

1. Motivate

What is a favorite memory of time you spent with your parents?

2. Transition

An introductory video is available. View at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/0_dzqqi0s5

It's great to have some good family memories.

- God intends good family relationships in both directions.
- He calls for us to honor our parents as seen in our words and actions.

3. Bible Study

3.1 Honor Parents God Has Placed in Your Life

Listen for the result of obedience.

Exodus 20:12 (NIV) "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

How does the phrasing of the fifth commandment differ from that of most of the other commandments?

To whom was the commandment directed?

What are its implications for the future?

What are good ways to teach our children parental respect?

What are some ways parents can be honored in both word and action by young (still living at home) children?

What are some ways parents can be honored in both word and action by adult children?

What are some similarities between honoring your parents and honoring God?

3.2 Honor, Truthfulness, and Integrity

Listen for a negative example, *dishonoring* parents.

2 Samuel 15:7-12 (NIV) At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD. 8 While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: 'If the LORD takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron.'" 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he went to Hebron. 10 Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" 11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. 12 While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.

Backstory concerning this passage about King David and his son Absalom

- Previously Absalom had been out of favor, fled the country, now returned
- Absalom campaigned to undermine and usurp his father's position.
- Intercepted people coming to Jerusalem, seeking aid and to resolve grievances.
- Lied to these people that the king did not have anyone to listen to their claims.
- A rebellion in Jerusalem would have been unwise, David had large support
- Absalom explained to his father he had previously vowed to worship the Lord in Hebron if God would bring him back to Jerusalem.

In what way might David have been naive?

How is this story a negative illustration of the fifth commandment?

How does seeking a parent's welfare honor them?

How did your desire to honor your parents impact your decisions?

How does truthfulness and integrity honor parents?

3.3 "Honor" Seeks Welfare of Parents

Listen for David's initial response to the revolt.

2 Samuel 15:13-14 (NIV) A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." 14 Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

What discouraging message came to David in Jerusalem?

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Honor Parents

Why did David feel it was necessary to leave the city? Why was his decision to flee Jerusalem a wise one?

What do you read between the lines to indicate David was not ready to relinquish the kingship?

The rest of the story

- David and his company journeyed beyond the Jordan River
- There they organized and prepared for battle.
- The rebellion ended when David's forces defeated Absalom's forces.
- Absalom was killed in the battle
- Eventually David was restored to the throne of Israel (2 Sam. 18–19).

Not altogether a happy ending. What advice for us can we glean from these events?

Application

Repent.

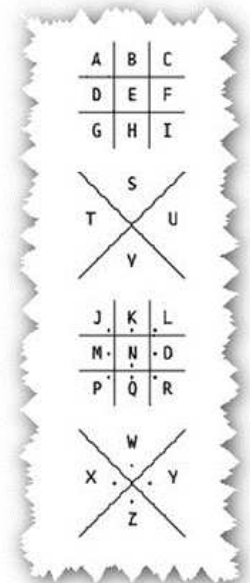
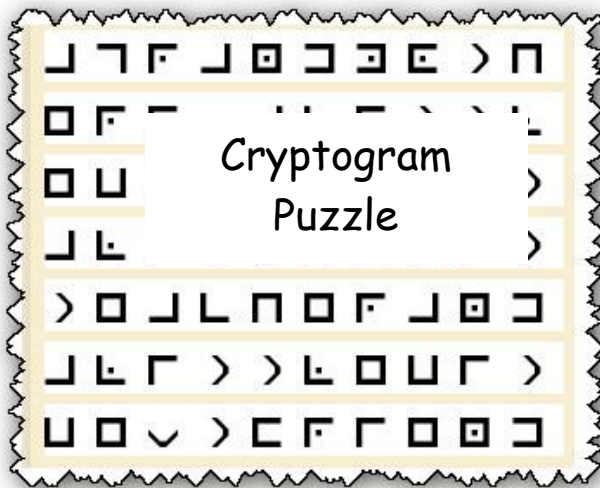
- We have all failed in one way or another when it comes to showing our parents honor or living honorably so that our children will honor us.
- Confess and repent of any sins of dishonor you have had or any ways you have made it difficult for your children to honor you.

Model.

- Determine to be a model of truthfulness and integrity before others
- Especially your children, your grandchildren, and the children of others.

Act.

- Do something tangible to help and support parents with young children in your church.
- For senior adults whose parents are no longer living, you can show them honor by how you talk about them.
- If this is you, share with someone the role your parents played in your life and how God used them to shape you into the person you are today.



A recent traveler in the country of Alsland Jande found this scrap of paper and delivered it to our embassy. The resident ~~spy~~ cultural attaché recognized the code and sent us both the message and the key on the right. Turns out it is from the mother of your Bible Study leader. Can you decode it and communicate it to your teacher? If you get stuck, get help at <https://tinyurl.com/y3esef24> where there are other intriguing Family Activities also.

