



Ten Commandments

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The Fifth Commandment

God said, "Honor your father and mother." (Exodus 20:12)
In other words: Respect and obey your parents!

Discussion

Ask students what it means to honor our parents. Their answers should include obedience and respect. Point out that God puts human mothers and fathers in charge of babies to take care of their needs and help them grow into adults. God has a perfect plan for each of us and that includes putting us in families that are just right for us. God calls Himself our heavenly Father and He says He comforts us as a mother comforts her child. Parents and children are important to God. Ask students to brainstorm things their parents do for them (providing their needs, loving them, protecting them from harm, taking care of them when they are sick or hurt, etc.). Our parents deserve our respect and honor. It pleases God when we obey them.

Bible Story (Luke 2:41–52)

When Jesus was 12 years old Mary and Joseph took Him with them on their yearly trip to the temple in Jerusalem. At age 12 He was old enough to study the Old Testament and understand the importance of obeying God. Jesus and his parents probably traveled to the big city and back home with a large group of friends and neighbors, so when Mary and Joseph did not see him on the trip back they did not think anything of it. But when the day ended and Jesus still could not be found, His parents got frightened. What if something had happened to Him? What if He was lost in the big city? The couple hurried back to Jerusalem and began looking everywhere for their son. Three days later they found Jesus in the temple listening to the religious teachers who were amazed at how well He understood the Scriptures. By that time Joseph and Mary were at their wits' end! "Son, why have you treated us like this?" Mary asked Him.

Jesus was surprised at His parents' concern. Time had passed quickly for Him in the temple. He probably had not even noticed that His parents weren't around. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" He asked them. They did not understand, but were ready to take Jesus back home. He did not argue with them or beg to stay just a little longer. Rather Jesus "went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them." (Luke 2:51) Jesus was the Son of God, the Creator of the Universe, but He obediently did what His earthly parents told Him. He honored them and respected Mary and Joseph as the parents God had chosen for Him.

Bible Verse

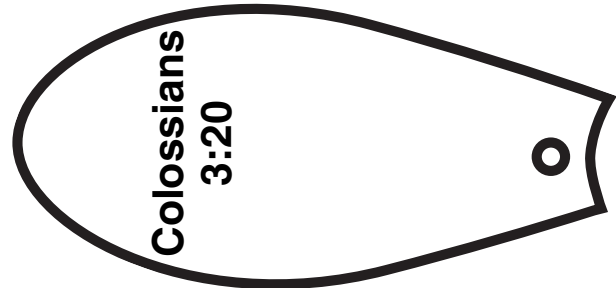
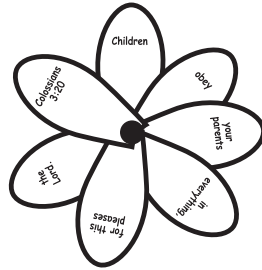
"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)

Honoring our parents means obeying them even when they are not around. To do something that you know your mom and dad would not permit you to do is disobedience both toward them and toward God.

Obedience Blossom

Materials

- patterns on this page
- colored markers or crayons
- scissors
- hole punch
- brad fastener



Directions

1. Copy this page and have students color lightly and cut out the seven flower petals.
2. Have them stack the petals together with the narrow part on the bottom.
3. Use a hole punch to punch a hole near the bottom of the petals. (You may need to punch three or four petals at a time.)
4. Show students how to insert the brad in the holes and bend it at the back to secure the petals together.
5. Have them spread the petals of the blossom apart to read the Bible verse.

