

## **Lesson 4**

# **Honor and Obey Your Parents**

### **Lesson Overview**

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 2:40-52

MEMORY VERSE: “Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord”. Colossians 3:20

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “I delight to do your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart”. Psalm 40:8

CATECHISM: The Fourth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD the God giveth thee.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and respect them.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- understand parents are a gift from God
- know that God will help you love and honor your parents

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Bible lesson is about Jesus coming to the temple when he was twelve years old to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. When his parents started back home Jesus stayed behind to listen to the teachers and ask questions. Joseph and Mary had to return to Jerusalem and search for Him for three days before they found Him. Jesus told them He needed to be in His Father’s House (He was the Son of God) but he returned home with them without issue, honoring them by this action. The lesson talks about how we honor and respect our parents. When we don’t keep this commandment we can confess this as sin and God will forgive us.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What days do we celebrate our parents each year? How do we honor and respect our parents? Where had Jesus and His parents gone? What happened when they started to return home? How did Jesus honor His earthly parents? In what ways can we honor our parents? When we mess up and dishonor them what can we do?

ACTIVITY 1: Connect the answer activity: 1- Joseph, Mary, Jesus, 2- Jesus, 3- Joseph, Mary, 4- Mary, 5- teachers, 6- Jesus, 7- me, 8- God, 9- God, 10- Jesus.

ACTIVITY 2: Honor or Dishonor activity: 1- H, 2- D, 3- H, 4- D, 5- D, 6- H, 7- D, 8- D. Fill in the Blank: Children, be OBEDIENT to your PARENTS in all things, for this is well pleasing to the LORD. COLOSSIANS 3:20

# TEACHER PREPARATION

## Prepare to Teach

Pray for the homes and the parents of the children. Pray that each home may be a place where the child learns to know and love Jesus.

Pray that God's Word, learned and carried home each Sunday, may do its work of grace, working a living faith in the hearts of those who live there.

## Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Pray for each of the children He has placed in your class this year by name and ask Him to bless them.

## Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

## Bible Background

Luke 2:40-52 Jesus as a boy at the temple

Luke's gospel informs us of the events leading up to and surrounding the birth of Jesus, His circumcision on the eighth day (Lk 2:21), and the purification ceremony in the temple where He is met by Simeon and Anna (2:22-38). The family returned to Nazareth in Galilee and Luke summarized the next years of Jesus by simply saying that He "kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people" (2:40). The NASB version words it differently: *"The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."*

Matthew records the visit of the Magi from the East and Herod's massacre of infants (Mt 2:1-13), and that Joseph and Mary and the baby fled to Egypt until the death of Herod. This journey fulfilled the prophecy that "Out of Egypt I called My Son" (Mt 2:14-15).

Aside from the visit to the temple at age 12, what did Jesus do during all those years he was growing up in Nazareth? No one knows. There are "fanciful stories" about what Jesus as a young boy might be prone to do. One example is that Jesus would make a bird out of clay, give it life, and send it flying into the air. He was the Creator of the world, but he would not now foolishly play with the power of God, for that would certainly not honor His heavenly Father. Also, John describes the miracle of the water into wine at Cana as His first miracle (Jn 2:11).

Jesus and His family lived in Nazareth to fulfill what was also spoken through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene" (Mt 2:23). According to one source the name Nazareth is derived from a Hebrew word for "branch" which would refer back to the prophetic messianic words in

Isaiah 11:1, “Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.”

Nazareth was on a major trade route going inland from the coast, so the people were closely in touch with the Gentile world. Jesus was not isolated from Gentile life. The city was also a local gathering place for the priests who met to travel up to Jerusalem together for their twice-yearly duty in the temple.

There is a Jewish saying that “A child sucks in knowledge of the Torah at the mother’s breast.” His education at home began in infancy, which should be true especially in any Godly home. Jesus kept the law perfectly in our place, so even as a child He honored His father and mother, Joseph and Mary, and was subject to them” (Lk 2:51). In His ministry Jesus was always clear about obeying His heavenly Father. When in Jerusalem for the Passover, He was at home in “His Father’s house” (Lk 2:49). He was familiar with Jewish traditions and practices in the home. He and his family were known in the local synagogue and attended worship regularly (Lk 4:16).

A Jewish father was bound to teach his son as soon as the boy could speak. This duty took precedence even over eating a meal. The child learned Psalms and Scripture verses and prayers. Many homes possessed scrolls containing parts of the Scriptures and scrolls with specially selected portions for children. There was a good standard of literacy and commitment to learning in those days, with more formal education to come.

At age five the child reached the age for the study of scripture, at ten the study of the Mishnah. The Mishnah is the first major written collection of the oral Law or Torah. It is also the first major work of rabbinic literature. Secular subjects had no place in the curriculum; moral and religious learning was the only aim.

