

# LESSON 5



## FILIAL PIETY

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Honor

In the Bible, we can find four references to honor, used in the following contexts: to praise highly, to care for, to respect, and to obey. Guide your students in finding specific ways they can praise their parents highly and ways they can care for, respect, and obey them.

1. To praise highly (Prov 4:8)
2. To care for (Ps 91:15)
3. To respect (Lev 19:3; 20:9)
4. To obey (Dt 21:18-21)

#### Joseph Made the Extra Effort

When Jacob called Joseph to pay his brothers a visit in Shechem, Joseph promptly answered, "Here I am." Shechem was located approximately 50 miles north of Hebron, so it would not have been a quick journey for Joseph. But without complaining or delaying, Joseph obeyed his father and immediately set out for the trip.

When Joseph finally made his way to Shechem, he discovered that his brothers were not there but had gone on to Dothan. Going to Dothan meant an additional 15-mile journey northward. Joseph could have said that he had fulfilled his father's wishes to go to Shechem and returned home. Instead, he made the extra effort to carry out his father's command.

#### Ruth Cared for Naomi

Ruth supported her mother-in-law Naomi by going out to the fields to glean heads of grain. Gleanings were essentially the leftover stalks of grain after the first harvest cutting.

According to God's commandment, the Israelites should not reap their harvests to the corners of their fields nor gather any gleanings from their harvests (Lev 23:22). This was done to make sure the poor and the stranger among them were taken care of.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 20:12  
 Genesis 37:12-36; 40-50  
 Ruth 1-4  
 Luke 2:41-52

### BIBLE TRUTH

God promised to bless those who honor their parents.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that honoring our parents is a commandment from God.
2. To learn how to love and respect our parents.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

(Ephesians 6:1)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, we thank You for always watching over us. You provide us with families that love us and always take care of us. Through today's lesson, please help us learn how to honor and obey our parents, as this is one of the commandments You want us to follow. Please forgive us when we fall short, and put in our hearts the constant desire to honor and care for everyone in our family. Hallelujah! Amen.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The fifth commandment from God, “Honor your father and your mother,” is also the first commandment with a promise (Eph 6:2), which means that it is a commandment of great importance. God promised that if we honor our parents, our days may be “long on the earth.”

In this day and age, much of the respect and reverence that was once expected, even demanded, of children to their parents has been lost in many families. Though parents do not love their children any less, it has become common for children to take the love of their parents for granted or misuse that love by making demands all the time.

It is crucial, therefore, to establish the right concept of filial piety and parental honor in the hearts of your students. Since your students still rely on their parents for many things beyond daily necessities, including comfort, love, and approval, now is the perfect age to teach them the importance of loving and honoring their parents

through their actions. Learning this teaching from an early age will help them carry this principle into adulthood.

It may be difficult for your students to fully understand what it means to honor someone. So, start with the four meanings of honor in the Bible described earlier—praise highly, care for, respect, and obey—to provide your students a concrete notion of how to honor their parents.

In addition to teaching them to understand what “honor” means, encourage your students to think about practical actions they can perform on a daily basis to demonstrate their care, respect, and obedience to their parents. In this way, their parents can see by their actions that they are obeying God’s fifth commandment.

God Himself watches and takes note of every action that we take, no matter how small. Ensure your students that God’s words never fail. His blessings and promise are sure to follow if they obey this commandment.

### VOCABULARY

- honor:** to show regard, respect, devotion, and love for someone
- pasture:** an area with grass or other plants where animals can graze and eat
- merchants:** people who buy and sell various things to make a living
- Pharaoh:** the title given to ancient Egyptian kings
- famine:** extreme lack of food in an area
- mother-in-law:** the mother of one’s husband
- daughter-in-law:** the wife of one’s son

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the fourth commandment. What is the fourth commandment? (Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.) God spent six days creating many things: the sun, the moon, the animals, every living creature, and man! However, God set aside the seventh day, Saturday, as a day of rest. He set an example for us by resting on the seventh day.

In the Old Testament, there were strict rules to follow on the Sabbath because God wanted everyone to spend that day truly resting and worshipping Him. Over time, people began to add their own rules about the Sabbath.

When Jesus came to this world, He taught the people the true meaning of keeping the Sabbath; it meant going to the temple, learning God’s words, and praying. Even more importantly, He taught the people to remember God and to serve Him.

