

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** May 19, 2019

**SUBJECT: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Fifth Commandment (1 of 2): Honor Your Father and Your Mother**

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:16

**AIM:** The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God. The fifth commandment deals with our relationship with both God and man. Although we were brought into existence by our parents, our source is actually God. He is the Father of every family and the One who gave each child to his/her parents. When we honor our father and our mother, we honor God Himself.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Exodus 20:12 (Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.); Deuteronomy 5:16 (Honor your father and your mother, as Jehovah your God has commanded you, that your days may be extended and that it may be well with you upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.); Ephesians 6:2-3 ("Honor your father and mother", which is the first commandment with a promise, "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.")

**APPROACH:** What does "honor" mean? If you were going to be honored at school for some accomplishment, what would you like to happen? Discuss with the children how it feels to be honored and ways to honor someone.

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 8317 *Bible Story Songs, Moses Vol. 2 #17* (In the Ten Commandments God Gave Us); 7603 (We Love to Please Our Mom and Dad); 3115 (How Do You Obey God's Word?); 3722 (Jesus, I Am Listening); 176 (God Uses Helpers); 1614 (Cooperation); 155 (Blessing and Honor and Glory Be Thine); 2829 (Honor and Respect for Authority)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** Make a "thank you" card for your parents and write a message of appreciation. A more advanced craft idea: make paper flowers for your parents; serving ones may need to prepare some of the parts ahead of time. *Example*  
<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/diy-rolled-paper-roses-valentines-day-card/>



**CONTENT:** The first five commandments all use the phrase "the Lord your God" and have something to do with God. The fifth commandment is: **"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you."** (Exodus 20:12)

Although the fifth commandment is the first one that talks about our relationship with man (our parents), it is also about our relationship with God. "Honor" means great respect given because of worth, noble deeds, high rank, etc. Do you have this kind of respect for your parents? What is your parents' worth? Do you respect your parents like they are worth \$5 or \$5,000,000?

The first four commandments concern man's relationship with God. The last six concern man's relationship with man. Honoring the parents is the first of these. God alone is to be worshipped by man, but our parents are to be "honored". To honor our parents is to hold them in high regard and to give them much respect. When we honor our parents, we trace our origin back to our source, God Himself (see Luke 3:23-38). In this way, we can also remember that God is our source.

God is our source because He is the creator of everything. God brought us into this world through our parents. God selected our parents for us and formed us within the womb of our mother (Psalm 139:13). Without your parents you would not be here. A father and mother have authority over their children,  
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according to God's governmental arrangement. When we honor our parents, this is pleasing to God and it is what God planned. Not to give honor to our parents is to follow today's rebellious trend. We are commanded to bestow honor upon them.

God is actually the "Father" of every family (Ephesians 3:14-15). He is the source, planner, and arranger of every family. To honor our father and mother is to accept God's arrangement and wisdom. Not to honor our father and mother is to dishonor God, because He ordained that we should be born of our parents, and He gave them the responsibility of taking care of us.

In Ephesians 6:2-3, the apostle Paul pointed out that the commandment about honoring our father and mother is the first commandment with a promise. According to Exodus 20:12, if we honor our parents, our days will be long upon the earth. This refers to the blessing of long life. The blessing of longevity is related to God as our source, for only He, the source of life, can grant us a long life. This commandment refers us to God and indicates that He is the source of life. If we keep this commandment, God surely will give us a long life. If we want our family to be blessed by God, we must honor our parents and thereby remember God Himself as our source.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- **We should not compare our parents with somebody else's.** We should not say, "I wish so-and-so were my parents." If we do not honor our parents, God would be offended too because we despise God's wisdom of choosing our parents for us. We need to show our respect and honor to our parents in order to show our appreciation to God.
- **We can honor our father and mother in many ways.** One way is to obey them. To obey your parents honors them and pleases God. This can include our grandparents too, or whoever is the person taking care of us.
- **We can honor our parents by our speaking, by not complaining or talking back.** Our parents may not allow us to play as long as we would like, or may tell us to do certain chores in the house (wash dishes, cleaning the bathroom, or take the garbage out, etc.), or restrict our use of the computer, video games or iPad. We need to remember that our parents were chosen by God and given responsibility for us before God. When we complain about them, we are really complaining about God. Instead of complaining, try thanking God for your parents. Turning your complaining into thanking can turn your crankiness into happiness.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ—The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 10, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 8/21/88; 02/14/99, 5/22/2005