

## **Topic:** The Ten Commandments – Honoring Your Father and Mother

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

### **Elementary:**

Verses: “Honor your father and mother” (Exodus 20:12a).

“Listen to your father..., and do not despise your mother....” (Proverbs 23:22).

Focus: The fifth commandment is to honor our father and mother. To honor our father and mother is to love, obey, and respect them.

Practical Application: What are some of the things that you like to do with your parents (play sports, go to the park, read books, visit the zoo, etc.)? Our parents love us and do a lot for us. We love them in return by honoring them. When our parents ask us to clean our room, finish our meal, or help out at home, we should listen and do it right away. Also, our attitude and feelings in doing what our parents ask of us should be pleasant. We should not be grumpy or complaining. To honor our father and mother is to love and respect them in our attitude and to obey them in our actions.

### **Intermediate:**

Verses: “‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with a promise, ‘That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth’” (Ephesians 6:2-3).

Focus: With the fifth commandment to honor our father and mother comes the promise that our days will be extended on the earth. This is the first commandment with a promise.

Practical Application: The most important things we learn in life are taught to us by our parents, e.g., proper manners, healthy habits, making the right choices, etc. Our parents help us do what is right and what is best for us. We should trust their decisions and obey their commands. We should not argue, talk back, or be disrespectful to them. We should always maintain a sweet and harmonious relationship with them. In fact, the Bible tells us that honoring our parents is so important that this commandment comes with a promise. God promised that if we honor our parents, we will have prosperity (“it may be well with you”) and longevity (“you may live long on the earth”).

### **Advanced:**

Verses: “Honor your father and mother, that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12).

“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord” (Colossians 3:20).

Focus: When God tells us to honor our father and mother He is also telling us to honor Him. To not honor your father and mother is to not honor God.

Practical Application: God chose our parents and the particular family we would be born into and raised in. God gave them the authority and responsibility to care for our human well-being and spiritual welfare. They take care of our needs and pray for us so that we may know God and His word, and be raised in a godly manner. At times, they discipline us so that we may grow and develop

properly. We should never rebel against our parents in our words, thoughts, or actions. We honor our parents because God placed them over us. To honor our parents is therefore to honor God; to rebel against them is to rebel against God. By honoring our parents, we honor God Himself as our source.