

Digging Deeper

1. Look at these familiar verses and remind yourself how God wants you to esteem your mother. How does each apply to honoring our mothers, specifically?

Exodus 20:12

Deuteronomy 5:16

Deuteronomy 27:16

2. Read Ephesians 6:2-3. How has honoring your mother helped life “go well with you?” Can you think of a way that life would have gone “well” if you had more closely honored your mother’s wisdom or values?

3. Read 1 Samuel 2:11. Hannah stewarded the early life of Samuel, her son. She cared for him, uplifted him, and provided for all his needs, even though there would be significant pain when the time came to let him go. Life comes with pain, and Hannah's motherly example shows how such pain can be weathered. In light of this, look at the following verses and talk about how we can respond to some of the pain of life.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

1 Peter 4:12-14, 19

Hebrews 5:7-8

Psalm 77:1-6

Matthew 26:36-39

4. How can pain lead us to God? Describe how leaning on God has helped grow your ability to care for others.

5. Read Luke 34-35. Mary submitted to God's plans for her life, even though it meant walking toward deep sorrow. Describe potential "sorrows" that someone might face as they live in submission to God. How is Mary an example to us in this?

Applying the Message

1. As we reflect on this message, we recognize how a mother's love, affection, example, and influence can deeply shape our lives. In what particular way has your mother, or a motherly figure, shaped you? What are some ways you can express gratitude and honor for this woman this week?

2. Proverbs offer guidance for mothers. Read the following verses and discuss how *anyone* can apply these wise sayings to their own lives.

Proverbs 31:22

Proverbs 31:15, 21, 27