

Aim: The 5th Commandment. To understand the importance of parents; and how to show them respect.

Why do we need parents? (To love us, to teach us, to protect us and look after us when we are young)

Compared to animals, humans stay with their parents for a long time.

God could have made us like cats who only need their mother for 8 weeks and kittens are considered adults after only 1 year old. Or God could have made us like turtles that lay eggs and then leave the babies to hatch and grow up by themselves.

These days a person is considered an adult between 18 and 21 years of age, although in some cultures people were considered adults when they were as young as 12 or 13 years old.

God must have planned it this way for a reason.

A loving parent is the best person to teach a child about God's love. – Children whose parents are too busy to spend time with them or aren't as loving, have a much harder time learning to trust God, their heavenly father.

The Bible has quite a bit of advice for parents:

Read Proverbs 22:6 – (Parents are told to teach their children)

In Deuteronomy 11:18, 19, parents are specifically told to teach God's commands to their children.

Do your parents ever tell you to do stuff? Do they have rules? Do you ever get in trouble?

Read Proverbs 13:24

Discipline doesn't just mean punishment; some times punishment is discipline, but discipline also means having self-control, following the rules and making good habits. When a person is organised and on time and in control, we can say that they are disciplined.

So when your parents give you rules to keep you safe and to teach you things that you will need to know as an adult, they are showing that they love you.

One other piece of advice to parents that you might like is found in: **Ephesians 6:4**

Of course the 5th Commandment is really about how children should treat their parents, so lets look at some of the Bible's advice to children.

Read Proverbs 20:11 – (a child is known by their actions)

Read Proverbs 4:1 – We all make mistakes, but parents are a lot older, and it can save us some trouble if we learn from them.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12 – You're never too young to be a Christian or a good example.

What does it mean to honour someone? It means to show them respect.

How can you show respect with your:

- **Mouth** – (with the words you use and your tone of voice)
 - **Eyes** – (by looking at them as they talk to you or you talk to them; by not looking at things they wouldn't want you to look at)
 - **Body** – **Have you heard of body language?** (The way you stand shows people if you respect them; you also show respect by doing what your parents want you to do and not doing what you shouldn't)
-

The Commandment finishes with a promise. Back in Bible times, the adult children would work with their parents and share their land. That doesn't happen so much these days, but God gives us families to love and support us, even when we are adults. People who don't have a good relationship with their family miss out on that love and support and that's not the way that God planned it should be.