



# A Weighty Command

**Exodus 20:12**

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The Fifth Commandment instructs children to honor God through thoughts, words, and deeds that show a heartfelt respect for the divinely-established value of parents.

**Honor** = the Hebrew word *kaved* (cf. Gen. 18:20; Psalms 38:4; 2 Samuel 13:25) – Heavy, weighty

The placement of the Fifth Commandment

The significance of the Fifth Commandment

"If anyone fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will spare?" Augustine

By teaching children to honor the authority of their mother and father, parents will be helping them to learn to obey God.

Three ways a child should honor his/her mother and father:

1. Communication

2. Counsel

3. Care

### Questions to Consider

1. Exodus 20:12 begins with the word *honor*. What does that word mean, especially since it is given as an imperative (command) verb? What would the opposite of this command look like?
2. Read Romans 1:28-31 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5. What do these passages indicate about the seriousness with which God views a child's disobedience toward his/her parents?
3. Read the quote by Augustine earlier in these notes. Is there a biblical basis for this statement? In what way(s) is a child's respect for his/her parents foundational to other relationships that child will experience throughout life?
4. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. What were the adults who heard God's Word expected to do *before* they were commanded to diligently teach God's Word to their children? What area(s) of obedience to the Lord are you seeking to grow in, even as you desire to teach it to your children?
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:20-24. What is an example of God's faithfulness to your family that you can teach to your children to show them more of His goodness and greatness?
6. Is there a practical area of how your child speaks to you that is in need of instruction/correction?
7. If you are not a parent, or your children are grown, identify other parents that you will pray for this week as they seek to apply God's truths.

For further reading: *For the Love of Discipline* by Sara Wallace, 2018.