



H O N O R ' S
R E W A R D



COURSE GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome!

We're excited that you've chosen to study *Honor's Reward*. Living a life of honor is pivotal to cultivating thriving relationships—both with God and with others. Although honor seems to be an extinct virtue in our day and age, we are still deeply moved by displays of it. That's why acts of honor should not just be admired and applauded—they must become a way of life.

As you journey through this course guide, you'll find lesson summaries, discussion questions, devotional content, and activities designed to help you navigate what it means to live honorably.

Honor produces great rewards and enhances every area of our lives. So let's dive right into exploring the wonderful depths of this lost virtue.

Sincerely,

John

LESSON ONE

DIVINE REWARDS

Rewards are God's idea. That's because God is a giver, and just like any good father, He loves to reward His children. When we know God is a rewarder, it motivates us to live a life that pleases Him—positioning us to receive His gifts.

In this lesson, we learned:

- The promise of reward applies to both heaven and earth.
- There are different reward scenarios, which include full, partial, and no rewards.
- Living a life of honor is pivotal to receiving from God and others.
- Honor can be displayed in deed, word, and thought; but always originates from the heart.
- We determine the level of reward we receive.

DISCUSS

1. What does honor mean? Why is God pleased when we honor Him and others?
2. What are the variety of ways in which honor can be displayed?
3. What are the different reward scenarios? Who determines the level of reward we receive and why?

WORD OF HONOR

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. (2 John 8 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

“People rise or fall to meet your level of expectations for them. If you express skepticism and doubt in others, they will return your lack of confidence with mediocrity. But if you believe in them and expect them to do well, they will go the extra mile trying to do their best. And in the process, they and you benefit.” —John Maxwell, *How to Influence People*.

ACT OF VALOR

Do you believe that God is a rewarder? Write down what you believe are the rewards that God wants to bring into your life as you live a life of honor.

LESSON TWO

THE HONOR PRINCIPLE

When we honor those God sends, we in turn honor the one who sent them. And when we honor people, we unlock the reward God wants to release through them. Conversely, when we lightly esteem those God sends to us, we lightly esteem God—which will result in a partial- or no-reward scenario. That’s the honor principle!

In this lesson, we learned:

- Honor empowers people and brings out the best in them.
- We honor God by honoring those He sends.
- The honor principle applies to our leaders, our peers, and those entrusted to us.

DISCUSS ---

1. Why is it important to honor those God sends, even if it’s someone we don’t like?
2. How is God honored or dishonored by our response to those He sends?
3. How can we honor those whom God sends?

WORD OF HONOR

He who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. (Matthew 10:40–42 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

"Each believer comes to understand his or her significance in relationship to the whole Body, and the conviction begins to take hold: 'I carry something that no one else carries. I must develop and release my gifts into the Church and the world and do my part in bringing Heaven to earth.'" —Danny Silk, *Culture of Honor*.

ACT OF VALOR

How do you treat God? Do you treat Him and His Word as common? Make it a point to do something to honor God every day for the next few days.

LESSON THREE

HONORING LEADERS

God has appointed leaders to serve and protect the people within their respected realms of authority. These realms of authority include civil, social, church, and family. When we honor those in positions of leadership—regardless if they are godly or not—we remain under God’s blessing and protection.

In this lesson, we learned:

- The difference between obedience and submission.
- Obedience deals with our actions while submission deals with our attitude.
- The Bible teaches unconditional submission, not unconditional obedience.
- Self-inflicted judgment results from deliberate disobedience toward leadership.

DISCUSS

1. Where does authority originate from and why are leaders appointed?
2. In regard to honoring leaders, why is submission equally as important as our obedience?
3. What are some rewards we can receive from honoring leaders?

WORD OF HONOR

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

“All offices of authority are set up by God, and the authority rests on the office, not the man. We are to submit ourselves to the office, whether or not we like the man in the office. If he misuses his office, we can pray for him to change or pray him out. In order to properly submit to authority, you must have a clear understanding that the authority rests in the office, not the man.” —Terry Nance, *God’s Armor Bearer*.

ACT OF VALOR

Identify the leaders in your life from each of the four areas of authority—civil, social, family, and church. Make a plan to honor each of these leaders. It could be writing them an encouraging letter or email, praying for them, or buying them a gift.

