

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 15

Parents

Parents

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To learn what it means to both to honor and to dishonor your parents through our study of Proverbs. We will also consider Jesus' example as He honored His mother and has eternally honored His Father.

Key Verses

Proverbs 1:8 (4:10; 6:20)

Proverbs 15:20 (10:1)

Proverbs 17:21, 25

Proverbs 19:13a, 26

Proverbs 20:20

Proverbs 23:22, 24-25

Proverbs 28:7, 24

Exodus 20:12

Leviticus 19:3

Ephesians 6:1-3

Luke 2:40-52

Memory Verse - Colossians 3:20

"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 10:17

Have you ever been in the middle of an activity that you really enjoyed when your parents told you it was time to wrap up and go, or told you to stop and do something else? How did that make you feel? How did you respond to them? Did you ever regret how you responded?

Last week we learned the importance of responding to correction and discipline (often given to us by our parents) in wisdom. Today we are going to get God's perspective on the scenario above by studying what Proverbs teaches us about how to honor our parents and why God designed family the way He did, looking at Jesus as our ultimate example.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Before Proverbs was ever written, God gave His law to the Israelites, commanding them to “honor your father and mother” (Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 19:3), a command reemphasized in the New Testament by Paul (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20). Our study of Proverbs will elaborate on how to do this, in addition to showing us what happens when we don’t.

People who are foolish dishonor their parents, disregarding God’s Word. Some of the ways they do this are by refusing to listen to their parents’ instructions (1:8; 6:20), despising one or both of them (15:20; 23:22), mistreating them (19:26; 28:24), talking bad to them and/or about them (17:21; 20:20), and even by choosing bad friends (28:7). Proverbs shows us that doing any of these things has a terrible effect on parents, bringing them grief and sorrow (10:1; 17:21, 25), causing shame (19:26; 28:7), and even bringing ruin (19:13).

People who are wise do the opposite. They honor their parents by both hearing and keeping (obeying) their parents’ instruction (1:8; 6:20), which causes them to grow in understanding (4:1) and righteousness, making their parents glad and causing them to rejoice (10:1; 15:20; 23:22, 24-25)! Ultimately, we obey our parents because it is right (Ephesians 6:1-3) and pleases the Lord (Colossians 3:20). Jesus Himself is our perfect example in being obedient (even as a child), not just to His heavenly Father, but to His earthly parents (Luke 2:40-52).

LOOK

Everyone has parents, and this is by God’s design! However, we live in a fallen and sinful world, and not all of our relationships look the same. Some of us only know or live with one of our parents. Some have step-parents, and some have adopted parents. Some live with grandparents or with other family. Whatever the case, all of us have the same heavenly Father. He knew exactly what family we were going to be born into and planned for each one of us to be raised by people who were a little older and wiser than ourselves to teach us the way of wisdom.

Walking in wisdom involves understanding that how we treat our parents matters to God. It matters so much that He made it a law to honor your parents, which we do by listening to them, obeying them, and respecting them, even when we are not with them. This not only honors our parents, but it also honors God. In obeying our parents, we obey God, and in being disobedient to our parents, we disobey God. One of the reasons this is so important to God is because generally, how we respond to our parents’ authority will reflect how we respond to God’s authority.

The interpretation/ exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

Parents teach us many things in many ways. They set an example for us by how they act. They teach us skills, like how to tie our shoes and have good manners. They give us rules to keep us safe and responsible. When those rules are broken, they lovingly discipline us, which God wants us to understand is exactly what He does to those He loves (Proverbs 3:12), to bring us back onto the path of wisdom. Praise the Lord for godly parents who discipline us when we do wrong. They are being obedient to what God has called them to do. Parents aren't perfect, but God knows this, and His desire is still for us to obey our parents in obedience to Him (our heavenly Father) because it is right and it pleases Him!

Did you know you could please God by honoring your parents? Think about that the next time your parents tell you to do something you don't want to do (get off the video game and come down for dinner, pack up when you're at your friend's house and it's time to leave, etc.). Remember, a wise child listens to their parents and obeys. A foolish child complains and talks back, or pretends like he didn't hear. Not only will you make your parents' lives more difficult by not listening the first time, but you will displease God. His Word makes it clear that His desire is that we obey our parents in *all* things, and He promises to bless us when we do. But delayed or partial obedience is actually disobedience. It is sin.

