

# Children's Lesson Seven

## Honoring Your Parents

### PURPOSE

**M**any times it is not the popular thing to do to honor parents. Disrespect for authority figures in general are found on T.V, in movies and even from friends. The children need to realize that God wants them to obey and respect their parents, even when it may not be popular or fun to do so. (This obedience does not include cases of violence or abuse or when the parent is asking the child to do something wrong.) This commandment is the first commandment to come with a promise. If children honor their parents they will "live long in the land the Lord Your God is giving you." There is a reward for following this commandment. Respect and obedience allows children to have a better outlook on life and this affects every aspect of their lives.



### OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- Be introduced to the fifth commandment.
- Understand what "honoring" your parents means.
- Examine ways they can honor their parents this week. (For those children who live with other relatives or guardians, the teacher needs to stress the same honor that is given to parents is given to those who take care of them.)

### SCRIPTURE

- Exodus 20:12

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Honor coloring sheet
- Commandment Crest and fifth badge
- Alphabet beads
- Colored beads
- Elastic string
- Keychains from a hobby store
- Crayons or markers
- Copy of fifth commandment to place on bulletin board
- A copy of the story for each child

## SETTING THE SCENE

1. Have the children add the fifth badge to their Commandment Crests.
2. As the children are entering the classroom, encourage them to color the Honor coloring sheet included in this lesson. They need to only color the shapes that have the dot in it. It will spell out the word honor.

## TRANSITION

After the children have colored their honor sheet, start a discussion about what honor means. Ask, **What does honor mean? How do we use this term? What does it mean to honor someone or something?** (Honoring someone means giving them the respect and dignity they deserve because of their station or place in life. We honor our parents by respecting them and obeying their wishes.)

Add the fifth commandment to the bulletin board. Practice saying it with the class. You may want to practice all of the previous commandments you have studied also. We want the children to be memorizing all of the commandments as they journey through the lessons.

Say **Let's see what The Commandment Kids have to say about honoring your parents.**

## STORY

Distribute copies of the story. Have the children act out or read the story or, for the younger children, tell the story to the class.

## QUESTIONS

1. **Why was Alvin's suggestion not a very good one?**
2. **Do you think T.J. made a wise choice in deciding to honor his parents by obeying them?**
3. **Can you think of a time you needed to honor your parents, and it was hard to do so? Explain it to the class.**
4. **Explain ways you can honor your parents.** (By obeying them, listening to them and their suggestions, treating them with respect, speaking with a good tone of voice to them.)

## ACTIVITIES

1. **Honor Bracelets.** In a plastic zip-lock bag for each child gather alphabet beads to spell "honor" and some elastic string or bracelet string. These items can be found where craft items are sold. Give each child a plastic bag. On a table display all sorts of other beads for the children to include on their bracelets. The goal of this activity is to create a bracelet for the children to wear to help them remember to honor their parents this week, similar to the WWJD bracelets many children wear. Have the children create their bracelets by spelling the word honor and adding other colorful beads as they wish. Tie the elastic string together to create the bracelet. Encourage the children to wear their bracelets this next week.

2. **Honor Keychains.** Instead of bracelets, some children may want to create an honor

keychain. Follow the same procedure as above but a key chain will be made instead of a bracelet.

3. **Role play.** For the older children, they may want to role play different situations to practice honoring their parents. On slips of paper write down a scenario the children may encounter that may challenge them to honor their parents. Put the slips in a container and have a child pick one slip of paper, then have that child tell about what he or she would do in that particular situation. An option would be to cluster the children in groups. Each group would create a skit illustrating the scenario and a solution to the difficulty.

Possible scenarios include:

A. A friend thinks his parents are weird and uncool and thinks all kids should think that too. He thinks you should complain about your parents, too, but you think your parents are okay most of the time. What do you say to him?

B. A friend thinks your parents are old fashioned because you can't watch a certain TV show. She says she will tape it for you, and you can watch it right after school when your parents aren't home from work yet. You really want to watch the TV show-everyone is talking about it-but you know your parents don't want you to. What do you do?

C. Sometimes the punishments your parents give seem like too much. You want to complain and shout at them. How can you honor your parents and still get them to listen to your ideas?

