

WORKSHEET FOR SONS OR DAUGHTERS, NO. 2

1. Make a detailed list describing your understanding of a son's or daughter's responsibility to his/her parents. Ask not, "What should my parents do for me?" but, "What should I do for my parents?" What are my responsibilities to them? Be specific and comprehensive. Include the whole sphere of your life and theirs; include your responsibilities in the area of actions, attitudes, time, conversation, sharing, etc.
2. Make a list of the following Scripture verses on a separate sheet of paper and then study each one to determine how God wants you to respond and relate to your parents. Some of the passages deal directly with child-parent relations; others with how we should relate to people in general. These latter passages, of course, are also relevant to one's relationship with her/his parents. I Tim. 5:4-8 indicates that failure to respond appropriately to parents has serious implications.

Exodus 20:12; **Leviticus** 19:3; **Proverbs** 1:8-9; 4:1; 6:20-22; 11:29; 13:1; 15:20; 17:6, 25; 22:28; 23:22-25; 28:24; 30:17; **Romans** 1:28-32; 13:1-10; **I Cor.** 6:1-3; **Ephesians** 6:1-3; **Philippians** 2:1-4; **Colossians** 3:20.

3. In the Bible God gives certain promises to children who obey Him by obeying their parents.
 - a. List the promises found in the following verses: **Exodus** 20:12; **Proverbs** 1:8-9; 4:1-2; 6:20-22; **Ephesians** 6:1-3.
 - b. God promises that the child who honors his parents will be blessed--"that it may be well with you" (Eph. 6:3). Make a list of ways that children who honor their parents are often blessed. (Two suggestions to get started statistics demonstrate that children who have a good relationship with their parents are much more likely to have happy, fulfilling marriages; they are better adjusted and free to use their emotional and mental energy for constructive purposes--they are not controlled and consumed by resentment and bitterness against and reaction to their parents. This sets them free to really be productive and constructive.)
4. In the Bible God also issues warnings to children who rebel against Him by disobeying their parents.
 - a. List the warnings found in the following verses: **Proverbs** 28:24; 30:17; **Romans** 1:28-32; **I Timothy** 5:8; **Mark** 7:8-13; **Galatians** 6:7.

- b. Think about some of the ways that sons or daughters who dishonor their parents may suffer for it. For example, Galatians 6:7 indicates that they should not be surprised if their children relate to them exactly as they related to their own parents, only worse.)
5. Two words that are frequently used in reference to a child's responsibility to his parents are "obey" and "honor."
- a. Make a list of what your parents expect of you in every aspect of you in every aspect of life--at home, school, spiritually, speech, attitudes, dating, etc.
 - b. Do you obey your parents in everything? (Col.3:20).

Give two examples of times when you obeyed your parents even though you really did not want to obey/

Give two examples of times or areas in which you have not or are not obeying them.

- c. Do you honor your parents? (This involves attitude and spirit as well as actions and behavior; when you show disrespect, stubbornness, ingratitude, uncooperativeness, resentment, bitterness, disdain, or contempt, you are not honoring your parents.) Do your parents and others know that you really appreciate and respect them? Examine your attitudes and speech; what you don't do as well as what you do when you answer this question.
 - d. Plan at least 10 ways to honor your parents. Begin to put the list into practice immediately.
6. Proverbs 10:1 says that "a wise son [daughter] makes a father glad, but a foolish son [daughter] is a grief to his mother."
- a. List some ways you make your parents glad.
 - b. List some things about you that bring them grief.
 - c. How could you change to bring them more joy and happiness? Examine your attitude, speech, behavior, use of money, time, habits, etc.