



246

Proverbs

for Life

Lesson 5 Living with Crazy Parents

Ice Breaker (in groups):

1. Jimmy's mother had 4 children. She named the first Monday. Named the second Tuesday. The third is named Wednesday. What is the name of the fourth child?
2. What is the most embarrassing thing your mom or dad has done (embarrassing you)?
3. What tv show family best portrays your family? Why?
4. What is a family that seems like they are happy and "have it all together"? What do you think makes them different than other families?

I. Calming a Crazy House

Which one of the following best describes who you are in your family (check all that apply):

- I am ALWAYS the one who is blamed for everything. Everyone's against me.
- Everyone just does their own thing...I just happen to live there
- Yep, I'm grounded again!
- I wish I was the favorite child.
- I know they love me, but my parents are driving me crazy (and vice-versa)!
- I have a great relationship with my family.

*No matter how much we say that we dislike our parents, deep down, we all seek to have a good relationship with them.

*SHOW VIDEO (Doug Fields'- "Why Are My Parents So Strict?")

- A. The more you OBEY your parents, the more they will trust you
- B. The more you keep your parents TRUST, the more freedom you have
- C. The more you honor your FREEDOM, the better relationship you will have

*Read Proverbs 23:24. If you live a life that honors your parents, how will that make them feel? What will be the end result of that?

*Compare what you just read to Proverbs 10:1; 15:20; 17:25; & 19:26.

Good Idea

1. Do what they say, ask why later
2. Talk to them when things are calm
3. Talk calmly and listen
4. Do something without being asked
5. Tell them "thanks" and "I love you"



Bad Idea

1. Argue back
2. Give your side while they are angry
3. Raise your voice
4. Make them ask you a million times
5. Point out all of their flaws

II. They May Be Crazy...But They Are Smarter Than They Look

Question: What does the Bible say about obeying/respecting our parents in Prov. 30:11-12 & 17?

- A. Our parents aren't PERFECT, but they love us and want the BEST for us
...sometimes that means PUNISHING us (Prov. 13:24; 22:15)
- B. Our parents have been there before and they see the BIG PICTURE

Question: If we know that our parents want the best for us, why is it so hard to obey/respect them?

III. Final Things About Those Crazy People Who Birthed You

- A. They have feelings too. You might be surprised, but you've probably hurt their feelings.
- B. It makes their day to see you happy. NOTHING brings them more joy than YOU.
- C. Their world revolves around you...they used to have a life and friends.
- D. It costs your parents around \$225,000 to raise you from birth through high school.
- E. Believe it or not, one day you'll look back and see that they weren't that crazy after all.

discuss in groups

Write down and share 3 things you are thankful for about each of your parents:

Read Exodus 20:12. Did you know that it is the only commandment that gives a blessing? What types of blessings do you think comes with obeying this commandment?

Work on "Who's the Boss" worksheet.

*Pray in groups. Take requests including how the group can pray for what we learned.

take it home

Think of 1 BIG way you can show your parents love this week besides just doing what they ask. Some suggestions are:

- cleaning the house or an area that no one wants to clean
- write them a letter thanking them for all they do for you
- go out with them and let them talk about when they were a teenager
- make a meal
- find a way to send them on a date
- hug them & tell them you love them

Proverbs Reading:

- *This week, read Proverbs 13-15
 - by the next time we meet, you should have read chapters 1-15 and 31
- *Take your time, carefully reading through each verse.
- *Highlight/underline key verses that stand out to you.
- *Take it deeper- keep a journal about what you learn!