You may be able to think of other situations to add to this list or the children may have situations they have encountered.

**We have learned today that God wants us to honor our parents. We may not always agree with them, but as children we must give our parents the respect they deserve because they are in the position of parents.**

Repeat the memory verse for the day one more time, then encourage the children to begin memorizing the sixth commandment.

End with a prayer.



## STORY

- Narrator: The school was all a buzz when the principal announced the Fall Festival Party. It was to be a night party-the first one ever at Springdale Elementary School. Everyone was discussing what fun it would be. The Commandment Kids were no exception to this. The party was the hot topic at the old oak tree that day after school.
- T.J.: I've never had the chance to go to a Fall Festival Party. We didn't have that at my other school.
- Frankie: I can't wait to tell my parents about it. Does anyone know the date of the party?
- Alvin: I think it is a week from this Friday.
- T.J.: Oh-oh. I hope it isn't that day. My family has something going on that night.
- Narrator: T.J. ran home that day and asked his mom about what they were doing a week from this Friday. He found out that his family was planning a family night-a night devoted to the family being together, playing games, etc. He thought he could talk his parents into letting him go to the party instead. They said no, the family comes first. T.J. was very disappointed. Later that week he told The Commandment Kids about his disappointment.
- T.J.: No, I can't go to the party because we are having a family night. (He shrugged his shoulders as his friends looked at him with sympathy.)
- Alvin: I know what you can do. Tell your family you don't feel well and you can go up to your room that night. Then you can sneak out and go to the party anyway. If you tell your mom you want to go to sleep, she won't bother you for awhile. I've done this with my dad before and I've gotten away with it.
- Narrator: The Commandment Kids didn't know if Alvin's plan was such a good idea. They stared at him with doubtful looks. T.J. thought at least he could think about it. Later that night as he got ready for bed, he again thought about what Alvin said. He knew Alvin was not a Christian and he needed to really think about what he said. The next day at the oak tree the other Commandment Kids were talking about Alvin's plan.
- Kassy: I heard about one of my friends that did what Alvin wants T.J. to do and boy, did she get in trouble. I don't think it's such a good idea.
- Geoffrey: My older sister tried that once and she got caught too. Parents seem to know what is going on even though we don't think they do.
- Frankie: I don't think it's a good idea. Remember we are The Commandment Kids and we have a commandment about this very topic.
- Chelsea: There is one about sneaking out of the house?

Geoffrey: No, but we have one that tells us we need to honor our parents.

Chelsea: What does that mean?

Charlotte: When we honor our parents we do what they want us to do, we obey them, and we give them the respect that is due to them because they are our parents. We need to talk to them with respect and listen to what they say.

Frankie: Maybe T.J. needs to be reminded about this commandment. He told me he was thinking about what Alvin said.

Narrator: The Commandment Kids met after school that day to tell T.J. about the fifth commandment.

Kassy: So, T.J., what are you going to do about the Fall Festival Party?

T.J.: Well, I tried to talk my parents into changing the night, but they said we have talked about that night for a long time....and we have, so they won't change the plans. I don't know what to do. Alvin's plan sure is tempting.

Charlotte: We need to remind you, T.J., about the fifth commandment. T.J., do you remember what the fifth commandment says? (T.J. shakes his head no.) I have my Bible here so I'll read it to you. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you," Exodus 20:12. What should you do if you are going to honor your parents?

Chelsea: I know you want to go to the party. It will only be the fashion event of the year, but I think you need to stay at home and enjoy your night with your parents.

Kassy: We all have talked it over and we all think you need to stay at home and not try to sneak out. We think if you sneak out then you'll get caught and get in big trouble. And the trust your parents have for you will be gone. They will think they can't trust you anymore because you lied. What do you think?

T.J.: But I really want to go to the Fall Festival Party.

Chelsea: I heard if the Fall Festival Party goes well, they may have a Holiday Party. Maybe you could go to that one.

