

The 4th Commandment: Honor

by Rev. Dennis Kneer

“Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long time in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

—Exodus 20:12 NIV

The 4th Commandment talks about honor. Here, God is telling us to obey and listen to our parents, leaders, bosses and those who are put in charge. God specifically talks about parents or guardians. **(Reread the Bible verse.)** God wants us to be respectful because He gives parents a great responsibility. They are to care for all the needs of their children—body, mind and soul. As we grow and learn about honoring others as children, we become adults worthy of honor.

- Think about the word honor. Who is someone you obey or listen to? Why?
- What is something important they have shown you or taught you?
- Have you ever shown or taught something important to someone?

The most important thing to show or teach others is the truth about Jesus Christ and how He loves, forgives and saves us. As Christians, we know Jesus loves us so much He died on the cross to save us from our sins. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven.

- Think about the things you know about Jesus. Who has talked to you about Jesus in your life?
- Can you remember who the first person was who told you about Jesus?
- If you do remember who that person was, have you ever thanked them for telling you about Jesus?

Many of us first heard about Jesus from our parents. If this is true for you, this is a wonderful gift! Parents have a tough job! They have a lot of responsibility! As children, we probably didn't realize how hard it is to be a parent. Many of us just listened to our parents because we were supposed to. But as we grew older and started to wonder about things, many of our parents or guardians were the ones who helped us see the right way to behave.

There are some of us, sadly, who do not have a good relationship with our parents. This can be very hard and upsetting. During times like this, we can follow God's commandment by being respectful, even if we don't agree with our parents or like how we feel about them. We can disagree and still be respectful.

- Think about times your parent or boss or leader upset you. Even if you did not agree with them, were you respectful?
- What are some ways you can show respect to those you are supposed to listen to and obey?
- If someone you are supposed to obey or listen to tries to force you to do something wrong, what could you do? How could you get help?

Prayer

Dear God,

Sometimes it is easy to respect others; sometimes it is not easy to respect others.

Help us choose our words wisely.

Help us behave in ways that bring You honor.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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