What does it mean to serve God? Sometimes, helping people is a way to serve God. As long as what we are doing draws us closer to God, then we are keeping God’s commandment.

## BIBLE STORY

### Introduction

How much do your parents love you? [Brainstorm with the students on all the things that their parents do for them, free of charge. To help the students visualize the extent of their parents' care, make a list on the board.]

From the day you were born, your parents have loved you unconditionally. It is so natural for parents to love their children. However, sometimes it is not so easy for children to show love to their parents.

God thinks that it is very important for children to love their parents. That is why the fifth commandment that God gave to us says: "Honor your father and your mother." God promises to bless all those who follow this commandment.

There are many stories of children in the Bible who honored, respected, and obeyed their parents. Let us learn from the stories of three such people who honored their parents and were blessed by God as a result.

### Joseph Loved His Family and Honored His Father

Joseph was one of twelve sons of a man named Jacob. He was loved by his father very much. His father even made him a special coat of many colors.

One day, Jacob called out to Joseph and asked him to do something. Joseph's brothers had gone to feed the sheep in a place called Shechem, so his father wanted Joseph to go there and see how they were doing. [It may be helpful to draw a simple map showing where Hebron, Shechem, and Dothan are in relation to one another.]

Joseph was in Hebron at the time. Going to Shechem to look for his brothers meant that Joseph would have to make a very long journey because Shechem was about fifty miles away from home. [If you know the distance your students live from church, you can help them understand this distance by comparing it to their commute to church. Remind them that there were no cars in Joseph's time.]

Do you think Joseph complained to his father? No. Joseph replied to his father, "Here I am." Joseph showed that he honored his father by answering immediately when his father called him and by being willing to listen to what his father wanted him to do!

[Ask students a question about how they respond when their parents call them to do something. For example, you might ask, "When you are upstairs in your room and your parents call you to come downstairs, how do you respond? Do you wait until they call you the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th time? Do you respond right away the first time you hear them?"]

Joseph obeyed his father and immediately started on his journey to Shechem. Once he reached Shechem, he could not find his brothers. So he started wandering around in the fields looking for them. His brothers were not there!

Finally, someone saw Joseph wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" Joseph replied that he was looking for his brothers. The man told Joseph that his brothers had gone to another place called Dothan. [Show the map again.]

Do you think Joseph gave up and went home after hearing that he would not find his brothers at Shechem? Do you think Joseph continued further to Dothan to look for his brothers? Joseph continued on his journey to Dothan to complete the task his father gave to him. Even though the task was difficult and he had already spent so much time looking for his brothers, he did not give up right away or go home with the task unfinished.

Finally, Joseph reached Dothan. Joseph's brothers were very jealous of him and when they saw him they took him and threw him into a well. Later, they decided to sell Joseph to some merchants who were passing through the land. The merchants then sold Joseph to an official in Egypt to take care of his household.

At first, the official liked Joseph a lot, but when Joseph was wrongly blamed for something he did not do, he threw Joseph into prison. It was already bad enough that Joseph was separated from his father and living in a strange place, but now he was being thrown into prison for something he did not do.

As always, Joseph continued to trust in God while he was in prison, so God was with him. One day, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a strange dream that he could not explain. No one else in Pharaoh's entire kingdom was able to explain the dream either. However, Joseph was able to explain the dreams to Pharaoh because God had told Joseph the meaning of those dreams. Pharaoh could see that the Spirit of God was in Joseph, so he awarded Joseph greatly and made him ruler of the entire land. Besides Pharaoh, there was no one who was greater than Joseph in all of Egypt.

Seven years later, Joseph was still living in Egypt. There was a big famine in the land, but because Joseph had stored extra food in Egypt, people went there to buy food and grain. One day, Joseph saw that his brothers had come to Egypt to buy food. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him and thought that he was an Egyptian.

When Joseph told his brothers who he really was, they were so surprised that they could not answer him! If you were Joseph, what would you have done when you met your brothers? Joseph told his brothers not to feel bad about selling him. He knew God had planned it so that he could help people during this famine.

Joseph asked them how their father was doing. Was their father still alive and well? He told his brothers, "Hurry and go up to my father and tell him everything that has happened to me. Then hurry and bring him here to Egypt so he can live near me. I will provide for you and all of your family during these years of famine. Hurry and

bring my father down here!"

