

Family Together Time #1: An Introduction to Honor

(This is one of the eight Family Together Times from the book "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes, in You and Your Kids," by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN)

Goal

To introduce the concept of honor and the fact that every person is valuable

Preparation

Gather the following: a dinner plate, a large glass of water, a pepper shaker, and a small amount of dish soap in a bowl (the secret ingredient).

Introduction

Relationships are like the water in this plate. *Fill the plate with water almost to its edge.* But relationships can be quite a challenge at times. All kinds of negative things happen, and people get hurt and become distant from each other. *Sprinkle pepper onto the water, illustrating the conflict that can take place in relationships.* When that happens, people aren't happy, and others aren't happy with them. The relationships aren't close or clear anymore.

I have a secret ingredient here, though, that will help clear up the relationship. What I want you to see is that adding one thing can make a big difference. *Dip your finger into the bowl of soap and then dip it into the side of the dish. All the pepper will move to the opposite side.* We call this a secret ingredient because of what it does when you add it to the water.

The same thing is true in family relationships. Today I want to share with you a very special quality. If you take time to learn this and put it into practice, you will see that your life is much easier and that others find you much more enjoyable to be around. You will be amazed at how relationships will change. Most people don't have this quality and don't

practice it, but when you do, you will see some very interesting results. The secret ingredient for relationships is honor.

A Lesson from God's Word

Turn in your Bible to Romans 12:10. "Honor one another above yourselves." The word *honor* means to value someone. This verse tells us to honor other people above ourselves. God has given to us his success principles in his Word, the Bible. When we put those principles into practice, then we can be joyful and can bring joy to others as well.

Honor is the secret ingredient for relationships. Just like the ingredient in the dish, honor can clear up problems in the family. We will talk about honor for the next several weeks, but today I want you to understand one important thing about honor. It means that we value others and treat them as special.

Let's talk about valuable things for a moment. If we had to leave our house to move to another place and couldn't take our belongings with us, which one of your things would you choose to take with you? *Let every member of the family share what they would take.*

How do we treat the things we value? *Add the following answers if they aren't otherwise contributed to the conversation:* We are careful about the way we handle them. We take extra time to care for them properly. We are gentle instead of rough. We try to prevent anything bad from happening to them.

Honor is the way we treat something that is special. We honor things that we value. When you learn to value other people in relationships, then good things happen. You are careful about the way you speak or act around those people.. You become gentle with them and take time to care for them properly. You look for ways to make good things rather than bad things happen in your relationship. Here is a two-part story to illustrate this. We'll read one part this week and the rest next time.

Life in the Pierson Family

“I think you’re doing that step backward,” Bill said as he watched his friend Clark pull the rope through the loop.

“Okay, how about I bring it around this way and put it through here?” Clark asked.

“Yeah, that’s the way.” Bill had invited his friend Clark over for the day. Both boys were eleven years old and were eager to learn how to duplicate the knots on the Boy Scout knot board. They wanted to learn how each knot could be used in different ways for different jobs.

“Hey, Bill, let’s put some music on,” Clark suggested as he went over to the CD rack in Bill’s room. Clark began opening the CDs and checking out the different kinds of music.

Bill continued to work with the knots but also kept a close eye on Clark. He didn’t want his CDs damaged and knew that one scratch could mean he’d have to replace that CD.

Bill’s mom passed by the bedroom. “Bill, I want you and Clark to please go down and clean up Dad’s tools that you left on the back patio.”

“Oh Mom, do we have to do it now?” Bill said with an irritated voice.

Mom sighed, her disappointment evident on her face. “Yes, Bill, please go clean it up now.” It seemed that whenever Bill was asked to do something, no matter how nicely she asked he would grumble and complain.

Bill and Clark went down and cleaned up the tools. As Bill was putting the hammer in the shed, Clark returned to the room.

When Bill walked back into his room, he was surprised to see several of his CDs lying on the bed. “What are you doing?”

“I was just getting out a couple of CDs for us to listen to,” replied Clark.

“Well don’t lay them down that way! They have to be face up. I’ve already lost some of my good ones. If you want to use something, ask me, and I’ll get it for you.”

Clark was taken aback by Bill's reaction. He handed the CDs to Bill, who put on some music. They both began working with the knots again.

That evening at devotions Dad read the verse from Romans 12:10: "Honor one another above yourselves." Dad explained, "This word *honor* means to value something. It means that you show value to other people and treat them kindly or with respect. What's something you have that you think is pretty valuable?"

As they went around the table, each person shared something that was especially important to him or her. Mom valued the family photo album. Dad really liked his new power drill.

When it was Bill's turn, he said, "I like my CDs." He thought for a moment and then added slowly, "Today Clark and I were playing in my room, and Clark took a couple of my CDs out. He wasn't very careful, and I got angry with him. I guess I was valuing my CDs, but I wasn't valuing Clark. Maybe I could've been easier on him."

Mom looked thoughtfully across the table at Bill. "You know, Bill, I've been feeling hurt by the way you treat *me* sometimes too, especially when I give you an instruction."

"What do you mean?" Bill asked.

"Well, when I asked you and Clark to clean up the tools this afternoon, you grumbled and were unkind to me. And earlier today, when I asked you to help clean up after breakfast, you did the same thing. I've noticed that when I ask you to do something, you often respond to me with an angry look or unkind words."

Bill was surprised. He recognized what his mom said was true. He hadn't even realized it before. "Okay," was all Bill could say.

Dad continued, "I know that sometimes I get harsh with my partner at work. It's not because she did anything wrong, but it's often because I'm under pressure, and I take it out on her. I've also noticed that when people in the office aren't feeling very good, sometimes I can brighten everyone's day with my attitude and the way I treat others. It's amazing what

honor can do. I need to work on this idea of honoring others more. Why don't we all think about honor this week and report back next week with the results?"

The Pierson family agreed that they would all work on honor in the coming week and report back the next week about how it was going. Dad closed their time in prayer, and then Mom said, "Anybody want some ice cream?" Everyone was eager to enjoy a special dessert together.

Application

What does *honor* mean? It means that we show we value someone else. What are some ways we can value Mom this week? What are some ways that we can show we value Dad this week? What are some ways that we can show we value _____ (*list each person in the family to make this very practical and personal*) this week? *Include answers like, say thank you, share toys, give a hug, don't be easily irritated, etc. Close with prayer and the hopeful attitude that your family will be different this week because of honor.*