

LG | Leader

[Exodus 20:12]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go the Lord in prayer.

- How was your Sabbath this past weekend?
- What has your relationship been with the commandment "honor you father and mother"? When did you first hear about this commandment?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read Exodus 20:12. What does it mean to show someone honor? What are some other biblical examples where we are to show honor?

To show honor is to treat someone with proper respect due to the person and their role (ESV Study Bible). The Bible gives us many examples of where we are to show honor; we are to honor our wives (1 Pet 3:7), we are to honor the Lord (Prov. 3:9), honor one another (Romans 12:10), etc.

2. Who do you think this commandment was originally intended for; adults or children? What promise is attached to this commandment?

The commandments were given to Moses for the instruction of the adults. However, this commandment does apply to children as the adults were supposed to teach all of the commandments to their children (see Deut 6:4-9). The promise attached to this commandment is "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

3. What other evidence is provided in scripture that children are to obey this commandment?

See Ephesians 6:1-13

4. What does this commandment look like for us as adults in our modern context?

We are to treat those who are older and worthy of honor with deference; in humble submission. That means we are to take care of our parents in their old age and not neglect their needs or pawn them off on someone else. All decisions for their care must be made with very careful consideration.

5. What was the significance of this commandment? If neglected, how was it punished in the Old Testament?

Neglecting the 5th commandment to honor your father and mother was a great offense. In extreme circumstances, if one were to strike or curse their father or mother, they were to be put to death (Exodus 21:15,17).

6. What is the context for the “land” that the Lord speaks of in this commandment?

The “land” is the promised land that the Lord was going to give to Israel, “flowing with milk and honey.” Israel had not entered that land yet, but it was their pursuit and would be their dwelling place in the years to come.

7. How do we love parents that we feel are not worthy of honor?

The Bible directs us to honor our parents as parents, even if we cannot honor their behavior. In the same way, we honor the office of authority (president, local government, police, etc.) even though we do not always agree with one’s decisions or behavior (Romans 13). God honored us while we were still sinners by sending His Son to die for us (Romans 5:8). Likewise, we are to show honor to those who we deem unworthy, working towards forgiveness and ultimately, reconciliation.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.