As God and man, did Jesus already have much of this knowledge and wisdom? We don’t know, but even though He was God, He “emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond servant and being born in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:7). In the likeness of man, He grew up as a normal child, needing the learning and activities like other children. He would have worked with Joseph as a carpenter. The word translated carpenter means an artisan or craftsman who might work in stone or metal as well as wood. Joseph and Jesus likely worked with a variety of materials. His life experiences enabled him to continue to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with both God and man. Even though Jesus was only twelve years old, He possessed great wisdom and understanding, as evidenced by the response of the rabbis to his answers and insights.

## Learn the New Words

*It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.*

**honor:** respect, think of them as important people given to us by God. When we honor our parents, we love and obey them. We don’t say bad things to them or about them.

**behavior:** how we act

**Jerusalem:** the capital or most important city in Israel

**Feast of the Passover:** a special Jewish holiday, celebrating when God brought the Israelites out of slavery and the land of Egypt

**relatives:** people close to you because they have some or many of the same ancestors

**pleased:** happy or satisfied with

**appropriate:** acceptable, right for the situation

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Use these pre-class moments to get to know each child and what is important to each of them.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like. Thank God for giving us parents to love and watch over us.

### Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”  
Colossians 3:20

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

### Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Third Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last three lessons. (God’s Day is holy, God’s Word is holy, God’s House is holy).

## TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

### Introduce the Lesson

The first three commandments tell us how to relate to God. Starting with the Fourth Commandment, the rest tell us how to relate to other people, beginning with our parents.

### Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. **SAY:** Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are special times when we honor our parents. Your family might give them gifts or do something special for them on those holidays. We want them to know how important they are to us. God wants us to treat our parents nicely every day. We honor our parents when we do that and when we obey them right away and don’t talk back to them.

**ASK:** Why should we obey our parents? (response) Yes, because they love and care for

us, but most of all we obey them because God wants us to obey them.

God wants us to honor our parents as well as obey them. Our lesson will teach us how to do that.

**ASK:** Why has God given a commandment just about parents? **ASK:** What special promise has God given to children who honor their parents? (God promises a long life to those who obey their parents (Exodus 20:12)).

**SAY:** Let’s read the story from our lessons to learn what Jesus said when His parents asked Him why He stayed in the temple. Have volunteers read the second and third paragraphs. **ASK:** Who can read what Jesus said. (“Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”). Jesus wondered that they didn’t know that He was doing what His heavenly Father wanted Him to do. All those who heard Jesus discussing His Father were amazed at His answers and His thoughts. Jesus

was 12 years old, but He still possessed great wisdom and understanding.

**Ask** the children to listen as you read Luke 2:40-52 from the Bible to learn how Joseph and Mary lost track of Jesus. After finishing, repeat the question, “How did Joseph and Mary lose Jesus?” (He stayed in the temple. His parents thought He was walking with relatives or friends.)

Read the fourth paragraph. **ASK:** Do we always keep the Fourth Commandment

perfectly? No, we don’t, but Jesus did. He kept all the Commandments perfectly.

Read the last paragraph together. When we don’t keep this or any of the commandments, what do we need to do? (Repent and say we are sorry. Ask God to forgive us. Ask God to help us love and honor our parents always.)

## Repeat the Memory Verse

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Do the Activities Together

#### Who Is It?

##### Activity 1

Draw a line from each question to the correct answer.

**Activity 1**  
**WHO IS IT?**

Draw a line from each question to the correct answer. Some may have more than one answer.

1. Who went to the Feast of the Passover? — Joseph

2. Who was missing? — Mary

3. Who went to look for Jesus? — Mary

4. Who asked Jesus why He was in the temple? — Jesus

5. Who were amazed at Jesus' understanding? — Jesus

6. Who went home with His parents and obeyed them? — Jesus

7. Who does not obey God perfectly? — me

8. Who wants to forgive our sin? — God

9. Who will help us to love and honor our parents and others who care for us? — God

10. Who alone has obeyed perfectly? — God

Options: Joseph, Mary, Jesus, teachers, me, God

#### Honor or Dishonor

##### Activity 2

Label each statement with an H or D for Honor or Dishonor. Fill in the blanks.

**Activity 2**  
**HONOR OR DISHONOR?**

Read the following statements that show ways we honor or dishonor our parents and others who care for us. Write the letter H for honor or D for dishonor. Then circle the verbs that show ways we honor them.

  H   1. Obey when my parents ask me to clean my room.

  D   2. Do not listen when they are talking to me.

  H   3. Thank them for giving me food to eat and clothes to wear.

  D   4. Disobey when grandparents want me to pick up my toys.

  D   5. Talk back to my teacher when I feel mad or hurt.

  H   6. Behave when I know the right thing to do.

  D   7. Complain about doing chores around the house.

  D   8. Start to play a game when I am called to come for dinner.

When we dishonor our parents and others who care for us, we can ask them to forgive us. We can ask God to forgive us too. He promises to forgive our sin.

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Fill in the missing words from our memory verse.

Children, be   OBEDIENT   to your   PARENTS   in a things, for this is well-pleasing to the   LORD  .

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## CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

## **Additional Teaching Options**

**Hymns and Songs:**

**Additional activities for a multi-age class:**