

The Ten Commandments of Parenting

Honor and Anger – Exodus 20:12-13

Small Group Questions

Introduction:

What are some excuses that your kids (or grandkids) have made for getting out of their responsibilities (picking up toys, being back before curfew, etc.)?

Do you remember any of the excuses YOU made when you were a kid? Now that you're not a kid anymore, is there anything you would like to say to the childhood version of you?

Honor:

Read Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-3

Matt gave a three-part definition of obedience this morning:

1. Obey Right Away
2. Obey All the Way
3. Obey with a Smile Along the Way

Every child struggles at times with all of these areas of obedience. Normally, though, most children tend to struggle with one more than the others. Which one did your child(ren) tend to struggle with the most? How did you approach discipline in this area?

What are some of the biggest struggles for teenagers in honoring their parents? What are some ways parents with younger children can be proactive in dealing with some of these struggles before they reach the teenage years?

What are some challenges children will face as their parents age? What are some challenges parents face as they age in dealing with their children?

More than 30 countries world-wide have banned any form of corporal punishment. If/when that happens in America, what course of action will most honor Jesus as we seek to teach our children to honor their parents?

Anger

Read Exodus 20:12 and Matthew 5:21-22

Why do you think God gave such a "simple" command in the 10 Commandments? Doesn't everyone know that it is sin to murder? What was God communicating here in Exodus 20:12?

Jesus equates anger with murder in Matthew 5:21-22. How in the world is that possible? (Think deeper than just: "Every sin is horrible to God." There is MUCH more at play here.)

How do the 5th and 6th Commandments (Honor and Anger) work together and play off of one another?

What are some things that you typically get angry about?

There are several ways that people deal with anger:

- The Psycho: Blow up right away to any insult
- The "Nice-Guy": When insulted, you are nice to their face and you attack them to their back
- The Slow-Burn: Just let it build up and build up and build up. You typically don't blow up but you tend to struggle with bitterness.
- The Ticking Time Bomb: Wait for it...wait for it...wait for it...BOOM!!! You don't blow up right away, but after you've exhibited far too much patience (in your opinion), you let them have it.

In which one of these do you see yourself struggling the most? How will identifying the idols of your heart aid in your battle to put off anger and put on patience and gentleness?

