CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Honor: God's Key To Success

Lesson 1: Honor Is Essential

About This Lesson

This series started shifting the mindsets of some of the more problematic youth to be more respectful and honoring to leadership, parents, and peers. Many of today's young people aren't seeing honor modeled or taught. Understanding the importance of honor sets the foundation for honoring God. The young people are watching you and all of the church leaders, so model giving honor to church staff, volunteers, parents, and the youth. It is essential that the youth grasp how humility and respect help us fulfill our destiny and build meaningful relationships.

Key Takeaway: Giving honor prepares us to honor God and receive blessings from God.

Key Verse: Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.*

Teaching Outline:

I. HONOR IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

Proverbs 3:9–10 *Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase;* [10] *so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

A. Honor is always intentional.
   1. You honor with substance—your time and money.

   2. You don't accidentally do this! You have to make it a priority and do it on purpose.

3. You can express a sentiment with a card, but honoring someone takes effort, often involving time and money.
    a. Give a personal example, such as for our 5th wedding anniversary, I could have just gotten a card, but I did something else, I got a trip for my wife to Breckenridge. I did something that took time and also cost money.

B. Honor the Lord with your substance—there are tremendous promises attached!
    1. It leads to plenty!
    2. It leads to overflow!
    3. It leads to new wine.
    4. Life never gets stale!

II. HONOR GOES BEYOND

A. Don't care about or focus on the critics. They are not the ones up on the stage doing the work.

B. Honor comes from people who live with purpose! Honor goes beyond the norm!
    Hebrews 12:9 *Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live.*
    1. Respect is giving people what they deserve. That's why it is called a payment, you pay someone their respect.

    2. Honor goes beyond what someone deserves.
        a. God wants to honor you and give you more than you deserve. He gave you Jesus! He gave you His very best!
        b. Keep tapping into God's honor system! He wants to give you supernatural favor.
        c. Give a personal example, such as we were given free tickets on our stay in Breckenridge.

III. DISHONOR WILL HINDER THE POWER OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE

A. In Mark 6:1–6, we read that people were offended at Jesus. They dishonored Him. They didn't believe Him or take Him seriously.

B. He could do no mighty work there—He marveled because of their unbelief.
   1. They decided that Jesus was too common to receive their honor.
   2. They treated Jesus just like a regular person. He was just the son of a carpenter.

IV. UNBELIEF IS ALWAYS CONNECTED TO DISHONOR

A. These people in Jesus' hometown had a bad attitude. They were full of offense, which prevented them from receiving spiritual things. You cannot receive revelation, anointing, and wisdom from a person you dishonor and criticize.

B. A lack of honor will negatively impact you and the people close to you as well. Choose to positively impact your life and give honor to God and to others.

Bottom Line:
God honors us when we humble ourselves and put God first in our lives.

Small Group Time:

1. One way people are honored is when they achieve something great. People look up to that person for their accomplishments, such as athletes, artists, musicians, singers, performers, etc.
   - When have you been honored for something you did?
   - How were you honored?
   - How did you feel?

2. Proverbs 15:33 says, *"…and before honor is humility."* Many people want honor, but they don't humble themselves to earn it. One important aspect of humility is teachability. Think about some of the people you know who are not teachable, they will not be honored by others. In 1 Peter 5:6, we learn how important humility is to God: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." God honors humility.
   - When have you seen someone show humility, and then later, they were honored?

3. People can be honored because of the position they hold. Think about people in your life who hold a position of honor, such as a school teacher, a coach, a pastor, or a ministry leader.
    - Who was/is your favorite teacher, coach, pastor, or leader?
    - What made them a good teacher, coach, pastor, or leader? (Guide the youth to think about qualities such as someone who is patient, someone who cares, someone who is excellent at what they do, etc.)
    - How do you think that person might like to be honored?
    - When and how did you show honor to that person?

Declaration:
"I am a person of honor! I choose to honor God and His Word! I honor and value the people that God has placed in my life! Because I am a person of honor, I know that God will take care of me and fill my life with purpose and supernatural blessing!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Who do you need to show honor to this week?
- **Pray:** Ask God to open your eyes to see honorable things about the people you should be honoring.
- **Read:** Search the word "honor" in a Bible concordance or online search. Choose one verse each day and read the whole chapter containing the verse to learn its context. What is God showing you about honor through that verse?
- **Live It:** Honor takes time and thought, so make a plan of who you will honor and how. Choose to honor that person in a sincere way that doesn't focus on you. Commit to pray for that person.
- **Create:** 1 Samuel 2:30 says, *"…those who honor me I will honor."* Make a poster or meme to share with the group using that part of the verse.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite hobby, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Look online for memes or posters that show pictures or quotes about honor. Show them on the screen and have the young people comment.

Opening Affirmation: "Honor is not an option; it is essential. I will honor God, God's Word, and God's leaders. I will choose to honor the people God has placed in my life."

Giving Time: John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

God is the biggest giver—He gave His Son. Encourage the young people that they can't match God's gift, and giving isn't a competition. Creating a habit of giving to God's work is a way to thank God for His incredible gift of Jesus to pay our sins and offer salvation to us.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week, challenge the young people to make a list of the situations where they saw someone showing honor to another person. Have them share the lists next week.

Biblical Worldview: Because youth don't see honor modeled very much in TV shows, movies, or online, they often default to treating people the way they see their peers treating people. Our Christian youth should use the Bible as their source for how they view the world and treat people. God clearly shows the importance of honoring Him and honoring others. Encourage the young people to set a new standard for their friends and to be leaders in showing respect and honor to others.

Outreach/Missions: Many cultures are honor/shame-based. A person's reputation and social standing come from others but affect the person's identity and self-worth. Honor affects the whole family, so you would avoid offending others, which would bring shame on you and your family. In these cultures, the Gospel message is often forbidden, and someone who embraces Christianity shames their family and is often an outcast from the clan, imprisoned, or even faces death. If the head of the family converts to Christianity, usually the entire family converts. Pray for the young people in these cultures to hear about salvation, and for family groups to choose salvation.