



BREAKING THE ICE

How many siblings do you have? Are you an oldest, youngest, or a middle child?

Is there an object in your home (a family heirloom, prized possession, etc.) that you give Honor to? Why does that object have value to you?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin taught us about Honor in our family. He said that the basic building block of society is the Family. We know from scripture that God intended the family to be a place where Honor is given and received between parents, children and spouses.

Unfortunately, because of sin those family relationships are fractured for all of us. However, when we choose to give Honor to our parents, children and spouses we can begin to repair some of the brokenness.

For many of us, honoring our parents can be difficult due to past wounds. Even still, Pastor Kevin encouraged us to find something that we can Honor about our parents.

- Can you name one thing about your Mom and/or Dad that you admire and respect?

When we are young, we tend to think our parents don't understand much. As we get older we see they often knew much more than we gave them credit for.

- What is one thing your parents used to tell you as a kid that you didn't believe, but now you realize is true?

So often, we can find ourselves nagging our children about what they're doing wrong, getting frustrated when they don't listen or obey. However, Ephesians 6:4 says "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Similarly, Colossians 3:21 says "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

- Do you spend more time criticizing your child's behavior, or more time praising them for what they do right?
- What is one way you can encourage each of your children? Can you point out something you're proud of them for this week?

In scripture God is adamant about us honoring our marriages. When we're first married we think this is going to be easier than it actually is. We love this other person more than anyone else! But as time goes on we learn that it requires effort and intentionality to cultivate Honor in our marriages.

- If you're married, what is one thing that has required extra intentionality in your marriage? If you're not married, what do you think would require the most intentionality?

In Romans 12:10 we are commanded to devote ourselves to loving one another and to Honor others above ourselves. We usually think of this in relation to those outside of our immediate family - friends, co-workers, church family, neighbors - but what would it look like if we applied that verse to our marriages?

- Do you find it easy or difficult to put your spouse's needs before your own? What is one way you could show love and Honor to your spouse this week?

Near the end of the message, Kevin shared the "12 Steps to an Affair". It is sobering to think something as devastating as an affair could begin as subtly as leaning away from your spouse and toward another person.

- If you're married, is there any relationship in your life that you've leaned into more than your marriage? (Have you engaged in an inappropriate friendship, meetings, or flirting?) If so, what is your plan to end that pattern? Would you be willing to confess to your spouse and ask for forgiveness?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, bring reconciliation to our families and our marriages by teaching us to Honor one another. Help us to humble ourselves and confess where we have not shown Honor. Help us to become like you Jesus, showing Honor to our parents, children and spouses the way we ought to. Lord, thank you for giving us a perfect example of Honor that we can follow. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Pray and ask God who in your family you need to extend Honor to. How can you begin to show them Honor this week?
- Reach out to your parents and let them know what you think they've done well or something you admire about them.
- If you have children, write down 3 qualities that are Honorable about each of them. Find a way to

"catch them in the act" exhibiting those qualities and let them know you see it.

- Pray for your marriage and the marriages of those in your Group. Find one way you can put the needs of your spouse above yours this week.