

Life Group Topic #14
Giving Honor on Mother's Day

Exodus 20:3-17

WELCOME: (15 minutes)

Tell one incident that describes for you why you will always honor your mother.

WORSHIP: (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group's attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

WORD APPLICATION: (45 minutes)

Briefly read or paraphrase the following sermon summary before moving to the heart of this section: the discussion around the application questions.

Honor in the Greek means *to highly value, prize or esteem...to ascribe worth to*. There are three levels of worth implied in Scripture...

- Intrinsic worth because we are created in God's image
- Character worth because of what we display in character
- Performance worth because of what we have accomplished

Every person we meet qualifies in at least one category and is deserving of honor. The 5th commandment was among the foundational elements from which a nation was built...*honor your father and mother...*look at the order of the commandments— Exodus 20:3-17

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

The order of the commandments indicates that honoring parents grows out of a strong relationship with God. The word honor means *to regard or treat with honor or respect*. However, when God says honor your father and mother, the Hebrew carried the thought of *to weigh down with respect and prestige...to place upon someone great worth and value*. Our culture honors youth, wealth, beauty and athletic ability, not parents, the elderly or the wise and righteous

TRUTHS FOR CHILDREN

1. This is a God-created, God-sustained world. If we do things God's way in God's world, God will be responsible for the results. If we do things our way, we have to be responsible for the results.
2. If you want to change a person's life, you have to change their belief.
3. Satan's primary tactic is deception. He tries to cause us to believe lies—especially about God and who we are as the children of God.
4. In order to change the way a person feels about his/her circumstances, lies must be replaced with the truth. It is the truth that sets us free.

Dennis Rainey, in his book entitled, THE TRIBUTE says...

HONORING IS NOT...

- Approving of parent's wrong actions or choices

- Placing yourself back under their emotional or physical control
- Endorsing irresponsibility
- Denying what they have done wrong
- Flattering them by ignoring the emotional or physical pain they may have caused you or your family members

HONORING IS...

- Choosing to place value on your relationship with them
- Taking the initiative to improve the relationship
- Obeying them until you establish yourself as an adult
- Recognizing what they have done right in your life and have passed on to you as a legacy
- Seeing them through the eyes of Christ, with understanding and compassion
- Forgiving them as Christ forgave you

The command comes with a promise in Exodus 20:12...if we honor our father and mother *we will live long in the land that God is giving us*—Deuteronomy 5:16 adds...*that it may go well with you*. It is the only commandment tied to a promise. If we want to live our lives with God's favor on us, then we must respond to this command.

Word Application Questions:

Please keep in mind that these questions are meant as catalysts designed to get the group talking about life application.

- 1. The order of the commandments in Exodus 20 would indicate that honoring your parents grows out of a strong relationship with God. Do you agree or disagree? Why?**
- 2. Do you agree with the statement:** *Our culture honors youth, wealth, beauty and athletic ability, not parents, the elderly or the wise and righteous?*
- 3. Do you find yourself in this cultural grip, or are you moving in the direction of honoring what God honors? How will you be freed from cultural norms?**
- 4. Consider what honoring is NOT from the list above. Are you able to be honest about pain you have felt in your family relationships, while still honoring your parents?**
- 5. Consider the section above on what honoring is! Which of those particularly speaks to you today? How can you move forward to honor your parents in such a way?**

Comments: A lesson like this particularly opens us up to the stark realities of family relationships- both positive and negative. Be open to speaking into each others' lives as the Holy Spirit leads, towards healing, forgiveness, and honoring in our relationships with our parents.

WITNESS: (15 minutes): Soul Cravings

This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. Soul Cravings booklets and the training DVDs are available at the church office.