



Date: _____
Series: Raising Your Parents
Summer Year 1, Lesson 7

Showing Respect to Your Parents

Take Home Point: *Respect your parents.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Ephesians 6:1-4

Key Verses: Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents because you are Christians."

We will help kids know:

- To respect your parents means lifting them up or honoring them in words and obedience.
- Jesus honored his Father when he obeyed him and became a sacrifice for the sin of the world.




We will help kids feel:

- Respect for their parents because they first respect the Lord.
- Convicted about the ways they have dishonored their parents.
- Motivated to honor their parents.

We will help kids do:

- Ask their parents, "What is something that I could do that would better honor you?"
- Build a tower using cards.
- Write down ideas of ways they can honor their parents.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	4	Kids compete with other triads in building a card tower. Today they talk about building a tower of honor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set of five 3"X5" cards cut in half for each kid
Large Group 	5 8	Overview Teaching Point: Kids come up with ideas about how they can "freak out" their parents by showing respect. They discover that Jesus is their example as he honored his Father by going to the cross. Jesus gives them the power to honor their parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple grandparent costume • pens or pencils • same cards used in small group • colored poster board with slits cut in it for cards to be placed to resemble a cross
Small Group Application 	6	Kids write out ten ideas of how they can honor their parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the same cards used in Small Group Warm-Up and Large Group. <i>Be sure each kid has ten cards.</i> • pens or pencils

Introduction to the Series: Raising Your Parents

This series is designed to be especially convenient for the summer time season when there may be fewer shepherds or inconsistent attendance by the kids. Therefore, it may be harder for the groups to have a typical “small group” dynamic. This format will give the large group presenter an opportunity to lead the Warm-Up and Application activities while the kids are divided into triads or groups of three. The large group presenter plays the role of a wise grandmother or grandfather teaching truths and leading activities that illustrate the different learning points.

The character for this series will play the part of a grandmother or grandfather. He/she can use their own last name but be referred to as Grandma or Grandpa _____ (presenter’s last name). Simple costuming of a scarf, reading glasses, and a cane can be used. To make the costume more elaborate, use gray hair spray or a gray wig.

Each week Grandpa or Grandma _____ will give the kids hints on how to raise their parents.

Series lessons:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Lesson #7 | Showing Respect to Your Parents |
| Lesson #8 | Showing Responsibility to Your Parents |
| Lesson #9 | Talking Openly with Your Parents |
| Lesson #10 | Having Fun with Your Parents |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Summertime Options

Easier Summer Option: Instead of having kids in small groups with an assigned shepherd, the kids can meet all together and divide themselves into triads (groups of three). This allows for larger ratios between students and shepherds. Shepherds will monitor the kids' activity as needed by roaming from group to group. The questions and directions for all the kids and their groups are by the large group presenter. If this is used, go to the introduction of large group to introduce the main character used in this series.

Regular Shepherd Option: Do the Warm-Up activity as a small group. If you like, you can still divide into triads within your small group. This helps each child participate more.

Supplies: a set of five 3"X5" index cards cut in half for each kid

Divide kids into triads. Have two triads compete against each other in the following challenge.

Today we will have a competition. Please divide into triads and find a triad next to you to compete against.

Round one

Each triad will work together to build the highest tower possible using all your cards. I will give you one minute to work. No card can be bent or damaged in any way. After one minute, any card that is not used or not standing up in your tower must be given to the other team. Ready, set, go.

Begin timing, and after one minute, tell kids to stop building. Teams must give away cards not used.

Round two

Again I will give you one minute to continue building your tower. Cards not used at the end of one minute will once again go to the opposing team. Ready, set, go.

Time for one minute and then have kids give away their unused cards.

Round three

This is our final round. We will check to see who has the tallest tower after this round. Ready, set, go!

Time for one minute and then measure the towers to find the tallest.

Today we will talk about building towers, not out of cards, but out of honor. Honor is when you show someone respect by the things you say to them or by the things you do for them. We will discover what the Bible says about respecting your parents.

In your small groups, think about one thing you did or said that made one of your parents feel honored. For an example, maybe your mom asked you to clean up your room and you said, “Sure, Mom, whatever you say.”

After kids have discussed, continue with:

Tell something that you have done that shows dishonor.

