



# Student Ministry

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

## God's Voice on Parenting

It's often said that children don't come with an Owner's Manual. Oh, there are lots of self-help books that have been written about this kid issue or that ... guess we could read all of them and figure out what to do. But by the time we've read all the books, our child has moved on to a different issue! Well, maybe we just try the solution presented in the first book we read.

Another approach is trial and error. Like our new electronic device, we push buttons and click links until we find something that works or reacts the way we want it to. Or we simply explore all avenues until we figure it out. Do we do that with our kids?

We often talk to our friends to see if they are having similar experiences. After all, our friends are always there with free advice and suggestions. Our own parents may even offer advice. They raised us, so they ought to know all the answers. The problem is that kids don't come off an assembly line. They are not all created identically.

Nearly every book of the Bible references children. There are 324 references in the Old Testament and another 135 in the New. Why does God put so much emphasis on them? Ever wonder what He says about children? Could God's Word be that Owner's Manual? After all, He did create them.

We know from the Ten Commandments that God says, "Honor your father and mother". Wouldn't that be great!

**1. What would that look like if your teen "honored" you?**

**2. How do you show "honor" to your parents?**

### HONOR:

*To regard or treat someone with admiration and respect.*

*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*





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Then this commandment goes on to say, "...so that ..." So that what?!! "so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you." This is the first commandment with a promise attached. To honor here means to obey. The verse teaches that a life of obedience to parents is the type of life which, in general, ensures length of days. A life of disobedience and sin often leads to premature death. When your children learn to respect proper authority, you walk in God's will for your life and He blesses you for that. Proper authority is those that "rule" over you in love and only wanting the very best for your welfare.

### **3. Who (besides God) are examples of proper authority in your life?**

#### **Read Ephesians 6: 1-20 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. <sup>9</sup> Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.





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<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

<sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

**4. What qualities would characterize a home where you and your teen(s) applied verses 1-4 consistently?**

**5. Why is it important to protect yourself from sin (by putting on God's armor) when disciplining your teen(s)?**

