

# Ambassadors

## Lesson 10



# What's The Big Deal About Parents?

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**B**elieve it or not, this commandment that we are studying today may be the most difficult commandment for some to swallow. This commandment is beginning to hit home...literally. And the key aspect of this commandment is that we honor our parents. Exodus 20:12 says:

***“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.”***



The beginning of the Ten Commandments dealt with our relationship with God. These next ones will begin to deal with how we deal with others beginning with our parents, legal guardians or whoever is taking care of us. You may be thinking, “Well...this is easy. I love my mom and dad.” And that is true. But let’s notice that God asked us to **Honor** our parents, not simply **love** them.

As a young person growing up, this was the most difficult commandment for me to follow. There was no doubt about it, I loved my parents, but as I grew older and began to discover some things, I had issues to deal with. My parents were divorced when I was 14 and the adjustment for me was not smooth at all. But the fact of the matter is God, all throughout the Bible, speaks about relationships between children and their parents.

In the book of Leviticus, chapter 19 and verse 3 God speaks to us that we should:

***...reverence (your) mother and (your) father...***

And also look at Ephesians 6:1-3:

***“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2”Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3”that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”***

*Honor means: To hold in respect; esteem. To show respect for someone or something.*

If you notice also in this passage, the author makes notice of something. He mentions that this commandment is the first one that comes with a **promise**. (see verse 2)

The Ten Commandments, beginning with this one, are now starting to focus on our relationships with others. But at the same time the focus is never off of God. His desire is for us to honor and serve Him, not only in our direct worship toward Him, but also in the way we act toward one another. God (being our “Heavenly Father”) understands that we can’t neglect what He has given us . . . and that is **our parents**. This was the difficult lesson for me to learn.

No matter how much I prayed, memorized scripture, shared my faith with others, attended church, listened to Christian music, or did anything spiritual, if I didn’t honor my parents it didn’t mean anything.

What made it difficult for me was that I had a lot of anger issues with my father. There were times when I wished he would just disappear so I wouldn’t have to deal with him. But Jesus set the example that we are to love and show love all times. **Look up and read Matthew 5:21-22.**



It wasn’t until I began to actively engage myself in not only loving my mom and dad, but also honoring them that I began to see a difference. God’s promises are always true and I can testify that God was pleased with that. My dad wasn’t saved and he had a drug addiction that he felt like he couldn’t fight off. But God allowed me to witness to my dad by honoring him. And that took a lot of work.

I had to learn to respect him. As grown as I thought I was, he was still my father. And keep in mind, all this stems from the fact that God has commanded us to *“honor your father and mother...”*

I had to learn not to talk bad about him. Because nowhere in the Bible will you see God asking us to do something outside of His will, like talk down about somebody. Ephesians 4:29 says:

***“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”***

And lastly, what better way could I honor my parents than by being the best son to them that I could be, the way God has purposed it. Just think about it . . . ***you can honor your parents by living a godly lifestyle.*** Proverbs 10:1 says...

***“A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother.”***

It was at this point in my life when I began to notice my faith really take shape. I committed to being physically and spiritually pure, and finally becoming a man of the Word.

***“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15***

**Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CIYbBjTMD8>

# Think About It



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/qAyrJ9hknmn5da7HA>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links that are on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the one promise that God gives in the Fifth Commandment?
2. What is the difference in loving your parents and honoring your parents?
3. Why do you think God desires us to honor our parents?
4. What are some ways you can honor your parents?
5. What is the best way you can honor your parents?