



# Honoring Parents

## OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand the reverence and respect God asks us to give our parents and to help them examine their attitudes and actions towards parents and others God has placed in authority over them.

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

We are commanded to honor our parents. So what? What does this mean in a world where teenagers are expected to rebel, where most portrayals of parents on television are stupid and where some parents don't act in very honorable ways toward their own children? Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this truth: We are commanded to honor our parents. This is not a suggestion, but a command of God. Only this commandment comes with a promise specifically attached. We are to honor our parents "so that the days may be long in the land the Lord gives us." So now what?

## FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



**SHARE** highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



**READ** and highlight the theme verse, Exodus 20:12, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com), FINKlink TC04.



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

### B. ROLE PLAY

1. You are two hours past curfew and return home, meeting your parents at the door. What do you do?
2. You believe your parents are abusing alcohol. What do you say? How do you honor them?

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**1. List five common ways people dishonor their parents. Imagine yourself as a parent of a teenager. Which of these “dis-honoring” ways would bother you most? Why?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. These may include lying to parents, showing open disrespect, cursing parents, refusing to help around the home when asked, or promising to do a chore but not following through. Share your own feelings on this. Ask them to honestly consider this question.

**2. List five common ways people honor their parents. Imagine yourself as a parent of a teenager. Which of these honoring ways would mean the most to you? Why?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Encourage youth to do something positive to honor their parents this week and be sure to check up on this next time you meet.

**3. Does God expect you to honor a parent who is involved in something illegal, immoral or abusive? How can you?** It is difficult to honor someone if that person is acting in a dishonorable way. If what parents are doing is clearly harmful to themselves and others, we may need to respectfully and clearly let them know that we can have no part in it. Our first loyalty as Christians is to God. If someone, even a parent, is breaking the laws of God, the most honorable thing to do may be to state why we know it is wrong and to offer to get that person help.

**D. QUOTATIONS** Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

**E. TERMS OF THE WEEK** Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Authority:** The power to enforce laws, exact obedience, determine, or judge.

**Children:** A son or daughter; an offspring.

**Honor:** To show respect and publicly esteem someone.

**Parents:** The people God has appointed to nurture, teach and raise you. This might include biological parents, adoptive parents and guardians.

**Respect:** To hold something in honor and esteem. (Literally: to look again)

## F. GROUP BUSINESS

**1. Servant Event Idea:** Try one of the following: 1) Go to every home and wash a car for each parent in your group; 2) Reserve the fellowship hall, cook a special meal, send engraved invitations and stage a candlelight dinner honoring parents; 3) Take the oldest members of your church out for brunch and ask them to tell you about their confirmation years.

**2. FAITH5 Home Huddle:** Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

**G. WRAP UP** Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



**PRAY** for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



**BLESS** one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

