

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT—PART 1
The Ten Commandments — Week 7

ICEBREAKER: If you could teach any class on any subject, what would you teach and to whom would you teach it?

OVERVIEW: The fifth commandment is special. It is the first commandment with a promise. It is the first of the commandments that deal with our relationships with people. It teaches us how to order and strengthen the family. But keeping the fifth commandment is not easy. It is difficult for children to live in submission to their parents. It is difficult for children to honor sinful parents, and all parents are sinful. In this discussion we will go deeper with the meaning and application of the fifth commandment.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What's the best thing your parents taught you?
3. Why are you thankful for your parents?
4. Read Exodus 20:12. What does the word "honor" mean?
5. The fifth commandment commands children to honor both father and mother. Why do you think it mentions both parents, and in this order?
6. The Ten Commandments contain two categories. The first table, commandments 1-4, is spiritual, teaching us how to love God. The second table, 5-10, is social, teaching us how to love people. Why do you think honoring one's parents is the first of the social commandments?

7. Why doesn't the fifth commandment provide an age limit? At what point can you stop honoring your parents?
8. Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21. What does this passage reveal about the importance of this command to God? Why is it so important to God that children honor their parents?
9. Read Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20. 1) What does it mean to obey your parents in a way that is pleasing to the Lord? 2) Must you obey your parents for the rest of your life? Explain.
10. What does it mean to honor your parents with your words? And with your attitude?
11. Read 1 Timothy 5:3-4,8,16. God places the responsibility of caring for the elderly in the hands of children and grandchildren. What are some practical ways you can care for your parents as they get older and less able to care for themselves?
12. Other than obedience, respect, and caring for your parents as they get older, what are some other important ways to honor your parents?
13. What are some ways that you have failed at honoring your parents? What are some ways that you can improve at honoring your parents?

The Last Word: Your parents want to enjoy you; they want to do life with you; they want your friendship as you grow older; they want your companionship; they want to share life with you; they want to be involved in your life.