

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: Honoring Our Heavenly Father

Reading: Psalm 103:13-18

Just as we're called to honor our earthly parents, our relationship with our Heavenly Father is of utmost importance. Today's passage reminds us of God's tender love and compassion towards His children. Unlike imperfect human parents, God's love is perfect, steadfast, and eternal. Reflect on how God has shown His fatherly love in your life. How can you honor Him today through your thoughts, words, and actions? Remember, even if earthly relationships falter, your Heavenly Father will never abandon you.

Day 2: The Foundation of Respect

Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4

Respect for authority begins at home, but extends to all areas of life. Paul's words to the Ephesians highlight the importance of mutual respect between parents and children. Consider how your early experiences with authority have shaped your current relationships and attitudes. Ask God to heal any wounds from the past and help you cultivate a spirit of respect, even in challenging situations. How might your life change if you approached all relationships with God-honoring respect?

Day 3: The Power of Forgiveness

Reading: Colossians 3:12-14

Families are built on forgiveness, as we often hurt those closest to us. Today's passage calls us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience - qualities essential for family harmony. Forgiveness is not about forgetting or excusing wrongs, but about releasing bitterness and choosing love. Is there someone in your family you need to forgive? Ask God for the strength to let go of past hurts and to love as He loves us. Remember, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself as much as others.

Day 4: Caring for the Elderly

Reading: 1 Timothy 5:1-8

As our parents age, we're called to honor them through practical care and emotional support. Paul's instructions to Timothy emphasize the importance of caring for family, especially the elderly. This reflects God's heart for the vulnerable and teaches us to value wisdom that comes with age. How can you show appreciation to the older generation in your life? Consider practical ways to affirm their worth and ensure they feel valued. In doing so, we honor not just our parents, but also our Heavenly Father.

Day 5: Becoming Part of God's Family

Reading: John 1:12-13, Galatians 4:4-7

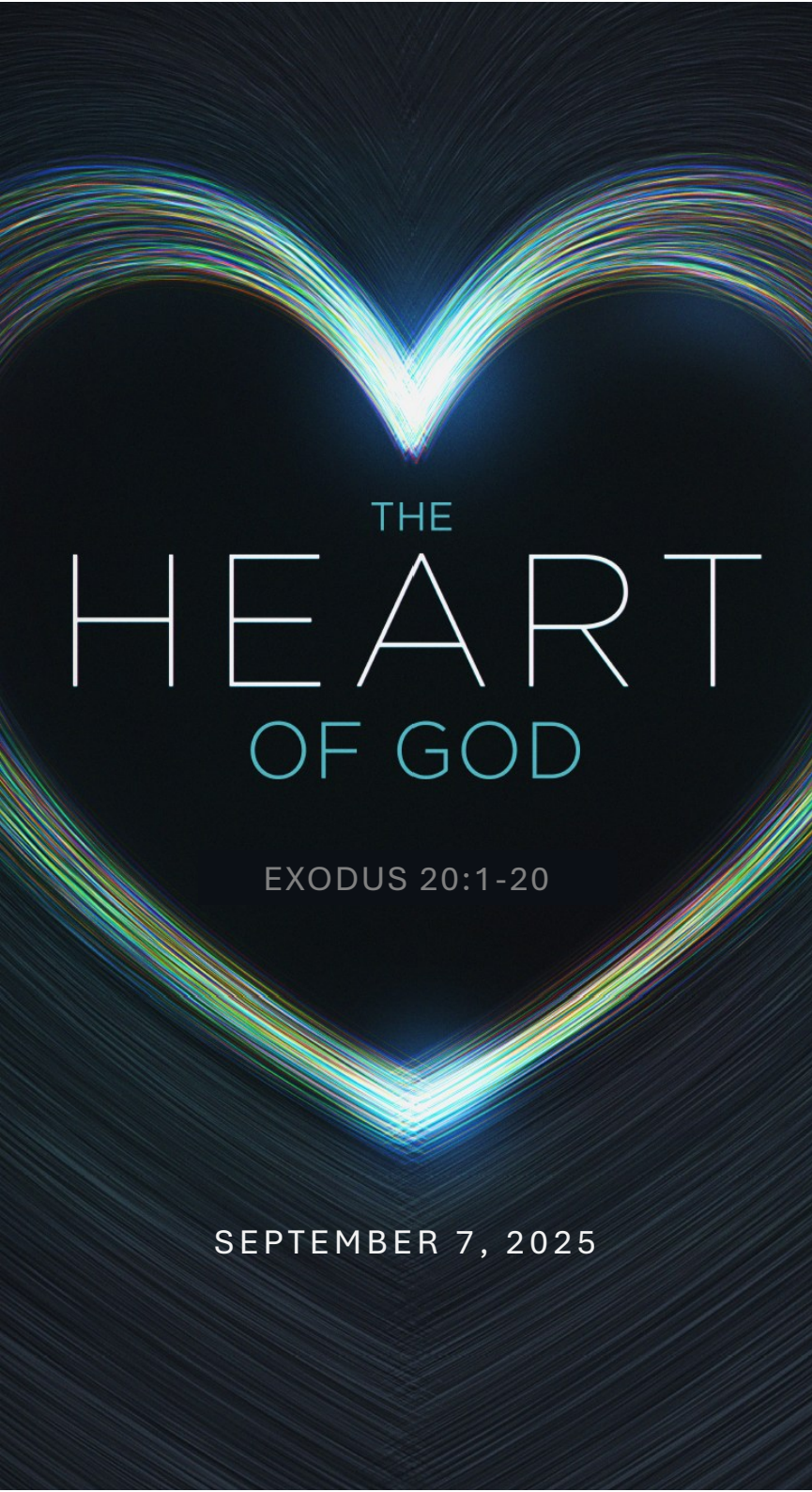
While earthly families are important, our place in God's eternal family is of supreme significance. Today's readings remind us that through faith in Christ, we become children of God. This spiritual adoption grants us unparalleled privileges and an unshakeable identity. Reflect on what it means to be a child of God. How does this divine relationship impact your daily life? Thank God for His unconditional love and acceptance, and consider how you can live as a faithful member of His family today.