Even after so many years apart, Joseph thought about how he could take care of his father and what he could do to honor him. He prepared many gifts for his father: donkeys carrying grain, bread, food, and many wonderful things from Egypt.

When Joseph's father finally arrived in Egypt, Joseph went out to meet him. Joseph hugged his father and wept for a very long time. Joseph gave his father the best land in Egypt to live in and he continued to take care of his father until the very end.

We can see how much Joseph loved his family and honored his father. Even though his brothers mistreated him, Joseph showed them love and forgiveness. Even though he had not seen his father for so long, he still wanted to honor him and take care of him. Since Joseph kept God's commandments, God was with him and blessed him throughout his life.

### **Ruth Made a Determination to Take Care of Naomi**

This next person we will hear about was a very good daughter-in-law. Her name is Ruth.

There was a man called Elimelech. He, his wife Naomi, and his two sons lived in Bethlehem. There was a famine in the land, so they traveled to a place called Moab to look for food and then settled there.

While living in Moab, Elimelech's two sons got married. One married a woman called Orpah and the other married Ruth. Unfortunately, Elimelech and his two sons soon died. Now there were only three women left in the house: Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth. What were they going to do? They had no one left to support them.

Naomi was a very kind woman. She did not want her daughters-in-law to suffer with her. They were still young and could remarry. So, she told them to go back home to their own families to find new husbands and decided to return to Bethlehem by herself.

Orpah took the advice of her mother-in-law and went home, but Ruth decided to stay with Naomi. She knew that it would be difficult for her mother-in-law to take care of herself since she was already an old woman.

Ruth convinced Naomi by saying, "Don't urge me to leave you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me if anything but death separates you and me."

Ruth used very strong and determined words to show how much she loved Naomi. She wanted Naomi to understand that she would always be there to take care of her, no matter what.

The two of them returned to Bethlehem but they still had to work in order to survive. Ruth went out into the grain fields and picked the leftover grain from the floor so that she and her mother-in-law would have food to eat. She worked very hard every day from morning until night.

When the owner of the grain field, Boaz, gave her some food to eat during the day, she ate until she was satisfied and kept the extra, not for herself, but for her mother-in-law. Not once did she complain of all the hard work she had to do for her mother-in-law. She did everything with a willing and cheerful heart. Whenever Naomi asked Ruth to do anything, she quickly obeyed and did as she was told.

When Boaz saw and heard of all the wonderful things Ruth did for Naomi, he was very impressed and touched. He knew that Ruth was a good woman because she honored her mother-in-law. When he found out that he was a relative of Naomi, he decided to marry Ruth and take care of both Ruth and Naomi. God really blessed Ruth because she honored and loved her mother-in-law with all her heart.

### **Jesus Honored and Obeyed His Parents**

Jesus Himself set the perfect example for us by honoring and obeying His earthly parents. When Jesus was twelve years old, Jesus and His parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover. After the feast was over, His parents left to go home since the journey would take a few days. They did not know that Jesus had stayed behind in the temple to listen to the teachers talk about God.

When His parents finally realized that Jesus was not with them, they frantically looked everywhere. Eventually, they went back to the temple and saw Jesus talking with the teachers and asking them questions. They were amazed that He knew so much about God.

When his mother had the chance, she went up to Jesus and asked Him, "Why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?"

Even though Jesus' parents did not understand why He wanted to stay in the temple to talk with the teachers, Jesus went home obediently with His parents. He did not argue with them. Jesus set a good example for everyone to follow.

Joseph, Ruth, and Jesus are only three of the many examples of children in the Bible who honored their parents. They all wanted to honor their parents, and they did whatever they could to obey, respect, love, and take care of them. This is how God wants everyone to follow the fifth commandment.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The fifth commandment says to \_\_\_\_\_ (honor) your father and your mother.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ruth) was a good daughter-in-law.
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ (obeyed) His parents and went home with them.
4. Joseph took care of his father by bringing him to Egypt so that they could be closer together. He also gave Jacob the best land to live in. True.
5. God wants everyone to love and respect their parents. True.
6. What does it mean to honor your parents? It means to respect, obey, and care for them.
7. How do you know that the fifth commandment is important to God? It is a commandment with a promise.
8. How did Joseph, Ruth, and Jesus honor their parents? They obeyed and loved them wholeheartedly.

## MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Ephesians 6:1)**

## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

### Filial Piety

Why does the Bible place such great importance on honoring our parents? In 1 John 4:20-21, the Bible says, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” The same teaching applies to honoring our parents. If we cannot learn to honor and obey our earthly parents, the very people who love and take care of us, then we cannot truly learn to honor and obey God, our heavenly Father. If we cannot repay our parents’ love by honoring them, we will never be able to apprehend the greater love of God and repay Him. Therefore, we can see that honoring our parents is the first step to honoring God. But what exactly does “honoring” mean? How can we honor our parents? Let me share a few examples with you.

#### **a. Respect them**

The very first thing we can do to honor our parents is to respect them and respect what they say. The Bible tells us that children are a heritage from God (Ps 127:3). God wants our parents to teach us the way we should go so that we can always stay on the right path as we grow (Prov 22:6). Because of this, our parents often give us advice. For example, they might tell us not to watch TV for more than an hour a day. Does this sound familiar to you? Sometimes, their advice might not be something you want to hear. You might think it's not fair that you've spent all

day at school working hard and when you get home, you can only spend this little time watching TV. Raise your hand if you've ever felt this way before. Certainly, this is not a good feeling. But this is the time we need to learn to respect our parents. They have experienced far more than we have and they want to show us the right things to do. They give us advice because they want the best for us. As much as we want to go the other way, we should always pay respect to their words and obey them. Our parents love us and they will never lead us down the wrong path. Listen to them and respect what they say. With respect comes trust. Always trust that our parents give us the best advice because they love us so much. Let me share a story with you.

This time last year, Janice had a conversation with her mom:

**Janice:** Mom, I really want to join the dance club at school.

**Mom:** Why do you want to join the dance club all of a sudden? You never mentioned before that you like to dance.

**Janice:** Well, I don't. But all of my best friends joined this year. They told me that it's really fun and they get to compete with other schools at the end of the year. Last year, our school won and now everyone thinks that dancing is so cool.

**Mom:** I see. But Janice, this is your junior year in high

school. Your homework is going to get more difficult, and you will need more time to study this year. I understand that you want to do something fun with your friends, but you're already taking piano lessons and I don't want you to have too much pressure. This is a very important year for you, and if you fall behind, your senior year will be even more difficult. I don't want you to look back and regret your decision. It sounds like joining this dance club is quite a commitment. Isn't it?

**Janice:** Yes, it is. Okay, I'll think about it again. Maybe you're right.

**Mom:** Remember, Janice, whatever you decide to do, I will support you. But take my advice and really think about it. Let me know what you decide, okay?

**Janice:** OK!

That night, Janice thought about the idea again and decided not to join the dance club. Even though she really wanted to join, she respected her mom's advice. She knew that her mom just wanted the best for her. For a few weeks, she was a little sad that she wasn't able to go to dance rehearsals with her friends. But, as the year went on, Janice became so busy that she forgot about how much she wanted to be part of the dance club.

Thinking back, Janice is really thankful for her mom's advice last year. Even without joining the dance club, Janice's junior year was not an easy year for her. She had a lot more homework and projects than she did the year before. She can't imagine how she could have managed if she had to go to dance club rehearsals every other day, on top of her schoolwork and piano lessons. Janice now knows that her mom's advice is always the best!

### Reflection Questions

- 1. Did Janice respect her mom's advice? How did she feel afterwards?** Yes, she did. She really wanted to join the dance club, but she respected her mom's advice and didn't join. She was a little sad because she didn't get to do what she wanted.
- 2. How does Janice feel now about her mom's advice? Why?** She feels very thankful for her mom's advice now. If she hadn't listened to her mom, she would have ended up having a very tough year due to her increased homework and projects, in addition to her piano lessons. She is glad that she took her mom's advice not to join the dance club.

