

# Who's the Boss?

## Lesson 2



**Scripture:** Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20










**Bible Memory:** Colossians 3:12-14

**Focus:** ♥ God wants us to honor our parents.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Even the most delightful of relationships includes challenges, and relationships between children and their parents are sometimes the hardest. But whatever challenges there may be, a good relationship between children and parents is of utmost importance to God. Jesus modeled that for us, submitting to and obeying His earthly mother and father and God, His heavenly Father. Jesus honored His parents through both His attitudes and actions. May we do the same.

## Lesson 2 at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>discover the meaning of the word honor</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Move It!</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Showing Honor</p>	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul> <p>• <i>Resources</i> CD Showing Honor printable file</p>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker</li> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive, pencils</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help students <i>tell why God commands children to honor their parents</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Colossians 3:12-14</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 2</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 2 and Unlock Your Bible printable files</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, Bible concordance, index cards, markers, pencils</li> <li>• Bibles</li> <li>• reusable adhesive, Bibles of various versions, Bible dictionary, Bible concordance, dictionary, paper, pencils</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>discover ways to honor their parents</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> What Do You Think?</p> <p> <b>Option</b> House of Cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD House of Cards printable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chairs, pencils</li> <li>• card stock, scissors</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>choose to honor their parents</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Take the Challenge</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Make-a-Shape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• yarn, scissors</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **discover the meaning of the word honor**.

### Welcome

- Welcome each student by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

### Quick Step Move It!

Before class, write these words on the board: *respect, show dignity to, have a high opinion of, admire, look up to, show devotion, value, appreciate, speak respectfully to and about, give credit.*

Have preteens stand in a line, one behind the other. SAY: **Move two steps to the right if you usually show respect to teachers.** Pause as preteens do this. **Move one step to the left if you sometimes don't speak respectfully to a coach or other leader.** Pause. **Move three steps to the right if you usually appreciate the school principal.** Pause. **Move one step to the left if you sometimes don't value family members.** Pause. **Move one step to the right if you usually appreciate a school custodian or other worker.** Pause. **Move two steps to the left if you sometimes don't have a high opinion of a friend.** Pause. **Move three steps to the right if you usually look up to police officers.** Pause. **Move one step to the left if you sometimes don't admire your parents.** Pause. **Move two steps to the right if you usually admire a famous athlete or celebrity.** Pause. **Move one step to the left if you sometimes don't give credit to those who deserve it.** Pause. Call preteens' attention to the words you've written on the board.

ASK: **What's one word that could describe how you treat others if you do these things?** Accept responses. After lots of guesses, if no one says "honor," write "HONOR" on the board above the other words.

SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word to see who God tells us to honor.**

### Option Showing Honor

Before class, write these words on the board: *respect, show dignity to, have a high opinion of, admire, look up to, show devotion, value, appreciate, speak respectfully to and about, give credit.* Display the Showing Honor posters in your room.

Draw students' attention to the posters. SAY: **Get a pencil and go to each poster. Write one way that you could show honor to the person or persons listed on each poster. If you're feeling stuck, you might get some ideas from what's written on the board.** Encourage students to write specific things they do to show honor. If preteens seem stuck, consider letting them work with partners. Give preteens a few minutes to do this. When they're done, read aloud their ideas, and lead a discussion about showing honor.

SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word to see who God tells us to honor.**

## Focus

♥ God wants us to honor our parents.

### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker



### Teaching Tip

Continue to display the Poster for the Quarter (*Resources* sheet 1).



### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* CD  
Showing Honor printable file, reusable adhesive, pencils (or colored pencils)



Let students use self-stick notes to write or draw how they would show honor. Then they can put the notes on the posters.

## Focus

♥ God wants us to honor our parents.

# Explore His Word (25 minutes)

**2** Use these activities to help students **tell why God commands children to honor their parents.**

## Bible Background for the Teacher

“Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12). This commandment concerning relationships is number 5 in God’s Top 10. This commandment is followed with a promise: “so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” Ephesians 6:3 adds: “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” The importance of this commandment is also noted in the following verses:

**Deuteronomy 5:16**—Moses reminds the Israelites of this commandment before they cross the Jordan into the promised land. **Deuteronomy 21:18-21**—Instructions are given to stone to death a rebellious son. **Deuteronomy 27:16**—Moses proclaims that anyone who dishonors his parents should be cursed. **Proverbs 1:8**—The wise teacher points to a source of wise teaching: one’s parents. **Proverbs 30:17**—The value of the elderly is addressed here by warning those who mock or scorn their aging parents. **Matthew 15:4**—Jesus reminded the Pharisees, who were skirting the laws about honoring parents, that the Scriptures hold truth to be obeyed.

