

A scenic view of a mountain valley with a river winding through it, framed by a white border. The foreground shows rugged, rocky terrain. The middle ground features a wide valley with a river and a winding road. The background consists of distant, hazy mountain ranges under a clear sky.

Five

The Fifth Commandment

Family Study Guides • The Ten Commandments Series

Five

The Fifth Commandment



“Honor your father and your mother.”

We suggest that as you use this Family Study Guide, select and focus on a main portion or two that you feel will help your family’s study into the commandment. You do not need to cover every aspect, discussion or scripture presented in this guide. Select the aspects or principles most relevant or helpful to your family.

Objectives:

- Deepen your family’s understanding of how and why God blesses people for following His 5th Commandment.
- Review Biblical examples and principles related to honoring our parents.
- Discover practical ways to apply the 5th Commandment.

Memory Verse

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12).

1. What does it mean to give honor?

a. Read Deuteronomy 5:32-33 together as a family. Why do you think God gave us the Ten Commandments?

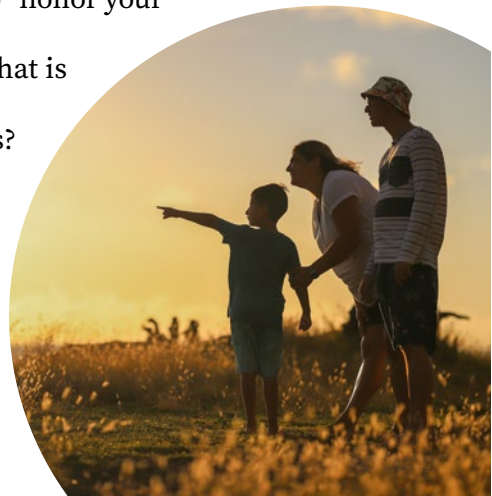
c. What does it mean to give “honor?” Why is it important to “honor your father and your mother?”

- Have you always honored your parents in a way that is pleasing to God?
- What does God promise if you honor your parents? (Exodus 20:12)

d. Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21

- How do you feel about applying the death penalty for such actions?
- If that law were in effect today, do you think teens might try to be more respectful?

e. Have your child read Ephesians 6:1-3. The blessing of a long life goes along with being obedient to our parents.



2. What do you do when you feel your parents aren't good parents?

It is important to realize that parents are not perfect, even though they are trying to do what is right. Also, you may have a parent (or grandparent) that is not dedicated to God's way in the same way you are, and are not convinced they need to do some of the things that we do.

Some things to consider:

- a. Are your parents ultimately responsible to you for their behavior?
- b. Does this mean that you can't pray to God about it or try to talk with them about your feelings concerning their actions?
- c. Why should you respect and honor your parents even though you may not agree with their actions? Exodus 20:12 has an answer.
- d. How do you think the principles in the following scriptures might be applied to a child's relationship with his parents?
 - "You household servants must submit yourselves to your masters out of respect, not only to those who are kind and fair, but also to those who are unjust. For it is a fine thing if, when moved by your conscience to please God, you suffer patiently when wronged" (1 Peter 2:18-19).
 - "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).
- e. This article might help: <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments/how-should-we-treat-parents-who-are-difficult-to>



“Prodigal Son” Lessons and Principles

In **Luke 15:11-32** Jesus tells the story of the “Prodigal Son.” (*Prodigal: a son or daughter who leaves his or her parents to do things that they do not approve of but then feels sorry and returns home.*)

As you read through the story, think about these questions:

The Younger Son

- List the ways that the **younger son** dishonored and disrespected his father.
- What penalties did he pay as a result of his actions?
- How did he feel about the things he had done?
- What did he end up doing that **honored** his father?

The Older Son

- How did the **older son** honor his father?
- How did he dishonor or disrespect his father?
- Why do you think he was mad?
- What blessings did he get for honoring his father?

The Father

- How do you think the father felt about the younger son’s actions?
- Why do you think he forgave his son?
- Why do you think he didn’t punish his younger son?

