

WEEK SIX

**RULE 5: HONOUR YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER**

**BIG IDEA**

*Respecting your parents is*

**MORE THAN JUST DOING WHAT YOU ARE TOLD**

A LESSON FROM ISAIAH

**PREP:** *(Kids can help!)*

- For each person, make a copy of the 'Mum and Dad' page in the Appendix (or you can trace the pattern)
- Find a kebab stick/chopstick or something similar for each person.
- Find four drinking glasses and a shallow baking dish.
- Get ready ¼ cup water, ¼ cup vinegar, baking soda, liquid detergent, red and blue food colouring.

**WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?**

- The first five commandment cards.
- A kitchen timer, or mobile phone that plays a sound, or house phone with a SEARCH function.
- The kebab sticks.
- The copies of the 'Mum and Dad' flower and scissors (the kids can cut them as Prep or during the Reading).
- A glue stick.



**INTRODUCTION**

- **Who can remember what the 4 commandments are that we have looked at already?** Together lay them out in the correct order... And try to remember the stories you have read for each one...

The first 4 commandments are about our relationship with God.

Now the next ones are about how we relate to other people.

- Bring out the 5th card – Respect your parents.

**What do you think it means?**

**Why do you think this one has a ribbon around it?**

This commandment is special because it came with the promise of long life in the land of Canaan. It is referring to the full life of freedom in the Promised Land. (For us that's abundant and eternal life.) Exodus 20:12 TLB.

**OUT OF THE BOX**

- Take out the phone or kitchen timer and set it to make a sound (with a house phone, press the SEARCH button). Hide it in another room.

Have the children search for it by listening for the sound.

When someone finds it, the others must stop and close their eyes again while he/she hides it again. Repeat – giving the children several more turns.

- **How did you 'tune in' to try to hear it? (quieting ourselves, turning off other sources of noise, concentrating etc.)**

God wants us to honour and respect Mum and Dad by listening to them because He has given them the responsibility to care for their children.

### Question

- **Why are children to honour their parents?**  
(Because it pleases God. Because they take care of you; they protect you; they make sure you have food, clothing, shelter etc.)
- **I'm sure you know what it means to obey Mum and Dad. Can you explain what it means to honour Mum and Dad?**
- **Children are asked to honour their Mums and Dads. Do Mums and Dads have to honour anyone?**

When we are children one of the main ways that we can show God that we love Him is by obeying His command to respect our parents, even if we don't feel like it!

### ACTIVITY

- Get out the baking tray and the 4 drinking glasses.  
Put 2 tablespoons of baking soda each into two glasses and place them in the baking dish. These two glasses represent our parents.

How we behave and treat them affects how well we get along with them.

- In one of the other glasses put  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water and a few drops of blue food colouring
- In the fourth glass put  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vinegar, a few drops of red food colouring and a few drops of dishwashing soap.

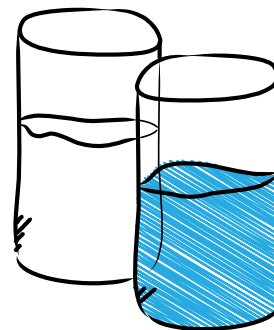
Let's say this container of blue liquid (the water) represents respect.

### What are some ways we show respect to our parents?

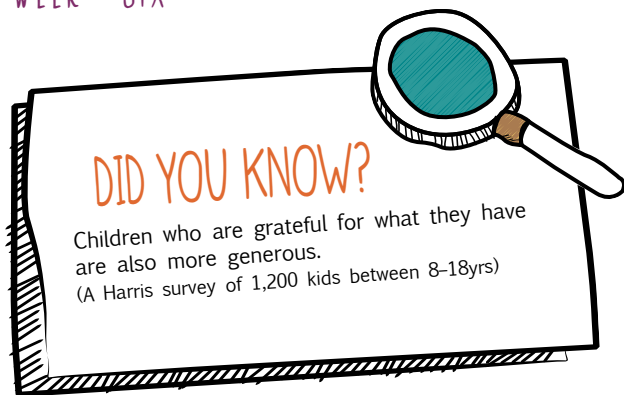
- Pour the blue water into the first container with baking soda.  
(The water dissolves the baking soda, and nothing else happens.)

