CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Honor: God's Key To Success

Lesson 2: Created For Honor

About This Lesson

We are created to bring honor to God. Each young person needs to realize that they were created to be honored and live honorably, but the enemy of God seeks to devalue them and lead them to live a life full of shame. This lesson reminds the youth that God created them, loves them, and has a good plan for them. They can choose to live His way and reap the blessings of being a vessel of honor. Honor goes beyond simple respect; it's about valuing people and acting with integrity.

Key Takeaway: God treasures His vessels of honor, so choose to live a life that honors God and receives honor from God.

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 2:20 *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.*

Teaching Outline:

I. YOU ARE A VESSEL OF HONOR

2 Timothy 2:19–21 *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

A. Definition of honor: to treat with great consideration; respect greatly; regard highly; treat with deference and courtesy; to treat as valuable and precious; esteem of the highest of great dignity.

B. You were created for honor!

1. God created Adam and Eve in His image. You are created in God's image also.

2. You are not here by accident! God planned for you to be here, at this time in history! Since the beginning of creation, God knew you and knew you would be here! He has been looking forward to you breathing, walking on this earth, growing up, making friends, maturing, and finding your talents and passions.

C. Some of you don't realize that you are a vessel of honor!
   1. There is a difference between vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor!
   2. It's how they are treated!
   3. You protect, treasure, and guard vessels of honor.
   4. You don't care about vessels of dishonor. They are beat up, aren't valuable, and get trashed.
   5. Give examples of vessels of honor vs. dishonor, such as a house might have special heirloom dishes used only for special occasions and paper plates that are used and thrown away.

D. In God's eyes, you are incredibly special! He wants to treat you well. He thinks you are incredibly valuable! He wants to care for you, guard you, protect you, and put you up on a pedestal and say, "Look at this kid—this is my kid!!!!"

II. THE ENEMY WANTS TO TRAP YOU IN SHAME

A. Just like God wants to honor you, the enemy wants to shame you! He wants to dishonor you and take away your value, your purpose, your dignity, and your respect. He wants to destroy you! God wants to honor you!

B. Shame is incredibly dangerous because it comes from the enemy and leads down his dark path.

C. Without honor, the human spirit is broken. No one can enjoy living in shame. They will constantly feel defeated and beaten up.

D. If you've been dealing with shame, guilt, condemnation—constantly struggling to find purpose—I've got good news for you! Jesus isn't done with you yet! Romans 8:1–2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the*

Spirit. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

III. JESUS IS STILL IN THE TRANSFORMATION BUSINESS

A. The Bible contains examples of radical transformation! Jesus is still in the transformation business!

B. In Jeremiah 18, God told Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house. He saw a potter making something at the wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was marred, so he took it again and made it into another vessel, something that seemed good to the potter to make.

C. Transformation happens when you completely surrender your life to Jesus!
   1. You don't have to stay the same. Just give your life to Jesus and He will turn you into something that will surprise you! It will surprise everyone around you. You will be much better off! He loves to restore people to a place of honor!

D. Restoration to honor begins with believing on Jesus and continues as you surrender your life to Him!
   1 Peter 2:6 and 9 *Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame"… [9]But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.*

Bottom Line:
Living a life of honor—living a life of the highest value—begins with believing in Jesus. If you've been dealing with shame and feeling defeated, lost, or without hope, restoration happens when you completely surrender your life to Jesus!

Small Group Time:

1. You are loved and have value! You are created in God's image, and anywhere you show up, you bring Him with you. Knowing those truths makes it easier to choose to live an honorable life rather than choosing to do things of dishonor. The Bible shows

some examples of honor and dishonor behaviors if we continue reading 2 Timothy 2:22–26, Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [23] But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. [24] And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, [25] in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, [26] and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

- When have you felt God protected and treasured you as His vessel of honor?
- Which vessel of honor choices from 2 Timothy 2:22–26 are easier for you?
- Which will you choose to work on achieving this week?

2. Shame is the enemy's game that you don't have to play. Jesus' sacrifice covers all sin, and His righteousness belongs to everyone who turns to Him as their Savior. When Satan points out your failures and stirs up your shame, speak the truth that Jesus' righteousness covers that, and He loves you! When you repent of being a vessel of dishonor, let the Holy Spirit, who is in you, lead you to right choices that cause you to be a vessel of honor.

- Think of a time when you were a vessel of dishonor and felt shame. Now, picture Jesus transforming you and restoring you. How do you feel now?
  - If you haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sins, would you like to pray with me now for salvation?
- What truths from God can you tell yourself the next time you are feeling shame?

Declaration:

"I am created on purpose with the purpose to bring honor to God. I choose to be a vessel of honor valued and honored by God."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What choices did you make today that showed others you were a vessel of honor?

- **Pray:** Ask God to show you areas in your life where you are not being a vessel of honor. Commit to changing and being "useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."
- **Read:** Choose to live according to the Bible as a vessel of honor. Learn to be a godly man by reading Psalm 1:1–3. Learn to be a godly woman by reading Proverbs 31:10-31, especially verses 29-31.
- **Live It:** Take a dry-erase marker and write on your mirror, "I am a vessel of honor valued and honored by God." Each day this week, say that over yourself every time you look in the mirror. As you affirm this over yourself, you will begin to make more conscious efforts to fulfill it!
- **Create:** Make a list of actions that show being a vessel of honor, starting with 2 Timothy 2:22–26 and keep adding to the list. Keep this list where you will review it weekly, so that choosing honorable actions is a habit.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What's your favorite board game, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Look online for a video showing a potter making something on a potter's wheel that gets messed up, and then reforms the same clay into something beautiful.

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: Proverbs 3:9 *Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.*

This verse shows that one way to honor God is through giving to Him. We are to give from the firstfruits, which is the best portion, not the worst or if anything is leftover. Giving is something God honors.

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: When we understand our value to God, we should want to help others discover their value. Look around this week for someone who might not realize their value or isn't making choices that show they are valued by God. Speak words of affirmation and encouragement to the person and offer to pray for them.

Biblical Worldview: When Christians take seriously their value from God, they will make choices to live up to that value. Reading the Bible is a source for guidelines in making choices to be vessels of honor. Encourage the young people to take seriously the value they have and to let their actions show their value.

Outreach/Missions: Asian cultures are very shame-based. Parents place high expectations on their child and often use shame as a parenting tool. The youth of Asian cultures work hard not to bring shame on themselves because it will be reflected on their family, school, and community. Pray for Asian young people to learn that Jesus bore our shame and sin when He died on the cross to bring forgiveness to anyone who receives Him as their Savior.