Your Family

Think of ways that you may have dishonored your parents.

- How do you think it made them feel?
- Did you suffer any penalties for your disobedience or attitude?
- What did you do to change what you did wrong?
- When you honor your parents, how do you think it makes them feel?

We all make mistakes and do things we regret, but we must think about the consequences of our actions on ourselves and others. When we do the right things, or change after we do wrong, it pleases our parents and God.

Questions for Your Parents

Teens, here are a few questions to ask your parents:

- What is an instance where you wish you would have listened more closely to what your parents told you?
- Ask—what do you see me doing in my life that makes you happy? Is there anything that makes you concerned? Why?
- Is there one guiding principle to give me to live the rest of my life by? What would it be?



Family Discussions and Activities

Honorable Parents

Discuss whether the 5th Commandment is also a directive to parents to be “honorable.”

- How does the Bible instruct parents to behave toward their children?
- Discuss Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-21 and how your family strives to do this. Where can improvement be made, if necessary?

Blessings for Obedience

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-13 about God’s blessings. Discuss in contrast, what God says will be the punishment for disobedient children. Read Deuteronomy 28:16-43 for ideas.

Dishonor

Talk about the types of things that could bring dishonor to the family.

Ten Commandments Journal

Journal: If you are keeping a Family Ten Commandments Journal, write down the fifth commandment. Discuss and answer, how do you honor your father and mother? What does that mean? Write as many ways as you can think of to bring honor to your parents. What does this mean to you personally?



Ways to Honor

Make a list of specific things that would honor parents. Decide on one thing to do each week that would show honor.

Honoring Your Parents: Why and How?

Discuss how you can apply the principles found in this *Vertical Thought* article:

<https://www.ucg.org/vertical-thought/honoring-your-parents-why-and-how>

Fifth Commandment—for All Ages

Discuss: Does the 5th commandment’s meaning or the way it is applied change as you grow older? What about when you are an adult?

Jesus’ Example

What can we learn from examples of Jesus Christ honoring God His Father?

Impact of Disobedience

In 2 Timothy 3:2, the apostle Paul specifically mentions a list of evil characteristics of people in the last days. One of these is disobedience to parents. Why do you think Paul mentions it here with the other things in this list? What is the impact of disobedience to parents on a society?

Additional Resources for Your Family Studies

UCG Study Aid “The Ten Commandments”

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments>

UCG Teen Bible Study

<https://www.ucg.org/teen-bible-study/teen-bible-study-volume-3-ten-commandments/fifth-commandment-honor-your-dad-and-mom>

10 Commandments Study Aid

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments/how-should-we-treat-parents-who-are-difficult-to-honor>

Article: “How to Honor Your Parents, When They Aren’t Always Honorable”

<https://www.ucg.org/members/compass-check/compass-check-spring-2017>



Optional Classroom Activities

Questions for Group Discussions

In keeping the Ten Commandments we reap blessings in our life. God's Fifth Commandment has a special blessing attached to it.

1. Does anyone know what the special blessing is? (A long life can be a great blessing. Just think about all the wonderful experiences you will have and all the great things you'll get to do.)

2. What are some ways that we can show honor to our parents?
Being a good listener and doing the things our parents ask us to do are some ways to show honor too. Listening is essential to the success of the family and for your own success in life as well as the success of our relationship with God. We bring honor to our parents when we are people of character and follow God's laws with love and respect.

3. Showing honor to your parents is one way of showing respect for authority. Think of examples in which learning this principle is a valuable tool for you beyond just your relationship with your parents. What would our society look like if this principle were followed in families and among other systems with authority figures (workplace, school, government)?

4. Can you think of any ways that Jesus Christ or anyone else in the Bible showed how to honor a father and mother?

Group Discussion Scenarios

a. You are hanging out with friends after school at Joe's house and you're expected to be home by 8:00 p.m. It's 6:00 and you and your friends start to get bored. Then someone suggests going to Alyssa's house across the street. You know your parents may not approve because no adults are at Alyssa's house to supervise, but your parents would never have to know. Probably nothing bad would happen anyway.

