

WE DISOBEY OUR PARENTS

STORY: FALL

BIG TRUTH: WE DISOBEY OUR PARENTS

Leviticus 19:3; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 23:22; 30:17; Romans 1:30; Colossians 3:20; 2 Timothy 3:1-2

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 6:1-2

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise)"

BIG IDEAS

- God commands us to obey our parents.
- God commands us to honor our parents.
- Our sin causes us to disobey and dishonor our parents.
- When we disobey and dishonor our parents, we disobey and dishonor God.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 2:12-17, 22-26

Eli served as a priest in the temple. His sons were dishonorable and did terrible things in the temple. They treated the sacrifices to the Lord with contempt and did not show reverence and respect to God. When their father, Eli, reprimanded them, they did not obey or honor him. Instead, they continued doing what they wanted.

STORY: FALL

Everything was perfect in the world until we broke it. When humanity chose to sin, the world that was once perfect became messed up and broken. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Because of sin bad things happen, we experience all types of pain, and death has come into the world. All of creation groans and wishes that the world be perfect and good like it was before.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Sin has broken our families



Every child should feel:

- Burdened at how sin breaks our families



Every child should:

- Be aware of the ways their sin affects their family



Every child should want:

- Their family to be made new by Christ

FAMILY DEVOTION: AN OBEDIENT HEART

God commands us to obey and honor our parents. When we obey and honor our parents, we bring glory to God. The sin in our hearts causes us to disobey and dishonor our parents. This is displeasing to God.

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 6:1-2

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise)”

All children are commanded to obey their parents.

- God created families as part of His plan and purpose for people on earth.
- God created the world and gave it order. He also gave order to families.
- The father is the head of the house. The children are to obey their fathers and mothers.
- It is part of God’s plan that children be cared for and ruled by their parents.
- Children are told in God’s Word to obey their parents.

Obeying our parents is the right thing to do in God’s sight.

- God commands children to obey their parents.
- He included this commandment in the Ten Commandments that He gave to Moses and His people, the Israelites.
- This commandment is serious to God because it expresses His created order in the world.
- When we obey our parents, we are doing what God says is the right thing to do.

All children are commanded to honor their parents.

- God doesn’t just command children to obey their parents, but children are to show their parents honor.
- God has given parents a special position and role in their children’s lives.
- This position means something significant to God and He has placed great responsibility upon parents.
- Children should show honor to their parents because God has said for them to do so.

Obeying and honoring our parents comes with a promise and glorifies God.

- The commandment to obey and honor our parents is the only commandment that comes with a promise from God.
- When we obey and honor our parents, things will go well for us because we will be living according to God’s created order for our lives.
- We will glorify God when we honor and obey our parents and this will make our lives more fulfilling and complete because we will be living according to God’s purpose for our lives.

BIBLE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 2:12-17, 22-26

Eli’s Wicked Sons

Opening Illustration:

On small cards write out several commandments from God’s Word, such as “Children obey your parents”, “Love one another”, etc. Make sure you have enough cards for every child in your class. Place the cards on the floor in the center of the circle. Play a game of musical chairs. Every time the music stops and a child is without a chair, he or she gets to pick a card from the center. Have the child read the card or read it for them and ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever disobeyed the command. Play enough times so that every card gets read. Talk with the children about how our sinful hearts cause us to disobey God and reject Him. They cause us to be jealous and to get angry with others and even hurt others.

BIG IDEA: GOD COMMANDS US TO OBEY OUR PARENTS.¹**Obeying our parents means doing what they say when they say it.**

- When God commands us to obey our parents, His command is not optional.
- Obeying our parents means listening to them and doing as they instruct us.
- Obedience is only obedience if it is done when commanded. If we wait to obey our parents until we are ready or we fear a negative consequence, then we are not really obeying them.
- Obeying our parents means respecting that God has placed them in charge of us and we should listen to them in every way.



Give the children small pieces of paper or index cards. Ask the children to write down some of the things their parents tell them to do, such as clean your room, brush your teeth, etc. Ask the children to share what they write on their cards and the talk with them about how God commands us to obey our parents.

We should obey our parents even if we do not like it.

- We do not get to choose when to obey our parents and when not to obey them.
- The only time we should not do as they ask is if they ask us to sin.
- If our parents ask us to do anything contrary to the Word of God, then we should choose to obey God first.
- We do not have to always agree with our parents' decisions. We may not like their rules or guidelines, but we should still obey them because God commands us to do so.
- Eli's sons did not listen to him. They chose not to obey him.

Obeying our parents pleases God.

- If we do not obey our parents, it will be hard for our lives to be pleasing to God.
- He commands us to honor and obey our parents because it is His will for us to do so.
- When we obey them, we are obeying God.
- When we honor our parents, we are bringing glory to God.
- God is pleased with us when we obey our parents.

Why should we obey our parents? (We should obey our parents because God commands us to obey them.)

1. Colossians 3:20: God tells us in His Word to listen to our parents. We are to obey them because He tells us to obey them.

BIG IDEA: GOD COMMANDS US TO HONOR OUR PARENTS.²**Honoring our parents means showing them respect.**

- When we honor our parents, we show them respect and we show that we understand that their position in our lives is an important one.
- God has given parents a lot of responsibility concerning their children.
- Parents hold a significant place in their children's lives and are responsible for teaching their children about God.
- When we show our parents honor, we are showing that we believe and trust the created order that God has established.
- Eli's sons did not honor him. They dishonored him and disrespected him.



