

The Ten

The Kids Commandment- Session #4

Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Do you think kids today are more respectful, less respectful, or respect their parents about the same as you did when you were growing up? Explain.

Why do you think parents don't seem to expect or demand their children respect them very much these days?

How has your understanding of what it means to honor your parents changed or grown over the years?

Discuss: Read and Memorize Exodus 20:12

I. Why honor?

1. Because I said so!

- Honoring parents is an act of worship
- We don't honor parents because they deserve it but because God deserves it!

2. Because they gave you life.

3. Because it's in my best interest

- Read Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:1-3
- Submitting to authority is life's first and most foundational lesson
- Maximum freedom comes in submission to authority

Explain: God calls our families to be the first and foremost set of relationships that we value and nurture. The promise of long life in the land is an important message to nations even today. As God's people build into their society the principle of respect for parents and for the elderly, they are far more likely to enjoy that blessing themselves one day.

Ask:

Have you ever said, or been told, “Because I said so”? Why do you think God gave a reason here instead of just “Because I said so”?

Why do you think this is the first command God gave that had to do with earthly relationships? Considering the first four commandments and the last five, why do you think the fifth commandment is called a “bridge commandment”?

Where do you think the lack of respect for authority that seems prevalent in the younger generation comes from—home, peers, the educational system, media, other? Is there a solution?

II. How we honor:

1. As a child, I honor by obedience
 - Read Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1-3
2. As a young adult, I honor them by respecting them.
 - We show respect with our words (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
 - We show respect as we listen (Proverbs 23:22)
 - We show respect as we defer
3. As an adult, I honor my parents by caring for them
 - Read John 19:26-27
 - We show honor by taking our turn in the care cycle (1 Timothy 5:8, Matthew 18:6, Psalm 27:10)

Explain: No Christian ever moves beyond the responsibility to show respect for his or her parents. If children are to honor their parents, then parents have a reciprocal responsibility to be submissive to their needs in ways that will lead them to maturity, just as Christ seeks to lead us to maturity. Respect for parents is a lifelong obligation. Respect includes more than obedience. It also involves living in such a way as to bring our parents honor and praise, taking time to be with them, caring for their needs, and honoring their memory.

Ask:

What does it mean to “obey your parents as you would the Lord”? Does that mean whatever your parents say goes? Explain.

What can you do differently to encourage mutual submission in your family? What are ways that you can honor your parents even when they have been dishonored?

What impact does it make to transition to caring for your parents? What are ways that you can begin to show honor to your parents in this way?