

# Honor Your Father and Mother

Just like the Israelites, there are lowercase-g gods all around us, influencing our priorities, our morality, even our eternity. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He wasn't just handing down a list of do's and don'ts, He was providing a plan to battle the lowercase-g gods in our lives.



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## INTRODUCTION

The 5th Commandment, Honor thy Father and Mother, is applicable to our entire lives, from birth to old age. It is only about our earthly parents and our relationship with them. It speaks to our desire to be in charge of our lives, rather than giving God control, and submitting to His authority.

## STARTER QUESTION

1. What was the worst punishment you ever received for disobeying your parents as a child? Alternatively, what was the best reward you ever received for obeying your parents?

## INTO THE WORD

2. Proverbs 23:22 tells us to listen to our father and not despise our mother when she is old. How can we apply this verse and still make our own decisions?
3. Read Luke 22:42 and discuss the similarities and/or differences between children obeying their earthly parents and adults obeying their Heavenly Father.
4. What are some other stories or verses in the Bible (Old or New Testaments) that demonstrate someone honoring or dishonoring their parents? What can we learn from these stories?

## APPLICATION

5. Which words of affirmation do you feel are most important to give to your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews as they grow up? What words of affirmation can you give to your parents in the phase of life you are currently in?
6. What advice would you offer to a parent who is struggling with a child who is not following in God's path and is not showing respect and honor to them?
7. Does God give leeway to children who do not receive faithful instruction from their parents?

## PRAYER

**Father, Thank you for being our perfect Heavenly Father and for your forgiveness when we sin. Help us to forgive others in the same way you have forgiven us. We want to honor you daily in our lives. No matter the season of life, help us to respect and love our parents. In the Name of God our Savior, we ask You for wisdom. Amen.**