

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: — Isaiah 49:15-16, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, Mark 10:29, Ephesians 6:1-2, Proverbs 23:22

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

Not just sharing informationally about the Gospel, but relationally an aspect of God Himself. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

““Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” —Exodus 20:12

Honor is the Hebrew word "Kabad" meaning Heavy (vs 12)

Honor is given, respect is earned (vs 12)

God cares more about you than your parents' ability to raise you (vs 12)

The three stages of honoring our mother: as a child, a teen/a young adult, and as an adult to adult. (vs 12)

As a teenager, you honor your mother with action and attitude (vs 12)

Finally, how do we honor our mom's adult-to-adult (vs 12)

Appreciate your mom with your time and by saying thank you (vs 12)

We should recognize the sacrifices our moms made for us. (vs 12)

"There's no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one."—Jill Churchill

Put into Practice: *Trust and walk the straight path.*

[] Children: Trust God and walk in cheerful, immediate obedience to your mom.

[] Teen/Young Adults: Trust God and walk in honor through both your actions and your attitude.

[] Adults: Trust God and walk in intentional appreciation and care for your mom.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. In Exodus 20:12,

What does it mean to “honor” your mother?

2. In Exodus 20:12,

Is honoring your mom dependent on whether she “deserves” it?

3. In Ephesians 6:1–2

How do children honor their mothers while living at home?

4. How is honoring different for teenagers and young adults?

5. According to Proverbs 23:22

How should adults honor their mothers?

6. What do Isaiah 49:15 and 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Reveal about God’s heart through motherhood?

7. In Exodus 20:12

Why is honoring your mother so important spiritually?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God’s Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leaders Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

1. In Exodus 20:12,

What does it mean to “honor” your mother?

Biblical Answer:

The word “honor” (Hebrew “*kabad*”) means to give weight, value, or significance, not to treat lightly or with disrespect.

This includes valuing her words, position, and role, even if she is imperfect.

2. In Exodus 20:12,

Is honoring your mom dependent on whether she “deserves” it?

Biblical Answer:

No, honor is commanded, not earned.

In Exodus 20:12, we are given a command with a promise, not a condition.

We honor the position, even when the person is flawed.

3. In Ephesians 6:1–2

How do children honor their mothers while living at home?

Biblical Answer:

By obeying their mother’s instructions.

Ephesians 6:1–2 connects honoring parents with obeying them.

This should be done cheerfully and immediately, not reluctantly.

4. How is honoring different for teenagers and young adults?

Biblical Answer:

It includes both actions and attitude. —*This is how our hearts grow to honor God*

Not just doing the right thing, but doing the right thing, with the right heart.

Avoid disrespect (tone, eye-rolling, dismissiveness).
Honoring our mom shapes how we respond to all authority.

5. According to Proverbs 23:22

How should adults honor their mothers?

Biblical Answer:

Through appreciation and care.

Proverbs 23:22 – Do not despise your mother when she is old.

Show honor through time, communication, gratitude, and recognizing sacrifice.

6. What do Isaiah 49:15 and 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Reveal about God's heart through motherhood?

Biblical Answer:

Motherhood reflects God's nurturing nature.

Isaiah 49:15 – God compares His love to a nursing mother.

1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 – Paul models this same nurturing love.

This shows God's care is tender, sacrificial, and relational.

7. In Exodus 20:12

Why is honoring your mother so important spiritually?

Biblical Answer:

Because it is tied to both God's authority and God's blessing.

Exodus 20:12 – It comes with a promise (“that your days may be long”).

Learning to honor parents teaches us to honor God and authority in general.