

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: May 26, 2019

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

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:16; Matthew 15:4

AIM: We honor our parents by having an inward attitude of respect toward them. God desires the children to honor their parents, not just to obey them. By honoring our parents we honor God Himself who is our source, and who gave us our parents.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Ephesians 6:1-3 (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, 3 “That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.”); Matthew 15:4 (For God said, “Honor your father and your mother,” and, “He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.”); Colossians 3:20 (Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 2829 (Honor and Respect for Authority); 8317 *BSS Moses Vol 2 #17* (In the Ten Commandments God Gave Us); 9204 *BSS David #4* (Honor Honor); 9533 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor #13* (Giving Thanks); 1614 (Cooperation); 155 (Blessing and Honor and Glory Be Thine); 7603 (We Love to Please our Mom and Dad - *tune of "O We will Praise"*)

CRAFT IDEAS: Collage of pictures depicting ways by which children can honor parents.

CONTENT: In the previous lesson we saw how honoring our parents is related to our relationship with God. We will now look at how honoring our parents is also related to our relationship with others. The fifth commandment has to do with how we treat our parents. Because God is a loving God, He wants us to express Him in all of our human relationships; the first of which is with our parents. If we are wrong in our attitude and relationship with our parents, the foundation for our relationships with others is defective and will affect all other relationships (with siblings, friends, teachers, bosses, spouses, etc.).

We live in an age of rebellion. The situation is such that many young people think that it is normal to rebel against their parents, or their teachers, or others in authority. But we should know what the Bible says. The apostle Paul charged children to obey their parents in the Lord, for “this is right” (Ephesians 6:1) and “well pleasing in the Lord” (Colossians 3:20). He then went on to say that they should “honor” them also. “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” (Ephesians. 6:2-3).

To honor is more than to obey. To *obey* is outward and is seen in the action. To *honor* is inward and is a matter of our attitude and feeling. Surely disobedience dishonors our parents, for it ignores their words of instruction to us. However, even obedience does not honor our parents if it does not come with a respectful attitude. We can obey with a grudging attitude or obey with a willing heart to please our parents. By honoring our parents we show our love toward them. To honor our parents is to honor God who gave us our parents. When the Lord Jesus was on the earth, He was also subject to His parents on the earth (Luke 2:51a).

The blessing is promised to children who obey and honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians. 3:20). To be well is to be prosperous in material blessing, and to live long is to have longevity. Prosperity and longevity are God’s blessing in this life to those who honor their parents. If we wish to prolong our days and enjoy blessings, we must learn to obey and honor our parents. The commandment to honor our parents is the first commandment with a promise.

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 can honor our parents in many little ways.** Firstly, we need to obey them with a willing heart. When we do not feel like obeying, we can ask the Lord to help us. The Lord Jesus is our model to obey our parents. He obeyed the Father even unto death. Therefore He can understand us and help us. Other ways we can honor our parents include: helping out at home, being thankful for the meals prepared for us, or helping to take care of our siblings especially when we know our parents are tired. Can you think of more ways to honor your parents?
- **We should speak well of our parents.** Sometimes when our parents ask us to do our homework or practice our musical instrument we complain to them for being mean or for making us work hard. Or when we are with our friends, we compare our parents with their parents. However, we should remember that they know what is best for us and we should honor them and speak well of them to others. When was the last time that you said something good about your parents?

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ—The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 11, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 8/21/88; 2/21/99, 5/29/08; 6/01/19