



# HONOR YOUR PARENTS

## PREVIEW

Honoring our parents isn't always easy to do. They can be embarrassing; they can be overbearing; they can be downright mean. But most parents have their children's best interests in mind. The Bible commands us to honor our parents, and if we follow this command, we will be blessed.

## PRAISE

Let's talk about our parents for a minute. What is one of the coolest things your parents have ever done? What is the most embarrassing thing they have ever done?

## PARABLE

There was once a mother who, in her old age, had to move in with her son's family. Things weren't working out too well because the daughter-in-law was a neat freak and the mother-in-law was not. The old lady left things lying around, she was forgetful, and she had a tendency to drop things.

One night at dinner while the old mother was passing a plate of food, she dropped it on the floor and it shattered into a thousand pieces. The daughter-in-law went ballistic! Not only was the floor a mess, but that plate was part of her prized china set. After dinner had been eaten and everything had been cleaned up, the wife told her husband to walk down to the store and buy a tin plate. "What for?" he asked. She answered, "From now on your mother is going to use the tin plate so she won't break any more of my china." The husband left and came back with two tin plates. The wife said, "Why did you buy two?" He said, "The other plate is for you—for when you get old."

## PRESENT

All humans have at least one thing in common: we all have or have had parents. Even Jesus obeyed the Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother." We are never too old to honor our parents, and our parents are never too old to be honored.

**Read John 19:26–27.**

If Jesus, as He was dying, could honor His mother by asking the apostle John to take her into his home, how much more should we honor our parents in our daily living? The older our parents get, the more determined we should be to love them and look after them. We should care for them more compassionately as they age because parents are never a burden; they are a blessing.

# PRACTICE

Of course, it is obvious our relationship with our parents will have ups and downs. That is typical of any relationship, especially with people we're around all the time. So how do we deal with our mom and dad during the times when they're shredding our last nerve—doing things like telling us the same thing a million times! A great place to start would be Exodus 20:12.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (KJV).

The New Living Testament says, "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

Now you might have read that and thought, "I know . . . yada yada yada." If we look only on the surface of this verse, it won't do us any good. We need to examine it to understand what it means for us today. The word I want to highlight is "honor." What does honor mean? How does it affect us? Ask the group: What do you think of when you think of the word "honor"? Awards? Being recognized?

Those are all good responses. But if we take a closer look at the word "honor," we will find that in the context of this verse it means "to make heavy." Now, I know what some of you are thinking: What would Mom or Dad look like if they weighed 750 pounds? But that's not what this kind of "heavy" means.

When something is heavy, it requires a little more work to lift it. It takes a little more focus to make sure you don't drop it. Our parents' words should be "heavy"; that is, treated with significance. You and I both know that when our parents are talking it's easy to tune them out and think about anything but what they're saying to us. Yet Exodus 20:12 tells us the words and actions of our parents should weigh heavy on our minds and our hearts. It may take a little more work, effort, and focus, but in the end we will receive wisdom that we need to make it through life.

**Read Proverbs 4:1–7.**

All of us should be seeking wisdom. And, as seen in these passages, just taking time to listen to our parents and taking their words to heart will help us get that.

## PRAY

God, thank You for the opportunity You have given us today to gather and talk about your Word and how it applies to our lives today. Thank You for our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Lord, remind us the next time we want to be sarcastic or ignore our parents that You have commanded us to make their words “heavy” in our lives. Help us to take the time and really listen to the things our parents have to say, and to apply them daily. I pray that You will bless us this week in class and help us to do our best for Your name’s sake. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## PLUS

If time allows, discuss the following questions with your P7 club members:

- Do you think we can do a better job in honoring our parents?
- What are some ways we can honor our parents more?
- What sacrifices will we have to make in order to make this happen?