

OBEDY AND HONOR YOUR PARENTS

FOCUS

To learn the importance of obeying and honoring our parents.

TODAY'S TIP

The child that has never learned to obey his parents in the home, will never obey God or man outside the home.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bright construction paper
- Pencils / Scissors / Markers
- Scotch tape / Yarn

1 WELCOME & SINGING

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Ask questions about their week.
- Lead group in a chorus or two.
- Take prayer requests and
- Announce subject of today's lesson.

2 DISCUSSION

Today, we will read and meditate on some scriptures that speak of parents and their children. Before class, write at least 6 of the following scripture references on separate pieces of paper. During class let students draw one or two scriptures out of a hat. After each student reads, give the class time to think and meditate on it, as well as to discuss it together briefly.

Proverbs 1: 8 ----- Pay attention to your parents' teaching.

Deuteronomy 5: 16 ----- Honor your parents as the Lord has commanded you.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 ----- Parents should teach their children the scriptures.

Matthew 18: 14 ----- Children must be taught so they won't be lost.

1 Samuel 8: 1 ----- Consequences of not training children to live godly lives.

Proverbs 4: 3-4 ----- Parents must teach their children to seek wisdom.

Proverbs 13: 24 ----- Loving parents discipline their children

Matthew 18: 5-6 ----- Parents must never cause their children who believe in God to stumble (sin).

PRAYER: Thank God for the parents that He has given to your class members. Help them to know the importance of teaching and training their children as God has commanded. Help students to listen to and obey their parents in order to honor them and make their job easier.

3 MEMORY VERSE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right.
Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise.

Ephesians 6:1-2

4 OBEY & HONOR YOUR PARENTS

Your first verses this month are Ephesians 6:1-2, which are spoken to *children!* You may not like to think of yourself as a child anymore, but the fact is that as long as you live at home with your parents and are dependent on them to supply your needs, you need to **obey** your parents.

The command to honor your parents was first given in the ten commandments during the time of Moses. So you see, this command was given under the Old Covenant, but has also been given as a part of the New Covenant which is in force today. Ephesians 6:3 gives a promise to those who honor their parents; a long enjoyable life here on earth!

There is a difference between obeying and honoring. To obey means to do as you are told, to honor means to respect and love. Children are not commanded to disobey God in order to obey their parents. Our loyalty to God always comes **first**; but most of you do not have parents who will ask you to do sinful things. Adult children are not asked to cater to the whims of domineering parents; but the command to honor our parents lasts for as long as we and our parents live.

If our faith in Christ is real, it will usually prove itself at home in our relationships with those who know us best. Children should honor their parents even if the parents are demanding and unfair. Parents should care gently for their children, even if the children are disobedient and unpleasant. The goal to work for is for Christian parents and Christian children to relate to each other with thoughtfulness and love. This will happen if both parents and children will put the others' interests above their own – submitting to one another in love. The purpose of parents to discipline their children is to help children *grow* – not to irritate them or make them angry and discouraged.

Being a parent is not easy. It takes a lot of patience to raise children in a loving way that honors Christ. Every parent will sometimes make a mistake in disciplining their children. When this happens, you need to forgive them, remembering that here on earth no one is perfect; not even the *best* parent or child!

5 QUESTIONS

Finish the following sentences by placing the letter of the proper ending in the blank at the end of each beginning sentence.

PART I

BEGINNINGS

1. Why should we obey our parents. g
2. When we obey our parents, we are being d
3. The first commandment with a promise b
4. The first part of the promise f
5. The second part of the promise a
6. If our faith in Christ is real, e
7. To honor our parents means c

ENDINGS

- a. that you may enjoy long life on earth.
- b. Honor your father and mother.
- c. to respect and love them.
- d. obedient to the Lord.
- e. it will usually prove itself at home.
- f. that it may go well with you.
- g. It is the right thing to do.

PART II

Luke 2:51 tells us that Jesus was obedient to His parents when He was growing up. By obeying your parents, you are following Jesus' example. Share one thing that you want to change to become more obedient and to honor your parents.

6 ACTIVITY - Promise Coupons

This project is planned for students to honor their parents in a special way.

Have many bright colors of craft paper (cut in half) ready for this project.

Explain that each sheet of craft paper they pick out will be used to make a "promise coupon" to give to one (or both) parents. Since they are no longer small kids, each promise they choose to give should be a fairly major one. It is better to choose three or four fairly major promises than lots of little ones.

Some ideas of promises for this craft are:

1. Prepare a meal (or part of a meal). You choose what you will fix.
2. Do the total clean-up after a meal.
3. Take care of younger siblings while parents go out.
4. Pray for a parent every day for at least a month.
5. Clean their room thoroughly or clean the whole house for one or two weeks.
6. Wash the family car.
7. Take care of the family pet for a month. (It could include giving the pet a bath.)

After students have chosen three or four promises have them use the same number of different colored craft papers and trace around their hands on each paper. Next, cut out each hand pattern, write a promise on each one and write mom or dad whoever the promise is for. When the hands are finished, tape them together as shown on sample below. Attach a loop of yarn to one of the hands to make a hanger.

Have students take them home and present them to their parents.