- What should you do to make sure you are keeping the Fifth Commandment in this situation?
- What might happen because of the choice that is made?
- Discuss the pros and cons of possible decisions, including what one may have to suffer because of the right or wrong decision made.
- In the end, what makes it worth making the right decision?

b. Your parent makes a decision that you think is unfair to you or to someone else. Considering the principles of the Fifth Commandment:

- What are some things you could do if this happens?
- What would be some inappropriate ways to react?

Optional Classroom Activities (continued)

Promise in the Stars Worksheet

- a. Have the children fill out the “Promise in the Stars” worksheet (found below).
- b. Discuss the other blessings God promises to give to His obedient children. Look in Deuteronomy 28:1-13 or Leviticus 26:1-12 if you need help thinking of more blessings.
- c. Discuss the contrast. What does God say will be the punishment for disobedient children? Look in Leviticus 26:16-39 and Deuteronomy 28:16-43 if you need help.

Coupon for a Parent Activity

1. Make copies of “Coupons for Parents” on colored card stock paper. Make several for each child). Have scissors, crayons, colored pencils, pens or markers for writing on the coupons.
2. Have kids fill in coupons by writing “I will honor you today by...”
3. Let the children be creative as to what they want to do for their parents. Some examples:
 - Responding in a respectful way when asked to do something
 - Taking out the trash
 - Loading the dishwasher
 - Completing all homework on time
 - Helping my sibling(s) with _____

4. Cut out coupons.

Option #1: Buy self-adhesive magnetic strips and cut in small pieces. Glue on back of coupon. Coupons could be put on refrigerator and parents can have the option to choose one per day or per week.

Option #2: Buy mini gift bags and put coupons into gift bag. Let kids present this to their parents who can choose one coupon per day or week. You could also add a magnetic strip to the back of the gift bag and attach it to the refrigerator this way.



Remind the children that they must follow through with the chore that is written on the coupon.

This is to be a lesson in obeying their parents even though they have chosen the job themselves.

Fill in the Missing Words

Print and cut out the coupons below.

No Expiration Date

I will honor you today by . . .

No Expiration Date

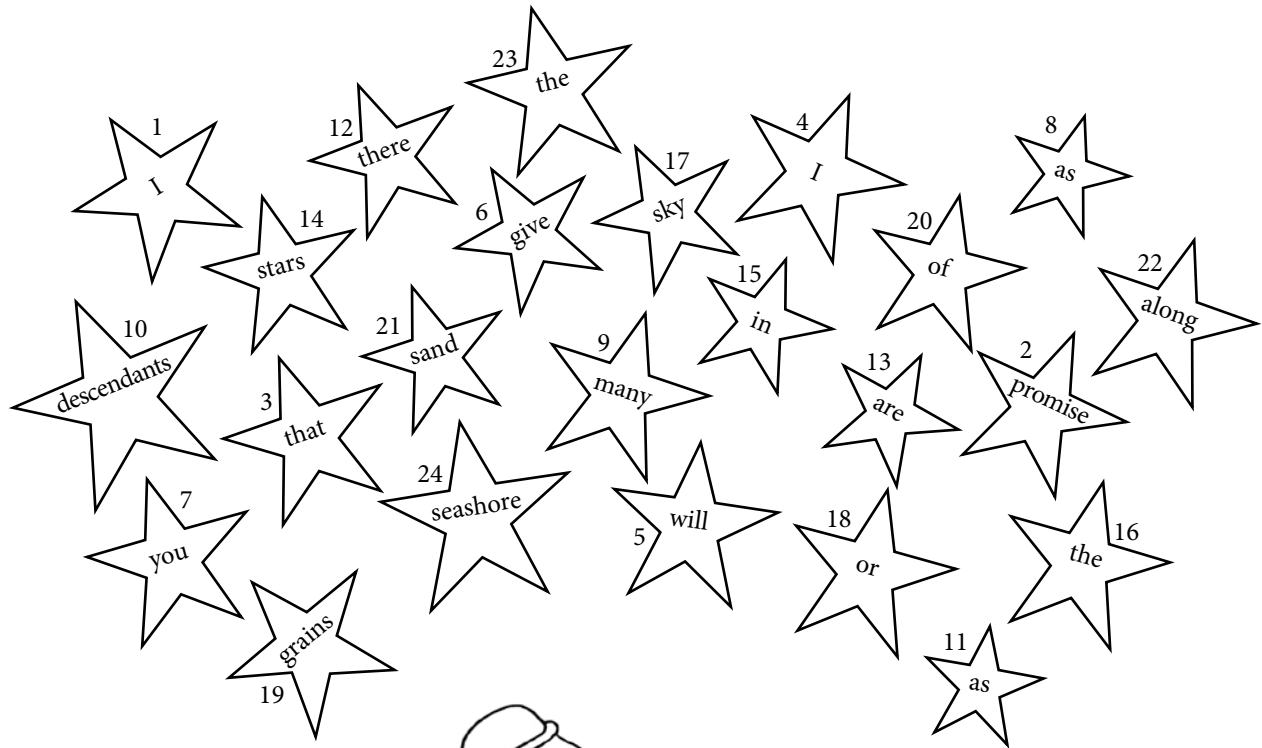
I will honor you today by . . .

