

to heal our mistakes. God is our good Father and He cares for us as His beloved children. We can trust Him.

Discussion Questions

- How does the way God treats Christians as His children model how parents should treat their children?
- How do so many of our society's problems come from a lack of parents?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Ephesians 6:1-3. Paul in this verse emphasizes the promise that God attaches to the Fifth Commandment, *“that you may live long in the land”*. This as he states is the only of the 10 commandments with a promise. This promise indicates that by honoring your parents you will promote a long life filled with blessing. Obviously, this promise does not guarantee material blessing and long life, but it is true that when we honor our parents and when we give *“respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due” (Romans 13:7)* you are living in a way that promotes earthly blessings. The greatest blessing though is the blessing of pleasing God, who is the sovereign God who holds all the storehouses of blessing and is more than able to richly provide beyond all that you ask or think. Consider the goodness of our God and Father. Certainly, parents are a *good and perfect* gift from God to man, but how much greater a gift that through Christ we receive adoption as sons of God. This is truly why we should honor our father and mother, because by doing so we honor our God and proclaim His goodness as our true Father.

Discussion Questions

- What does the promise attached to the 5th commandment mean?
- How can you honor God as your Heavenly Father? Have you become His child?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, January 19th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #68

Q: Which is the fifth commandment?

A: *The fifth commandment is, Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever been to a foreign country? If you have then you are distinctly familiar with how different cultures can be. The world is filled with a vast multitude of distinct ethnic groups, so much so that it commonly leads to conflict between different groups of people. But even with mankind's various backgrounds, as sons of Adam we share a common nature with values that go down to the bone of who we are. One of the most prevalent of these is our obligation to honor our Mom and Dad. As image-bearers with God's law written upon our consciences, we know from an early age that we are to honor our parents. There are many precious reasons for this. They gave you life, they love you and take care of you as only a parent can. However, a preeminent reason is that in God's decree for mankind He declares a person's parents to be a foundational authority of their lives; a fountain of authority that naturally roots us to all the other authorities in our lives. For we are not autonomous creatures that live by our own rules. We live in God's world and are to obey God's laws and give Him glory as we enjoy His goodness. In His design we are to learn well how to do this under the ever-loving and watchful eyes of our Mom and Dad. Proverbs 1:8 *"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching"*.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to honor, namely your parents?
- Why does God's design require us to honor our parents?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

One would only have to look at a picture of a mother holding her newborn baby to see the glory that God has instilled in the parent relationship. Because of this glory the scriptures consistently use the imagery of this parental intimacy to describe the love of God for His people as His adopted children. *"As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him."* Psalm 103:13. Even more, parental love is a picture of the love of the Father and the Son, which is the ultimate love; the guiding purpose of everything. But it needs to be said that we live in a fallen world, many people sadly do not get to have loving parents. And even good parents are only 'good' in man's terms. We are all, parents included, sinners who fail. But by God's grace, many parents give their lives to care and nurture their little ones to guide them to what is good. Surely, we are to cherish our parents as precious gifts from our Heavenly Father. John G Paton, a 19th century missionary to the New Hebrides, wrote of the last moments he was likely to see his dear father before he left for the mission field far away. *'I watched through blinding tears, till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as he had given me.'*

Discussion Questions

- How is the glory and love of God revealed in parents and their children?
- Children, how can you show your gratitude to your parents and to God for your parents?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In the Gospel of Luke 2:41-51, it tells the story of how 12 year old Jesus was separated from His parents for three days in Jerusalem. When His parents found Him it says that He *"was submissive to them"*. Jesus' obedience to His parents is important in how it emphasizes how the Lord perfectly kept God's law in His incarnation. We, however, have not honored our parents as we ought but have through the fall of Adam been imbued with a rebellious state against God. This rebellion is often shown in how we dishonor our parents. The honor your parents are due takes different forms depending on your stage of life. The bible says to children *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."* Ephesians 6:1. Children, who remain under their father's headship, are to obey the commands of their parents. The bible also says in Genesis 2:24 that when a child becomes an adult that he *"shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"*. When a child leaves the home and gets married they are now members of a new family, their own family, separate and distinct from the family of their parents, which is now their extended family. But honoring your parents is a calling from God that is for our whole lives. Perhaps the calling for adults to honor their parents is one of respect and caring for them in their needs.

Discussion Questions

- How specifically can you honor your parents in the stage of life that you are in?
- What are some ways that honoring your parents shows your heart for God?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The implied duties given by the fifth commandment are not only for children but also for parents. *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it"* Proverbs 22:6. God has given the duty to parents to be responsible for the nurture and care of the immortal souls of their children. Parents are to not provoke their *"children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"* Ephesians 6:4. Parents are to love their children, and one of the ways is to discipline them, which in the moment *"seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it"* Hebrews 12:11. Therefore, parenting is a weighty calling as God has placed in the eternal souls of each child an inextricable longing and tie to their parents specifically, in a way that is completely unique to any other relationship. If you were to go to a prison, almost all the broken men and women you would encounter would give very similar tales of broken families; of parents who did not do their duty of love and care. In view of the responsibility of parents, one must emphasize the empowering grace of God to help us and the powerful blood of Jesus