

GOD GIVES PARENTS

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: FAMILY

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES PARENTS

Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 1:8-9; Ephesians 6:1-4

BIBLE VERSE: EXODUS 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

BIG IDEAS

- Parents are a gift from God to their children.
- Parents are called to point their children to God.
- We are called to obey our parents.
- We are called to show our parents honor for God’s glory.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:41-52

As a boy, Jesus and his family visited the temple. Even when Jesus’ earthly parents didn’t understand His reason for staying behind in the temple, He chose to be submissive to them and obey them. His behavior towards His parents is an example to everyone.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God created the family



Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the gift of family that God has given them



Every child should:

- Practice serving the members of their family



Every child should want:

- To honor and respect their family

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GIFT OF PARENTS

God’s design for people is that they live in families. He gives the gift of parents to children as a way of blessing them. Parents are gifts because they serve as God’s way for children to learn about Him and to learn how to serve Him.

BIBLE VERSE: EXODUS 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

God views the role of parents as one deserving respect and honor.

- God is the great Creator of all things.
- In His wisdom, He created parents to care for and teach their children.
- The role of parent is one that calls for respect and honor.
- God does not take the role of parents lightly and He expects earthly parents to take their role seriously.
- God’s view of parents is right and true.
- Because God says that children should respect and honor their parents, children should do so without question, as long as their parents aren’t calling them into sin.
- All that God does is right and perfect and we can trust that God’s command to honor our parents is the very best thing we can do.

Parents have a specific role in their children’s lives.

- When God created parents, He created them to have a specific role in their children’s lives.
- Parents are given to their children to nurture and care for them.
- Parents are given to their children to guide their children to God.
- God gave parents the role, or job of teaching and training their children to serve God.
- Parents have a very important role to point their children to Christ, to teach them the truths of Scripture.

Children are commanded to honor their parents.

- Children have a responsibility to treat their parents with respect and to honor them.
- God gave this command to children and it brings God glory when children obey Him by honoring their parents.
- God’s command to children to honor their parents does not come with exclusions or exceptions.
- Children are to show their parents honor no matter what because it is what God has commanded is best.
- Because God is perfect, we can trust that His commands are perfect and are what is best for us.
- God’s command to honor parents is the only commandment that comes with a promise of long days in the land.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 2:41-52

Jesus In The Temple

Opening Illustration:

On heavy cardstock paper, write down different things that God created. Make sure to include the following: sea creatures, birds, animals, angels, and man. You can have as many pieces of cardstock as you like. Place the pieces of cardstock on the floor and then play a game of beanbag toss with the children. When a child hits one of the pieces of paper, they get to turn it over and tell the class something that God created. When every child has had a turn, lead them in a discussion about God as the Creator of all things. Make sure to include that God created the sea creatures, birds, animals, angels, and man and He rules over everything.

BIG IDEA: PARENTS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD TO THEIR CHILDREN.¹**The family is God's idea.**

- Family is not a creation of man.
- Family is God's idea. It was His plan from the beginning.
- God always planned for man to live in families.
- When He created the first man and woman, He planned for them to have children and for them to be a family.
- When God sent His own Son to the earth, He chose to place Him in a family. He gave Him parents because parents are an important part of a child's life.



Play a game of musical beanbag. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag gets to name a way that parents are a gift to children. Help the children understand that God gives parents and they are part of His design for the world.

Parents are part of God's purpose for the world.

- God intended for people to live in families.
- He called His children, those who follow Him, His family.
- He interacts with His children as a Father and He is the perfect Father.
- He sets the example for what a Father and parent should be to their child.
- He places the lonely in families.
- Parents are part of God's plan for the world because they reflect the way He interacts with His followers.

Parents serve as a safe haven for their children.

- God gave children parents so that parents would act as protectors and guides.
- Parents have a responsibility to care for their children.
- It is God's design that we are born into this world as babies unable to care for ourselves.
- God gives parents to care for their children and act as a safe place for them.
- Even Jesus had a safe haven with His earthly parents.
- They showed great concern when they could not find him after they left Jerusalem because they loved Him and cared for Him as parents.

Why are parents a gift to their children? (They care for their children and protect them.)

1. Psalm 68:6: God values parents and families. He sets the lonely in families and gives children parents.

BIG IDEA: PARENTS ARE CALLED TO POINT THEIR CHILDREN TO GOD.²**God commands parents to teach their children His truth.**

- Parents have a special responsibility to tell their children about God.
- God commands parents several times in Scripture to teach their children His truth.
- In addition to loving and caring for their children, parents are supposed to train their children in the ways to obey God.
- God commanded Moses and the Israelites to know His truth so that they might teach the next generation.
- It is an important job for parents to train and teach their children about God and how to know and obey Him.



