

**elev8**

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 2**

**The Ten  
Commandments**  
**Honour your Parents**

**Bible Readings**

Exodus 20:1-17

Leviticus 21

Proverbs 23

Ephesians 6



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the Ten Commandments
- Express the theme of the fifth commandment in your own way
- Apply your learning from the commandment to your own life and community

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

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**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

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**Key Question** What does it mean to honour your parents?

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### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

If you could have any parents from TV (or movies, books, etc) for a week to be your parents, who would you choose?

Why?

And what would it be like for that week?

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** Exodus 20:12 & Proverbs 23:10-25

#### Five thoughts to keep in mind:

1. It's easy for anyone to have kids (just two people and a squirt in the 'right' place and time), but there's quite a bit to being part of raising a child: constant care and attention to begin with; time and energy spent that could have been used for own self-satisfying purposes; money; and dealing with someone that isn't always rational and appreciative of your efforts.
2. The Bible regards biological and non-biological parents in the same way. What is emphasised are the people that are involved in raising and providing for the child. Jewish society had lots of variations in family structures, including people with multiple parents. Remember Jesus had a step-dad.
3. This commandment applies to everyone for their whole life. Rather than talking to youth and children about this commandment, Jesus spends more time teaching adults about it (e.g. Matthew 15, Mark 7).

4. Parents should take their responsibilities seriously and be worthy of the honour of their children.

There are more verses to parents to look after the children properly than how children should view their parents. Surveys of teens and young adults still find that parents are the strongest contributors to an individual's values.

5. This is the only commandment that has a blessing consequence to it specifically when listed in the Ten Commandments (however there are other verses that detail the blessings of following the other commandments elsewhere). Why here?

In this session, it is important not to just reinforce our modern Western cultural values of an isolated 'nuclear' family of just the two biological parents and the kids, excluding the broader community.

"The Simpsons" is actually a good example of this Western ideal, as it often downplays the value of other people's involvement in the development of children.

It is also useful to think about how much involvement parents do or should have in the lives of their children.

The commandment is also a reminder to support and encourage people who play a parenting role and for us to also consider how we can help parent others too that would benefit from it.

### Explore – Express

Brainstorm all the people involved in looking after, raising, providing resources (e.g. food, clothing, accommodation, furniture, equipment, opportunities, money), giving encouragement, training, comfort, love and empowerment to you.

Put down roughly how many years each of those people have been involved with you.

Choose four of them. Write down the following points about your chosen people:

- Years involved in my life
- Stuff they have provided for me
- Opportunities they have provided for me
- Things they have encouraged me in
- How they treat their parents
- How they treat people in need
- How they live out their beliefs
- What are three wishes they have for my life

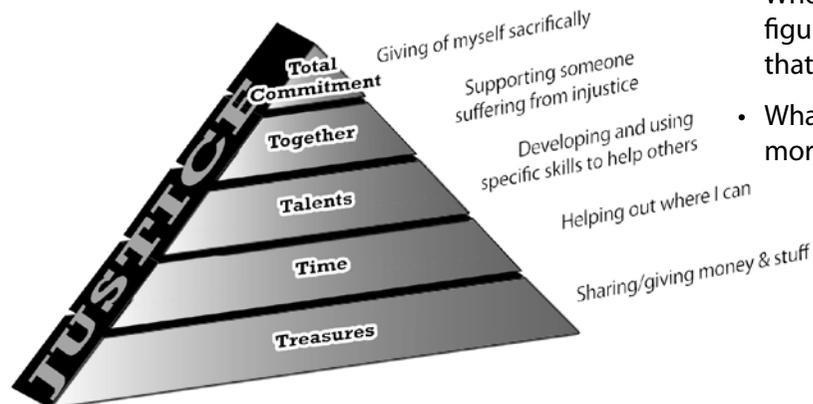
If you are not sure of any of the answers, just make your best guess.

### Explore – Integrate

The fifth commandment is a reminder of the first relationships we have after God, with the following commandments about our relationships with everyone else.

For our own ongoing health and wellbeing we should always remember those that helped us to be who we are, and recognise, honour and value those. Like people in authority, God has placed us in their care in order to shape us.

This doesn't mean we don't take a realistic look at their flaws and shortcomings, or ways that they might go against God, but to see them as human beings who often were trying to do their best with the skills, knowledge and opportunities they had.



This commandment is also a reminder on helping support others and being like a parent to them too – providing them with what they need and would be beneficial for them, and empowering and standing up for them.

The Bible is big on just going beyond words, thoughts and intentions, and always reminds us of the need for action.

If we should honour those that parent us and be honoured for parenting others:

- What treasures can I give away to show my appreciation or be more of a parent to others?
- How can I give more of my time to do so?
- What skill can I develop further to play more of a parenting role for others?
- Who is someone that needs a parental/mentor figure that I can help with? Who are the people that need someone to stand up for them?
- What area of my life do I need to sacrifice to be more like an ideal parent this week?

### Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

**Questions that may be helpful include:**

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

### Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for us to be reminded of all the ways the caregivers in our lives put into our lives.

Give thanks for the way our parents and other caregivers have put into our lives and continue to do so. Pray that they may be blessed, and for us to know more how they can be blessed.

Pray that I will act on the ways that God shows me to honour more my parents and other caregivers as well as be more of a parent to those that need it.