LESSON FOUR

HONORING CIVIL LEADERS

All authority is from God, but not all authority is godly. When we honor civil leaders, we need to make a distinction between the person and the position; because the authority is from God, even when the behavior may not be. And as we honor those in leadership whom we can see, we honor God whom we cannot see.

In this lesson, we learned:

- The importance of speaking well of leaders, rather than criticizing and ridiculing them.
- The importance of praying and giving thanks for those in leadership, rather than complaining against them.
- The importance of behaving honorably toward those in leadership, rather than treating them dishonorably.

DISCUSS

1. Why is it difficult to honor an ungodly leader? How can you honor them, despite their behavior?
2. How does the Bible instruct us to honor civil leaders? And how can you honor those in your community?
3. How can you pray more specifically for civil leaders?

WORD OF HONOR

Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (1 Peter 2:17 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

“Whenever man touches God’s delegated authority, he touches God within that person; sinning against delegated authority is sinning against God.” —Watchman Nee, *Spiritual Authority*.

ACT OF VALOR

Choose a civil leader—especially one that you may not like—and commit to praying for them and their family every day for a week. Pray for them as if you’re praying for a loved one.

LESSON FIVE

HONORING SOCIAL LEADERS

As believers, our public witness is greatly impacted by how we honor social leaders—bosses, managers, teachers, and coaches. If we don't honor social leaders, this will result in society having a low esteem of God and the church—which can even lead to people treating sacred things disrespectfully.

In this lesson, we learned:

- We honor social leaders by working for them as if we are working for Jesus.
- The difference between a servant and a slave.
- How to respond when you feel mistreated.

DISCUSS

1. When you consider the story about the owner of the taxi cab company, why are our actions just as important as the message we preach?
2. How are we to remain honorable to social leaders who are harsh and mean?
3. When treated unfairly by a leader, why is it important to trust God to defend you?

WORD OF HONOR

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. (1 Timothy 6:1 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

“A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment.”—John Wooden

ACT OF VALOR

Choose a social leader—boss, coach, or teacher—and write them a note thanking them for their position and influence in your life. Try to be as specific as possible about thanking them for the way they’ve impacted you.

LESSON SIX

HONOR IN THE HOME

Honor begins in the home. That's because parents are the first examples of leadership and authority that children are exposed to. If honor is not practiced within the home, it's only a matter of time before it's not displayed elsewhere. It's no surprise that the enemy has tried so hard to cultivate a culture of dishonor through the medium of popular movies and TV shows, encouraging disrespect and disobedience toward parents.

In this lesson, we learned:

- Honoring parents produces the rewards of blessing, success, and longevity.
- Dishonoring parents results in judgment.
- A woman can make or break a man.
- When a wife honors her husband, it empowers him to grow into the man he's destined to become.

DISCUSS

1. What are the two rewards promised to those who honor their parents?
2. Noah's son Ham dishonored his father by exposing Noah's nakedness. What happened to Ham as a result of this behavior?
3. How did Ham's brothers, Shem and Japheth, react? What did Noah do in response to their behavior?

WORD OF HONOR

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

HONORABLE MENTION

“When a person puts on a good face in public, but that kindness and honor disappear at home, the family suffers. God does not call us to give our best at work and what’s left over to our families. He calls us to honor, and He calls us to give that honor in a specific order. We are to honor God first, then our families, and then our neighbors. Our culture does not reward this pattern. The American way calls for us to put work and success first and to forget about rest and worship. If we follow the American way, however, then we aren’t following Jesus’ way, which is the way of honor.” —Rich Wilkerson Sr., *I Choose Honor*.

ACT OF VALOR

What can you do to honor your parents? Even if you’re an adult, think of something that you can do for your parents—even if it’s praying for them. If you’re a wife, how can you honor your husband this week?

LESSON SEVEN

HONORING CHURCH LEADERS

Our attitude toward God is reflected in our attitude toward church leaders. This is especially evident when it comes to finances. By honoring God and His servants financially, we participate in advancing God's work on the earth, and we increase our level of impact both now and for eternity.

In this lesson, we learned:

- What we receive from heaven has more to do with how we honor the leader and has very little to do with the leader's behavior.
- Leaders who lead well are worthy of double honor—which specifically deals with finances.
- In churches where the pastor is not honored financially, businesses struggle; but when the pastored is honored, businesses prosper.
- God doesn't need our money, but His work on the earth does.
- We dishonor God by withholding our tithes and offerings.

