

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, help me to honor and respect authorities, especially my parents and those who care for me. Forgive me when I do not. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Memory

1. "Honor you father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12).
2. "Your leaders...watch over you. Obey them and submit to them" (Hebrews 13:17).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten
Study #02 of 13: David Spares Saul's Life (1 Samuel 24)

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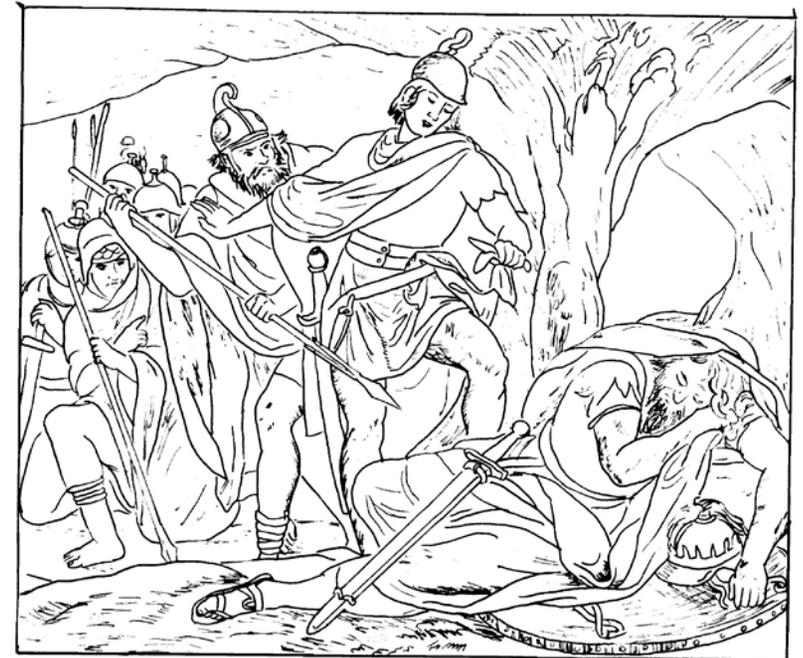


Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten

Study #02 of 13

Fourth Commandment *David Spares Saul's Life*



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

THIS MEANS you must honor and respect
authorities God has given to you.

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 24

Questions and Answers

For Understanding This Bible Story

1. While Saul was out looking for David, he stopped at a cave. What happened in the cave?

Saul went into the cave, but he did not see that David and his men were already hiding there. David's men thought this would be a good time for David to kill Saul, but David refused to do it. Instead, David cut off only a portion of Saul's robe.

2. Why did David refuse to kill Saul?

Saul was doing the wrong thing by chasing David and trying to kill him, but David loved God. Because David loved God, David wanted to show honor and respect for Saul. God had chosen Saul to be king. (1 Samuel 9)

3. God says to you in His Bible, "Everyone should obey the government that is over him, because there is no government except that which is put there by God. God has ordered our government to be over us" (Romans 13:1).

a. How does this verse help you understand David's respect for Saul?

David understood that King Saul had been "put there by God" (Romans 13:1). That is why David said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this to my lord, whom the LORD anointed, that I should raise my hand against him since he's the one the LORD anointed. What a surprise! Even though Saul was a bad king, David thought it was better to let Saul live rather than to harm the king that God had chosen.

b. How should we also treat those in authority over us, even if we do not like them, disagree with them, or feel afraid of them?

Whether we like or dislike our government, God wants us to believe that He has given our government to us. Even when our leaders do the wrong thing, like Saul did, God still wants us to be like David. God wants us to honor and respect our government, pay taxes according to the law, and pray for our leaders. If we fail to do these things, we sin against God and His commandments.

4. Is there ever a time when it is right to disobey the government or authority God has given you?

Yes. When the government tells us to do something that goes against God's Word, we must obey God's Word. This is what the earliest Christians said to the government leaders who did not want them to tell others about Jesus: "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

5. What blessings and benefits does God give to you through your government?

Your country's government is God's servant to do you good, protect you, and punish the wrongdoer (Romans 13:4-5).

God promises a greater government to you, created for you by the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus. Jesus' government is "not of this world" (John 18:36). Far above and beyond all earthly governments, Jesus' good and perfect government will be given to you on the Last Day, when "the Lord Himself will come down from heaven" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Unlike any earthly government, the government and kingdom that Jesus shall bring "can't be shaken" (Hebrews 12:27).

Therefore, even if your country's government should treat you badly, be of good cheer! "We are citizens of heaven and look for the Lord Jesus Christ to come from heaven as the Savior" (Philippians 3:20).