Maybe you've never thought about this, but God knows what it's like to have parents. God didn't have a beginning like we did. He's eternal! But when Jesus (God the Son) came into the world, He didn't come as an adult. He was born into a family as a baby and had to obey His earthly parents as He grew up. After celebrating the Passover, Mary and Joseph realized they had accidentally left 12-year-old Jesus behind in Jerusalem! (Imagine that! They lost the Son of God!) Mary and Joseph looked for Him for *three days* and finally found Him in the temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Mary questioned Jesus, asking Him why He would do this to them, and Jesus responded in two ways: first, with a question that they didn't understand, and second, by returning home with them, being subject/obedient to them.

God the Father sent His Son into the world to save anyone who believes in Him from perishing, giving them the gift of eternal life. Jesus was obedient to God the Father by taking the punishment for our sins on the cross, and compared to that, what our parents ask us to do is easy. The perfect, eternal, almighty Creator of the universe also obeyed His imperfect earthly parents in obedience to His heavenly Father, setting an example for us to follow. So when we honor our parents, we show the world around us who Jesus is and what He is like.

One of the biggest ways you can serve God as a kid is simply by obeying your parents. God knows this can be hard, and He encourages us by letting us know how much of a blessing we can be to our parents when

LOOK (Continued)

we honor them, but He also wants us to understand how much harm we can cause them when we choose to be foolish and not obey them. Show the world that God is real by honoring your parents. By doing this, you might even get a chance to tell someone about Jesus, putting yourself in a position to be used by God to possibly change someone's life for all of eternity.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Colossians 3:20.

Pray: Ask for God's help to respond in wisdom when our parents tell us to do something, knowing that to obey our parents is to obey God. Thank God for being our heavenly Father, adopting us through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. Thank Him for His perfect plan in placing us in our families.

Parent Question: How do you honor your father and mother? How does this make God feel?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Select proverbs by David Guzik

B. Instruction to a son.

1. ([Pro 1:8-9](#)) Appeal to hear and receive the wisdom of parents.

**My son, hear the instruction of your father,
And do not forsake the law of your mother;
For they will be a graceful ornament on your head,
And chains about your neck.**

a. **My son, hear the instruction of your father:** This is a warm and appropriate scene. A **father** speaks to his **son**, encouraging him to receive the wisdom of his parents. It is often the nature of the young to be slow to receive the wisdom of their older generation.

i. The mention of a **son** reminds us of another tragedy or irony regarding the life of Solomon. The man who had 700 wives and 300 concubines left record of only one son, Rehoboam—and he was a fool.

ii. Because both the **father** and the **mother** are mentioned, we know that teaching the children wisdom is the responsibility of both parents.

iii. The mention of **instruction** shows that Solomon understood that children are not to be taught only or even primarily through bodily punishment (such as a spanking). Children are regarded as capable of thought, learning, and obedience beyond blind submission.

b. **They will be graceful ornament on your head:** The idea is that the **instruction** and **law** given from parent to child will adorn the life of their children, if they will only receive it. Like a crown **on your head** or **chains about the neck**, such wisdom will be a reward to a younger generation.

[Proverbs 15:20](#)

**A wise son makes a father glad,
But a foolish man despises his mother.**

a. **A wise son makes a father glad:** A **father** has gladness in the **wise son**, both for the blessing of knowing there is good for the son, and glad because it vindicates the father's trust in God and training of the son in wisdom.

b. **A foolish man despises his mother:** The **foolish man** or woman brings disgrace to his parents, and their rejection of the parent's wisdom shows they despise their **mother** and father.

i. “Tragically the person who needs their instruction, out of his exaggerated opinion of his self-importance, feels that he is better than his godly parents and so is intractable and incorrigible.” (Waltke)

[Proverbs 17:21](#)

**He who begets a scoffer *does so to his sorrow,*
And the father of a fool has no joy.**

a. **He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow:** To be the parent of a foolish **scoffer** (one who foolishly doubts and rejects the truth) is to have **sorrow**. Parents should do all they can to *not* raise scoffers, beginning with believing and living out the truth themselves.

b. **The father of a fool has no joy:** There is no pleasure in seeing that your child is a **fool**. There is both the pain of the consequences of the child’s folly and the regret of wondering if one parented effectively.

i. “No more than William the Conqueror had in his ungracious children, or Henry II, who, finding that his sons had conspired against him with the king of France, fell into a grievous passion, cursing both his sons, and the day wherein himself was born; and in that distemper departed the world, which himself had so oft distempered.” (Trapp)

[Proverbs 17:25](#)

**A foolish son *is a grief to his father,*
And bitterness to her who bore him.**

a. **A foolish son is a grief to his father:** The thought in this proverb is similar to that in [Proverbs 17:21](#). Parents may find great **grief** in the **foolish** character of their children.

b. **And bitterness to her who bore him:** Because of the maternal instinct and bond, there is a special pain and **bitterness** that belongs to the mother of a **foolish son** or daughter.

