

Introduction: God’s first words to children

The Command - *Honor your father and your mother,*

The Promise - *so that you may live long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

1. What does it mean to “honor” your parents?

- Definition = literally “to be heavy, glorify, to ascribe value and worth, to respect, to hold in high regard”

- Word usage in the Old Testament =

2. Why did God give this command?

- a. Foundation for human _____

- b. Foundation for respect of _____

- c. Foundation of human _____

3. What does it look like to honor our parents?

- As a child, I honor my parents by _____ them.

¹*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

²*Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.*

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV)

- As a young person, I honor my parents by _____ and _____ with them.

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 23:22 (NIV)

If you curse your parents, your life will end like a lamp that goes out in the dark.

Proverbs 20:20 (NIV)

See also: Romans 1:30, 2 Timothy 3:2

- As an **adult**, I honor my parents by _____ and _____.

The father of a ***righteous man*** has great joy; he who has a ***wise son*** delights in him.

Proverbs 23:24 (NIV)

Do not withhold good from ***those who deserve it***, when it is in your power to act.

Proverbs 3:27 (NIV)

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice ***by caring for their own family*** and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

1Timothy 5:4 (NIV)

If anyone does not ***provide for his relatives***, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Timothy 5:8 (NIV)
See also: Matthew 15:1-9

4. Are there times when we can’t honor our parents’ wishes? Yes!

- The Priority of Salvation Mark 10:23–31

- The Priority of Service Luke 9:59–62

- The Priority of Marriage Ephesians 5:31-33

- The Priority of Wisdom Proverbs 9:7–9

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God makes the family such a high priority? How does He feel about children?

2. How does our culture’s view of both “authority” and “aging” affect our obedience to the 5th Command?

3. In what ways do you feel good about how you are “honoring your parents?” Which aspects need some attention? How will you address these?

4. Where do you find it difficult to “know” exactly what honoring your parents looks like? Who could you talk to get help in this area?