

# V

## HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

### **Exodus 20:12**

*“Honor your father and your mother, that  
your days may be prolonged in the land  
which the LORD your God gives you.”*





# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16, 33; 1 Timothy 5:3-8.
2. What is involved in honoring one's parents? How does one practically do that today?
3. What is involved in dishonoring one's parents? How is dishonoring one's parents seen today?
4. What is unique about this command? (see Ephesians 6:1-3)
5. What is our responsibility to our parents and family as we grow older?
6. How can we honor "dishonorable" parents?



## DAY 21 - HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

# Just Be There For Them

1 Timothy 5:3-8

I will always remember my father-in-law, Ed Gish, speaking five special words to me, as we were sharing a noon meal together at Lotus's on McHenry Ave.

“Gordon, JUST BE THERE FOR THEM!”

He was speaking of my relationship of how I was to honor my father and mother. My mother at the time was going through cancer treatments and my dad was having a real tough time dealing with her terminal disease.

And then he shared four things that put meaning into that five-word statement:

1. Remember the power of touch! When you visit your parents, touch them!
2. Remember, when you leave, leave with a final word of encouragement.
3. Don't waver in your love and your support of them, in any way that is needed—financial, emotional, or spiritual.
4. Unload your all, by sharing any confidential prayer needs for your own family. (your wife and children)

As I look back to that simple noon meal, over 35 years ago, I now realize the wisdom of those words! There is great joy in our Father's heart in heaven, when we honor and respect our earthly fathers and mothers here!

**Application:** We are living in an age where many children, know far more than their parents do. Even though you may “know” more than your parents do, are you still willing to submit to them and honor them? Jesus submitted to his parents even though He knew more than they did!

# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

# God's Design For The Family

Genesis 4:1

The book of Genesis is often called a book of origins. It shows us the origin of creation, man, sin, the day, the week, the month and even clothes. Genesis also reveals the origin of the family. Eve, who is called the mother of the living (Genesis 3:20), recognized that all life comes from God. When she gave birth she said, *"I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord."* It is God who brings a man and woman together and it is God who brings forth their children through His grace.

God also designed the family to have structure. Just as Adam and Eve were supposed to have dominion over creation (Genesis 1:28) they were also called to multiply. God placed them in their role to care for his creation and the families that would come from them.

Genesis is a story about families. If the role of parents is to be over their household, then it makes sense that children are called to be in submission to their parents to fulfil their role in the family structure. Eventually a man leaves his father and his mother and holds fast to his wife (Genesis 2:24) but he still remains under the command to honor his parents (Exodus 20:12).

So as new families form, they still continue to honor the generation that came before. Jacob honored his father Isaac who honored his father Abraham and so on. Of course, God is the Father of all, so He deserves the greatest honor. 1 John 3:1 says, *"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."*

**Application:** How can you honor both your earthly and your Heavenly Father today?

# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

## Submission As A Testimony

Luke 2:41-52

*"...[Jesus] went down...and was submissive to them."*

The popular Disneyland ride, Indiana Jones, is known for its pillars of fire, dinosaur-sized snake, and a rolling boulder large enough to take down an entire castle. But many forget how the adventure began. Indiana Jones is instructed against doing one thing: looking into the evil queen's eyes and, of course, what does he do? He looks into her eyes and the curse ensues.

Isn't it strange that we always want to do specifically what we are asked not to do? It is as if the person instructing us is trying to hide or prevent us from something glorious. But submission to authority is a testimony.

I know it may seem weird, but obeying those God has placed above us shows the world our love. Our love for the government? Our love for our parents? Our love for our teachers? Our love for our boss? Maybe. But most importantly, our love for God.

Even Jesus was submissive to His own parents! Think about that. The God who created Mary and Joseph was submissive to His creation. Why? Because it was a testimony to the world of His love for his parents, but even greater, His love for His Father.

**Application:** Submission is not about us and it really is not about the other person either. It is a picture of our love for God and His established authority in our lives according to His perfect plan. Who are you struggling to love and submit to today? Remember, it's God's command to you (not the world's), and He promises abundant life to those who follow in His Son's footsteps.

# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

## DAY 24 - HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

# It's Your Choice

Psalm 119:5

As a child, because I was afraid of the consequences, obeying my parents was easy. As a teenager, I was smarter and wiser. My choices were to obey, blatantly disobey or figure out a way to do what I wanted without getting caught. Respecting my parents didn't even enter my mind. What I wanted was more important than what my parents asked me to do.

My favorite quote is "Hold on! I need to over think this!" When it comes to choosing obedience, God wants me to say "Yes," but I want to think about it. It can be challenging to obey God because we don't know the cost of obedience. Think about Abraham and Isaac, the Hebrew midwives, and Esther. There was a perceived cost to their obedience—death. It was their view of God that gave them the courage to say yes to Him.

What is your view of God? If you know God is trustworthy, that He will direct your steps and He is abounding in love for you, choose obedience and leave the results up to Him.

Whether it's obeying our parents or God, our self-centeredness causes us to choose not to obey. There is a sacrifice of self when we obey, but it's in obedience that we really begin to live.

**Application:** Lord, take my life and use it as You see fit. I chose to obey You.

# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

## DAY 25 - HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

# Wisdom From A Loving Father

Proverbs 4:1-27

Not everyone is blessed with great parents. Regardless, as Christ-followers we are to do all that we can to bring honor and joy to our family and dignity to our family's name. There is a promise of great blessing from our Heavenly Father, who sees everything. There is a promise of great blessing when we seek to be an encouragement to those who gave us life, our parents.

In the book of Proverbs, twenty-seven times the writer calls out, "*My son....*" They are the words of a loving father who desperately desires that his son pursues and treasures wisdom. From the writer's perspective, there are two kinds of people in the world, those who love wisdom and are wise, and those who despise wisdom and are foolish. The joy of every father and mother is knowing that their children are living wisely, and by living wisely they honor their father and mother and bring honor to their family's name.

The writer of Proverbs considers living wisely to be more precious than any amount of costly stones or earthly treasure (Proverbs 8:11, 18-19). Wisdom is knowing what the right and good thing is to do, and doing it. Foolishness lives only for the day and makes choices that give no consideration to long-term consequences. Living wisely begins with fearing and respecting the Lord (Proverbs 1:7), and trusting Him for our future. God's blessing and favor comes when we seek and follow Christ.

**Application:** "Father in Heaven, open my eyes to the truth of Your Word. Help me to see my life as you see it and as you see life around me. Help me to love wisdom and to apply it to my life so that I might honor my father and mother, and bring honor to my family's name. Amen."

# REFLECT

*What did you hear?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What do you think?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*What will you do?* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Now talk with God...* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

# JOURNAL







