



KING OF GLORY
A LUTHERAN COMMUNITY

Honor Who?

Point:

Honoring our Father and Mother? What? Are you nuts? This might be the typical ration one could expect when this commandment is presented to students. And really, the way we understand “honor”, can you blame them? Would you want to bow down to your parents? Would you want to do everything they ask? After all, you know them...you know what they are like.

Well, that’s not exactly what this commandment is calling for. We need to rethink how we understand the word honor. Because it is, especially now, vitally important that we learn to honor people. First, we need to understand that this is not a commandment given just to children. We are all children. We all have parents or other folks like parents that we should be honoring every day. Second, this is not a commandment for parents to club their children over the head with. It is a commandment that describes a relationship that we have with our parents and as Luther noted in his meaning, other people in authority. To honor as it was used in Hebrew at the time means literally to take them seriously. We are to take seriously our parents and as Luther said others in authority. It means to respect, to love and yes, from time to time, to recognize the wisdom of our elders and to obey.

This is a hard thing for our society to swallow sometimes. We are much more likely to put our elders out to pasture. But God understands the vital importance of the relationship between parent and child; between the old and the young; between those in authority and those who are under their authority. OUR faith is based on these kinds of relationships. This commandment calls our relationships to focus on honoring-on taking seriously-each other.



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Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1-3

1. Start off thinking about your family. Think of a time that you felt really close to your family. Did your stories have anything in common? Can we learn anything about families by hearing your stories?
2. Everyone has an image of what a good family is like. Unfortunately, almost no family measures up to this ideal. Here is an exercise designed to remind you that you are not alone in what your relationship with your parents might be like. The tendency might be to breeze through this. Instead, take some time. Go question by question and ask the kids to explain their answers. They might be hesitant at first, but eventually we hope that they can talk about their families, the good and the bad. Then they might realize that they are not alone. Follow up: is there a tv or a movie image of what a perfect family is? What is it? Why are they perfect?
3. As explained, honor doesn't necessarily mean to award someone. In the biblical sense it means to take seriously; to respect; to care about. Explain this to the group after they give their thoughts. Are there other positive words?
4. Here is where we can have some interesting conversation. What makes it difficult to honor our parents? Hopefully they will begin to sort out what the positives and negatives are in their relationships with their parents.
5. The scripture uses caring verbs to describe how we should relate with each other. These certainly apply to an honoring kind of relationship,



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plus they are words that your group members can grab on to and understand.

6. How are the verbs Luther uses similar or different from the ones in Ephesians?
7. Ask the group to think of concrete things that they can do to show a new sense of honor to their parents?

Student Questions:



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1. Describe a time that you felt really close to your family:

2. For each of the statements below put a checkmark if it represents your relationship with your parents or not.

	Yep that is me	Nope
a. I talk every day with my parents	_____	_____
b. I don't have to lie to my parents	_____	_____
c. I help my parents out with tasks	_____	_____
d. I always do as my parents ask	_____	_____
e. I regularly tell them I love you	_____	_____
f. If I have a problem with my parents we able able to solve it	_____	_____
g. I spend the right about of time with my parents	_____	_____

3. What does it mean to honor someone?

4. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to honor our parents?

5. Read Ephesians 4:1-3..... What does this say about how we should treat each other? Why?

6. Read Luther's meaning to the 4th Commandment

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

What does Luther think the word "honor" means?



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7. What can you do to start honoring your parents? Do we just need to honor our parents?