

A photograph of a family of three in a field of tall grass. A woman with long, wavy brown hair is on the left, wearing a white tank top. A man with short dark hair is on the right, wearing a white t-shirt. A young girl with a pink and red floral headband is in the foreground, looking down. The background is a soft-focus field of tall grass under a clear blue sky.

Family Study Guides

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

5. "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER."



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Family Study Guide

5. "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:

- Help your children to understand how and why God expects us to follow His 5th Commandment.
- Discover practical ways to apply the 5th Commandment to our lives.

Memory Verse

Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*

Have you always honored your parents in a way that is pleasing to God?

As a family read: Deuteronomy 5:32-33 (NIRV) *So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you. Don't turn away from his commands to the right or the left. Live exactly as the Lord your God has commanded you to live. Then you will enjoy life in the land you will soon own. Things will go well with you there. You will live there for a long time.*

God gave us the Ten Commandments to help us understand how we should act toward Him and one another. In today's society, breaking some of these commandments is punishable by law, but some are not. For example, you can go to jail for murder, but not for breaking the Sabbath. However, for our benefit God expects us to follow all His commandments and to do so for as long as we live.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God gave us the Ten Commandments?
2. Why is it important to "honor your father and your mother?"
3. What does it mean or look like to give "honor" and why is it so important to God?

Exodus 21:12

- ✓ What does God promise if you honor your parents?

Read: Deuteronomy 21:18-21 and Leviticus 20:9

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

Have your child read: **Ephesians 6: 1-3.**

The blessing of a long life goes along with being obedient to your parents.

Fifth Commandment Lessons from the “Prodigal Son”

In **Luke 15:11-32** Jesus tells the story of the “Prodigal Son.”

(Definition of *Prodigal*: spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant).

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?

Luke 15:11-32 (Good News Translation) **11** Jesus went on to say, "There was once a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. **13** After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. **14** He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. **15** So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. **16** He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. **17** At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! **18** I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. **19** I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.'" **20** So he got up and started back to his father.

"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. **21** 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' **22** But the father called to his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. **23** Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! **24** For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began.

25 "In the meantime the older son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' **27** 'Your brother has come back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.' **28** The older brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. **29**

But he spoke back to his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! 30 But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' 31 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.'"

- ✓ 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!

2 Peter 1:17 (New Century Version) *Jesus heard the voice of God, the Greatest Glory, when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice said, "This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him."*

What do you do when you feel your parents don't measure up to being good parents?

It is important to realize that parents are not perfect, even though they are trying to do everything right. You also may have a parent (or grandparent) that is not in the church and is not convinced they need to do some of the things that we do.

- ≈ Are your parents responsible to you for their behavior?
- ≈ Does this mean that you can't pray to God about it and even try to talk with them about how you feel about their actions?
- ≈ Why should you respect and honor your parents even though you may not agree with their actions? Exodus 20:12 has an answer.
- ≈ How do you think the principles in the following scriptures might be applied to a child's relationship with his parents?
 - **1 Peter 2:18 (International Standard Version)** *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. 19 For it is a fine thing if, when moved by your conscience to please God, you suffer patiently when wronged.*
 - **Acts 5:29** *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."*
- ≈ 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?
- This article might help: <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments/how-should-we-treat-parents-who-are-difficult-to>

Possible Family Discussions or Activities:

- Read **Deuteronomy 28:1-13** or **Leviticus 26:1-12**, about God's blessings. Discuss in contrast, what does God say will be the punishment for disobedient children? Read Leviticus 26:16-39 and Deuteronomy 28:16-43 for ideas.
- Talk about the types of things that would bring dishonor to the family.
- **Journal:** If you are keeping a Family Ten Commandment's Journal, write down the fifth commandment. Discuss and answer, how do you honor your mother and father? 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?
- Make a list of specific things that would honor parents. Decide on one thing to do each week that would show honor.
- Discuss how you can apply the principles found in this Vertical Thought article:
Vertical Thought <https://www.ucg.org/vertical-thought/honoring-your-parents-why-and-how>
- **Discuss:** Does this commandment's meaning or the way it is applied change as you grow older? What about when you are an adult?
- What can we learn from examples of Jesus Christ honoring God the Father?
- 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 Family Resources:

- **UCG Study Booklet "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 Booklet: <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments/how-should-we-treat-parents-who-are-difficult-to-honor>
- Compass Check 2017, 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. This 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?

➤ Scenarios for Group Discussions:

1. You are hanging out with friends after school at Joe's house and you're expected to be home by 8:00 pm. Its 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 5th 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?
2. Your parent makes a decision that you think is unfair to you or to someone else. Considering the principles of the 5th Commandment:
 - What are some things you could do if this happens?
 - What would be some inappropriate ways to react?

➤ "Promise in the Stars" worksheet:

1. Have the children fill out the "**Promise in the Stars**" worksheet (found below).
2. 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.
3. 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.

No Expiration Date

Kids: Fill this coupon out and give to your parents

I honored you today by...

No Expiration Date

Kids: Fill this coupon out and give to your parents

I honored 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.


