CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Honor: God's Key To Success

Lesson 3: Living the Good Life

About This Lesson

Honor is very relational! We should demonstrate honor in every area of our lives, starting with our time, talents, and substance. Young people often have difficulty honoring their parents, but God's Word speaks of the benefit of honoring parents: long life! Part of honoring someone means listening to their wisdom, even when it challenges us, and showing gratitude in our actions toward that person.

Key Takeaway: The Bible commands us to honor our parents, God, and everyone. We should faithfully honor with our time, talents, and substance.

Key Verse: Ephesians 6:2–3 *"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: [3] "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*

Teaching Outline:

I. HONORING PARENTS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH A PROMISE

Ephesians 6:1–4, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: [3] "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." [4] And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

A. A definition of honor is "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."
   1. To give honor to someone means to add to their value and see their true worth!

a. This is a commandment with a promise—an incredible promise to have a long life and also to have a good life! You're going to have a high-quality, enjoyable, exciting, and fulfilling life!

B. Fathers are to train (to teach and instruct) and to admonish (to correct), but not in a way that provokes someone to wrath.

C. Parents are to show honor.

1 Peter 3:7 *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

1. A lack of honor will hinder God's good plans for your life!
2. I want every good thing that God has in store for me, and honor plays a huge part!

II. LOVING OTHERS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:36-40 *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" [37] Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [38] "This is the first and great commandment. [39] "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

A. We are to honor God and honor people! We are to love people! You can't do that when you hold on to grudges!

Leviticus 19:18 *You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.*

1. Holding a grudge and not letting it go is like holding onto poison that will slowly kill you, not them.
2. Don't hold grudges against your friends, teachers, coaches, pastors, and certainly not against your parents.
3. Even if people aren't perfect, you need to let it go!
4. Holding onto grudges is incredibly dishonoring!

III. WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE HONOR (FAITHFULNESS)

A. Honor must be given! Time, talent, and substance are ways to give honor to someone.

1. Time is one of the most valuable resources you have because it is a limited supply. When you give someone your time, or you are respectful of their time, it's a way to demonstrate honor.

2. Talent is using your skills, gifts, and creative ways to help other people. Figure out where there is a need and try to help! Don't just help how you want to—help where there is a need. That is true honor!

3. Substance is giving of your finances and gifts, such as buying someone a meal.

IV. FAITHFULNESS IS HUGE IN GOD'S HONOR SYSTEM!

Proverbs 20:6 *Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?*

A. Faithfulness is extremely valuable because it is rare!
   1. Don't just give honor when you can get something out of it, or when you feel like it. Be faithful in giving honor at all times and to all people.

B. If you want to be successful in life, want God to honor you, and want to live a super-blessed life, you will have to pass the test on faithfulness.

Bottom Line:
When you demonstrate honor, it won't always be exciting and often goes against your feelings. Do it anyway!

Small Group Time:

1. Showing honor to God happens when we treat Him as holy and are respectful in His presence, when we read and follow His Word, and when we respect the leaders He has placed in our lives.

- How can you demonstrate honor to God? (take time to read the Bible, believe on Jesus and the Bible, serve at church, tithe)

2. Honoring your parents isn't a suggestion to do when it is convenient; it is a command. God gave a special blessing for honoring parents—long life! Instead of searching for the "fountain of youth," spend your time honoring your parents, and God's blessings of long life will be on you.

- When is it hardest to show honor to your parents?
- How can you demonstrate honor to your parents? (keep a positive attitude, do things that need to be done before being asked to do them, tell them you appreciate them, speak respectfully to them without any eye rolling, forgive them when they make a mistake)

3. Honoring friends is a sign of true friendship. You honor a friend by valuing and cherishing them.

- How can you demonstrate honor to your friends? (be a faithful friend, speak encouragement to them, help them through a hard time, show them that they are important and valuable)

Declaration:
"I will faithfully honor my parents, God, and everyone. I choose to use my time, talents, and substance to honor people."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What will you do this week to show honor to your parents?
- **Pray:** Thank God for the adults in your life who are helping you learn about God.
- **Read:** Parents aren't perfect leaders, but you still need to honor them. David chose to honor King Saul even though Saul tried to kill him. Read about it in 1 Samuel 18:5–15 and 24:1–20.
- **Live It:** Each day, choose time, talent, or substance and make a point of showing honor to someone in that way.
- **Create:** Write, draw, bake, or make something that shows honor to your parents. Give it to them and pray a blessing over them.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What was your favorite childhood vacation, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Display the question: What is the secret to long life? Look online for people 100 years old who give their responses. Ask the youth what they think the answer is. Explain that the Bible has a clear answer, and they'll learn what it is in today's lesson.

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: 2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

God wants us to be successful and abound in all good works. By establishing a habit of giving to God's work, the youth are setting themselves up to receive God's grace that blesses them and leads them in success.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Young people will likely find honoring their parents to be one of their toughest challenges. Often, they observe their peers dishonoring their parents and simply mimic that behavior. The challenge is for the youth to set a standard of honoring their parents for their peers to follow. This week, encourage the young people to go above and beyond to demonstrate honor to their parents in front of their peers and to share ways they honor their parents at home.

Biblical Worldview: Often, the media portrays children as smarter than their parents and disrespectful in many ways. This worldview, which places children at the center and considers them all-important, does not align with the biblical worldview discussed in today's lesson. The young people need boldness to break from the typical "teenage rebellion" that treats parents disrespectfully. By following God's

commandment to honor their parents, they are showing they live by a biblical worldview, and God rewards their honor with long life.

Outreach/Missions: In your community and your church, there might be young people who don't have a strong Christian parental influence. Invite Christian adults in the church to reach out to the youth with encouragement and commitment to pray for them. Allow opportunities to do a community outreach project together or a special worship night for them to interact together. Look for opportunities to build relationships that honor God and let the youth show honor to others.