

Understand or Not

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 3****Focus:**

Honor your
parents.

Lesson 3**Bible Basis:**

Exodus 20:12-13;
Mark 7:9-13;
Matthew 5:21-22

Lesson 3**Memory Verse:**

“Honor your father and mother”—
which is the first commandment
with a promise.
—Ephesians 6:2

Students will watch a video featuring a teen speaker discussing how hard it must be to parent teenagers, and they’ll discover that God wants them to honor their parents even when there are misunderstandings.

Materials:

- Internet access

It’s normal for kids to get frustrated by their families or parents sometimes. Even when we really love and get along with our parents, we will sometimes have misunderstandings or disagree with the things they say or decisions they make.

Share the following video [5:14]:

How to parent a teen from a teen’s perspective | Lucy Androski | TEDxYouth@Okoboji
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vdPxLfAsqo>

- **What could you relate to from what the speaker said?** (Allow your students a chance to share some of their own experiences but be sure to monitor the conversation to keep it kind and light-hearted.)
- **Which of her points did you agree with? What did you disagree with?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

Although we probably all have ideas for how we wish our parents related to us differently, most parents are trying really hard to listen to us, understand us, and do what’s best for us—even when we may not agree with or understand their decisions.

Misunderstanding in these relationships can be a two-way street. You think your parents don’t understand you? What about *you* understanding *them*? Even the speaker in the talk acknowledged at the end of her presentation that, “Wow, it’s really hard to parent a teen.”

➤ **What are some of the things that kids may not understand about their parents?** (Try to guide them toward a deeper perspective. Examples: most middle-schoolers don't realize what it's like to go to work, raise children, pay bills, repair a car, etc. Allow students to think through some of the things they may not understand with regard to current situations in the world right now.)

Sad but true, parents and kids don't always understand each other perfectly. But even when they miss connections, they still have responsibilities to each other. For example, your mom and dad have a responsibility to feed you and give you a place to sleep. And you have responsibilities to them which begin with showing them honor. Let's take a few minutes to explore what the Bible says about honoring Mom and Dad.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Understand or Not

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STEP 4 

Lesson 3

Focus:

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Bible Basis:

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Mark 7:9-13;
Matthew 5:21-22

Lesson 3

Memory Verse:

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Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class. Some of your students may have designed a card and written a poem for their parents in the Step 3 activities. This step will take it further by having your students commit to and follow through on honoring their parents in a *practical* way.

Make sure each student has an index card and a pen/pencil. Ask your students to think of one way that they may have dishonored their parents—perhaps by grumbling when they completed a chore. Instruct them to create a coupon that will show honor in that area.

Have your students write “Honor Coupon” at the top of their index card along with an appropriate act of service. For example, if complaining about doing the dishes was a way a student dishonored Mom, they might give a coupon for an extra night of doing the dishes without complaint even though it’s not their turn. Dad might get a free car wash or mowed lawn if he was previously disrespected when he asked them to do it before.

You can offer anything you want but there’s one catch: You have to choose something above and beyond what you normally do. If the dishes are already your job three nights a week, your honor coupon only counts if it is good for a *fourth* night.

Sometime today, give your honor coupon to your parent or family member. Explain what you talked about in class today. It would be a great opportunity to say sorry for disrespect in the past.

Honoring your parents is something God wants us to do all the time—this coupon is just a start. Let it be your first step in choosing to honor your parents every day.

Give your students a few minutes to create their coupons. If your students did design a card in Step 3, suggest that they slip the honor coupon inside before they present the greeting card to their parents.

If time permits, invite (but don't require) your teens to share what they wrote on their honor coupons. Close in prayer, asking God to help all of you show honor and respect to your parents at all times.

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