

“We Are Family”

Week 1: Honoring God-the Lifestyle of God’s Children

WARM-UP:

1. Share the heaviest weight you have lifted either from the gym or from home.
2. What was your dream job growing up as a child?
3. Have you had friends with those classmates who always gets into the honor students list? What do you think is different about them?

WORD:

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

-Ephesians 5:1,2

For the next three weeks, we will be diving into the word Honor. In its origin word, honor meant weight, assigning value and connotes giving reverence. It is simply regarding someone with due respect. But how should we see this at work and expressed among us as God’s children? What does God’s word teach us about practicing honor towards God and among our families and in our communities?

The book of Ephesians is said to be the queen of all the letters Paul wrote because in it, we see a panoramic view of what God has done for us in Christ and gives us a vision of how as a church, we should live in response to the goodness of God done to us through the gospel. In this lesson, we will look at two phrases that give us the imperatives honoring God from home.

1. Be Imitators of God

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children..”

-Ephesians 5:1

The first two words in the verse above implies at least two things: first is that there was a previous discussion that resulted in this call to action. Second, is that this call to action is meant to be a present progressive action, meaning it must be a lifestyle. The word “Therefore” is there for a reason: God has graciously, through Jesus, transformed us from being His enemies to becoming His dearly beloved children (*read Ephesians chapters 1-4*). Take a pause and dwell on this amazing thing for a moment. You and I are now His dearly beloved children. And as our Perfect and Heavenly Father, He tells us to follow His example in the ways we think of and relate to one another. Imitating Him is our expression of a heart that honors God.

(For the leader: Share about a recent character of God that you have experienced. For example, His generosity. How is God empowering you to be the same to your family members and the people He has surrounded you with?)

2. Walk in Love

*“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
-Ephesians 5:2*

As we continue in the passage, we can see that honoring God is also understanding that He has called us to live a life of love. And the standard for this love is as Christ has loved us—a sacrificial and self-giving kind of love that pleases and honors God. Imagine how people in the times of Elijah would sacrifice proper offerings unto the LORD. Fire from heaven would consume it, and its aroma would go up to the skies, implying that God was definitely pleased and He has accepted it. In the same way, whenever we act in love towards people as Christ Jesus would, we live as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. Loving people is our act of worship. (See Romans 12:1-2) Walking in this lifestyle, honors God.

(For the leader: Share about how you were able to show love, Christ’s way to a very difficult family member or a relative. How are you growing in Christ-likeness in this area?)

APPLICATION:

- Which of God’s characteristics have you personally experienced and how are you going to imitate Him in these?
- How can you better and effectively love the members of your household in the way that they would feel it and appreciate it?
- When was the last time you prayed for your family’s salvation? What are major things you are believing God for, for the specific members of your family?

PRAYER:

- Begin your small group prayer time by thanking God for His amazing mercy and grace toward you—how He saved you and is constantly transforming you to be like Christ
- Ask God for wisdom on how to practically honor God and represent Him well at home
- Pray for a deeper revelation and fresh experience of God’s love