

Session Seven Homework

Day One

1. Read Exodus 20:12. What is the command regarding our relationship with our parents?
2. Look at all Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. What's unusual about this particular one?
3. If you have lost one or both parents already, how can you still honor them?
4. How might this commandment apply to other relationship as well?
5. Read Job 12:12. How does this scripture differ from the way the aged are sometimes treated in our culture?
6. What value do your parents, grandparents or the other older adults in your life bring you?
How might you seek out that wisdom and value more proactively?

Today's prayer

Lord, help me to honor my parents. Show me tangible ways that even in my busy life, I can show them esteem and honor. Even this week, Lord, give me an opportunity to honor them.

Day Two

Family relationships are extremely complicated, even in healthy families. Remember Joseph? His jealous brothers sold him into slavery, but he became Pharaoh's right hand man in Egypt.

1. Read Genesis 45:1-15, then read Genesis 50:19-20. What's the key theme from these verses?

2. What areas from your childhood heart still need to be opened to the healing power of Christ before you someday face the end of your parents, siblings or other relatives' days?

Today's prayer

Lord, thank you for my family. Help me to lay any broken bits of my heart on your altar. Give me a heart of forgiveness and peace, and provide ways for healing to come where it needs to come. Give me the heart of compassion toward my family that only you can give.

Day Three

1. Read I Peter 3:8,9. How can you overcome the pain of the past by blessing those who may have hurt you?

2. What do you think will be the result of taking this God-powered step in your life?

3. Read Psalm 126:5. What promise is in this verse and how can it apply to our family relationships?

4. If there is someone in your family that you have a particularly hard time with, especially someone you may have to care for someday, write a letter of forgiveness and blessing to them. This is just for you...not for them. Share it only with Jesus and ask Him to bring that promised peace and forgiveness into your life's reality through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today's prayer:

God you are Abba Father, my heavenly daddy. Thank you for coming through for me, even when my earthly family may fall short. Give me a heart of love for my family and words to bless them, even when I do not feel like it.

Day Four

1. Read I Timothy 5:4. In what ways does caring for our parents or others put our faith into practice? What biblical teachings, directly or indirectly related to the family, do we fulfill when caring for our parents or others physically, financially and emotionally?

2. Read the following verses: Exodus 20:13, Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5. What do these verses tell us about the value of life?

3. How does this give us hope as we consider the end of someone's days?

Today's prayer:

Father, give me wisdom as a daughter or sister or spouse or friend. When the time comes for me to care for someone, show me the way to honor and value life, even toward the end. Give me courage and compassion.

