Read Deuteronomy 5:16

DAY 1

Way back in the Old Testament, God gave His people (the Israelites) a top ten list of rules to follow. They're known as the Ten Commandments. Today's verse, was one of the rules on that list. From the very beginning, God made it clear that we are to show respect to our parents.

Your parents do a gazillion things to take care of you. They feed you, clothe you, encourage you, correct you, teach you, and love you more than they could ever truly express. You probably won't realize just how much your parents love you until you become a parent someday as an adult. But here's the thing, God gave you your parents and He has commanded you to respect them. Why? Because life is better when you respect the people that God has put in charge of you.

So today, let's show respect to someone who is in charge of you at home. Make a list of all the reasons why you love and respect this person. Then, tape your list over his or her side of the bed or put it in his or her workbag for them to find later.

Thank God for the people in your life that take care of you.

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

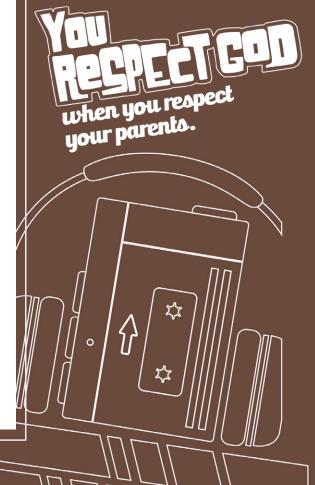
DAY 2

You've probably never considered this, but your parents have a big responsibility. They are raising little humans! They want to make sure that you are safe, that you avoid big mistakes and that you learn all the important things about following God and getting along well with others.

Your parents have lived longer than you, which means they have some life experience to share. They've probably made some mistakes themselves and they're eager to help you live the best possible life. So the best thing you can do is to listen and give them the respect they deserve knowing that they love you and want what's best for you. Because you respect God when you respect your parents.

Let's show respect to someone else in you house today that is in charge of you. Make a list of all the reasons why you respect him or her. When you're finished with your list, tape it to their mirror or over their side of the bed.

Ask God to help you show respect to your parents this week.



Read Matthew 19:19

DAY 3

In these verses, Jesus is teaching us something important about respect. In fact, Jesus respected His earthly parents and His father in heaven. Showing respect is more than just obedience. Respect means that you treat your parents like the important people they are with both your words and actions.

Do you show your parents proper respect with your words? Do you talk back when they ask something of you? Do you use a disrespectful tone when you do answer? How about your actions? Do they show respect? Do you listen when your mom or dad is talking and give them your full attention? Do you roll your eyes or whine when you don't get your way?

Respect is more than obedience. Respect is about understanding that your parents have an important and special role in your life. So here's a little respect challenge for you. The next time your mom fixes a meal that's not your favorite, say "thank you" and eat without complaining. Or when your father asks you to clean up your toys outside, instead of whining or asking for five more minutes, just say "yes, sir" and get busy cleaning up.

Look for ways to not just obey but to respect your parents with your words and actions.

Read Proverbs 13:1

DAY 4

When was the last time your mom or dad corrected you about something? Write down what happened to the right.

Discipline is NO fun. But correcting you and guiding you is part of your parent's job. A big part of showing respect is listening when your parents have something to say.

"But my parents make mistakes" you say or, "my Mom is just plain wrong!" News flash. Your parents aren't perfect. They will make mistakes and they might even correct you when it wasn't really you that messed up. But most of the time, your parents are doing the absolute best that they can. They may not be perfect but they are always ready to help you and even correct you so that you can live the best kind of life. You respect God when you respect your parents.

Write down the first part of this verse "A wise son (or daughter) pays attention to what his father (or mother) teaches him" on a card and put it beside your bed as a reminder to listen to instruction so you can be wise!

Know that God wants you to listen to and show respect to your parents so that you will be wise.

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