

The Fifth Commandment

References:

Ex. 20:12, Duet. 5:16.

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Notes For Servants:

1. The Ten Commandments are the basics of life. We must understand them memorize them and teach them to our children
2. We as servants should remember to apply them in our lives.

Objectives:

General: Learn why did God give us these Commandments and why should we keep it.

Specific:

1. We should understand God=s care for us.
- 2.
3. We should learn how to live with and for God.

Instructions:

1. Church occasion.
2. Introduce the topic by talking about how important are our parents in our lives, what they do to us, what they teach us...etc.
3. Talk about how people who do not take a day off end up by getting ill or mad ...

Bible Verse:

Alf ye love me, keep my commandments.@

(John 14:15)

Lesson:

**AHonour thy father and thy mother:
that thy days may be long upon the land
which the LORD thy God giveth thee.@
[Ex. 20:12]**

Lesson:

The commandments are designed to organize and define our relations first with God and second with each other. As we all know the ten commandments were written with God's fingers on two tablets. The fifth commandment occupies the top place on the 2nd tablet.

It is the first commandment that is concerned with human relations and it precedes the Lord Says @ do not kill or do not commit adultery? Why is that sequence? As if God is saying that not honouring your parents is more sinful than committing murder or stealing or adultery

It is the first commandment that is associated with a reward: *A Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. @ [Ex. 20:12].* The opposite is also true. For whoever does not honour his/her parents reaps the opposite; his days become few and unpleasant.

Dishonouring parents was punishable by death: death was the punishment for breaking this commandment. About this the law says: *A He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death...and he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death @ (Exodus 21:15,17)* Not only was the death penalty restricted to whoever strikes or curses his parents, but was also applied to the stubborn and disobedient son.

The curse was also upon whoever took lightly his father or his mother, by mocking them or not receiving them with due respect. On Mount *Ebal* the Levites used to stand and cry loudly *A cursed is he who dishonours his father or mother @ (Deut. 27:16).* The Bible also says, *A the eye of that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it @ Prov. 30:17*

As we say Our Father Who Art in Heaven God's love and care is that of a true father which gives us an idea about the importance of the father and consequently the parents in our lives.. Long ago, the father was the family priest and intercessor with God too. When the Law of Moses was implemented, Priesthood was restricted to the sons of Aaron. The father is the head of the family *A the husband is the head of his wife) (1Cor.11:3)* As in the story of Jacob the blessing of the father as a very valuable thing that made Jacob go as far as tricking his father to get it. God in all his kindness is our father, the church is our mother.

Examples:

1. Ham didn't disobey his father Noah or struck him or cursed him, or spoke evil about him. All he did was that when he saw his father, Noah, drunk and naked, he did not cover him but *A he saw and told his brothers @ (Genesis 9:20-26).* And because of that, the curse struck his seed the Canaanite for thousands of years even Jesus with his gentleness and compassion said to the Canaanite woman *A it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs @ (Mt.*

15:26) This shows that the Lord approves the curse of Ham and his seed.

2. Jacob the father of fathers, who took advantage of his father's blindness and misled him, and cunningly received his blessing.... he was tricked by his own sons in the story of Joseph and we can see this in his answer to Pharaoh when he asked Jacob about his age he said: A few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor they have attained the years that my fathers lived....@ (Gen. 47:9)

3. Remember the golden rule Jesus put whatever you do to others they will do it to you, there was once a very bad and disobedient boy that was so bad that he once slapped his father. As time went by that boy became a man and he had a very unstable and unsuccessful life and when he had a son that son slapped him on his face when he tried to stop him from being trapped in evil matters (as he himself has experienced) and when it happened his brother reminded him that he once slapped his father before, he couldn't take the shock and had a heart attack

How to honour our parents:

Honouring parents requires love, obedience, respect, gratitude and support and a very important element:

1. Success: Your success honours your father and your mother and fills their hearts with joy. The Bible says@ A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother@ (Prov.10:1). If you study hard and pass with distinction, if you are honest with your work and you became a successful man and people speak well of you that you have honoured your parents.

2. Gratitude: How much effort does your parents exert to make your life easy? Your mother has to endure a lot during her pregnancy, when she nursed you as a baby and now when she is taking care of the details of your life, caring lovinghow much does the father work to provide for the needs of his children. If you don't appreciate all of these things look at those who are deprived from the love and care of their parents. If you have any troubles in communicating with your parents remember what they had done for you over the years and remember that every generation feels that the previous generation doesn't understand them. **Having cultural differences or generation gap differences is not an excuse for not giving your parents their true gratitude.** You too in your turn will be a parent and will suffer the same with your kids.

3. Support: It is a must that a person should take care of his parents and provide for them, especially in their old age, their sickness and their need. There was a family and their grandfather was living with them. Due to his old age his hands were shaking and plates and dishes used to fall from his hands his son got upset and bought him a wooden plate. The grandson who was a 6 years old child told his dad Adad would you please take a good care of Grandpa's wooden plate he father said Why my son@ the 6 years old boy said because I would like to give it to you when you grow up and become old. There was an army that invaded a city and two young men in that city have done some favours for that army, so as a reward the army asked them to take their precious belongings and leave the city safe. You know what they did, one carried his mother and the other one carried his father.

4. Love & respect: sure you love your parents, but you should show it to them by respecting

them and showing that you are happy about the things they are trying to do to make you happy. For example if you see any of your parents tired of house work or trying to do something in the house that you can do, you can go and ask them to rest and try to do it yourself, this sure will make them happy.

5. Obedience and Submission: Obedience is an important element in honouring parents. It is said that Jesus Christ himself submitted to Mary His Mother and to Joseph (Luke 2:48) despite the fact that Joseph was not a natural father, who the angels and archangel submit to had submitted to his parents. Also the obedience of Isaac to his father Abraham. Once a young man some of his friends wanted to take him to a certain place which his parents object to, he refused and said my parents don=t allow me to go there. His friends laughed and said they will not know he said but God knows and when I go home and see them I will feel so bad and so guilty, and I hate that feeling. However obedience is within the Lord commandments AChildren, obey your parents in the Lord, for this right@ (Eph. 6:1)

Conclusions

Have I respected my parents and been obedient to them? Have I been guilty of deception, or caused them pain by my words or actions? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I done my duty towards my family? Have I been wanting in love or kindness towards my husband or wife, or harmed him or her in any way? Have I set my children a good example and tried to bring them up properly? Have I corrected their faults with patience and not with anger? Have I over-indulged or spoiled them? Have I neglected my god-children and failed in my obligations towards them? Have I worked for my employers honestly and diligently? Have I treated fairly all these who have worked for me? Have I honoured God as my Heavenly Father by treating others as my brothers, and have I honoured the Church as my spiritual Mother by honouring and practising religion according to her teachings?