Divide the children into small groups and give each group markers and a piece of blank paper. Ask the groups to make a list of ways that they can honor their parents. Help them think of ways to show their parents honor, such as speaking to their parents respectfully. Remind them that God commands us to honor our parents.

We should always honor our parents.

- Even if our parents are unbelievers, we should still honor them.
- God does not tell us to choose when to show them honor and when not to show them honor.
- He commands us to honor them always.
- We should seek to live respectfully with our parents.
- We should not treat them disrespectfully by treating them as if they are our friends or peers.
- We should recognize the role they play in our lives and show them honor.

Honoring our parents brings God glory.

- When we obey God's commands, we bring God glory.
- God desires for us to obey His commands.
- When we honor our parents, we glorify God.
- Eli's sons did not honor their father and they did not bring God glory with their actions.

Why should we honor our parents? (We should honor our parents because God commands us to honor them.)

2. Leviticus 19:3: God commands His people to honor their mother and father. When we honor our parents, it brings God glory.

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN CAUSES US TO DISOBEY AND DISHONOR OUR PARENTS.³

When we disobey our parents, we are being ruled by our sin nature.

- Our hearts are sinful and lead us to sin against God.
- God commands us to obey our parents, so when we disobey them, we are being ruled by the sin in our hearts.
- Disobedience is caused by sin.
- Our sin nature does not want to obey God. It wants to rule itself.
- Our sin nature does not want our parents to rule over us. Instead, it wants to rule itself.



Play a game of I, Spy with the children. Place heart-shaped pieces of paper with different examples of how we dishonor and disobey our parents written on them around the room. Ask the children to “spy” certain papers when you call them. Remind the children that it is sin that causes us to disobey and dishonor our parents.

Our sinful hearts do not desire to honor our parents.

- We do not naturally desire to please our parents.
- Because of the sin in our hearts, we desire to please ourselves instead of pleasing God.
- Honoring our parents can be difficult for us because we are ruled by our sin nature.
- Disobedience is sin which leads us to dishonor our parents.
- Eli's sons were ruled by their sin natures. They dishonored their father and God because they were being ruled by their sinful hearts.

Our sinfulness leads us to rebel against our parents.

- We do not naturally want to follow and obey our parents.
- Even if we obey them for a little while, there is still a battle inside of us between our sinful hearts and the command to obey our parents.
- Our sin nature entices us to rebel against our parents.
- Often, we will want to do the opposite of what they say because we do not want to be ruled by them.
- When we rebel against our parents, even if our rebellion is just in our thoughts and hearts, we are rebelling against God because He placed our parents over us.

What does sin lead us to do? (It leads us to disobey and dishonor our parents.)

3. Deuteronomy 27:16: Our sinful hearts desire to do our own thing. We are commanded to honor our parents and to obey them.

BIG IDEA: WHEN WE DISOBEY AND DISHONOR OUR PARENTS, WE DISOBEY AND DISHONOR GOD.⁴

When we disobey our parents, we are rejecting God's created order.

- Our disobedience towards our parents is about more than our parents.
- When we do not listen to our parents and we do not do as they say, we are actually disobeying God's command to obey our parents.
- We dishonor God when we disrespect our parents.
- When we rebel against their authority, we dishonor God.
- God commands us to obey our parents and when we fail to do that, we are failing to obey God.
- God established an order to our lives when He created us. When we disobey our parents, we are actually rebelling against that created order.



Play a game of beanbag toss with the children. When they hit a designated spot with the beanbag, ask the child to name one way he or she can obey his or her parents. Once every child has a chance to name something, remind them that when we obey our parents, we are obeying God.

When we dishonor our parents, we are choosing to reject God's commands.

- God, in His great wisdom, determined the order of our lives. He determined how we should live our lives.
- When we disrespect our parents, we are really rejecting God's wisdom for our lives.
- His Word tell us that our lives will be better if we obey and honor our parents.
- When we rebel against this, we are really rejecting God's Word and His commands to us.

If we love God, we keep His commands.

- We show God we love Him when we keep His commands.
- When we submit to His Word and follow Him, we show that we love Him and trust Him to lead our lives.
- God commands us to treat our parents a certain way. When we do as He commands, we are actually showing that we love Him and trust Him.
- When we do not do as He says, we are not showing Him love.

Who do we dishonor and disobey when we disobey and dishonor our parents? (We are really dishonoring and disobeying God.)

4. 2 John 1:6: Those who love God will keep His commands.

HOOKS

**Loving Obedience**

Write down several verses that talk about following God and obeying Him. You can use 1 John 3:21-22, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Proverbs 10:17, Deuteronomy 28:1, James 1:22, John 14:23, and Proverbs 6:20. Place these verses inside a bag and have the children take turns drawing out a verse. Have the child look up the verse and read it. Discuss with the children what the verses say about obedience and following God. Lead the children in a discussion about how God commands us to obey our parents and when we do, we are obeying Him.



- God tells us that if we love Him, we will keep His commands.
- His command is for us to obey and honor our parents.
- When we obey our parents, we are actually obeying God.
- When we honor our parents, we are actually honoring God.

**Pin The Obedience On The Child**

Give each child a small paper heart and have him or her write down one way he or she can obey his or her parents. Next, take turns blindfolding the children and having them try to “pin” the heart on an outline of a child. You can make the outline of the child using a marker and a poster board. Once every child has a chance, lead the children in a discussion about how it is important that we obey our parents, because that is one way we obey God.

