

BREAKING Ground



May 2020

Solid Ground

Our focus on the Ten Commandments this year provides a clear picture of how our Lord intends us to live in relationship with Him and our neighbors. As we walk together in the Breaking Ground campaign our foundation is established in Christ alone!

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12). The 4th commandment begins a new section in the Ten Commandments that shapes how we live with others in the world. Could you ever have imagined a Mother’s Day when staying away from your mother was an expression of love? Our world has been flipped on its head.

In the Large Catechism of Rev. Martin Luther, written in 1529 for pastors and teachers, an important point is made in regarding our relationship with our parents. *“To fatherhood and motherhood God has given the special distinction, above all estates that are beneath it, that he commands us not simply to love our parents but also to honor them... Thus he distinguishes father and mother above all other persons on earth, and places them next to himself.”* (Book of Concord. The Large Catechism, Fourth Commandment, Tappert Edition, 1959. page 379.) Honor goes beyond love and includes deference, humility and modesty that is due to your parent which is not always easy to provide.

The role of parent is given to many in this world yet the Lord’s request to honor that person is not based on how they treat you. We honor them because God asks us to do so. Growing up I was shaped by a mentor in my life whose father was an alcoholic who destroyed a portion of his life. Yet that man honored his father until his dying day taking him to medical appointments more than an hour away and checking in on his father at frequent intervals. That same man welcomed his mother into his home since she had no where to go when the father’s actions removed the ability of the couple to live together forever changing his life in his 30s.

Honoring those given the role of parent is not always easy; the deference and humility we give to the parents in our life is given because it is the will of God. From this same commandment flows the need to obey and serve all those who are exercising their proper authority in our lives.

“Through civil rulers, as through our own parents, God gives us food, house and home, protection and security. Therefore since they bear this name and title with all honor as their chief glory it is our duty to honor and magnify them as the most precious treasure and jewel on earth.” (Book of Concord. The Large Catechism, Fourth Commandment, Tappert Edition,

1959. page 386.) These words are easy to receive when all is at peace, yet today in a world with heightened sensitivities of governmental oversight due to a health crisis, we lean more fully into our Lord’s request. May we be diligent in the honor given to our parents and recall all the more our need to support those entrusted with concern for the well being of civil society. May we daily pray for those whose work in life is to care for us as even a parent cares for home making decisions which, Lord willing, balance the needs of all for the greater good of all involved.

Being a parent refers to the parental relationships in several spheres of life. Our parents by blood, the parents in the household in which we live and the parents or authorities of a nation. Then in addition to these roles we must add the space of a spiritual parent those who lovingly raise us in the faith and point us toward the Word of God. This is what Paul says of the church in Corinth, *“I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel”* (1 Corinthians 4:15).

May we this month honor those placed in authority over us aware that this commandment comes with a promise; heeding the instructions of God results in long life. Our lives are a gift, which we have been entrusted with, to bring glory to God’s name so that each day will be viewed as a precious gift flowing from our Lord who made all things and promises to renew all creation on the Last Day.

in Christ, Pastor Mike

GROWING



SPROUTS

Memory Work for May:

Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and mother.

What Does This Mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Breaking Ground Campaign Update



Update as of April 30, 2020

Ways to Donate

- **Mail donations to the church's locked mailbox** with a Breaking Ground special designation: 1031 Pemberton Hill Rd., Suite 202, Apex, NC 27502
- Sign-up for Joyful Response® **free e-giving** through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- **Donate online** through the website at JordanApex.org/giving
- Direct your **IRA RMD** to Jordan tax-free if you are over 72
- Utilize **Jordan's brokerage account** to make a stock gift
- Include Jordan in your **estate planning**

Questions?

Contact office@jordanchurchnc.org or call Jordan's Office at (919) 303-1613



"The people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD."

1 Chronicles 29:9 ESV

Encouraging Our Spiritual Growth

Consider the following ideas and activities as you look to break ground in your spiritual growth this year.

Know Christ

engagement in Jordan's congregational worship life

- Weekly worship service available online
- Bulletin for each service is made available via email links and under the resources tab: <http://jordanapex.org/media/sermons>
- Weekly Children's Sermon at JordanApex.org/jordan-juniors

Grow in Christ

my commitment to study the Scriptures and be in prayer

- Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9 a.m. (Zoom online)
- Teen Bible class at 11 a.m. on Sundays (Zoom online)
- Tuesday Small Group at 6:30 p.m. (email Larry Eckart for link)
- Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Jesus Debates Study (Zoom online)

Serve Christ

my active response to use the gifts entrusted to me by God

- Consider offering masks made by a volunteer at Jordan to a neighbor or friend.
- Provide groceries to Western Wake Crisis Ministry as food pantry need is great.

Go for Christ

using my vocation to share Christ with others

- Honor your parents beyond a phone call or card by sharing how they shaped you to follow Christ.
- Surprise a neighbor or friend with a flower, card or baked good on their front porch.

Monthly Prayer

Gracious God you set the stars in the sky and placed the earth on its axis, even as the events of the present season take us beyond our comfort zones make your presence known in the earthly institutions you have provided. May we see anew in the God given blessings of parents that you designed the world with order and structure to preserve creation. Even when the ordained authorities neglect their duties enable us to honor and cherish them as we align to your will for all creation to worship you, O Lord our rock and our redeemer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sundays at 9:30 AM at Beaver Creek Cinemas in Apex

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