

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:**

- Practice serving the members of their family

**Every child should feel:**

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

**Every child should want:**

- To honor and respect their family

THE GIFT OF PARENTS

Write the name “Jesus” on several index cards or blank pieces of paper. Hide the cards in your house or outside around your house. Ask your child to find the cards with “Jesus” on them. Remind him or her that Jesus obeyed His parents and showed them honor. God gives parents and they are gifts to their children.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Luke 2:41-52.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Jesus’ earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, were followers of God. They traveled every year to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. They would travel in a large group that included other family members and friends. When Jesus was twelve years old, they made their yearly trip to Jerusalem. They celebrated the Feast of the Passover and then began to make their way back home. At first His parents did not see Him, but they assumed He was in the crowd of family members traveling with them. They traveled an entire day before they realized that Jesus was not with them. They immediately returned to Jerusalem and began frantically searching for Him. They searched for Jesus for three days before they found Him in the temple. He was sitting with the teachers in the temple listening and asking questions. The teachers were amazed at Jesus’ understanding and the questions that He asked. His parents were upset that He had seemingly mistreated them. Jesus pointed them to God, asking them why they didn’t understand that He would be about His Father’s business. His parents did not understand His question to them. They did not yet fully understand His purpose. Jesus submitted to their authority and returned with them to Nazareth. He is God and though He was right in being in the temple, He honored His parents by obeying them and returning with them. His obedience brought God glory. Parents are a gift to their children. Children are commanded to obey their parents and to honor them. Jesus sets the example for all of us to follow.

Talk About It: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why did Jesus’ family travel to Jerusalem? (They were celebrating the Feast of the Passover.)
- How many days did they travel before they realized Jesus was not with them? (One whole day.)
- Where did they find Jesus? (They found Him in the temple after searching for three days.)
- How did Jesus honor His parents? (He returned with them to Nazareth.)



As a family, memorize Exodus 20:12 by dividing the verse into smaller sections. Place the sections on a wall in your house. Set a timer and have your child race against the timer to put the verse in order. Once it’s in order, take turns saying the verse out loud.



Help your child create a chore chart for the week or use a chore chart that you’ve already created. As you create the chore chart, talk with your child about different chores or jobs that Jesus might have done as a child. Remind your child that Jesus obeyed His parents perfectly and obedience brings God glory.



Plan a special day with your child this week. Surprise your child by taking him or her to the park or for a special treat. As you spend this special day with your child, share a special time you remember with your own parents. Remind your child that parents are a gift from God.



Help your child brainstorm ways to show honor to you this week. Include ways that you can show your adult parents honor, too! Create a chart and throughout the week when you or your child completes one of the ways of showing honor, place a sticker or mark. At the end of the week, talk with your child about how parents are a gift and it brings God glory for us to show our parents honor.

Spend time with your child this week praying and thanking God for parents. Talk with your child about how we should be thankful we have parents because they are a gift from God.