



## Part 3: Honor Code

Early in parenthood, Andy and Sandra Stanley noticed a few things about the parents in their orbit who seemed to be doing a good job. Effective parents tended to have fewer rules, were not afraid of their children rejecting them, and facilitated their kid's interests, strengths, and talents rather than insisting their children embrace what was most interesting to them as parents. Effective parents also prioritized relationship over experience. But even more importantly, the best parents understood kindness as a strength rather than a weakness, as the profound display of power under control. In fact— in an imitation of the ethic of Jesus, kindness might even be best understood as a willingness to lend another person your strength, rather than reminding them of their weakness.

### Start Talking

1. Think back on your favorite movies, books, shows, and stories. How do we as a culture tend to portray, “strength?” What does it say about what we think it means to be strong?

### Looking Back

1. As you evaluated your life, what did you determine that love requires of you as a parent right now? Where could patience make a huge difference? How did you do when it came to putting this into practice?
2. Who usually feels rushed by you? Who typically feels unnecessary pressure when you walk in the door? How did you intentionally adjust your pace to theirs this week?
3. Where did you fall on the Patient-to-Pushy continuum this week? In your relationships? With your kids?
4. When and where did you make a concentrated effort to let your children know you “took their side” even when it didn’t boost your ego— this past week? When did you miss an opportunity to do so?



## What About You?

1. Were your parents more inclined to loan you their strength, or remind you of your weakness?
2. When you are in charge, which are you more inclined to do?
3. Growing up, would you say your home was characterized by mutual respect and honor? What about your current family?
4. Why do you think so many people in our contemporary culture view kindness as a form of weakness? What does it say about what we value?
5. What does the term, "honor," mean to you? What does it mean to honor another person?
6. Have you ever found yourself disciplining without a goal in mind? What are the effects of this lack of direction, in your experience?

## Look It Up

*Read the following passage before answering the questions below: Hebrews 12 : 11.*

*1 Corinthians 13 : 1 – 5. Romans 12 : 9 – 10.*

1. According to the author of Hebrews 12, what is the goal of discipline? What is *your* goal when you discipline?
2. If the aim of Jesus' "New Command" was to inspire us to love others as Jesus has loved us, what implications do you see here for your parenting and mentoring relationships? What does the love of Jesus look like to you in that dynamic?
3. Where in the life and work of Jesus do you see relationship restoration, rather than mere "punishment?"
4. In the verses we read for today, where do you see a prioritization of healthy relationships over sheer obedience?

## Putting It All Together

1. What would it look like in your home this week to embrace "relationship restoration" as the goal of discipline? What might change?
2. What would it look like for you to model honor in your home this week? What are three ways you can build honor into the culture of your home?
3. When do you tend to have the toughest time loaning your strength rather than reminding other people of their weakness? What are three ways you can prepare to change that this week?
4. What relationships have you damaged by reminding people of the ways in which they're weak? How can you begin the process of restoration over the next couple of days?

