

EXODUS: A PEOPLE BECOMING

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, September 22, 2025

Sermon Passage: Exodus 20:12

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FACILITATING COMMUNITY

At New Hope Hermitage, we strive for people to come to Jesus, become more like Jesus, and be who Jesus intended them to be. While biblical worship and teaching are of the utmost importance, we know that biblical community is where life transformation occurs mostly. A true community isn't just a place to talk about faith—it's a place to live it out together as we seek for Hermitage to look more like Heaven.

As a leader, your role is to model care and consistency and facilitate discussion. You don't need to be perfect; you just need to be present and willing to go first to build something deeper.

What patterns should I incorporate into my life to help foster a sense of community?

- **Pray.** Pray for the Spirit to move during your group time and in the lives of the people in your group.
- **Prepare.** Listen to the sermon and allow the Spirit to work in and through you. Afterward, take the time to answer the five questions on your own.
- **Presence.** Reach out with a quick text or call to check on someone or their family. Acknowledge important events such as birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, or answered prayers. Even a group text or card can make a significant impact.
- **Pursue.** Most importantly, walk with Jesus. Nothing can replace your personal relationship with Him.

One idea for this week...

- This week, honor someone this week by telling them how you are praying for them.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV), "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

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This Week's Main Takeaway

Brothers and sisters, today we open our hearts to the fifth commandment, a command that sits as a hinge between our duties to God and our duties to one another: Honor your father and your mother.

Honor them; this is not just a command, it's a covenant with a promise, which reads, "That your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

We live in a culture that values respect but has forgotten the depth of honor. Today, the challenge is this: Respect is earned, but honor is given.

This Week's Memory Verse

Exodus 20:12 (ESV), "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

"...the LORD your God is giving you."

The *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* commentary offers insightful reflections on what we learn about God in this passage. It reminds us that we know of God's authority, provision, and generosity. As fathers, we should also seek to imitate our God, who is the perfect Father. Honor does not mean submission to brokenness; it means living in God's created order.

How does God's provision in our lives display His generosity? What can we learn from God being our "perfect father?"

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

This command sits as a hinge between our duties to God and our responsibilities to one another. We honor the person (or people) because they are created in the image of God and because God has placed them in that role in your life. While honor can be difficult in some situations, it does not

mean we excuse sin. Honor tells us to recognize the position without ignoring the pain that may have caused us. Honor is not a feeling; it is a choice and a decision.

How should our relationship with God affect our relationship with others?

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

“...that your days may be long in the land...”

This verse is not just a command; it's a covenant with a promise (and the only one of the Ten Commandments with a specific promise attached to it). “That your days may be long” is not just a long life, but one that is filled with God's presence and favor. A life of disobedience and sin often leads to premature death.

What does this promise teach us about the character and love of God?

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

“Honor your father and your mother...”

The word for “honor” implies acknowledging the “weight” of something. In this context, it means that people give the proper “weight” or “respect” to their parents' position. It teaches respect for authority. The opposite of this would be to despise or scorn one's parents. Honor here also means to obey. We are called to honor in word and deed.

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God's Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

Another implication of honor is that we pray for this person (or people). We live in a culture that values respect but has forgotten the depth of honor. The challenge is this: Respect is earned, but honor is given.

How are you worshipping God with your distribution of honor? Am I speaking about this person as if they matter to God?

Sources:

Exalting Jesus in Exodus Commentary (B&H Publishing)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)

ESV Study Bible Notes (Crossway)

Believer's Bible Commentary (Thomas Nelson)