**1. Motivate**

What is a favorite memory of time you spent with your parents?

* Mom’s cooking
* sports with Dad
* fishing together
* building a garage together
* rebuilding a car together
* cooking together
* road trips
* camping out
* they read story books at bed time
* walked me to school the first day
* helped me with homework
* shot baskets in the driveway
* taught my Sunday School class
* Mom prayed for me a lot

An introductory video is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/0_dzqqi0s5> If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download from <https://tinyurl.com/y3esef24>

**2. Transition**

It’s great to have some good family memories.

* God intends good family relationships in both directions.
* He calls for us to honor our parents as seen in our words and actions.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Honor Parents God Has Placed in Your Life

Listen for the result of obedience.

Exodus 20:12 (NIV) "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

How does the phrasing of the fifth commandment differ from that of most of the other commandments?

* most of the others are “thou shalt not”
* this is given as a positive command
* this also has a promise or at least a positive result

To whom was the commandment directed?

* Children
* young children
* and adult children

What are its implications for the future?

* long life
* good life in the land the Lord gives
* pay attention to godly parents and you learn to live a godly life yourself
* obedience brings blessing

What are good ways to teach our children parental respect?

* model the attitude of respect by how we communicate with one another as husband and wife
* show respect to others (bosses, police, people who serve us in stores and restaurants)
* don’t make unreasonable demands on children (which tend to result in rebellion)
* be willing to apologize to children when we say or do something wrong
* give reasonable limits of what they are allowed to do, then hold them to it
* explain reasons for limitations you put on them
* be quick to listen to their questions and requests, quick to respond
* pray for them and with them often

What are some ways parents can be honored in both word and action by young (still living at home) children?

* obedience – even when they’re not watching
* don’t talk back or sass
* “yes sir” and “yes mam”
* pay attention to the wisdom they share
* don’t rebel, even when you might disagree with them
* help around the house with chores (without complaining)
* express thankfulness
* talk respectfully of them, even to your peers

What are some ways parents can be honored in both word and action by adult children?

* help them with physical chores and new technology as they are older
* watch out for them
* be their advocate as they are aged
* help them celebrate important milestones (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)
* make important decisions for them

What are some similarities between honoring your parents and honoring God?

* submission to authority
* serving in practical ways
* acts of kindness
* pay attention to advice
* communicate with them/Him often

3.2 Honor Truthfulness and Integrity

Listen for a negative example, *dis*honoring parents.

2 Samuel 15:7-12 (NIV) At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD. 8 While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: 'If the LORD takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron.'" 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he went to Hebron. 10 Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" 11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. 12 While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.

Backstory lecture concerning this passage about King David and his son Absalom

* Previously Absalom had been out of favor, fled the country, now returned
* Absalom campaigned to undermine and usurp his father’s position.
* Intercepted people coming to Jerusalem, seeking aid and to resolve grievances.
* Lied to these people that the king did not have anyone to listen to their claims.
* A rebellion in Jerusalem would have been unwise, David had large support
* Absalom explained to his father he had previously vowed to worship the Lord in Hebron if God would bring him back to Jerusalem.

In what way might David have been naive?

* did not mend his relationship to Absalom
* was totally ignoring him
* wanted to think the best … “that’s nice, worship in Hebron”
* didn’t pause to think that Absalom might have bitterness for the years of separation
* somehow was unaware of Absalom’s undermining him

How is this story a negative illustration of the fifth commandment?

* not only is David Absalom’s father, he is the *king*
* he is not honoring the king
* he is actually plotting against him
* probably willing to kill David if the opportunity arises
* actively working to take away honor of the king, even that of other citizens

How does seeking a parent’s welfare honor them?

* shows you are concerned for them
* doing good things for them shows honor
* keeping a good relationship

 How did your desire to honor your parents impact your decisions?

* didn’t want to embarrass them
* didn’t want to bring dishonor to their name
* believed they knew best in most situations
* wouldn’t go to places they would disapprove of
* I wanted to stay out of trouble and that would honor them
* even as an adult, remember some of their advice on all kinds of things

How does truthfulness and integrity honor parents?

* shows they taught you right
* they will be pleased and proud of your honesty
* reflects on how your parents lived, how they modeled those qualities
* we are very much the product of how we were raised
* living a life of honesty does much to show how parents taught and lived that way also
* the opposite is true also, David may not have handled things right with his children as seen by Absalom’s rebellion

3.3 “Honor” Seeks Welfare of Parents

Listen for David’s initial response to the revolt.

2 Samuel 15:13-14 (NIV) A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." 14 Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

What discouraging message came to David in Jerusalem? (15:13)

* the people of Israel were following Absalom
* they liked him, he had won their admiration and support
* in effect, Absalom’s currying favor had worked to undermine David’s support of the people

Why did David feel it was necessary to leave the city? Why was his decision to flee Jerusalem a wise one?

* he said they better leave immediately
* they had to escape Absalom’s wrath
* he might overtake the royal party
* both the king and the city would suffer if they tried to resist

What do you read between the lines to indicate David was not ready to relinquish the kingship?

* retreat for now
* live to fight another day
* escape from him initially
* David’s officials were still with him
* he still had support of capable people

The rest of the story … (lecture)

* David and his company journeyed beyond the Jordan River
* There they organized and prepared for battle.
* The rebellion ended when David’s forces defeated Absalom’s forces.
* Absalom was killed in the battle
* Eventually David was restored to the throne of Israel (2 Sam. 18–19).

Not altogether a happy ending. What advice for us can we glean from these events?

* treat your children right and they will usually respond in kind
* model treating your own parents right and your children will likely do the same for you
* don’t turn against your parents, it will likely have a bad ending
* be careful in handling rebellious children
* God’s ways are the best
* allowing God to produce the Fruit of the Spirit in your life goes a long way to enrich a family – in both directions on the family tree

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Repent.

* We have all failed in one way or another when it comes to showing our parents honor or living honorably so that our children will honor us.
* Confess and repent of any sins of dishonor you have had or any ways you have made it difficult for your children to honor you.

Model.

* Determine to be a model of truthfulness and integrity before others
* Especially your children, your grandchildren, and the children of others.

Act.

* Do something tangible to help and support parents with young children in your church.
* For senior adults whose parents are no longer living, you can show them honor by how you talk about them.
* If this is you, share with someone the role your parents played in your life and how God used them to shape you into the person you are today.

Cryptogram Puzzle

A recent traveler in the country of Alsland Jande found this scrap of paper and delivered it to our embassy. The resident ~~spy~~ cultural attaché recognized the code and sent us both the message and the key on the right. Turns out it is from the mother of your Bible Study leader. Can you decode it and communicate it to your teacher? If you get stuck, get help at <https://tinyurl.com/y3esef24> where there are other intriguing Family Activities also.