Which is easier, to honor or dishonor your parents?

Let’s think about our towers. Was it easier to build the tower or have it come crashing down? Like our towers, is it easier to honor or dishonor our parents?

Today we will discuss how to **respect your parents.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Teaching Point: Kids come up with ideas about how they can “freak out” their parents by showing respect. They discover that Jesus is their example as he honored his Father by going to the cross. Jesus gives them the power to honor their parents.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids read Ephesians 6:2-3. Then have them read Exodus 20:12.

How are the two passages the same? How are they different? *(Both say to honor your parents and both have a promise with it. The Exodus promise states that you may live for a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving you, and the Ephesians promise says that you may live a long time on earth.)*

The Ephesians verses in the New Testament are actually restating the Commandment in the Old Testament. Do you think if this commandment is in the Bible in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God still wants us to follow it today?

What is the promise we will receive if we obey this commandment? *(Ephesians 6:3. That everything may go well for you and you may have a long life on earth.)*

Can you give examples of how everything may go well for you if you obey this commandment?

What does Ephesians 6:1 give for the reason you should obey your parents? *(Because you are Christians.)*

As Christians, we believe in Jesus and belong to God. Jesus becomes the example we follow to live our lives. Jesus is the ultimate example of honoring and obeying his Father.

What did Jesus do to honor his heavenly Father according to John 10:17-18? *(He gave his life of his own free will.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: Each kid will need ten cards used earlier in the lesson and pencils.

Let's come up with specific ways we can honor our parents. I would like each of you to write ten things, one on each of the cards, that you can do this week to honor your parents. Write on one of the cards: "In what way can I show honor to you today?" This will really FREAK out your parents.

It might be fun to have your parents draw one of your honor cards from your hand. This is a fun way of saying, "Thank you for being my parents."

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for Jesus who obeyed his Father and gave his life for us on the cross. Thank him for Jesus' example for us to follow, and his resurrection power to do so.

Encourage kids to pray in their triads for the specific ways they will show honor and respect to their parents this week. Then say as kids are dismissed:

As you leave today, remember to **respect your parents as Jesus respected his.*

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Showing Respect to Your Parents

The character for this series will play the part of a grandmother or grandfather. He/she can use their own last names, but be referred to as Grandma or Grandpa_____ (put in your own last name.) Simple costuming of a scarf, reading glasses, and a cane can be used. To make it more elaborate add gray hair spray or gray wig.

Each week Grandma or Grandpa _____ will give hints as to how the kids can raise their parents.

Supplies:

- *cards from small group Warm-Up*
- *pencil – one per kid*
- *colored poster board with ten slits cut in it so when cards are placed in the slits it looks like a cross*
- *written on the back of the poster board with marker: “Honor your parents,” “Because you are a Christian,” “Just as Jesus honored his Father”*



Introduction

Hello, kids. My name is Grandma (Grandpa) _____ (your last name). I am here today to talk about raising parents. A lot of parents want to hear how to raise their kids, and I know there are many experts on THAT subject.

I am an expert, though, on how to raise your parents. I am sure there are many of you who have questions concerning this.

I have some very important advice for you youngin's that will help you help your parents become the very best they can be.

FREAK Them Out!

The first thing you need to do in raising your parents is to “FREAK them out!” That’s right. Make them think that you are going crazy. I am sure each one of you is wondering how to do this.

What do you think your parents would say if you walked up to them and said, “What could I do to better honor you?” Some moms and dads would faint at hearing those words.

Another way to really “FREAK them out” is to do something without them asking you to do it. For example, clean your room before your mom has a chance to suggest that something else might be living there besides you.

What would happen if you said, “Yes, mom, I would be delighted to help you”?

I have an idea. Let’s have a “FREAK out your parents” contest. Each triad needs to write down two or three ideas that would really “FREAK out” your parents. Write each idea on a separate card. Have one person bring those to the front.

Collect enough ideas to obtain a total of ten cards for the boys and ten cards for the girls.

Build an Honor Tower

On a table, place the ten cards in one pile for the girls and another pile of ten cards for the boys.

Explain that there will be a contest between the boys and girls to see who can build the tallest honor tower from the cards brought forward.

