

HONORING DEPENDENT PARENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Objectives for the series:

1. **Practical.** Participants will be able to write explanations of how they want their children to make decisions for them if they (the participants) are unable to make decisions or to explain their wishes clearly.
2. **Affective.** Participants will be more eager to contribute to a church-wide effort to support adult children faithfully honor dependent parents.
3. **Cognitive.** Participants will be familiar with what the Scriptures teach about honoring parents and especially about honoring dependent parents.
4. **Affective.** Participants will be more comfortable making choices for, about, and with their dependent parents.

Advice:

1. I've taught this series twice to two very different classes. A class of fifty mostly older adults was most interested in talking about answers to the Workbook questions. A class of sixty with multigenerational families enjoyed guessing what other generations "heard" in the case studies.
2. The series can easily be longer than six sessions if more time is devoted to class discussion and the Scripture passages are considered in separate sessions. Every Sunday school session should include attention to at least one passage of Scripture.
3. The longer case studies are discussed in detail in Bill Davis, *Honoring Dependent Parents* (P&R Publishing, 2026). All the shorter case studies are in the file titled "Workbook of Questions to Guide Adult Children" (hereafter *Workbook*). It is recommended that every participant have their own Workbook and that participants bring their Workbook to class for each session. The main objective of this course (see above) is to equip and inspire parents who are not currently dependent to leave a written account of their preferences for their children to consider if the participants ever become dependent. Urging participants to write their answers out in the Workbook, telling their children about the Workbook, and making sure the children know how to find the Workbook years in the future will maximize the value of these lessons.
4. While Bill Davis' answers to the Workbook questions are available (by email to bill.davis@covenant.edu), his answers are not the only possible answers (by a long way). Session leaders may refer to Davis's answers for the sake of discussion, but the session leader's own answers to the questions will be an even stronger basis for discussion. God's law is a

playpen with walls that are often far apart. God's people should do what they want inside the playpen's walls.

5. In addition to the Workbook, it may be helpful to give participants a separate handout each week with the passage(s) of Scripture that will be discussed, a sketch of the main observations that will be made about the passages, and (a little) space for making notes of their own.
6. Participants should be given clear instructions about how they can ask for help praying and thinking about the challenges they are facing with honoring their parents. At the very least, session leaders should explain how participants can set up times to talk to church elders and others trained and willing to talk alongside them.