[Proverbs 19:13](#)

**A foolish son *is the ruin of his father,*
And the contentions of a wife *are a continual dripping.***

a. **A foolish son is the ruin of his father:** It is grieving to any parent to have a **foolish son** or daughter. This may run from grief to **ruin** as the grief destroys the father’s health and life, or as the father ruins himself to rescue the **foolish son**.

[Proverbs 19:26](#)

**He who mistreats *his father and chases away his mother*
*Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.***

a. **He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother:** The Bible commands *honor your father and you mother* ([Exodus 20:12](#)). This proverb considers the person who does the opposite of [Exodus 20:12](#).

i. “When the father and his household lies in ruin, the *mother* (see [Proverbs 1:8](#)) is left in a tragic situation

without the provision and protection and of her husband. By ruining his father, the imbecile (cf. [Proverbs 17:2](#)) leaves his mother as good as a defenseless widow.” (Waltke)

b. **Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach:** One cannot disobey God and the standards of human society without paying a price. One price to be paid from the mistreatment of parents is to bring **shame** and **reproach** upon one’s self.

[Proverbs 20:20](#)

**Whoever curses his father or his mother,
His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.**

a. **Whoever curses his father or his mother:** The Bible commands us to honor our **father** and **mother** ([Exodus 20:12](#)). To curse one’s parents is to do the opposite of this command.

b. **His lamp will be put out in deep darkness:** God promised to bless those who keep the command to honor father and mother ([Exodus 20:12](#), [Ephesians 6:2](#)). There is a corresponding principle that those who disobey and curse their father or mother will face the judgment of God.

2. ([Pro 23:22](#)) An exhortation to listen to parents.

**Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.**

a. **Listen to your father who begot you:** Wisdom can never be learned until the attention is won. There must be a deliberate effort to **listen**.

b. **Do not despise your mother when she is old:** This affirms the principle of *honor your father and mother* in [Exodus 20:12](#) (and later in [Ephesians 6:2](#)). When parents become **old** they should receive special attention and care.

4. ([Pro 23:24-25](#)) Wise children bring joy to their parents.

**The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,
And he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him.
Let your father and your mother be glad,
And let her who bore you rejoice.**

a. **The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice:** It is a great blessing for parents to have **righteous** and wise children. That parent **will delight in him**.

b. **Let your father and your mother be glad:** One reason for a son or daughter to pursue and gain wisdom is that it will make one’s parents **glad**. It will be an appropriate blessing and reward to those who gave the son or daughter life and an upbringing.

[Proverbs 28:7](#)

**Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son,
But a companion of gluttons shames his father.**

a. **Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son:** Obedience is a proof of wisdom. Those who claim to be **discerning** or wise yet live in fundamental disobedience show their folly.

b. **A companion of gluttons shames his father:** One does not have to be given over to ruinous appetites themselves to be a shame to their family; simply being **a companion** of such can embarrass the family.

i. “By identifying himself with those who squander all that is precious,—life, food and instruction—the foolish *puts to public shame* (see [Pro 25:8](#)) *his father.*” (Waltke)

[Proverbs 28:24](#)

**Whoever robs his father or his mother,
And says, “It is no transgression,”
The same is companion to a destroyer.**

a. **Whoever robs his father or his mother:** There are some who have little conscience about stealing from their parents. Out of some sense of entitlement, they rob them and then say, **“It is no transgression.”**

i. **Robs his father or mother:** “As that idolatrous Micah did his mother of her gold; [[Judges 17:2](#)] as Rachel did her father of his gods; as Absalom did David of his crown.” (Trapp)

ii. “He who robs his parents is worse than a common robber; to the act of dishonesty and rapine he adds ingratitude, cruelty, and disobedience.” (Clarke)

iii. “He may rationalize, ‘eventually it all comes to me anyway’ ([Pro 19:24](#)), or ‘they can no longer manage their finances,’ or ‘as a family we own everything in common,’ etc.” (Waltke)

b. **The same is companion to a destroyer:** Despite whatever sense of entitlement the thief may have, they are right next to **a destroyer**, someone who spreads and even loves destruction.

i. “The language is strong. The word for ‘robs’ could be rendered ‘plunders.’ ‘Him who destroys’ is someone who causes havoc in society.” (Garrett)