DEACONS ON CALL

John Harris and Jason Swann

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM



All in the Family / Exodus 20:12

In a world where family bonds are increasingly fragile, we're reminded of a timeless command that has the power to transform our relationships and shape our character: "Honor your father and mother." This directive, found in Exodus 20:12, is more than just a suggestion—it's one of the Ten Commandments, a fundamental principle for living a life pleasing to God.

I. Why did God give this commandment?

- 1. There are no _____ parents.
- 2. Respect for _____ begins at home.
- 3. How I relate to my parents will affect every other _____.

II. How am I to honor my parents?

- 1. As a **CHILD**, I honor my parents by _____ and _____ them.
- 2. As a **YOUNG PERSON**, I honor my parents by _____ and _____ them.
 - a. Acceptance means realizing that God used them to bring me into the _____.

- b. It means listening to what they have to _____.
- c. Acceptance includes _____.
- 3. As an **ADULT**, I honor my parents by _____ and not _____ them.
 - a. You affirm your parents by staying in _____ with them.
 - b. Affirming them means giving them the courtesy of asking for _____.
 - c. We must never _____ our parents as they age.

III. A word to parents: If you want to be honored, then be _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 23:22, 20:20, 3:27; 1 Timothy 5:4-8; Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 27:10
Referenced Works: The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott); Be Delivered (Warren Wiersbe); Ten Values that Build Strong Families (Rick Warren); Exodus (John Mackay); The Message of Exodus (Alec J. Motyer); Exodus (Peter Enns); Exodus & Leviticus (B. H. Carroll)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is one of your fondest memories of mom and dad?
- 2. Read **Exodus 20:12**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
- 3. Why do you think God included honoring parents as one of the Ten Commandments? How does this commandment differ from the others?
- 4. The sermon mentions that there are no perfect parents. How does this reality affect our ability to honor our parents?
- 5. How does respecting authority at home translate to other areas of life?
- 6. Discuss the different ways to honor parents at various life stages (as a child, young person, and adult). Which stage are you in, and what challenges do you face in honoring your parents?
- 7. For those who have experienced difficult relationships with parents, how can we balance honoring them while also acknowledging past hurts?
- 8. How does forgiveness play a role in honoring our parents? Share any experiences you've had with forgiving a parent.
- 9. What are some practical ways we can affirm our parents, especially as they age?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Make a list of positive qualities or efforts you appreciate about your parents. Share one with them this week.
- If you're struggling with unresolved issues with a parent, consider seeking counseling or talking to a trusted spiritual leader for guidance.
- For those with aging parents, brainstorm ways to stay in touch more regularly (e.g., weekly calls, monthly visits).
- If you're a parent, reflect on how you can be more honorable in your role. Ask your children for feedback if appropriate.
- Write a letter or card to your parents (or parent figures) expressing gratitude for specific things they've done for you.