
CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Do you have a favorite memory of a parent or mentor?
- What's your relationship like with your parents?
- Discipleship check-in (at the bottom of this guide!)

INTRODUCTION

Family matters. Families are a good gift, but they're hard as well. Precisely because they can be the place of so much blessing, it hurts even more deeply when they are a place of brokenness instead. But God has a vision for our families, one that he wants to share with us: that by following Him, the stories of our families can be redeemed.

This week, we'll be talking about being sons and daughters. What does it look like to love our parents well? Take time to pray before you start, and invite your people into vulnerability as we approach this sometimes-difficult topic. Respect one another's privacy as you press into this, and seek to grow deeper in care and compassion for one another.

READ & DISCUSS

READ: Ephesians 6:1-3

DISCUSS:

- What initial observations do you have about the passage?
- Does anyone in the group know where the commandment Paul quotes comes from?
- Why do you think honoring your father and your mother is connected with a promise of blessing?

REFLECT & APPLY

DISCUSS:

- When this command was given to ancient Israel, it was at one point spoken to a generation whose parents had failed them miserably. The generation who heard this command in Deuteronomy had been stranded in the wilderness because of their parents' lack of courage and faithfulness. What does it mean that they were still asked to honor their parents, even as God called them to be radically different from their fathers and mothers?

- Honoring our parents doesn't mean imitating them, it means loving them. What are some biblical stories about children honoring and loving their parents? What can you learn from them?
 - Honoring your parents starts with being grateful for the gifts they gave you, however imperfect. What are some things your parents gave you and did for you that you are grateful for?
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PRAY

Ask God to help you be a perfect child to Him, your perfect Father. Ask God to bless your parents, and give you eyes to see how you can honor them. Thank Him for what He's given you through them.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?