Before class, write the words “obey”, “parents”, and “God” on index cards. Hide the index cards around the room and have the children take turns finding them. Talk with the children about how parents are commanded to teach their children how to obey them and God.

Parents are the initial way that children learn about God and how to obey Him.

- God has given parents authority over their children and this authority is the first way that children learn to submit to the authority of God.
- It is God’s design that children learn about Him through their parents.
- He assigns responsibility to parents that isn’t given to other family members.
- Parents are mentioned in Scripture as the people responsible for showing their children who God is and helping them know how to know God.
- When children learn to obey their parents, they learn to submit to the authority of God.
- Parents are the avenue through which children learn to interact with God.

Parents are responsible for showing their children their need for the Savior.

- All people are born sinful and in need of salvation.
- Parents serve as the guides for their children.
- Parents hold the responsibility of sharing the gospel with their children.
- Parents are the way in which children can learn early on their need for salvation and the way to be saved from their sin.

What are parents responsible to teach their children? (They are responsible to teach their children who God is and how to be saved.)

2. Deuteronomy 6:6-9: God commands parents to know His truth that they might teach their families His truth.

STORY: CREATION
GOD GIVES PARENTS**BIG IDEA: WE ARE CALLED TO OBEY OUR PARENTS.³****Children are under the authority of their parents.**

- When God created the world, He established a created order to life.
- Part of God's created order is the submission of children to their parents.
- First, He gave mankind authority over other created things such as animals and plants.
- Second, God designed the wife to submit to her husband as a reflection of the way the Son submits to the Father.
- Third, God placed children under the authority of their parents.
- This created order is a reflection of the Godhead and brings God glory.
- Children do not have authority over their parents.
- They do not bring God glory when they tell their parents what to do or refuse to submit to their authority.



Divide the children into groups and ask the groups to make a list of the different ways their obedience brings God glory. Help them think of examples, such as listening when their parents ask them to be kind to one another. This brings God glory because they show kindness to others.

Children's obedience brings God glory.

- When children obey their parents, they are living according to God's design for them.
- When children walk in obedience to their parents, they are walking in obedience to God and this brings Him glory.
- Children's obedience to their parents also comes with a promise that they will live long in the land and they will do what is right.
- It is always right to obey God and His ways are always best.
- It is His plan for children to obey their parents and when they do, they show their trust in God and their lives bring Him glory.

Why are children commanded to obey their parents? (It is God's plan and design that children live under their parents' authority. It brings God glory when they do.)

3. Ephesians 6:1-2: Children are commanded to obey their parents. Their obedience brings God glory.

BIG IDEA: WE ARE CALLED TO SHOW OUR PARENTS HONOR FOR GOD'S GLORY.⁴**Children honor their parents by listening to their instruction.**

- God gives parents as a way for children to learn and grow.
- Parents serve as teachers for their children.
- Children honor their parents when they listen to their parents.
- God has called children to show their parents honor no matter what.
- When a child listens to his or her parents, he or she shows them honor and respect.
- Jesus showed His earthly parents honor by listening to them and returning with them.
- Jesus is the example for us to follow. He is God and was wiser than His parents, yet He listened to them and obeyed them.



Play a game of “Mother May I”. Remind the children that we show honor to our parents when we obey them and listen to their instruction.

Children should obey and honor their parents to please God.

- Children should honor their parents to show God honor.
- It pleases God when children honor their parents.
- It is displeasing to God when children disrespect or dishonor their parents.
- God places a high value upon the parent and child relationship. He commands parents to uphold their responsibility and children to honor and obey their parents.
- Children should desire to honor their parents because it pleases God and brings Him glory.

Children should always honor their parents.

- There is no time limit on the command for children to honor their parents.
- Children should always honor their parents even when their parents aren't believers or choose not to follow God.
- Children can still show respect to their parents and honor them with their words.
- Parents are important to God. When a child honors his parents, He shows a trust in God's design and plan.
- Jesus showed honor to His parents even when He became an adult.

Why should children honor their parents? (It brings God glory for a child to honor his or her parent.)

4. Proverbs 1:8-9: Children do well when they listen to their parents' instruction. When they listen to their parents, they honor them.

HOOKS

**Holy Chore Charts**

Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Give each group a poster and markers. Ask the groups to make a list of chores that Jesus might have had to do, such as collecting wood for a fire, helping start a fire, etc. Ask the children to compare the chores they came up with to the chores that they do at home. Talk with the children about how Jesus obeyed His parents perfectly.



- Jesus is an example for each of us.
- He obeyed His parents perfectly.

**Hangman Stories**

Play several games of Hangman with the children using different words from the Bible story about Jesus in the temple. Let the children divide into groups and play against one another. Once you've played several times, talk with the children about how Jesus obeyed His parents perfectly. Jesus showed honor and respect to His parents even though He is God.

