

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Exodus 20: 12–13



Week of: September 22, 2025



Message Title: Words 5 & 6: Honoring Parents and Honoring Life



Speaker: Ps. Lenard Tavernelli

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

We all learn what it means to respect life and authority in different ways growing up. Share one memory from your childhood where your parents (or another authority figure) had to correct you about how to treat others. What did you learn from it?

2. READ TOGETHER

Have someone from your group read Exodus 20:12–13 aloud as a group.

Ask: Pastor Lenard showed how the commandments to honor parents and to honor life “go hand in hand.” In what ways do you see a connection between rejecting authority and devaluing life in our culture today? How can Christians live differently in response?

3. GROUP DISCUSSION (30–40 MINS)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *You don’t need to go through all the questions with the group. Choose the most relevant ones.*

1. Ps. Lenard said that in a culture of death, Christians must live differently. Where do you see society most clearly devaluing life today? How can believers stand apart?
2. God calls us to honor our father and mother. What does “honor” look like for children still at home? For adults relating to aging parents?
3. In what ways might dishonoring parents actually dishonor God, the one who gave them to us?

4. Jesus perfectly honored both His earthly parents (Luke 2:51) and His heavenly Father (Phil 2:8). How does His obedience give hope when we see our own failures?
5. Exodus 21:15 & 17 shows how seriously God viewed dishonoring parents. Why do you think God tied such strong consequences to this command?
6. Ps. Lenard reminded us that every human being is an image bearer of God (Gen 1:27). How does this truth shape the way we think about issues like abortion, euthanasia, racism, or violence?
7. Jesus taught that anger and insults are also violations of the sixth commandment (Matt 5:21–22). Why is the heart behind murder just as serious as the act itself?
8. The Heidelberg Catechism says God “hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, and desire of revenge.” Which of these roots do you wrestle with most, and how can the Spirit help you uproot it?
9. Bethel’s mission is to *proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God*. How does living as a people who honor authority and value life give credibility to this mission? Where can you show Christ’s life-giving truth in your relationships this week?
10. One of Bethel’s core values is *service*. Honoring life doesn’t just mean avoiding harm, but actively doing good. What’s one act of service you could do this week—at home, in the church, or in the community—that affirms the value of another person?

4. Prayer (10–15 mins)

Foster a spirit of humility and reverence before the Lord.

Prompt:

Thank God for the gift of life and the parents, mentors, and leaders He has used to shape you. Confess where dishonor, anger, or disregard for life has taken root. Ask the Spirit to make us a church that honors authority rightly, protects life boldly, and shines as a counter-culture of love in a world of hostility.