specifically to the family (#5 and #7)! If a marriage and/or family falls apart, civilization will eventually crumble. A strong family begins with God-fearing parents who are honored by their children.

Discuss: What instructions does God give to families in Deuteronomy 6:5-9?

3. Transformation – How does God want us to live per Commandment #5?

God wants children to honor their parents because parents meet their N.E.E.D.S.:

Nurture – Parents guide their kids to discover and develop a relationship with God.

Discuss: What does Proverbs 22:6 teach about a parent's nurturing responsibility?

Example – Parents model for their kids how a follower of Jesus is to live.

Discuss: What did Paul say about being an example in 1 Corinthians 11:1?

Encouragement – Parents inspire and instill courage in their kids to follow God.

Discuss: In what ways can a parent put courage into their children to follow God?

Discipline – Parents correct and train their children so they can learn to obey God.

Discuss: What instruction does Ephesians 6:4 give regarding discipline?

Service – Parents help their children to see all of life as a stewardship toward God.

Discuss: How can parents model Colossians 3:23 for their kids?

For Further Study:

Free online study tools (commentaries, dictionaries, etc.) at blueletterbible.org
Ten Secrets of Successful Living: A Perfect 10 for Families That Win by Adrian Rogers
"What Does the Bible Say about Obeying Parents?" article at gotquestions.org