For the Family

**Read together** Exodus 20:12 – Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the **LORD** your God is giving you.

**Explain** that "honor" means to show respect. When we honor someone, we listen to them. We don’t interrupt or speak loudly or rudely to them. We do what they ask of us (unless it goes against God’s rules).

**Read or Tell the Story** of the boy Jesus in the Temple, from Luke 2:41-52

**Explain** how at age 12, Jesus would have been considered almost a man. When the people went to Jerusalem for one of the festivals, they would travel in large groups, with the women and children up front, and the men in the back. Jesus’ mother Mary probably thought he was with his father Joseph, and Joseph probably thought he was with Mary.

After they had traveled a full day (walking about 20 miles!) they realized he wasn’t with them. They returned the next day, and found him on the third day. He was in the Temple asking questions of the many Rabbis there. He impressed everyone with how much he knew.

When his parents found him, Jesus told them that he had to be in “his Father’s house.” He meant God the Father. Jesus, even at age 12, understood that he was God’s son. But he also knew that he was still Mary and Joseph’s son, and that he needed to honor them. He returned with them, and obeyed them.

If Jesus could honor his parents, then we should too!

**Talk Together** about practical ways to honor your parents.

**Review** the first six commandments:

- **Put God First**
- **Worship Him Only**
- **Keep God’s Name Holy**
- **Keep the Lord’s Day Holy**
- **Honor your Parents**
- **Do not Murder**

**Pray together** that you will be able to always honor your parents.
Connecting the Dots

1. Jesus our Example
Note: Jews traveling to Jerusalem for the festivals would have traveled in large groups, with the women and children in the front and the men in the back. Jesus, at age 12, was considered to be almost a man. Mary probably thought he was with Joseph, and Joseph probably thought he was with Mary. At the end of the first day’s journey (about 20 miles!), they realized he wasn’t with them. They traveled back to Jerusalem, and found him in the Temple the next day.

What do we learn about the kind of child Jesus was from this story?

How much did he know about his mission?
What did his parents know?
What was his response to his parents? (vs. 51)

2. Finding ways to escape this responsibility
Read Mark 7:5-13

What tradition enabled the Pharisees and scribes to ignore the commandment to honor their parents?

What reasons could someone use today to avoid taking care of their parents?

3. Paul’s Teaching on Family
Read Colossians 3:12-21

How do the characteristics and behaviors listed in verses 12-17 affect the relationship between parents and children (vs. 20)?
Think through them one at a time. For example, how does compassion affect that relationship? Kindness? And so on.

Read Ephesians 6:1-4
What would a home which put these into practice look like?

What would it sound like?

Continuing the Journey

1. If your parents are still alive, how would you rate your relationship with them?
Is there anything you need to do in order to honor them?

2. If you have a broken relationship with your parents, is there anything you need to forgive them for? Can you do that?
Is it possible to seek reconciliation? If so, can you do that?

3. If you have children at home, what can you do to help them honor you as their parent?

4. Which of the Next Steps will you commit to?

Next Steps:

☐ I will honor God as my Father and seek to obey his commands.
☐ As a parent, I will evaluate my priorities and turn my heart back to my children.
☐ As an adult with aging parents, I will seek the necessary support to help me as I strive to honor my parents.
☐ As a child living at home with my parents, I will refuse to let the world tell me how to interact with my parents.
☐ I will take a stand against anything that threatens God’s design for my family.

Memory Verse – Exodus 20:12 – Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

During this series we will be memorizing a simplified version of the 10 Commandments. Here are the first six:

You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make or worship any idol.
You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Honor your father and mother
You shall not murder