No Expiration Date

I will honor you today by . . .

A Promise in the Stars: God's Promise to Abraham

In the book of Genesis we can read about Abraham. God said to Abraham, "I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation" (Genesis 12:2). On the lines below, write the words in the stars in order by number. Then read a wonderful promise God made to Abraham.



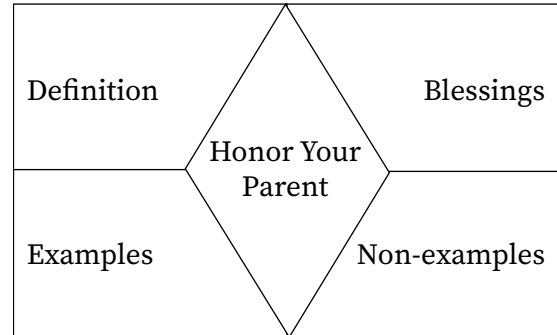
Fifth Commandment Summary Lesson

Learning Goal

Describe how to honor parents and the blessings we receive when we honor them.

Lesson Activity (5 min)

Begin by stating the goal for the day and setting up a graphic organizer by folding a paper into four squares, then bending a corner. When it opens up you will have a diamond in the middle with four sections around it. Throughout the lesson, children will write words or draw pictures describing honoring parents using four categories:



Engagement Strategy

Use “talking tokens” that children can trade to participate in discussion and receive a little gift (sticker, treat, etc.). All children should have the same amount of talking tokens at the beginning.

Opening questions (10 min)

Have children read Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16 and Ephesians 6:2 to find the answers.

- What does it mean to honor our parents?
- Why does the Bible say we should do it?

Explain that this can extend to grandparents as well. Have children add drawings or words to “definition” and “blessings.” Emphasize the blessings/promise of long life and peace when we obey our parents.

Case Study (10-15 min)

Read the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. Look at the actions of the two sons throughout the story and use them as “examples” and “non-examples” of honoring parents.

Optional: Divide students into two groups, either by the older and younger son or examples and non-examples so they can look for something more specific from the parable. After discussion, add to the graphic organizer.

Apply It (5 min)

What are examples and non-examples in our lives of honoring our parents and grandparents? Add them to the graphic organizer.

Takeaway Card (1-2 min)

Give each child an index card with the sentence frame, “This week I am going to honor you by _____.” Have them fill it out to give to a parent/grandparent.