

Ten Commandments

You must honour your father and mother



IN:

- When was your last family reunion and how did it go?
- What have you found hardest about honouring your parents?
- Family life can bring us great blessings but also be the source of our deepest pains. Share a recent example of both these extremes.

UP:

- Why is family life so important to God?
- Look at the difficulties of Jacobs upbringing. (See **Genesis 25:24-34** and **Genesis 27**) What important principles for a healthy family life can we learn from the difficulties we see in Jacob's family?
- How can parents treat their children to make the keeping of this commandment easier?

OUT:

- What one thing are you going to stop, start or change in order to take this Commandment seriously?
- Is there something practical we can do to help support a family we know that is struggling at the moment, either with their children or their elderly parents?

BIBLE READING:

Exodus 20:12

"Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you:"

Genesis 25: 24-34

24 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. 25 The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.[a] 26 After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.[b] Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

27 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. 28 Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. 30 He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.[c])

31 Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

32 "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

33 But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.