### b. Appreciate them

Another way to honor our parents is to appreciate them and always think about their many good qualities. Since we live with our parents and see them every day, sometimes we forget that they do many things for us. How many of you say thank you to your mom every night

for cooking dinner for the family? How many of you ask your dad, "How was your day?" when he comes home from work every day? And how many of you think about your parents in your daily prayers? Little things like this do not only show our parents how much we care about them, they also help us appreciate them more so that we don't take their love for granted. We can become more patient and understanding with them. And with more appreciation comes more love. Try it yourself at home...you can fill your house with warmth when you show more appreciation to your family!

### c. Show kindness to them

Honoring our parents is not simply about obeying everything they ask us to do. It also means taking the initiative to do something for our parents that will make them happy. One of the many things we can do to make our parents happy is to show kindness to them. That way, they know that we love and care for them just as much as they do for us. Here are some examples for you:

- It's Sunday and Robert is enjoying his weekend playing video games. Suddenly, Robert's dad comes into his room and says, "I'm going to be outside cleaning my car if you need me." As Robert continues playing his video game, something comes to his mind: "Dad has had so much work this past week and we didn't really get a chance to talk. I should spend some time with him today. I'll go outside and help him clean his car!"
- Jane's mom is having her friends over for dinner tonight. She is very excited about today because she hasn't seen her friends in years. After dinner, Jane's mom starts cleaning up the table so that she can bring out some refreshments for the guests. Seeing that, Jane goes into the kitchen and says to her mom, "Mom, let me clean up the table. You haven't seen your friends for such a long time. You should spend more time with them. Don't worry. I'll bring out the fruit and dessert, too."
- Daniel lives with his grandparents. Every morning, they like to sit outside on the patio and drink some tea. This is their favorite thing to do, but Daniel views it as an incredibly boring way to spend his time. However, even though Daniel doesn't really enjoy sitting out on the patio, he goes out every Sunday morning to spend time with them. He knows that his grandparents love it when he sits there with them and laughs with them when they talk about their old stories. Daniel probably knows every story by heart now, but he doesn't mind listening to them over and over again, because he knows that this makes his grandparents happy.

From these stories, we have learned that honoring our parents also means showing kindness to them and making them happy. If we appreciate our parents' love, we will always try to make them happy. In addition, we have also learned that we need to extend our love to our grandparents. They are the parents of our parents, and our parents honor them, too. Think about it, if we don't honor our grandparents, whom our parents love very much, how hurt would our parents be? And if we hurt our parents, we're not honoring them. So, honoring our parents requires us to also do the same to our grandparents. They love us as much as our parents do.

After all, honoring our parents or grandparents is not that difficult. We know that they love us, and naturally, we just want to love them back! With love comes respect, appreciation, and kindness; equipped with all three, we can easily follow the fifth commandment. But sometimes, we may find it difficult to honor our parents when they discipline us. Raise your hand if you have been disciplined or "punished" by your parents before. As you can see, it is common for parents to discipline their children. Why is that? There has to be a reason behind it. Do you know why your parents discipline you? Don't tell me the answer yet. Let me first share a story with you to which we can all relate:

Carmen is at the mall with her mom shopping for a birthday gift for Carmen's little brother. As soon as they enter the toy store, Carmen asks her mom if she may go to the Girls section. Her mom replies, "You can go look around for 10 minutes. When you are done, come back and meet me here. Remember though, today we're getting a birthday gift for your brother and nothing else. If you see something you like, you'll have to wait until next month as we agreed, okay?" Carmen nods and quickly leaves. 10 minutes later, Carmen returns from the Girls section...

**Carmen:** [Holding a toy] Mom, can I get this? I know! I agreed that we're not getting another toy until next month. But remember last year when it was my birthday, you got something for James, too? To be fair, I should also get a new toy on his birthday!

**Mom:** Carmen, we already agreed on not getting a new toy this month. You cannot change your mind now. Also, last year I got James a book on your birthday only because I saw that book while shopping for your gift, and I thought it was a great book for James to learn the alphabet! Technically, it wasn't a gift.

**Carmen:** [Raising her voice] No! That's unfair! All I know is that James did get something on my birthday last year, and I should get something today, too!

**Mom:** Carmen, I know you really like this toy, but we're not getting it because we agreed on it. You already got a new toy last week, and we cannot spend more money

on buying toys this month. If you really like this, we'll come back next month and get it. Daddy and I don't want you to spend too much money on toys. That's why we made this agreement, remember?

**Carmen:** [Voice still raised] I don't care! It's just not fair! This is not that expensive at all! I'm not spending a lot! I want this! I'm getting it today!

