

WORDS TO LIVE BY

A FRESH LOOK AT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

FEB 16, 2025

Honor Your Father and Mother.

The first four commandments deal primarily with our relationship with God. As we look at the fifth commandment, we focus on our relationships with others. Honoring our father and mother is the foundational commandment of this section because how we interact with our parents is a cornerstone for a thriving society. This doesn't mean that this commandment is easy. As a matter of fact, many rabbis say that honoring our father and mother is the most difficult of all the commandments to keep. It is a life-long practice of shifting the focus away from us and giving honor to the people who gave us life. Ultimately, this way of living gives credit to God, the Creator of all life.

- Take a few moments to sit with the words "Mom" and "Dad." How do those words impact you emotionally?
- The fifth commandment says, "Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you." The Hebrew word translated "Honor" literally means "To be heavy" or "To make heavy". We might say something like, "We give their words weight." How does this impact how you view this command?
- Consider the following ways we can honor our parents regardless of our stage of life.
 - *We honor by thanking.* (**Read Colossians 2:6-7**)
 - How could this passage apply to our parents?
 - *We honor by forgiving* (**Read Colossians 3:12-13**)
 - What would it look like to forgive our parents like Jesus forgave us?
 - What makes this way of honoring difficult for you?
 - *We honor by caring.* (**Read Mark 7:9-13**)
 - Jesus directly relates the concept of honoring to providing for our parents. How could you provide and care for your parents during this season (if applicable)?
 - *We honor by redeeming.*
 - No matter what our story, we can honor our parents by becoming the people God intends us to be. How could you redeem your upbringing by giving others what you never had? This could be things like encouragement, prayer, apologizing, etc.

Praying together

What is your next step in honoring your father and mother? Pray for each other that you will have the courage and humility to follow whatever God is asking you to do.