

Mother's Day and God's Commands

Ephesians 4:1-4, Exodus 20:12 NIV

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STORE

Give Mom a Hand!



We know that it is important to honor our parents, and that God has entrusted us with mothers and fathers to care for and love us. It's helpful to communicate to kids that God has actually commanded us to respect our parents, because He has placed them in our lives to help and watch over us. Even if we don't have the best moms, we can celebrate the leaders that God gives us. This message reminds children that God loves and cares for us, and gives us others who do the same.

Honoring our parents isn't only for the sake of obedience to the law or to family wishes. God gives this commandment with a promise: that it may go well and we will live long. He knows that honoring our parents will ultimately bless us. He is the one who has given us those in authority over us. They will care for and provide for us, and we can give thanks to God for the leaders He provides.

Passage: Ephesians 4:1-4, Exodus 20:12, various optional passages including 1 Samuel 1, Exodus 2:1-10, Proverbs 31, Luke 1:26-38, 2 Timothy 1:5.

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade

Materials Needed: Construction paper; pot or bucket (optional); glue; markers or crayons; tape; scissors; decorative supplies; string; pictures of famous mothers; chocolates; Bibles.

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "Use Words Wisely"](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story "Books of the Bible: Ephesians"](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children and discuss mothers...

Hello, children of God!

I have some pictures here of special people. I want to see if you can identify who is in each of these. Are you ready? *Show children various photos depicting mothers of famous individuals, either from history or popular culture. After showing the picture of just the mother, who will probably not be recognized, show a picture of the famous person. You might want to include one of your own mothers, as well.*

So you might not be too familiar with these people on their own. They're notable as being mothers of famous figures. But mothers don't always get a lot of attention or fame just for being mothers. Moms work hard, but sometimes we forget to honor them.

It's Mother's Day, so we are celebrating those special women today. We should honor our moms every day, though, not just because they work hard to cook our macaroni and cheese. God commands us to honor our parents. It's actually one of the Ten Commandments laid out for us, and it's also one that has a special promise attached. God tells us that when we honor our parents, we will be blessed. It will go well with us and we will actually have a long life! God knows that honoring our parents will bless us because honoring our parents honors Him.

How do we honor our mothers and fathers? We know how much they love and care for us. We honor them in return by loving them, and by respecting them and obeying what they ask. When we obey and respect them, it's like we're doing the same for the Lord. He loves us more than we can imagine, and He is the one who places authority figures in our lives to help us and provide for us. He gives us leaders to guide us and teach us.

But what if we don't have a great relationship with our mom? Sadly, there are people who might not know their moms very well, if at all. Some don't live with their birth mothers or don't have great examples of God's love shown by parents. Some have mothers who have passed away or moved away. The good news is that God gives us many opportunities to know adults who care. Parents are not the only "parental figures" we have. God also gives us special leaders like aunts, cousins, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and friends. When we respect and obey those special adults in our lives, we show respect for God, too. He is the one who places people in authority over our lives. He does this to help take care of us, out of His great love.

So remember to honor your mother (or mother figures), not just one day out of the year, but always. Show them how much you appreciate them. Give your mom a hug, a piece of chocolate, or a special compliment. And give thanks to the Lord for them!

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us moms and dads.

Please help us to love and honor them

And to honor you.

Help us obey and respect our parents.

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)



This lesson focuses on honoring parents, with special nods to moms in honor of Mother’s Day. Focus can be placed on mothers in particular, or on the more generic parent relationship. Get students thinking with some opening activities. Some possible ideas include:

- “Mother, May I?” Play the classic “Simon Says” variation that considers following directions and obedience. Students line up along one end of a play area. One student is the “mother” who calls directions. “Mother” will instruct the others to complete various tasks (take a step forward, hop on one foot, etc.). Before doing each task, students must ask “Mother, may I?” and receive an affirmative response before proceeding. If students forget the “Mother, May I?”, they are out. The direction caller can also choose to say “no,” in which case students should not complete the action.
- Mother Match-Up: Print or write various cards with Biblical mothers. Some of these cards should list the mothers, while other cards list a brief description of them. Students will work to match the mother with the description. For added challenge, make this a game of “memory” and flip all cards face down at first, for students to match by flipping over one by one.
- Letters to Mom: Have students make a special list of things they appreciate about their mothers. Turn this into a craft activity or a letter for their moms, saying what they like about them. Attach a small candy or chocolate. As a variation, have students consider tasks that their moms typically do, and create “coupons” to do the normal mom tasks.
*Note: for students who might not have a mom around, encourage them to consider another figure (grandma, aunt, teacher, guardian) who is important.
- “By any other name...” Look up ways to say “mom,” “mommy,” or “mother” in other languages. You might also look up traditional ways that people celebrate Mother’s Day in other countries.

Explain to students that these activities celebrate Mother’s Day and the mother figures in our lives. God wants us to honor our parents, because He is the one who places them over our lives and entrusts them to take care of us.

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



This lesson includes a couple of “strongly encouraged” verses, as well as some passages that mention notable mothers to teach about. Use whatever works best for your group and needs. Use these passage suggestions for Mother’s Day or for a lesson on the commandment to honor parents. You might have students take turns reading these verses, or read them out loud and pause to explain what is being said.

Exodus 20:12 NIV *“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”*

This verse is taken right out of the Ten Commandments. We know, therefore, that God is serious about it and thinks it’s quite important. We are commanded to honor our parents, but it’s not just a task. There’s a promise with this direction (the first Commandment with a promise): long life will be given us for honoring our parents. Not only does God know that respecting those in charge of us is beneficial, but He assures us that it will be a blessing and lead to longer life, as well. It’s more than a suggestion!

Ask: What does it mean to honor our parents? How can we show them honor and respect?

Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— (3) “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” (4) Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

This passage is, in some ways, a reiteration of the commandment. However, there is even more going on here. Paul reminds us in Ephesians that we are to obey our parents, and that the commandment has a blessed promise for us. However, there is an admonishment for parents here, as well. They are commanded not to provoke children, but to encourage and discipline them in God's righteousness. Arguably, this teaching task is even harder than just keeping students in line! Proper parenting includes careful instruction and powerful but loving discipline.

Ask: How can you demonstrate honor and respect to your parents? When is it hard to do this?

The following are suggested possible passages that could be included in a lesson on Biblical mothers. Please use and discuss as needed to guide your discussion of our commitment to love and honor our earthly parents as well as the Lord. Include these stories at any point of your lesson, as appropriate.

The faith of Hannah: The Bible is full of examples of "impossible" motherhood, and Hannah is one of the greatest (1 Samuel 1). This mother prayed for the miracle of childhood, and when God answered her request, she gave her son back to Him, to work in the temple and belong to his heavenly father.

Moses and his Hebrew mother (Exodus 2:1-10): the mother of Moses (popularly known as "Jochebed", though not Biblically referenced) was wise and wanted him to live, even if she knew she would not be the one to raise him. As a result of her great faith, she not only saw her son live against improbable odds, but grow to be the deliverer of the people of God.

Mary, mother of Jesus: No list of Biblical mothers would be anywhere near complete without the mother of Jesus, the Virgin Mary herself. Discuss the call and Annunciation of

Mary (Luke 1), along with other milestones of her life that showed how she loved and led the Son of God in remarkable ways.

Women of faith passages: Demonstrate for children how God works in our lives, especially in the lives of strong women. If time allows, review Proverbs 31 for an example of a great woman of God in descriptive terms. Also, peek at 2 Timothy 1:5 to see where that servant received instruction in the faith.

No matter what church tradition or culture states, and regardless of motherhood status, young women (and men) ought to see the significance that God gives to the women He creates for special and important purposes in His Kingdom!

Craft one: "Handy Bouquet"

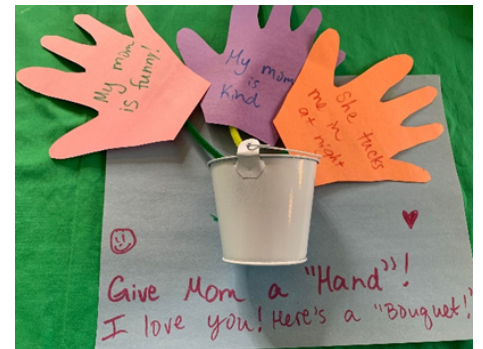
You will need:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Pipe cleaners or popsicle sticks
- Crayons/markers
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Optional: small pot or bucket



Procedure:

1. Trace hands of children on construction paper or cardstock. Cut each one out.
2. Help students write out things on the hands that they appreciate about their mothers, or things that make them special.
3. Turn each handprint into a flower by attaching a popsicle stick or pipe cleaner to each one.
4. Create a card out of the handprint flowers, gluing to paper and decorating like a bouquet. Or place the "flowers" in a small pot or bucket decorated to look like a vase. Add verses or captions and give as a special gift for mom!



Craft Two: "Number One Fan"

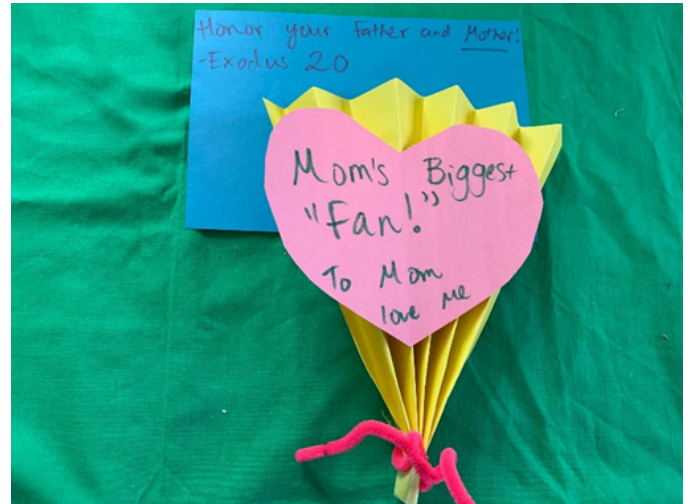
You will need:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Crayons or markers
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Decorative supplies (stickers, glitter, etc.)



Procedure:

1. With a large construction paper or cardstock, create a fan by folding accordion-style back and forth.
2. On another paper, cut out a heart.
3. Decorate both papers with captions and stickers.
4. Place the heart over the fan and attach together to remind mom that you are her "Number One Fan"!



Exodus 20:12 NIV

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.



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“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”



Word Search Puzzle

Honor - Mother - Father - Lord - God - Prisoner

Humility - Gentleness - Patience - Love - Spirit - Hope

G H Y S S V N G F S H D
V W V O S Y M O T H E R
O H P Q P Z Z D K O N G
Q U R W I I E L N N G E
D M I Q T I W B O O Q N
L I S P H T S P I R I T
O L O F O F S M S G D L
U I N E P A T I E N C E
G T E F E T O Z E E G N
X Y R L B H V N L O V E
E A E A A E F D M R Q S
I C B W L R T R A Y Q S

Word Search Answers

G H Y S S V N G F S H D
V W V O S Y M O T H E R
O H P Q P Z Z D K O N G
Q U R W I I E L N N G E
D M I Q T I W B O O Q N
L I S P H T S P I R I T
O L O F O F S M S G D L
U I N E P A T I E N C E
G T E F E T O Z E E G N
X Y R L B H V N L O V E
E A E A A E F D M R Q S
I C B W L R T R A Y Q S