

Introduction

? How would you explain what it means to honor one’s father and mother? Do you think that practice still has a place in today’s society? Why? What is it about honoring father and mother that makes it likely to be the forgotten commandment?

? What similarities do you see between a nuclear family and a church family? What differences do you readily identify?

1. Family in the Fellowship of Christ (John 19:26-27)

? How do you respond in seasons of personal crisis? What impact have your own circumstances had on your service and care for others in those seasons?


? Application: What new relationships has your church involvement produced in your life? What is your role in those relationships? Who do you have the opportunity to serve? Who is gaining those “refrigerator rights” in your life?

2. The Foundational Command (Matthew 15:1-4)

? Jesus refuted the Pharisaical custom with the fifth commandment. How should one value man’s customs in comparison with God’s commands? Why is it critical, then, to practice Bible engagement?


? Application: What do you think it means to honor one’s father and mother? What do you base your answer on?


3. Moving from Empty Acts to Real Caring (Matthew 15:5-9)


 The Pharisees excelled at performing the correct religious activities. As you were growing up, what were some things that would have appeared on a list of “the right things to do”? How was that unspoken list enforced?

 Application: How does Bible engagement help protect personal and corporate worship?

Conclusion

 How would you describe the current state of your relationships right now with regard to their openness and transparency? How would you like that answer to change in the next month? Who do you need to begin intentionally investing in in order for that to happen?

 When you think of the church as a family that ministers to one another, how does that change the way you view your role? What about when you view it as a body that reaches out to those who are isolated?

 Considering the model of John and Mary, which of the two do you most readily identify with right now? Why would you say so? Are you more comfortable investing in others or do you feel the need to be nurtured right now? How can you do both, as Paul indicates in Titus 2?

Daily Readings

- Monday - 1 Peter 5:10
- Tuesday - Romans 8:18
- Wednesday - Romans 5:3-5
- Thursday - James 1:2-4
- Friday - Revelation 21:4
- Saturday - Romans 8:28