

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, please forgive me for not loving those watching over me. Thank you for being my loving Father. Amen.



Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten Study #01 of 13

Fourth Commandment *The Prodigal Son*

Memory

1. “Honor your father and mother” (Exodus 20:12).
2. “ ‘Son,’ the father said to him, ‘you’re always with me, and everything I have is yours’ ” (Luke 15:31).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten
Study #01 of 13: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

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God says to you in the fourth commandment,
“Honor your father and your mother,”
(Exodus 20:12).

THIS MEANS you must love your parents and
others who take care of you.

Bible Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Questions and Answers

For Understanding This Bible Story

1. What did the younger son ask of his father? What did this son do with his share of his father's property?

The younger son asked for his share of his father's property, but then he wasted it and ended up with nothing.

2. God says in His fourth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother."

a. How did the younger son break the fourth commandment?

The younger son's share of the property was his inheritance, which he would have received after his father died. By asking for his share, the younger son was acting as though he wished his father were already dead. The younger son loved the property much more than he loved his father. Not only did this son's "wild living" dishonor and sadden his father, but this son also forgot all about his father after he left his father's house.

b. How did the older son break the fourth commandment?

The older son resented his father's love for the younger son. Because he was so angry, the older son forgot about all the ways his father loved and cared for him all his life. Because he was such a hard worker, the older son thought he should be loved best.

3. Can you think of times in your life when you have acted like one or both of these sons?

Think about the ways you speak or act toward your parents or other people in your life. Have you talked badly to them? Have you thrown a temper tantrum? Have you not done what they told you to do? When you do such things, you sin by breaking the fourth commandment.

4. How does this story show the father's great love for both of his sons?

First, the father waited patiently while the younger son destroyed all that the father had given to him. Then, without demanding any repayment or apology, the father opened his arms to welcome his dear son back home. Although the son did not deserve it, the loving father placed a ring on his son's finger, a rich robe on his back, and a meal on the table for him.

When the father went to his older son in the field, he again showed great love. This son was angry, but the father was patient. This son spoke rudely, but the father spoke gently. This son said he did not want to return home. The father promised he would never stop loving his older son, saying to him, "Everything I have is yours."

The love that this father had for his children is a perfect and beautiful example of the love that all parents (and others) must have for their children. When parents do not show this sort of love to their children, they also sin and break the fourth commandment, dishonoring what it means to be a loving father or mother.

5. The younger son wanted to work as a servant and earn a place in his father's household. Instead, his father welcomed him back as a son. How does this help you think about your heavenly Father's forgiveness for when you have sinned?

When you were baptized, God your heavenly Father made you His child. Your heavenly Father never stops loving you, even though you sin every day. God your heavenly Father sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die for the forgiveness of your sins and make you His child: "But God shows how He loves us by this, that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). When God baptized you, He clothed you with Christ (Galatians 3:27), just as the father in this story placed a robe on his son. God your heavenly Father says to you, "You're always with me, and everything I have is yours."