Have each team (boys and girls) select three contestants to build one tower for their team. Have contestants come forward and stand next to their respective pile.

Explain that each contestant will have 20 seconds to build before it is the next contestant’s turn to add more cards to their team’s tower. (The boy contestants and girl contestants will go simultaneously.) Just like in small group, the cards cannot be bent in any way. After each contestant has had a 20 second turn (total of 60 seconds), it will be time to measure the tower. When it is not their turn, the contestants should stand back from the table.

There is one liability: Any card that falls down cannot be used again.

After everyone is clear on the instructions, begin.

When this is completed, a second round can be done with new card tower builders.

Read the “FREAK Out” Cards

Let’s read through some of the ways we might “FREAK out” our parents by honoring them.

Read cards out loud. If it hasn’t been mentioned, tell the kids one of the greatest ways to honor their parents is to pray for/with them.

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

Ephesians 6:1-3 says, *“Children, obey your parents because you are Christians. This is the right thing to do. ‘Honor your father and mother that everything may go well for you, and you may have a long life on earth.’ This is an important commandment with a promise.”*

The examples you provided are actions we do to lift our parents up or to show our obedience and respect. One of the best ways to raise your parents is to raise them up with honor. There is a promise given by God if we do this.

Does anyone remember from the verses we just read what that promise is? (*“You may have a long life on earth.” Verse 3b.*)

Why? Because you are a Christian

Why would we want to honor our parents? Many people in fifth and sixth grade now find it much easier to dishonor their parents than honor them. Maybe it is like building the card towers. It is a lot easier for them to fall than it is to be built up. Just like those towers we tried to build came down so easily, we might find it easier to dishonor.

So, why would we want to build up our towers anyway? Let’s read again what the Bible says in Ephesians 6:1, *“Children, obey your parents because you are Christians.”* The reason to obey our parents is because we are Christians. It is one way of showing honor to God.

Many kids think that honoring their parents is only between them and their parents. That is not true. It is also between you and God. If you love God and want to honor him, you will honor people he places in authority over you.

Jesus is Our Example of Honoring

Why do we honor our parents? We honor them because we are Christians.

Who is an example for us to follow? Jesus honored his heavenly Father and became the ultimate example to follow.

You may have kids look up the following references in their own Bibles and follow along.

John 14:31 says, *“However, I want the world to know that I love the Father and that I am doing exactly what the Father has commanded me to do.”*

What was Jesus’ greatest act of obedience? Please find John 10:17-18 in your Bible and read along with me. *“The Father loves me because I give my life in order to take it back again. No one takes my life from me. I give my life of my own free will. I have the authority to give my life, and I have the authority to take my life back again. This is what my Father ordered me to do.”*

So what did Jesus do to obey his Father? He obeyed the Father by dying on the cross for the punishment of the sins of the world. Jesus did this because he loves us and wanted to honor the Father.

Jesus Gives Us the Power to Honor

When we have faith in Jesus as our Savior, we not only have forgiveness for the times we dishonor him—just like when the tower collapsed—but just as importantly, we have his power working in our lives. That is how we are able to make an honoring tower to our parents that won’t easily fall over. For example, let’s look at this. ..

Bring out the poster board. (See above illustration.) Place the “Freak out our parents” cards into the slits, which will reveal a cross.

There is one very big benefit to honoring your parents other than just FREAKING them out. You will find that as you honor them, they will find it easier to honor you and give you freedom as you grow. Ephesians 6:4 says this to fathers, *“Fathers, don’t make your children bitter about life. Instead, bring them up in Christian discipline and instruction.”*

You can help your parents not become bitter towards you by honoring them.

Let’s remember...

Turn the poster board over to reveal what is written on the back.

****Honor your parents, because you are a Christian, just as Jesus honored his Father.***

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son Jesus.

Jesus, thank you for obeying your Father and honoring him, even if it meant going to the cross. We now claim the power of your forgiveness over our lives.

Sometimes it is easy to dishonor our parents just like it was easy for our honor card towers to come tumbling down. For those times when we have dishonored our parents, we realize that in a way, it is like dishonoring you. Please forgive us.

Now help us to better honor our parents. Help us think of ways we can do that because we belong to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Conclusion

The kids return to their triads or small group area where they will continue.