



TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS
HONORING PARENTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

PRAYER - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Then discuss last week's assignment:

- Were you able to share a time of intentional rest with a grandchild?
- What did you learn from your dialogue about why God wants us to rest?
- Where did you find yourself needing to stop striving and trust Christ's finished work?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *"Honoring Parents in a Changing World."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

WATCH: Episode 5: Honoring Parents in a Changing World

Episode Summary

The Fifth Commandment begins the commandments about loving others—and that love begins at home. God calls children to honor their fathers and mothers, but this commandment does not end when we grow up. We continue honoring our parents as they age, modeling respect for authority, and, as grandparents, respecting our adult children's authority over their own children.

At the same time, no earthly authority takes the place of our Heavenly Father. Our highest allegiance always belongs to God. Teaching this commandment means both explaining honor to our grandchildren and **showing them what it looks like in the way we honor others ourselves.**

The best way that we can teach respect and honor for those in authority is to model it.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

God's commandments give us a moral compass for navigating a world where truth and values are increasingly up for grabs. This eleven-part series explores the Ten Commandments and Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another as He has loved us. More than a list of restrictions, God's commands reveal His character, show us our need for Jesus, and guide us in passing on His legacy of love to the next generations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does honoring our earthly parents connect with honoring our Heavenly Father?
2. What did you learn about respecting authority from the example of your own parents?
3. What does honoring your parents look like at your present stage of life?
4. How are you modeling respect for authority to your grandchildren?
5. What qualities would make you worthy of honor from your children, grandchildren, and other NextGens?

Episode Notes

1. Honoring parents reflects God's order.

- God established authority for order rather than chaos.
- Honoring our earthly parents ultimately reflects our honor for God.

2. The family is our first school.

- Children first learn respect for authority in the home.
- Parents and grandparents teach honor best when they model it themselves.

3. Honoring parents is a lifelong calling.

- Honor continues into adulthood and includes caring for aging parents.
- We can continue honoring our parents and their memory throughout our lives.

4. Grandparents must honor parents too.

- Respect your adult children's authority over their own children.
- Undermining their decisions can teach grandchildren to dishonor their parents.

5. Our Heavenly Father comes first.

- Earthly authority never outranks God's authority.
- When the two conflict, our first allegiance belongs to our Father in Heaven.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

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." God connects honoring our parents with our own well-being. The home is where children first learn what it means to respect authority, live within healthy boundaries, and recognize that God has established order for our good.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 23:22 - "Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old." Honoring our parents is not something we outgrow. As roles change and parents grow older, honor may increasingly mean gratitude, patience, practical care, and preserving their dignity.

look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Ephesians 6:2–3; Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 5:8; Acts 5:29

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, teach the Fifth Commandment by **telling a story of honor.** Share something you genuinely respect or admire about a NextGen loved one's parent.

Read the commandment together and dialogue about what it looks like to honor your mom and dad. Listen and help them choose one practical way to show honor this week.

Ask your adult child how you can better support them as a parent. Listen without becoming defensive and act on what they share. Respect their parenting decisions, remembering that your grandchildren learn to honor their parents by **watching you honor them too.**

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS

- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking God to help you model honor and support your adult children as parents.