

Honoring Mom

A. It's good we have a national holiday to honor our moms.

'Honor your father and mother.' This is the first commandment with a promise: **If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you,** and you will have a long life on the earth.'

Ephesians 6:2-3 (NLT)

B. Five reasons why it's important to honor our moms.

1. Our moms helped us know the Lord.

"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you." 2 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)

"...**we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD**, about his power and his mighty wonders... so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. Psalm 78:4,6,7 (NLT)

"Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but **a woman who fears the LORD** will be greatly praised." Proverbs 31:30 (NLT)

2. Our moms worked hard raising us.

"She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work... She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night. Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber. She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes...**She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.**"

Proverbs 31:15-21,27 (NLT)

3. Our moms disciplined us.

"To discipline a child produces wisdom, but **a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.**"

Proverbs 29:15 (NLT)

"Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them." Proverbs 13:24 (NLT)

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

4. Our moms counseled us.

"When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness." Proverbs 31:26 (NLT)

"My son, obey your father's commands, and **don't neglect your mother's instruction**. Keep their words always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. When you walk, their counsel will lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up, they will advise you. For their command is a lamp and their instruction a light; their corrective discipline is the way to life." Proverbs 6:20-23 (NLT)

5. Our moms loved us.

"Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. These older women must train the younger women **to love their husbands and their children...**" Titus 2:3-4 (NLT)

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.**" 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

Note: When God wanted to explain the tender comfort and love He gives His people, He compared His love to the love that a mother has for her children.

"I will comfort you there in Jerusalem **as a mother comforts her child.**" Isaiah 66:13 (NLT)

"Yet Jerusalem says, 'The Lord has deserted us; the Lord has forgotten us.' 'Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!" Isaiah 49:14-15 (NLT)

C. Four ways we can honor our moms.

1. If we're still living under our parents' roof, we can honor our moms by obeying them.

"Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for **this is the right thing to do.**"

Ephesians 6:1 (NLT)

2. If we're adult children, we can honor our moms by praising them.

"Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!' ...Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise." Proverbs 31:28,29,31 (NLT)

Note: If our moms have passed away, we can honor their legacy by telling our children stories about Grandma.

3. If our moms are elderly, we can honor them by caring for them the way they used to care for us.

"Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, **their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them.** This is something that pleases God." 1 Timothy 5:3-4 (NLT)

4. We can honor God by praying for our moms, no matter what kind of relationship we may have with them.

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them... **This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.**" 1 Timothy 2:1,3-4 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. Share a favorite memory of your mom from your childhood. What did you admire most about her while growing up?

2. Discuss the following five reasons for honoring our moms:

- Our moms helped us know the Lord. (Psalm 78:4-8, 2 Timothy 1:5)
- Our moms worked hard raising us. (Proverbs 31:15-21,27)
- Our moms disciplined us. (Proverbs 13:24, 22:6, 29:15)
- Our moms counseled us. (Proverbs 6:20-23,31:26)
- Our moms loved us. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Titus 2:3-4)

Which of these reasons most reminds you of your mom?

3. How should Christians respond if we didn't have godly moms? (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

4. Why do you think God made "Honor your parents" one of the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, Ephesians 6:1-3)

5. Read Proverbs 31:28-31. What does it look like to give our moms meaningful praise on Mother's Day?

6. Why do you think Paul said it's our responsibility to care for our aging parents? (1 Timothy 5:3-4,8) What if we don't want to do this?

7. Discuss the following quotations:

"If I have done anything in life worth attention, I feel sure that I inherited the disposition from my mother."
Booker T. Washington

"A mom is like a teabag. You can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." Eleanor Roosevelt

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' It is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway." Erma Bombeck

"Perhaps it takes courage to raise children." John Steinbeck