

RELATIONSHIPS: PARENTS

EXODUS 20:12, EPHESIANS 6:1-3

What does it mean to "honor" your parents?

Why do you think it is important to God that we obey our parents?

Why is it hard sometimes to honor your parents?

How was Jesus obedient to God the Father? (Matthew 26:39)

EPHESIANS 6:4

Do you think it will be hard for you to be a godly parent? Why or why not?

Does this idea change the way you view your parents? How so?

What if our parents make mistakes?

Every parent will let down their kid at some point, just like every kid will let down their parent at some point—this is part of the reason why we needed Jesus to die on the cross for us!

What if your parents are not believers?

Obey and honor your parents, whether they are believers or not, because it will help you grow to be more like Jesus and it will be a witness to them.

If your parents are abusive...

In this case, it is the kid's responsibility to protect themselves and to seek help—this is where you draw the line on obeying your parents. But, if abuse is involved, then the right thing to do is to tell someone and get help. **(notice: this is not a question for the sake of protecting privacy in front of the whole group, but it is also very important to communicate that if abuse exists in their home, they can and should come talk to you separately)**

READ JOHN 13:35

Does the way you treat your parents model Christ's love to others? How?

APPLICATIONS:

Name one very specific way you will honor and obey your parents this week.

Finish by having them write letters to their parent(s) thanking them and telling them why they appreciate them. (Set up some sort of accountability so that they actually do this. Parents deserve it, and they'll love you as a leader for it.)

Spend some time praying for 1) your parents, 2) for yourself to honor your parents well, and 3) for your future role as a godly parent.