



Honor Parents

HOW DO YOU STAY OUT OF TROUBLE?

The POINT >

Honor for parents is seen in our words and actions.

> EXODUS 20:12

¹² Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

> 2 SAMUEL 15:7-14

⁷ When four years had passed, Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go to Hebron to fulfill a vow I made to the LORD." ⁸ For your servant made a vow when I lived in Geshur of Aram, saying: If the LORD really brings me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron."

⁹ "Go in peace," the king said to him. So he went to Hebron. ¹⁰ Then Absalom sent agents throughout the tribes of Israel with this message: "When you hear the

sound of the ram's horn, you are to say, 'Absalom has become king in Hebron!'" ¹¹ Two hundred men from Jerusalem went with Absalom. They had been invited and were going innocently, for they did not know the whole situation. ¹² While he was offering the sacrifices, Absalom sent for David's adviser Ahithophel the Gilonite, from his city of Giloh. So the conspiracy grew strong, and the people supporting Absalom continued to increase. ¹³ Then an informer came to David and reported, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." ¹⁴ David said to all the servants with him in Jerusalem, "Get up. We have to flee, or we will not escape from Absalom! Leave quickly, or he will overtake us quickly, heap disaster on us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Did you know Donald Duck has a middle name? It's Fauntleroy. Also, Ken—of Barbie and Ken fame—has a last name: Ken Carson.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // FAMILY

God calls children to honor their parents throughout their lives as a reflection of honor and love for Him. Further, we are to demonstrate love toward all members of our families, including siblings, extended family, and those who God brings into our families as a result of fostering, adoption, or remarriage.

When I would head out the front door to go to the movies with my friends, my dad would yell out to me, “Remember, you’re a Belcher!” I’d reply, “Oh yeah, Dad, how could I forget!” But he wasn’t talking about the name itself, but that the name I carried represented not only him and my mom, but the values held by our family. My dad was a leader in our church. He and my mom were known to be generous and kind, and they were seen as upright people in our community.

Obviously, I knew my name—my dad didn’t need to remind me. However, “remembering I’m a Belcher” kept me out of a lot of trouble growing up. I was certainly far from perfect. However, my parents were good to me and I thought seriously about protecting the testimony of my family.

For those of us who are children of God, we bear His name, and we are to treat that name with the highest honor in the ways that we live.

EXODUS 20:12

1 What are some similarities between honoring your parents and honoring God?

2 How can you make sure to honor God not only with your actions, but with your heart?

2 SAMUEL 15:7-12

3 How does truthfulness and integrity honor our parents?

4 How does your desire to honor your parents impact your decisions?

5 List a few ways we can honor our parents even when they disappoint us or we're upset.

2 SAMUEL 15:13-14

6 Who do you know that models the parent-child relationship in a way that honors God?

7 When have you seen God redeem a family from harmful patterns of sin?

8 What opportunities do you have to show honor to your parents this week?



Through honoring our fathers and mothers, we show honor to God.

#GodsHeartBSFL



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // FAMILY

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Testing boundaries as a teen is seen as a normal part of growing up. However, what is normal for the world shouldn't be seen as normal for the follower of Christ. Ultimately, our identity is found in Him, and He calls us to honor our parents, as well as others in our family. When we resist the urge to rebel against authority, instead living humbly in submission to our parents and others, God will bless us in many ways.

> CHRIST

Honoring God means honoring those He's placed in positions of authority over us, starting with our parents.

9 On a scale from 1 to 10, how well do you honor your parents?



> What do you do well in honoring them?

> How do you need to grow and improve?

10 Write down one specific way you can show love and honor to your parents (or those who take care of you). Make it happen this week.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

> COMMUNITY

The principle of honoring our parents and other authorities also extends to our leaders in the church.

11 This week, to show honor to those who invest in you, write a note or card to your student pastor, your small group leader, or another church leader. Let them know how much you appreciate the ways they invest in you.



> CULTURE

We live in a culture where people often resist authority, but we're called to be different.