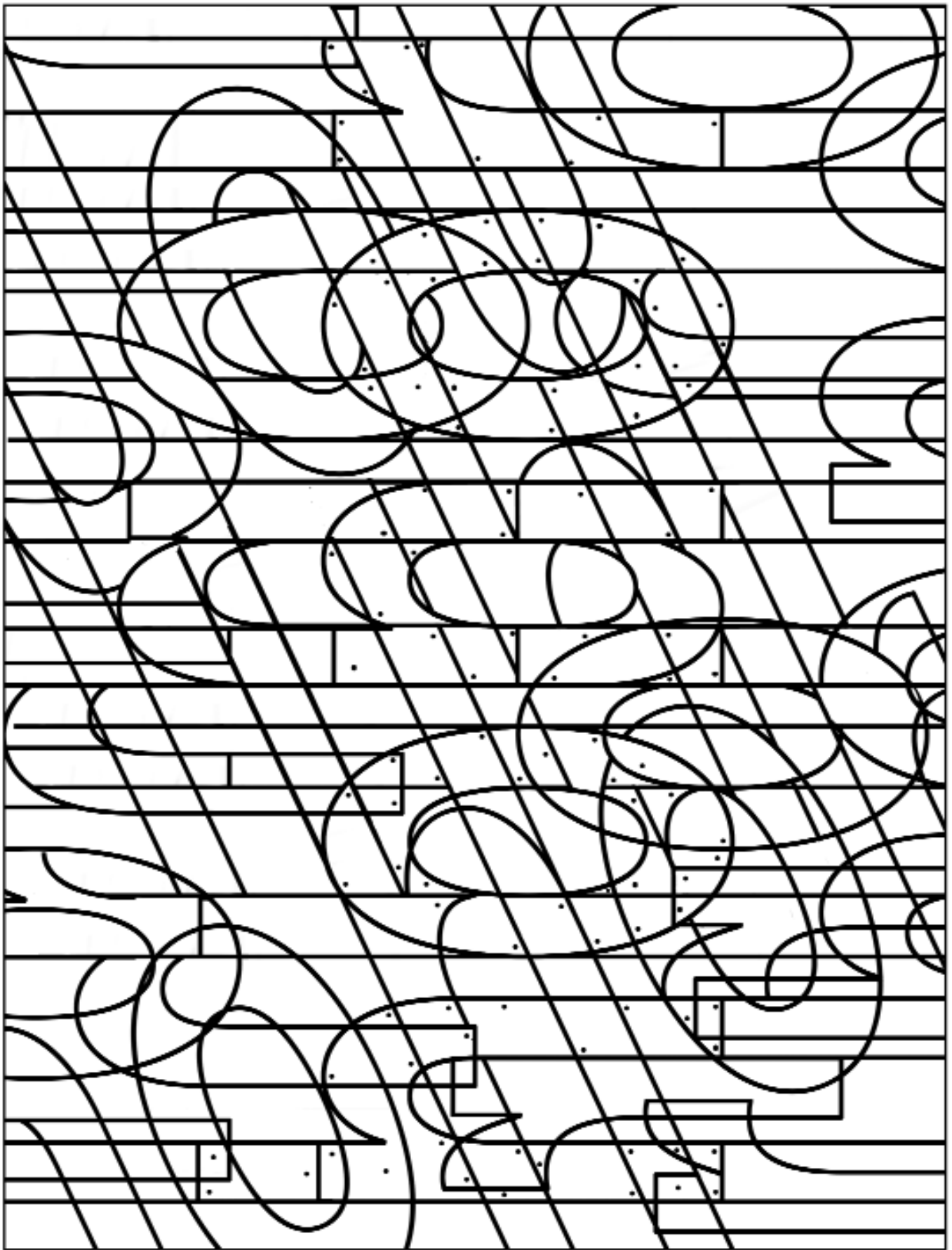
Frankie: Remember, T.J., you're a Commandment Kid.

T.J.: You're all right, you know, but it doesn't help the disappointment I feel.

Charlotte: Just think, you might actually have a fun night with your parents.

T.J.: Yeah, I just might.

Narrator: T.J. decided to follow the commandment and honor his parents by obeying them. There are all sorts of ways you can keep this commandment with your parents. In the long run, T.J. was glad he stayed at home for his family fun night and he did get to go to the Holiday Party in December. He was glad he had honored his parents.



CARVED IN STONE ARTWORK, LESSION SEVEN - HONORING YOUR PARENTS, HONOR WORKSHEET