



## **GROWING – A Life that Honours Others 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Mark Wiltshire**

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

### **Connect:**

**“Honour affects every part of our life. A lifestyle of honour affects your marriage, your family, your job, your finances, and your church life. In fact, it affects everything.”**

Russell Evans

- “Honour” is mentioned in the bible 366 times more than trust, truth and joy. Whereas “revenge” is only mentioned 29 times.
- Honouring God is fundamental in scripture - Jesus is seated in the place of honour at the right hand of the father!

### **Engage:**

1. Read and discuss Ephesians 6:1-4
  - Provoking is easy to do, but hard to recover from.
  - Don't over or under discipline your children, both have consequences.
2. What are the benefits of living honourably?
  - Read Deuteronomy 5:16 – Things will go well and you will have a full life
  - Read 1 Peter 3:7 – Your prayers will be answered.
  - You will live a long life on earth.
3. Different cultures honour in different ways:
  - **In Japan** – you must bow, defer to the most senior person at meals or in meetings.
  - **In Muslim, Hindu, Arab, and Buddhist countries** – showing the soles of your feet is very rude and dishonouring.
  - **In Austria** – formal titles are important in first meetings. You need permission to use first names.
4. What other examples of cultural sensitivities are there?

## Framework:

5. What is honour?
  - The dictionary describes “honour”:
    - to esteem and respect at the highest level
    - to add weight to (the more weight the higher the value. The more you value something the more it has weight)
6. What is the opposite of honour?
  - Solomon asked God for wisdom, but God gave Solomon what he didn’t ask for, “riches and honour”.
  - God wants your life to succeed. By its nature ‘honour’ sets people apart from others.
7. Read 1 Kings 3:13
8. Honour is given:
  - As a response to circumstances – when people do outstanding things
  - Despite the circumstances – It is a Biblical expectation that we honour others
9. What examples are there of these in scripture?
10. God requires us to Respect and Honour in 3 areas:
  - Home
  - Church – Read 1 Timothy 5:17
  - Government – Read Romans 13:7
  - We should also respect the responsibility someone carries (parents, leaders etc)
  - It is not always about the ‘position’ they hold
  - God blesses us when we honour authority because that is obedience to His Word.

**“It’s respect for parents that is the basis for every other kind of respect and every other kind of authority.”**

Tim Keller

11. Read and discuss Mark 7:10-11
12. What are some practical ways to honour your parents (and others)?
  - **Forgive them** - Every Parent is flawed, none are perfect (*Read Luke 23:34 and its description of forgiveness*)
  - **Speak well of them** – Refuse to speak evil/badly about them. We wouldn't be alive without them - God chose them to make us. (*Words can honour and dishonour! It's not honourable to air 'dirty laundry' in public.*)
  - **Esteem them Publicly and Privately** – Give credit for what is good, and the support they've given. (*What have you learned from them? What have they taught you that you value?*)
  - **Seek their wisdom and support** (*Read Proverbs 20:29 and Job 12:12*)
  - **Show love and care** – Emotional support, for eg. as they get older.
  - **Provide for them** – If they have material needs (*Read Mark 7:11-13*)
13. How can you honour parents who hurt you deeply?

- It takes courage to make peace with parents.
- Honour parents by being honest with them.
- Face issues to put right what was wrong, in person or by proxy.
- Even broken parents intuitively know what's right for their kids.

**“Only God knows how much you’ve been hurt... Only God has the power to heal that hurt.”**

Rick Warren

**“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.”**

Psalm 27:10

14. What other ways can we honour difficult parental situations?

15. Honour in the Home:

**“Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”**

Hebrews 13:4

- ‘Held’ – implies having a consistent standard of honour

**“In the same way, you husbands must give honour to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.”**

1 Peter 3:7

- Husbands ‘must’ give honour to wives – not optional!
  - Greek word for “give” is *aponemo*: to assign, designate, allocate, or intentionally give something to someone. A calculated decision to show attention, awareness, or consideration to someone.
16. How can you celebrate the value in someone?
- Show they are precious, prized, treasured, valuable.
  - Not looking to find fault, but building them up.
  - Communicating truthfully, not deceiving selfishly.
  - Behave with dignity and have a good attitude.
  - Be reliable and trustworthy. Do what you say you will do.
  - Esteem them both inside and outside the home.

**“Receiving and giving honour enables us to walk as true sons and daughters of God, restored to our rightful place, to see heaven released in and through our lives.”**

Bill Johnson

17. Read Romans 12:10 – We are ALL called to honour one another.

18. What does it look like to ‘outdo one another in showing honour’?

19. Honour brings Restoration

➤ Read Luke 15:11-32 – Parable of the Lost Son

➤ **Aspects of Honour demonstrated:**

- **Robe – Restored Dignity:** Shame / dirt that all could see / covered over. Robe speaks of responsibility restored in the home. (*Isaiah 61:10 ‘Robe of righteousness’*) Given what’s not deserved - placed on us.
- **Ring – Restored Authority:** The father gave him authority. Rings have value and showed the son was valued, given responsibility.
- **Sandals – Restored Identity:** Walking as a son not a slave (slaves usually had nothing on their feet).

## **Conclusion:**

- Honour starts at home
- Honour impacts all areas - Family, Church, Community
- Honour changes relationships and RELEASES the LOVE of God