

A MESSAGE OF PRAISE

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

—Proverbs 31:28

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why the fifth commandment says to *honor* your parents? What does that mean? Why doesn't it say to obey them? Well, to honor someone means to think highly of them and treat them with respect. That's a lot more than just doing what they say! There's a big difference between doing a task for your mom or dad slowly with a bad attitude and doing it promptly and cheerfully. And honoring your parents even goes beyond just following their orders with a smile on your face. It means speaking respectfully to them at all times, even when you disagree with them. It means treating them with the consideration they deserve, just because they're your parents. And sometimes it means doing something special to show them that you love them, admire them, and appreciate them.

Today's devotion is a special one for Mother's Day, which is coming up this month. It's based on Proverbs 31:28, which says, "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." The devotion is called "A Message of Praise."

DEVOTION

Dressing for school, Miranda heard her mother call, "Breakfast is ready!" She glanced at her clock, then hurried to the table. Her brother Travis was just sitting down. He checked his watch.

Miranda said, "Mom, could you turn up the radio?" Her mother was listening to their favorite Christian station while she packed everyone's lunches.

"Sure," she said, adjusting the volume.

"Good morning, everybody," said Miranda's father, entering the kitchen. He looked at the clock, then winked at Miranda and Travis.

Just then the song ended, and the DJ said, "This morning the Meyer family wants to wish Carol a happy birthday."

Next they heard a recording of Miranda's voice: "Mom, thanks for everything you do. Like making us breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day. You're the best—and tonight we're taking you out to eat!"

The fifth commandment says to honor your mother. (See Exodus 20:12.) Find ways to show her how much you appreciate her. Think of special ways to thank her for everything she does. And remember to tell her what a great mom she is. According to Proverbs 31, your mother deserves some praise.

QUESTIONS

1. How have you been doing lately in obeying the fifth commandment, which says to honor your mother and father? What specific things have you done recently to honor them?
2. When is it the hardest for you to honor your mom and dad? What could you do to make sure you honor them at these times?

Some answers are: pray about this and ask God for his help in obeying his commandment; find a way to remind yourself to honor your parents when these times come; respectfully talk to your parents about these times to see if they can offer any advice or help.

3. How can keeping your room clean and being helpful around the house and yard without being asked be a way of honoring your mother and father?

One answer is: it makes their job easier and shows them that you care about the things they care about.

4. How can doing your best to get along with your brothers and sisters and to do well in school and other activities and to foster your spiritual growth be a way of honoring your parents?

One answer is: it pleases them that you are working hard to achieve the goals they have for you and your family.

5. Do you think God wants you to honor your parents even if they're not perfect?

The answer is: Yes! God knows that your parents aren't perfect and that they're going to make mistakes sometimes, but he expects you to honor them anyway.

Do the "Live It!" activity together as a group, or read the instructions to children and suggest that they do the activity at home.

LIVE IT!

Proverbs 31:10–31 is called "The Wife of Noble Character." It could also be called "The Wonderful Mother." Make a card for your mom, listing the ways she is like the great mother in this passage.