DISCUSS ---

1. What are subtle ways we can dishonor our church leaders?
2. What do you think causes people to cringe or hesitate when it comes to offering time?

3. Do you give tithes and offerings? Why or why not?
4. What is the purpose of tithes and offerings?

WORD OF HONOR

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 NLT)

HONORABLE MENTION

"Princes and princesses are commissioned to see the people they lead reach their full potential in God. That means that the greatest compliment we can ever have is when the people we are leading become greater than us. If we believe that we are leading because we are the most qualified, then we will subconsciously work to undermine other people's advancements." —Bill Johnson, *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty*.

ACT OF VALOR

What can you do to honor your church leader? It could be the senior pastor, youth pastor, or even the administrative pastor. Find a way to serve them personally. If you can't serve them personally, ask God for a financial seed to be able to personally gift your church leader.

LESSON EIGHT HONORING PEERS

When we honor our peers, we'll look out not only for our own interests, but also for the interests of others. Rather than compete against them, we'll treat them the way we desire to be treated—because honor gives preference to all people.

In this lesson, we learned:

- When we show preference toward others, we are behaving like Christ—who put us before Himself.
- We are to take the initiative and treat others the way we want to be treated.
- When we honor those who have mistreated us, we position ourselves for divine rewards.

DISCUSS --- ---

1. Have you ever had a friend do something to you that really hurt you? Explain what happened and share how you worked through your feelings.
2. In the story about the pastor who hired one of John's employees out from under him, what can you learn from the way John responded?
3. What are some practical ways we can show honor to others?

WORD OF HONOR

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. (Romans 12:9–10 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

“Treat a man as he is, and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he could be, and he will become what he should be.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

ACT OF VALOR

Who is a peer (friend, acquaintance) that has dishonored you? The greatest rewards come when we honor those that have dishonored us. Pray for them to be blessed, as you would pray for yourself.

LESSON NINE

HONORING ENTRUSTED ONES

Leading people is a great responsibility, as people rise to the level of their leader. When we hold a position of authority, it is to love, serve, and protect those under our care—not to abuse or take advantage of them. When we honor those entrusted to us, we position them to grow and flourish so that they can accomplish all that God has destined for them.

In this lesson, we learned:

- Greatness is demonstrated by serving others.
- There are two types of leaders: life-enhancing leadership and life-draining leadership.
- The life-draining leader views people as the vehicle to fulfill their vision. They are empire-minded—they seek to build their own name, not others.
- The life-enhancing leader sees their vision as a vehicle to serve people. They are kingdom-minded—their greatest joy is seeing those entrusted to them flourish.

DISCUSS ---

1. As someone in authority, what are some of your responsibilities to those who have been entrusted to you?
2. The honoring leader is life-enhancing. How do they see the people entrusted to him?

3. The dishonoring leader is life-draining. How do they see the people entrusted to them?
4. As a parent, teacher, employer, or church leader, are you more of an honoring leader or a dishonoring leader? In what areas can you improve?

WORD OF HONOR

Therefore, I strongly urge the elders among you [pastors, spiritual leaders of the church], as a fellow elder and as an eyewitness [called to testify] of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory that is to be revealed: shepherd *and* guide *and* protect the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not [motivated] for shameful gain, but with wholehearted enthusiasm; not lording it over those assigned to your care [do not be arrogant or overbearing], but be examples [of Christian living] to the flock [set a pattern of integrity for your congregation]. (1 Peter 5:1–3 AMP)

HONORABLE MENTION

“Typically, people allow differences and mistakes to lower their respect and value for other people. But you know the pillar of honor is strong in a relationship when you can look at the other person and say, ‘You are really different from me. It makes me sad when I see you making that choice. But I love you. I value you, I believe in you, and I am here for you in this relationship.’” —Danny Silk, *Keep Your Love On*.

ACT OF VALOR

Identify who God has entrusted to your care. For the next few days, make it a point to pray for all of those whom God has entrusted to you. If you receive a passage of Scripture or a word of encouragement for them, text it or share it with them in person.

