

Lesson 18 – The 4th Commandment

Honor you father and your mother

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

(Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:11)

Beginning with the 4th Commandment there is a change. All of the commandments from 4-10 have a different focus.

Why is the 4th Commandment different from the first three? _____

Example of good and bad.

“My mom is so demanding! She always tells me to clean my room, to wash dishes, and to do my homework,” Kristen exclaimed to her friends around the lunch table.

“Yeah, my dad makes me cut the lawn while he watches football,” Dan added. “Parents are just slave-drivers!”

Kristen nodded in agreement. Both of them turned their attention Janet who was sitting silently next to them. “Don’t your parents drive you crazy too?” Kristen said. Janet remembered times where her parents were 'driving her crazy,' but she didn’t reply right away.

Have you ever talked about your parents that way?

Have you ever heard your friends talking about their parents like Kristen and Dan?

Do they usually say good things or bad things?

What do the words we speak say about how we feel about them?

What do the words we speak say about us?

What does the Bible say about disrespect?

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 _____

Exodus 21:15 _____

Exodus 21:17 _____

Proverbs 30:17 _____

2 Kings 2:23-24 _____

Name a blessing God gives those who honor their parents?
(Hint: Read Deuteronomy 5:16 again!) _____

What does it mean to honor someone? _____

How does respect relate to honor? _____

How does making good decisions show honor to parents? See Proverbs 10:1 _____

How does youth TV shows generally depict parents? _____

What does Mark 7:9-13 teach us about God's way and the world's way? _____

How does the 4th Commandment apply to Jesus' words in John 19:25-27? _____

Do you think children of parents who are not honorable are freed from obeying this commandment?

Why or why not? _____

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (*especially v.2*) What does God say is the equal to disobeying parents?

In Romans 1:29-32 (*especially v.30*) What does God say is equal to disobeying parents?

Why does God think it's serious when we don't listen to our parents? _____

Can you give examples of movies or TV shows in which children are the heroes while being disobedient to their parents?

Can you give examples of movies or TV shows in which the parents are the heroes who help their children?

Do you think children sometimes imitate the examples in these movies or TV shows?

Look at the “Table of Duties” on page 33 in the Catechism. What does the Bible say about:

Parents (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Pastors (1 Timothy 5:17-19)

Teachers (Proverbs 3:1-2)

Employers (Ephesians 6:5-8)

Government (Romans 13:5-7)

What about dishonorable parents?

How should we respond if our parents tell us to do something contrary to God's Law? _____

Does obeying God always mean good will come to you? (Or: Could there be negative consequences?)

What does Deuteronomy 11:18-22 say parents should do? _____

When you become a parent, how will you teach this commandment to your children?