When we show others respect, life is calm and peaceful. We get along!

Now let's see what happens when we don't show respect. This red liquid (the vinegar) represents disrespect.



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**How does being disrespectful affect getting along with Mum and Dad?** (It causes fights and unhappiness.)

- Pour the vinegar (red) into the second container with baking soda. (It will fizz and overflow into the baking dish).

Showing disrespect can cause things to blow up. It causes arguments and hurt feelings.

But as we choose to show respect to others, we get along much better.

God's commandments really are the best way to live. He truly knows what's best for us!

**READ**

(Hand out the scissors and copies of the 'Mum and Dad' flower from the Appendix so that the children can cut out their circle and petals during Read and Family Talk Time.)

God told Isaiah to tell the people that he wanted them to honour Him from their hearts, not just with their words.

“ The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

*Isaiah 29:13*

In the same way God wants us to respect Mum and Dad willingly with our hearts so it affects the things we do.

It doesn't mean parents will never make a mistake, but God wants us to respect them because he has given them the responsibility to care for us. And honour can only be given from our hearts.

**FAMILY TALK TIME**

When children honour their parents they are blessed. When parents honour God they are blessed.

**Question:**

- How does your home feel when people are being honoured?
- In the following 'play' - how do you think Mum feels?
- How do you think Sarah feels?
- Think of a scenario familiar to your family, or use the following one. Get the children to role play it in two different ways, and then discuss it together.

**Sarah:** Mum can I go next door and play with Emma?

**Mum:** Yes, you can - but first please go and unpack your school bag and tidy your room. Then you can go and play at Emma's.

*(Sarah role-plays herself unpacking her schoolbag and tidying her room.)*

The first time they do it the child obeys, but doesn't do it willingly (i.e. does it with a bad attitude).

The second time they must do the same thing again but this time showing honour and respect with a good, positive attitude.

**OUT OF THE BOX**

- Give each child a kebab stick and ask them to glue the 'Mum and Dad' circle to the top.
- Think about Mum and Dad and write on each petal something you love about them or something they have done for you.

“WHEN THERE IS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE HEART, THERE IS BEAUTY OF CHARACTER. WHEN THERE IS BEAUTY OF CHARACTER, THERE IS HONOUR IN THE HOME. WHEN THERE IS HONOUR IN THE HOME, THERE IS ORDER IN SOCIETY. AND WHEN THERE IS ORDER IN SOCIETY, THERE IS PEACE IN THE WORLD.”

- ANCIENT PROVERB -

- Let the children glue the petals on to their circles on the stick.

**Why do you think they would make rules for you?**

**Do you think that parents remember what it was like to once be kids just like you?**

### PRAY

- Using their ‘flower’ as a prompt, have the children place their hands on Mum and Dad’s head and pray a blessing on them. Then Mum and Dad pray a blessing on each child.

### LIVE

Put the ‘flowers’ in a vase on the table and over the dinner table, talk about people you know who have honoured their parents. Talk about the costs as well as the blessings and what you can you learn from them.



### OTHER IDEAS

- **Play Oink Oink** – This is a table manner reminder game. You will need some sort of cute pig (eg stuffed, plastic)

If someone breaks a ‘family table manner’ rule, other family members can squeal on them by saying “Oink, Oink” and the pig is then placed beside them.

Throughout the meal the pig will travel from person to person as rules are broken. The person left with the pig at the end of the meal is the Oink, Oink helper of the night and given a kitchen duty such as clearing the table.

- Make a thank you ‘tea’ for Mum and Dad. The children prepare and serve favourite tea (or punch) and cookies. Then make a guard of honour – an archway with your arms or broomsticks etc for your parents to walk through.
- Play “Mrs Manners Says” – a Manner variation of Simon says. During dinner or family time Mrs. Manners calls out good or bad manner actions. If it is a good manner the players are to act it out, if it is a bad manner players are to remain still, e.g. Mrs Manners calls out “Chew with your mouth closed” players all chew with their mouths closed. If Mrs. Manners calls out “Use your shirt sleeve to wipe your mouth,” players are to remain still. If a player makes a mistake and does a ‘bad manner’ action you can choose to have them sit out the next round of play.

**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU  
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...**





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