

"The Weapon of Honor"

Small Group Bible Study Guide

Note to leaders: This topic may bring up painful family dynamics for some members. Be sensitive to those who might be processing difficult family relationships, and remind everyone that honoring parents doesn't mean enabling abuse or unhealthy patterns.

1. Set the Atmosphere

Icebreakers

- **Family Lines:** Ask each person to share one family tradition they grew up with. Was it something they've continued or changed as an adult? Why?
- **Authority Figures:** Have group members share about someone in authority who positively influenced their life and what made their leadership effective.

After the icebreaker, transition to prayer by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help everyone understand God's perspective on honor.

2. Sermon Summary

Main Scripture

- Matthew 15:3-9, Mark 3:31-35

Big Idea

Honor is meant to be a weapon against the enemy, but without proper understanding, the enemy can weaponize honor against us to prevent us from fulfilling God's will.

Highlights

- "The first commandment with a blessing is to honor father and mother, which brings the promise that 'it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Ephesians 6:3).
- The bare minimum of biblical honor includes not speaking evil against parents and providing for them financially when needed.

- Jesus redefined family as "whoever does the will of God" (Mark 3:35), showing that obeying the Father takes precedence over earthly family expectations.

Group Reflection

- What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon about honor?
- Was there anything that challenged your previous understanding of what it means to honor parents or authority?
- Can anyone restate the main idea of the sermon in your own words?

3. Digging into the Word

Scripture Re-Reading

Have someone read Matthew 15:3-9 aloud.

Observation

- What specific tradition were the religious leaders upholding that Jesus said violated God's commandment?
- How does Jesus define honoring father and mother in this passage?

Interpretation

- Why do you think Jesus was so direct with the religious leaders about this issue?
- What does this passage reveal about how traditions can sometimes undermine God's commands?

Connection to Sermon

- How did the pastor explain the "ceiling" or minimum requirements of honoring parents?
- How might this passage help us understand the difference between true biblical honor and cultural traditions of honor?

Scripture Re-Reading

Have someone read Mark 3:31-35 aloud.

Observation

- How did Jesus respond when told his mother and brothers were outside looking for him?
- What new definition of family did Jesus provide?

Interpretation

- Why do you think Jesus responded this way to his biological family?
- What does this passage teach us about the relationship between earthly family ties and spiritual obedience?

Connection to Sermon

- How did the sermon explain Jesus' seemingly harsh response to his family?
- In what ways might this passage challenge our understanding of family obligations versus spiritual obedience?

4. Application Questions

- In what areas of your life might you be confusing cultural expectations of honor with biblical commands?
- Have you ever experienced tension between obeying God and meeting family expectations? How did you handle it?
- What's the difference between genuinely honoring parents and being controlled by their expectations?
- How can we honor difficult or unbelieving parents while still prioritizing obedience to God?
- What boundaries might be appropriate when family expectations conflict with God's direction for your life?

5. Wrapping Up

- Invite group members to share one insight from today's discussion they want to apply this week.
- Ask if anyone needs prayer regarding family relationships or discerning God's will versus family expectations.
- Close by having someone pray for wisdom and grace in honoring both God and parents appropriately.