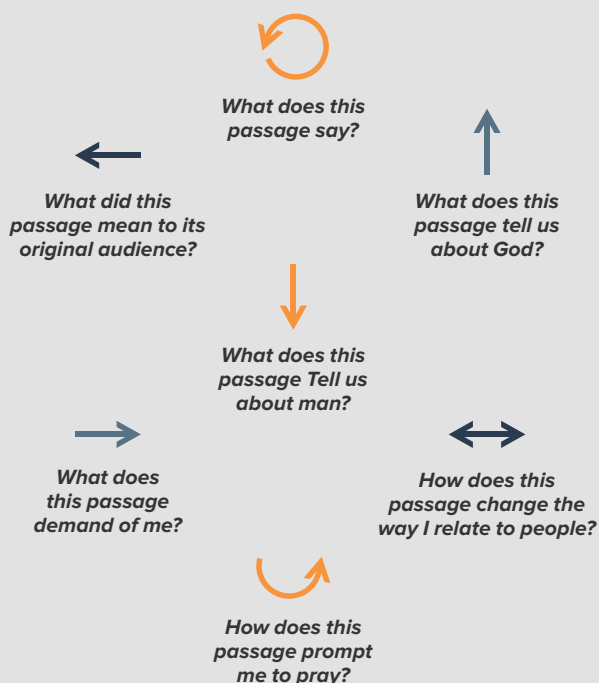
12 How can submitting to authority be a testimony to our lost friends?

13 This week, how can you demonstrate humility—to your parents, teachers, coaches, or others—in order to point your lost friends to God?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One EPHESIANS 6:1

In the fifth commandment, God called all children to honor their parents. In Ephesians, Paul repeated this command, but said it with different words. Children are called to obey their parents “in the Lord.” This means that, if we want to be in right relationship with God—if we want to be in Christ—then obedience to our parents is right. For us to break this command is to be outside Christ, at least in a relational sense. God has ordained certain authorities on the earth as representatives of His authority, and the first and most essential of these is parents over their families. Parents may not be perfect—in fact, none ever are—but this doesn’t change the fact that God requires children to obey. If we want to experience intimacy with God, then it is necessary that children respect the authority of their parents.

➤ **What does it mean to obey “in the Lord”?**

➤ **How do your parents or guardians reflect God’s authority?**

Day Two

EPHESIANS 6:1



Children are to obey their parents for a very specific reason—because it is right. All people know that there is right and wrong. And though we may not agree with the standards, we all know, nonetheless, that certain things are simply right and wrong. Ultimately, *right* refers specifically to those things that are in line with God's standards. This certainly applies on a purely spiritual level, but beyond this, even according to the natural order of the world, it is clearly right that children must grow up under the authority of their parents in order to be healthy. Jesus lived the perfectly righteous life. He clearly pictured this through His obedience to the Father, and we are called to be like Christ.

- **What is the true standard of right and wrong?**
- **Why is it right to obey your parents?**

Day Three

EPHESIANS 6:2

The fifth commandment is unique from the other commandments, specifically because there is an associated promise. God said to obey your parents “so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you” (Ex. 20:12). The promised land was a symbol of God's blessings on His people. God essentially told the people of Israel, “If you honor your parents, who are called to teach you the right ways to live, I will bless you! But if you refuse to honor your parents in living right lives, I will remove my blessings.” The highest reason to obey God, as well as parents, is because it is right. However, God gave us another appropriate motivation—because we desire God's blessings in our lives. Today, if we disobey our parents, we should never expect to receive God's blessings. However, when we honor them, even though it may not be easy, we picture the submission of Christ to the Father's authority, and God will bless us in many ways.

- **Why does God promise to bless His people when they honor their parents?**
- **How does obeying our parents reflect Christ?**

Day Four

EPHESIANS 6:2

In Exodus 20:12, Scripture teaches that children are to honor their parents “so that.” Anytime we see these words in Scripture, God is revealing to us the reason for the statement that comes before. Generally, all commands have a “so that”—because it’s right to do what God says and we must always obey Him. But sometimes God gives a more specific reason. In the fifth command, the “so that” is specifically that God’s people would receive His promises and live blessed lives. God is a God of covenants, and we live in relationship with Him according to the promises He has made. In this passage, Paul is emphasizing the importance of honoring our parents as a way to put ourselves in the position to receive God’s promises. Of course, it ultimately comes down to trusting Christ. But we must realize that following Christ means obeying our parents just as He did.

- **Why did God attach a promise to the fifth commandment?**
- **What does it mean that God is a God of promise or covenants?**

Day Five

EPHESIANS 6:3



In this passage, Paul recounts the promise as recorded in Deuteronomy 5:16. The blessing God promised to those who obeyed their parents is that they would have a long life in the land God would give them, and that it would “go well.” Students in middle school and high school have generally lived long enough to see patterns associated with kids and teens who obey versus those who don’t. Generally speaking, for those who are rebellious and disobedient, life doesn’t generally go well. But for those who are submissive and obedient—for those who learn from their parents and submit to authority—life generally goes much better. This is the way God has designed it, and if we want God’s blessings, we must obey our parents.

- **Why does life generally not go well for disobedient children?**
- **Why do you think God ties a good and long life to obeying our parents?**