

HONOR MOM AND DAD

The Tender Commandments

EXODUS 20:12

Ice Breaker: What is the first memory you have of your parents?

BACKGROUND: The Ten Commandments are more than a list of rules, they are loving direction from a Father's heart. The first four deal with our relationship with God, the last six are about loving others. Simply put: love God, love others.

THE BIG PICTURE: Family matters. The fifth commandment focuses on the first important earthly relationship in our lives: our mom and dad. When we honor them, we are honoring God.

DIGGING DEEPER:

READ PSALM 68:4-6. When you think of God the Father, what do you picture? How does the relationship with your earthly father affect how you think of God? How does this scripture give you freedom to trust in God more fully?

READ EXODUS 20:12. Why do you think this commandment is placed at the beginning of the commands concerning our relationships with others?

EPHESIANS 6:1-4.

First, direction is given to children: Obey your parents.

- Exactly what is meant by the word "children"? At what age do you stop being "a child" to your parent?
- Define obey. Why is obedience so important? What do children learn by obeying their parents?
- What should we do if our parents are abusive? Have you ever had to deal with a situation where you had to choose between obeying your parents and obeying God? How did you deal with the situation? (See how Peter handled a difficult situation with authorities: Read Acts 5:29)

Verse 2-3: honor your father and mother.

- What does the word "honor" mean to you? What does it mean to honor our parents? What are some practical ways we can honor our parents? How do we honor dishonorable parents?
- Why do you think there is a promise attached to this particular commandment? How might that promise be fulfilled? What are the benefits of honoring our parents?

Finally, in verse 4, direction is given to fathers:

- (1) Don't provoke your kids to anger. Have you ever said, "When I have kids, I will never ___ like my parents did? Like what? What are some things that parents might do to "exasperate" their children?
- (2) Discipline. What does discipline mean? Why is discipline necessary? What happens when discipline is missing?
- (3) Instruct. What kind of instruction is mentioned here? How can parents implement this?

CONCLUSION:

- Why does God insist that we honor our parents? What challenged you the most from today's passage?
- How do you see God's love and grace in this commandment?