For children to mature in their faith, they need to honor their parents. In so doing they also honor their heavenly Father and receive the blessings of His promises.

### Materials

Bibles, Bible concordance, index cards, markers, *Activities* for lesson 2, pencils



### Note

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want preteens to read from the same Bible version.

### Tech Tip

You could let students go online to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) or a similar website. Tell them to type in the phrase “honor your father and mother” and see what Scriptures contain those words.

## Bible Exploration Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

Have preteens turn in their Bibles to the contents page (either a print or digital Bible).

ASK: **Which book of the Bible is the first to tell us that God wants us to honor our father and mother? And where would we look in that book to find it?** (Exodus 20:12. If students don’t know, remind them how they can use a concordance to find it.)

Have students turn in their Bibles to Exodus 20:12, and ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

ASK: **What is this section of Scripture usually called?** (the 10 Commandments)

**Why do you think God included honoring parents as one of His 10 Commandments?** (He must think it’s very important.)

**What promise did God give to those who honor their parents?** (They would live long in the land.)

SAY: **When God gave the 10 Commandments, the Israelites were on their way to the promised land. God promised that they would live long in the promised land if they honored their parents.** Give each preteen an index card and a marker. **On a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how well do you honor your parents or the grown-up who cares for you? Remember what honor is—showing respect and appreciation, valuing and admiring, and having a high opinion of. Write that number on your card and then hold it up.** Look at the cards. Depending on what numbers they wrote, make a general comment, such as: **It looks like some of you**

**have a hard time honoring your parents.** Tell students to cross out that number.

Have preteens turn in their Bibles to Proverbs 1:8, and have a volunteer read it aloud. SAY: **On a scale from 1 to 10, how well do you listen to what your parents try to teach you? Write that number on your card and then hold it up.** Look at the cards. Depending on what numbers they wrote, make a general comment. Tell students to cross out that number. Have preteens turn in their Bibles to Ephesians 6:1-3, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud. SAY: **On a scale from 1 to 10, how well do you obey your parents? Write that number on your card and then hold it up.** Look at the cards. Depending on what numbers they wrote, make a general comment. Tell students to cross out that number. Have preteens turn in their Bibles to Colossians 3:20, and have a volunteer read it aloud. **On a scale from 1 to 10, how well do you obey your parents in everything? Write that number on your card and then hold it up.** Look at the cards. Depending on what numbers they wrote, make a general comment.

Distribute the leaflets, and have preteens look at the activity Where's It Found? Read the directions, and let preteens work alone or with partners on this. Encourage students to look up the Scriptures in their Bibles. When finished, let volunteers share their answers. (Answers: 1=Ephesians 6:1-3; 2=Proverbs 1:8; 3=Ephesians 6:1-3; 4=Colossians 3:20; 5=Exodus 20:12; 6=Colossians 3:20; 7=Ephesians 6:1-3)

ASK: **Why does God command children to honor their parents?** (It's the right thing to do. It pleases God. He wants things to go well for children so they can enjoy long lives.)

SAY: **The next time you're thinking about not honoring and obeying your parents—think again! God cares deeply about how we treat our parents. The Scriptures are clear—♥ God wants us to honor our parents.**

## **Bible Memory** Colossians 3:12-14

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Continue to display the Colossians 3:12-14 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have preteens find Colossians 3:12-14 in their Bibles. Have a volunteer read the verses aloud.

ASK: **What are some words from the verses that describe how we can honor our parents?** Accept responses.

Divide the class into three groups, and assign each group one verse. SAY: **Work together and decide how you want to read your verse creatively. Maybe you'll want to emphasize some words. Maybe some words will be read by individuals while the rest are read by everyone. Maybe you'll want to say part of the verse in a different tone or volume.** Give preteens time to work on this. In verse order, have the groups creatively read the verses. Have the groups do it a couple of times. Then ask everyone to say all the verses together. SAY: **Because ♥ God wants us to honor our parents, let's do it by treating them well, always showing them love.**

### **Materials**

Resources sheet 2,  
Bibles



### **Note**

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources CD*.

### **Teaching Tip**

For a smaller class, assign verses to pairs or individuals.

### **Optional Bible Skill Builder**

Print and use the *Resources CD* Optional Bible Skills 2 printable file.



## Focus

♥ God wants us to honor our parents.

# Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help students **discover ways to honor their parents.**

### Materials

chairs, *Activities* for lesson 2, pencils



### Teaching Tip

Not all kids may want a turn in the middle, and that's OK. When these preteens are left without a seat, let them choose someone else to be in the middle.

