



Honour Your Father And Mother!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

Jesus confronted the Pharisees for failing to honour their parents. They said the right words, but didn't do the right thing. Honouring your father and mother is important to God because He wants families to be strong, safe, loving places where children grow wise and learn how to follow Him.

Idea: If you're teaching this lesson for Mother's Day or Father's Day and want to make it extra special and honouring, make your teaching space feel like a celebration — ribbons, tags, gift boxes, gift bags, and bows. Honouring fathers and mothers is a gift to them, and the whole room atmosphere reinforces the message and ties into the Bible story.

Family Photo Booth:

Set up a family photo booth, staffed by volunteers, for families to use as they arrive to register their children. Decorate the booth with ribbons, balloons, gift bags and boxes to reinforce the celebration theme.

Bible Lesson: Honour Your Father and Mother/Jesus and the Followers of Tradition

Bible References: Matthew 15:4-8; Mark 7:1-13; Ephesians 6:1-3; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

Visuals You Will Need:

1. A mother and a father
2. Jesus praying in the Garden of Eden
3. Jesus in the temple when He was 12
4. Pharisees and Jesus
5. Elderly parents needing help
6. Bible or stone tablet
7. Adam, Eve and children (first family)
8. Family photo torn
9. Child in Church
10. Child at a crossroads
11. Jesus praying to the Father
12. A family

Words:

1. Do you know what it means to 'honour' your father and your mother?
To honour means you...
 - show respect
 - speak kindly
 - listen when they guide you
 - be thankful for them
 - help them with a cheerful heartHonouring your parents isn't just about being 'good'.
It's about showing love the way God shows love.
2. Jesus honoured His Heavenly Father:
 - He obeyed His Father's will above everything else (*Matthew 26:39; John 5:19; John 5:30*)
 - He lived a life of perfect obedience (*John 4:34; Philippians 2:8*)
 - He taught and showed people Father God's heart (*John 3:16; John 5:19; John 14:9*)
3. Jesus honoured His earthly father and mother:
 - He obeyed them as a child (*Luke 2:49*)
 - He lived under their care in Nazareth until He began His ministry when He turned 30 years old (*Luke 2:39-40; Matthew 13:54-55; Luke 4:16*)
 - He cared for His mum even while He was dying on the Cross (*John 19:26-27*)
4. One day, some Pharisees came to Jesus.
They were upset because Jesus' disciples didn't wash their hands in the special Pharisee's way before eating.
(They weren't talking about germs, they were talking about rules.)
Jesus looked at them and said something surprising.
He said, 'You care more about your own rules than God's rules.'
Then He gave them an example.
5. In those days, some people would say a special word: "Corban."
It meant: "*This money or gift is for God.*"
That sounds like a good thing.
But here's the problem...
Some people used "Corban" as an excuse.
If their mum or dad needed help—food, money, a place to stay—they would say:
"Sorry, I can't help you.
I already said this money is 'Corban.'
It's for God."
But they didn't actually give it to God.
They just used the rule to avoid helping their parents.
Jesus said this was wrong!
The Pharisees looked holy on the outside (with very clean hands),
but their hearts were not loving.

6. Jesus was upset by the Pharisees' behaviour.
One of the Ten Commandments says, 'Honour your father and mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which the Lord your God gives you.' (*Exodus 20:12*)
Why is honouring mum and dad so important to God?
7. **Because God created families.**
Family is the first community God created.
Before governments or nations.
Before Churches, there was Father, Mother, and child.
Families are the first place where you learn to listen, trust, respect authority, and know how to love and be loved.
8. **Because honouring your parents protects the family from falling apart.**
If there is no honour in the family, relationships break up.
Bitterness grows.
Children don't feel safe.
Parents feel discouraged.
When families break down, society breaks down.
9. **Because honouring your parents teaches you to honour God.**
Parents are the first 'authority figures' God gives you.
Learning to honour mum and dad trains your heart to honour God's Word, God's guidance, God's correction and God's love!
10. **Because honouring your parents brings blessing, stability and well-being.**
God says that honouring parents leads to things going well and to living a long and fruitful life, because honour creates humility, so you're always willing to learn and grow wise.
All these qualities protect you from foolish, dangerous choices.
11. **Because honouring your parents reflects God's own heart.**
God is a Father.
He loves, guides, protects, corrects and provides.
When you honour your parents, you are acting in the same way God wants His children to respond to Him.
12. Of course, no family is perfect.
You might come from a family that is complicated, and maybe your home life has been painful.
God sees your situation.
You can still honour by:
- Speaking kindly
 - Praying for mum and dad
 - Obeying safe rules
 - Choosing forgiveness
- God commands you to honour your parents because the family is the first place you learn love, authority, gratitude, and order.
All of these things prepare you to relate to God.

