

## Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

### **The 5th Word: “Honor your father and mother. . .” Ex 20:12**

In your own words, explain what it means to honor someone.

In the ancient world honoring elders included actions like standing in their presence, letting them speak first, and serving them food before others ate. Within the cultural context of our modern world, what practical actions constitute honoring parents and elders?

The Fifth Word was given in a context where clan systems and multi-generational families were the norm. Given that this is no longer the norm for most of us:

Does the Fifth Word still apply? Why or why not?

How might it look different when lived out today?

Honoring parents includes honoring their wishes concerning inheritance and wills. Why is it important for us to honor people’s wishes even after death?

From the standpoint of practical wisdom (i.e. pragmatism) why does it make sense to listen to parents and elders? What unique wisdom and perspectives do they offer?

Honor can include obedience, but the two words are not synonymous. Why is this important?

The Fifth Word assumes that parents are training their children in covenant-faithfulness to God. Why is it important for parents to do this?

Read Ephesians 6:1-4 & Colossians 3:20-21. What command is given to fathers?

Does this apply to all parents and all elders?

How can parents/elders be tempted to abuse their authority?

Why is it important that parents and older generations do not provoke or exasperate their kids/younger generations?

The first 4 Words of the Decalogue expand upon the Greatest Commandment (Deut 6:5) while the last 5 Words expand upon the Second Great Command (Lev 19:18), but the 5th Word seems to bridge the gap. How does the 5th Word uniquely draw together the commands to Love God and Love Neighbor?

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