### Materials

copies of *Resources* CD House of Cards printable file (1 copy of page 1 per small group; you'll need 2 or 3 copies of page 2 with the cards cut apart) printed on card stock, scissors



Be sure that preteens with fine-motor issues get a turn early on so they don't worry about knocking down the structure.

## Quick Step What Do You Think?

Have preteens sit in chairs in a circle. SAY: **Everyone needs to think of one specific way you can honor your parents or the grown-ups who care for you. Remember that *honoring* means “showing respect, obeying, listening, saying thanks, speaking respectfully to, admiring, and looking up to.”** Ask for a volunteer to stand in the middle; remove that one chair. **The person in the middle will call out a specific way to honor parents. Everyone who has ever done the same thing will get up and quickly exchange seats before the person in the middle takes an open seat. Whoever is left standing will go to the middle. Play as time permits.**

Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity What Do You Think? Read the instructions. Divide the class into three groups (or call on three students), and assign each group one of the questions. Tell the groups they should read their questions and decide how to answer them, writing their responses in the space provided. When the groups are ready, have each group read its question and its response. Allow volunteers to share other responses. Encourage everyone to write a response for each of the questions. SAY: **Probably every day and several times a day we get to choose whether or not to honor our parents. Remember that ♥ God wants us to honor our parents—then make your choice.**

## Option House of Cards

Divide the class into small groups (or pairs). Give each group one copy of just page 1 and scissors. Ask a volunteer to read the words on the cards.

ASK: **What do you think these words and phrases have to do with today's lesson?** (These are all ways we can honor our parents.)

Have students cut apart the cards. SAY: **Each group is to build a house of cards. We'll see which house can stand the longest.** As groups work, SAY: **A family stands strong when kids honor their parents or the grown-ups who provide care—by respecting them, appreciating them, obeying them, listening to them, looking up to them, and showing them value. But when kids don't honor their parents—by talking back, disobeying, never thanking, not respecting, and not listening—families won't stand strong.** Using the cards from page 2, throw a few cards at each house of cards until you knock them all over. **Now, get your houses back on track by tossing in the trash those cards that describe things that dishonor parents. Using only the cards that describe ways to honor parents, build your houses again.**

ASK: **What are some ways that you honor your parents?** Accept responses.

**What are some ways that you've seen others honor their parents?**

SAY: **God cares about how we treat others, including our parents. ♥ God wants us to honor our parents.**

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help preteens **choose to honor their parents.**

## Focus

♥ God wants us to honor our parents.

### Quick Step Take the Challenge



**SAY: God cares deeply about how we treat our parents or the grown-ups who care for us. The Scriptures are clear—♥ God wants us to honor our parents. I hope you'll accept the challenge to always honor your parents.**

Ask students to turn in their leaflets to the activity Take the Challenge. Read the instructions. Encourage them to write specific times when they will honor their parents in these ways. Give students time to work on this.

Close with a time of prayer. If you haven't already, encourage students to use the "Dear friends" and "Dear teacher" prayer cards that are described on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page. Lead students in directed prayer by using the Scriptures from today's lesson. Tell them that you'll pray thoughts from Scripture and then pause as they silently pray the same things. PRAY something like this: **Dear God, we thank You for our families.** Pause as preteens pray. **Thank You so much for our parents or the grown-ups who care for us.** Pause. **God, help me to always honor my parents.** Pause. **Help me to always listen to my parents.** Pause. **Help me to always obey my parents.** Pause. **Help me to always please You by honoring my parents.** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Option Make-a-Shape

Before class, cut yarn into approximately 12" lengths, one per student.

**SAY: God cares deeply about how we treat our parents or the grown-ups who care for us. The Scriptures are clear—♥ God wants us to honor our parents. Think about one way to honor your parents that you're not doing very well. Maybe you don't listen to them or don't always obey them. Maybe you don't always show them respect or thank them enough. Or maybe it's something else.** Give each preteen a length of yarn. **Lay your yarn on the floor in a shape that represents one way of honoring your parents that you need to work on. If you don't listen to your parents very well, your yarn could be in the shape of an ear or the letter L. If you don't always speak respectfully to your parents, your yarn could be in the shape of a mouth or a tongue.** When preteens are done, ask for volunteers who wouldn't mind letting others guess what shape they made and what it represents.

**SAY: Whether or not you honor your parents is your choice. But remember—it pleases God when His followers choose to honor their parents, and it's the right thing to do.** Close with a time of prayer. Ask for volunteers to pray. Encourage them to thank God for parents and to ask God for His help in honoring their parents.

### Materials

Activities for lesson 2,  
pencils



### Materials

yarn, scissors



### Tech Tip

You could suggest that preteens send to their parents throughout the week text messages that show them honor.

### Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

