

Lesson 5

Respect Your Parents

Objective:

Students will understand the importance of respecting and honouring their parents and elders and to guide students towards a deeper understanding of biblical principles, character development, practical application, relationship building, and spiritual growth in the context of family life and society.

Introduction (Starter):

Begin the lesson by asking students to read story of Ruth from the Bible.

Why do you think it's important to respect your parents and elders?

The story of Ruth and Naomi serves as a powerful testament to the importance of honouring and respecting parents, even in challenging circumstances. Ruth's selfless devotion to Naomi illustrates the profound impact of love and loyalty within the family unit, inspiring readers to emulate her example of sacrificial love and respect for elders.

Presentation of the topic:

The lesson delves into the importance of honouring the Fourth Commandment, which emphasizes respecting one's parents, as outlined in Exodus 20:12. In Ecclesiasticus, this commandment is further elucidated, emphasizing the blessings bestowed upon those who honour their parents and the consequences for those who neglect or mistreat them.

In the New Testament, the Fourth Commandment is reinforced through Jesus' example of obedience to Mary and Joseph, underscoring the importance of familial respect and cooperation. The holy family of Nazareth serves as a model for Christian families, highlighting the responsibilities of both parents and children in fostering harmony and mutual support.

Children are called to honour and respect their parents throughout their lives, recognizing their crucial role in nurturing and guiding them. This duty extends into adulthood, including caring for aging parents with compassion and support.

Parents, in turn, have a sacred responsibility to nurture and guide their children according to the teachings of the Lord, fostering their holistic development and instilling moral integrity. Central to this duty is the expression of love towards children and setting a virtuous example through their own conduct.

The lesson also emphasizes the broader application of the Fourth Commandment, extending respect to authority figures, teachers, elders, and neighbours. This commandment serves as a guiding principle for harmonious relationships within society and spiritual enlightenment.

Ultimately, adherence to the Fourth Commandment leads to peace, fulfilment, and spiritual growth, both in earthly life and in anticipation of heavenly rewards.

Practical Application:

- Take a moment to think about how you can honour and respect your parents and elders in your daily life.
- Reflect on your communication style with them. Do you actively listen, express gratitude, and speak respectfully during your interactions?
- Consider how you can offer practical assistance and emotional support, such as helping with chores or spending quality time together.
- Try to understand their perspectives and concerns, even if you may not always agree with them.
- Think about ways to express appreciation for their sacrifices and efforts, whether it's through a thank-you note or showing affection.
- Reflect on the value of seeking guidance and advice from your parents and elders when facing challenges or important decisions. Respect their wisdom and life experiences.

Bible Verse:

Read and learn Ephesians 6:1,

Activity:

Role-Playing: Divide the class into two groups and assign each group a scenario related to respecting and disrespecting parents or elders (e.g., obeying parents' instructions, helping an elderly neighbour).

Reflection: After the role-plays, gather the class together for a brief discussion. Ask students to share their observations and insights from the activity.

Conclusion:

The Fourth Commandment leads to spiritual enlightenment, peace, and fulfilment in earthly life and heavenly rewards.