In the end, Carmen left the toy store crying because her mom would not let her get a new toy. That night, Carmen's mom had a long talk with Carmen about what happened. She was very disappointed that Carmen talked back to her and raised her voice. As "punishment," she took away all the toys Carmen had in her room for three days. She wanted Carmen to learn to appreciate all the toys she already had and to understand that it was not right for her to talk back to her mom or to break their agreement. For the next three days, Carmen prayed and thought about the whole matter and she finally understood the lesson her mom wanted to teach her and apologized to her. Carmen now knows that her mom only wants her to learn how to spend reasonably and be content with what she already has.

From this story, can you tell me now why our parents sometimes discipline us? [Let students answer.] Like Carmen, sometimes we make mistakes and we don't realize it right away. Our parents, however, don't want us to make the same mistakes again. They want us to learn a lesson from these mistakes so that we can do better next time. Imagine if Carmen's mom didn't talk to Carmen about what she did wrong at the toy store. Carmen would probably do the same thing again next time when she sees something she really wants to buy. Carmen's mom didn't want to "punish" Carmen, but she did it because she knew that Carmen could better understand how to appreciate her toys more through this experience. During the three days without her toys, Carmen probably thought that her mom was being mean and not loving. But we can see that Carmen's mom disciplined her because she loves her! If she didn't love Carmen, she would not have spent the time to tell her what she did wrong. Carmen's mom probably didn't feel good about punishing Carmen either, but she did it because she doesn't want Carmen to make the same mistakes again. Hebrews 12:11 says, "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Our parents certainly know that we don't like to be disciplined. So why do they still do it? Because they want us to be better. They love us so much that they are not willing to see us doing what is wrong. It's their responsibility to train us in the way we should go, that is, the path that is right in the eyes of God. So next time,

when our parents discipline us, try to think about the lesson they want us to learn. And when we finally see where they are coming from, we'll see that they love us very much—so much that they only want the best for us.

Now, let's talk about the commandment's second part. Honoring our parents is honoring God and by honoring our parents, we will receive more blessings. In fact, this commandment is the first commandment with a promise! Let's turn to Exodus 20:12. What is the blessing that God has promised us if we honor our parents? [Let students answer.] "That your days may be long upon the land." Remember what the first four commandments are? [Let students answer.] The first four commandments all teach us to love God and honor Him. But God knows that if we are unable to obey our earthly parents, we will be unable to love Him as our heavenly Father. So, by honoring our parents, we are showing God that we are willing to honor Him. Similarly, if we fail to respect, appreciate, and be kind to our parents, God knows that we will continue to fail Him also. This is not what God wants from us. God wants us to live a life that gives glory and honor to Him. He has promised to give us a long life if we honor our parents, because this is the very first step in showing God that we are willing to live a life that honors Him.

Students, our parents love us very much. They are the ones that truly care about us and unconditionally give to us. We can trust and rely on them all the time. Their love for us is a genuine demonstration of God's love towards all

of us, and it will hurt Him very much if we continuously take our parents' love for granted. When we don't honor our parents, God, too, is dishonored. "Why don't My children respect My commandment? Why doesn't he appreciate how much I've done for him? Why isn't she kind to Me?" All these questions come to His mind when we dishonor our parents. Is this how we want our heavenly Father to think about us? Certainly not. What can we do? [Let students answer.] It all starts with honoring our parents!

**For Teachers:** Help your students identify areas where they have trouble honoring their parents. What are some things that they do that make their parents unhappy? What actions can they take to make a change? Help them understand that their parents only want what is the best for them. Listening to their parents will actually help them develop and grow. You may also want to point out to your students that honoring their parents does not simply mean obeying everything they are asked to do (within the boundaries of Biblical teachings). It also means taking the initiative to do something for their parents that will make them happy. Discuss with your students about what their parents like and what they can do for them. After the discussion, help your students create a practical list of five things they can do to honor and obey their parents. You can have them write the five things down on an 8"x11" piece of paper, and then have them date it and sign the bottom to signify their commitment. A sample is provided on the next page.

## HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. D
3. Joseph told his brothers to bring his father back to Egypt. He gave his father many gifts and gave him the best land in Egypt to live on.
4. C
5. A
6. Ruth followed Naomi to her hometown in order to take care of her. She went to the fields every day to gather grain for them to eat.
7. B
8. Jesus obeyed His parents by returning home with them.
9. Answers may vary.



## Life Application Activity Sample

## How I Can Honor My Parents

1. Sometimes when I wake up in the morning, I am very grouchy. I know this makes my mommy sad because she only wants to wake me up to get ready for school. To show my love to my mommy, I will wake up with a smile on my face and say "good morning" to her.
2. I get into fights with my brother many times over toys. This makes my parents unhappy because they say we should not fight. To honor my parents and make them happy, I will let my brother have the toys he wants.
3. My mommy and daddy are extremely happy when I finish my homework before bedtime. I will honor them by always doing my homework before I play a video game.
4. My daddy loves to sit on his favorite couch reading his newspaper. My daddy also likes to drink tea. I will show my daddy that I love him by offering to get him a cup of hot tea next time I see him reading his newspaper.
5. My mommy works so hard to prepare yummy meals for me. I will show her how much I love her by offering to wash the dishes after dinner.

September 1, 2011

Susie

## ACTIVITY

1

**Honor Your Parents****Objective:** To help students identify ways they can honor their parents.**Instructions:** Read the following sentences. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to show how you can honor your parents.

1. I can help by \_\_\_\_\_ after each meal and \_\_\_\_\_ the garbage out.

2. I can \_\_\_\_\_ the family car.

3. I can help \_\_\_\_\_ the laundry after it has been washed and dried.

4. I can \_\_\_\_\_ to God and ask Him to guide my parents.

5. I can show my obedience by doing things when my parents \_\_\_\_\_ me to do them.

6. I can show honor by \_\_\_\_\_ my parents when they call for me.

7. I can help my parents by keeping my room \_\_\_\_\_.

8. I can make my parents happy by not \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2

**Appreciation Tickets**

**Objective:** To help students show their appreciation and love for their parents.

**Materials**

- Blank or construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors

**Instructions**

1. Ask each student to create three tickets that they can give to their parents. Each of the tickets should include something they want to do for their parents. These things can include washing the car or dishes, tidying up their room, or something their parents want them to do.
2. Their parents can redeem these tickets at a later time. The tickets should be a manageable size but also large enough for writing and drawing (6" by 4" is a reasonable size).
3. Have the students decorate their tickets and ensure that their parents are aware of the tickets. Explain to their parents that this is one way their children can show their love and respect for them.

## 3

**Thank-You Card**

**Objective:** To help students show their appreciation to their parents by saying "thank you."

**Materials**

- Blank or construction paper
- Markers
- Scissors

**Instructions**

1. At the beginning of class, the students should have brainstormed a list of things that their parents do for them every day. Review the list with them and reiterate once again how their parents show their love to them every day through all their actions.
2. Have the students make a thank-you card for their mom and dad telling them how much they appreciate all the things that they do.

## 4

**Remember the Commandments / Optional**

**Objective:** To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

**Instructions**

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: "**5. Honor your father and your mother.**"

E1 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 5—Filial Piety

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth:** God promised to bless those who honor their parents.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To understand that honoring our parents is a commandment from God.  
2. To learn how to love and respect our parents.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Ephesians 6:1)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

*Understanding What You Have Learned*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : **When Jacob called to Joseph, Joseph replied \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. "I am busy."
  - b. "Here I am."
  - c. "Don't bother me."
  - d. "I can't hear you!"
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : **What did Jacob want Joseph to do?**
  - a. Buy some milk
  - b. Read a book
  - c. Feed the family sheep
  - d. Look for his brothers
  
3. **How did Joseph take care of his father Jacob?** \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Naomi was Ruth's \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. Daughter
  - b. Grandmother
  - c. Mother-in-law
  - d. Aunt
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Ruth followed Naomi to her hometown in \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. Bethlehem
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Jordan
  - d. Moab
  
6. **How did Ruth take care of Naomi?** \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : **Where did Jesus' parents take Him to during Passover?**
  - a. Bethlehem
  - b. Jerusalem
  - c. Jordan
  - d. Moab
  
8. **How did Jesus obey His parents?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. **I obeyed my parents this week by \_\_\_\_\_.**  
\_\_\_\_\_