LESSON TEN

HUSBANDS HONORING WIVES

A husband's greatest treasure is his wife. As head of the home, this position does not mean the man is greater than the woman—it means he has the great responsibility to serve, protect, and steward her heart. This role is so important to God that if the husband abuses his position, it would hinder his prayers from being answered.

In this lesson, we learned:

- When the Bible refers to the woman as the “weaker” vessel, it does not mean that she is “less than” the man.
- In God's eyes, both a man and a woman are “equal.” The man is not greater than the woman.
- To lead in the kingdom is to serve, not to dominate.
- A husband's role is to bring out the best in his wife.

DISCUSS --- ---

1. Why is it important to treat your wife with understanding? How can you better understand her needs?
2. When it comes to making decisions, especially those that affect the family, do you consult your wife and ask for her input? Why or why not?

3. What did the Lord show John that a wise leader must learn to do in order to be able to make Spirit-led decisions?

List at least five or more practical ways you can show honor to your wife.

WORD OF HONOR

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7 NLT)

HONORABLE MENTION

"Love is a deliberate and determined act of the will. There is nothing idle or passive about it. It doesn't wane or fail when life gets tough; it only grows stronger and more resolved. It's the bond that keeps your relationship from drifting when every storm in the ocean is raging to tear you apart. It's the one thing you can depend on when all of life seems bent on getting you down." —Jimmy Evans, *The Right One*.

ACT OF VALOR

Find out your wife's love language (you can look online). Over the next few days, do those things that meet her love language.

LESSON ELEVEN

PARENTS HONORING CHILDREN

Children are both a reward and a stewardship. As parents, we honor our children by honoring our marriage. That's because parents are the first example of leadership children are exposed to. When we instruct, discipline, and lead by example, we'll raise godly children who will become positive influences on society.

In this lesson, we learned:

- The importance of not provoking our children to anger by living vicariously through them, placing labels on them, or by giving them high demands and unrealistic expectations.
- Discipline communicates love—it conveys that children are valuable enough to invest in.
- When disciplining, we must separate the behavior from the person.

DISCUSS --- ---

1. What are some of the biggest ways you can influence your children while they're under your care?
2. Why is discipline important? What is the result of a lack of discipline?
3. Explain why you think a parent's words and actions are critical to the development of their children.

WORD OF HONOR

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. (Psalm 127:3 NKJV)

HONORABLE MENTION

“Children are not casual guests in our home. They have been loaned to us temporarily for the purpose of loving them and instilling a foundation of values on which their future lives will be built.” —James Dobson

ACT OF VALOR

Find Scriptures that you can speak to your children on a daily basis. Then every single day, begin to speak the Word of God over your children. A great time to do this is while you're putting them to bed.

LESSON TWELVE

HONOR ALL

When we live an honorable life, we leave a lasting impression upon all those we come across. That's because people won't always remember what you accomplished, but they will always remember how you made them feel. And that's the very essence of an honorable life—placing value upon others.

In this lesson, we learned:

- We are to honor all people because the greatest ransom in the universe was paid for everyone we come in contact with.
- We honor God by the way we live.
- The fear of the Lord is the foundation of living honorably.
- We cannot demand honor from others, but we can attract honor.
- A good reputation is to be prized over great wealth.

DISCUSS --- ---

1. Why is it important to honor all people?
2. Honor bestows dignity upon others. What are practical ways in which you can bestow dignity toward others?
3. How do we develop a heart of honor?

WORD OF HONOR

If you are wise and understanding God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:13 NLT)

HONORABLE MENTION

"When you show honor to anyone—your mother, a delivery person, the homeless guy you usually walk past in the morning—you are actively recognizing and respecting God's creation. Your actions are saying to Him, 'God, You are amazing! I love You and everything You have created. Thank You for putting this person in my life!' By honoring the person, you are showing God you recognize the value of the individual He made. That is what honor does. It recognizes a person's worth." —Rich Wilkerson Sr., *I Choose Honor*.

ACT OF VALOR

Throughout your week, be intentional to speak something encouraging to those in your world. Whether it's at home, at work, or a place you frequent—think of the things you appreciate about them and share it with them.

Copyright 2019 by John Bevere

Published by: Messenger International, Inc., P.O. Box 888, Palmer Lake, CO 80133-0888

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without prior permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (AMP) are taken from the Amplified Bible, Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved.

Written by John Bevere

Edited by Chris Pace