

**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

**AN OBEDIENT HEART**

As a family make a batch of sugar cookies and cut them into heart shapes. Make goodie bags using the sugar cookies and deliver them to grandparents or people who are like grandparents. God commands us to honor our parents and one way we can honor them is by caring for them and showing we love them.

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

1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-26.

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

Eli was one of the priests who served in God's temple. God had given His people very specific rules and guidelines for how they should offer sacrifices to God. Eli had trained his sons to serve alongside of him in the temple, but as he grew older, they began to disobey him. Eli's sons were very wicked and they corrupted God's temple and the offerings made to God. Eli's sons did not follow God's guidelines for sacrifices. Instead, they tried to profit and benefit from the people's sacrifices. Their hearts were not really making offerings and sacrifices to God. Instead, they were pleasing their sinful desires. Eli heard about his sons' wickedness and he reprimanded them. He told them to obey God's commands or things would not go well for them. Eli's sons did not listen to him. They disobeyed him and dishonored him. They continued sinning against Eli and God. Their sin led them astray. Our sinful hearts lead us to rebel against our parents. God has commanded us to obey our parents and to always honor them. Our sin nature leads us to rebel against the authority God has given them over us. When we disobey them, we are actually disobeying God. When we dishonor our parents, we are actually dishonoring God.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- How did Eli's sons dishonor him? (They did not listen to his reprimand. They continued doing what they wanted to do.)
- Who did Eli's sons really disobey? (They really disobeyed God because God commands that children obey their parents.)



As a family, memorize Ephesians 6:1-2 by writing the verses on a chalkboard or a large piece of paper. Hang the paper on a wall in your house and every time a person walks past the verses, he or she should try to say them out loud. The first person to successfully memorize the verses gets to plan a special outing for the whole family.



As a family, choose an object that you see every day, such as the school bus or the mailbox, or a certain neighbor. Use that object or person as a reminder to pray for your family to be obedient to God this week.



As a family, create an obedience chart for this week. Write each family member's name on the chart. Every time a family member is obedient to his or her parents, place a check next to his or her name. At the end of the week, go over the chart together and determine how obedient the family has been.



Share with your child the ways that you sometimes fail to honor your parents. Remind your child that we are commanded to honor our parents. When we honor our parents, we are honoring God.

Spend some time at bedtime this week praying and thanking God for giving us parents. Ask God to help your family honor and obey parents.