Honouring your mother and father is for your good and for God's glory!

Ministry to the Children:

Sometimes your heart is not loving. You get angry or stubborn. You say things you shouldn't. You make excuses. Let Jesus fill your heart with His love. Practise showing kindness in small ways. Listen to God's Word. Choose love instead of excuses. Ask the Holy Spirit for His help. And you will be able to honour your mother and your father!

Your heart needs Jesus. You can't fix your own heart. You can't make yourself perfect. That's why Jesus came to forgive your sin, clean your heart, help you to love and obey, and honour your parents. When you invite Jesus into your heart, He gives you the strength to do what is right, even when it is hard.

Prayer:

'Dear Jesus,
I know I have sinned, and I need You.
Please forgive me and make my heart clean.
Help me to honour my parents and obey God.
I believe You died for me and rose again.
I turn away from my sin.
I ask You to be my Saviour and my Lord.
Thank you for loving me.
Amen.'

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:2-3

In Word and Action!

Honour your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may turn out well for you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Words:

Honour your father

And mother

(Which is the 1st Commandment with a promise)

So that it may turn out well

And that you may live long

On the earth

Action:

Salute

Hug arms

Hold up an index finger

Turn around and thumbs up

Stretch arms out wide

Arms make a circle (globe)

Game 1: Pass the Parcel

You will need:

- Layers of wrapping paper
- A ribbon tied in a bow for each layer
- Sticky tape
- Bag of lollies to share
- Music

What to do:

- Start by wrapping a bag of lollies in lots and lots of layers of wrapping paper.
- Have the children sit in a circle and play some music.
- While the music is playing, the children will sing along as they continually pass the parcel in a clockwise direction.
- Then stop the music from playing, and the child holding the present gets to undo the bow and unwrap one layer of wrapping paper.
- The child who unwraps the last layer gets to eat the lollies (or shares the bag with everyone).

Game 2: Toilet Tag!

Don't forget it was your Mum and Dad who taught you how to brush your teeth, make your bed, and they potty-trained you, too!

This silly twist on freeze tag turns tagged players into “toilets.” When someone is tagged, they sit on the ground with legs crossed and one arm raised like a toilet handle. To free them, another player gently sits beside them and gives the raised arm a little “flush.” Once flushed, the player pops back up and re-joins the game.

Craft 1: DIY Gift Box

You will need:

- 1 x Box template per child (available on the internet, photocopied onto white cardboard)
Alternatively, use noodle boxes or recycled small boxes
- Scissors
- Sticky tape and glue
- Felt pens
- Decorative collage items (stickers, jewels, sequins, washi tape, etc.)
- A small gift to place inside (Scripture and chocolate, tea bag or coffee sachet)

What to do:

- Children fold the cardboard into a gift box
- Colour box
- Decorate box (add ribbons and bows!)

Ideas for Inside the Gift Box:

- Bead bracelet/handprint/painted river stone paperweight
- Stationery, i.e. notebook and pen
- Soap/hand and body products

Craft 2: Honouring Morning Tea

A relaxed, joy-filled morning tea where children honour the adults who care for them—mums, dads, grandparents, foster carers, aunties, uncles, and spiritual parents. The focus is gratitude, blessing, and connection. Children make the decorations for the walls and tables.

- Tablecloths with paper doilies or paper runners
- Small jars of flowers (real or made by the children)
- 'Honour Wall' with thank you notes, cards or drawings made by the children
- Banner 'We Thank God for You!'
- Biscuit or Cupcake Icing Station (icing and sprinkles)