

Honoring Family

Chapter 41 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the Fourth Commandment and what it teaches us about honoring our parents and living in a family.
- The participants will explore the duties parents have toward their children and the responsibility children have to respect their parents and follow their rules.
- The participants will reflect on how Jesus modeled God's loving care for us.

Content Summary

1. Only God's love is perfect. Our parents participate in God's love by caring for us. Parents are older and wiser in many ways, and they must answer to God for their care of their children.
2. The Fourth Commandment is "Honor your father and your mother." Parents have a duty to provide for their children, and children have a duty to honor and respect their parents.
3. Parents have a duty to teach their children about faith, prayer, and the virtues. Parents teach these values through words and actions.
4. Parents have a duty to teach and, when necessary, discipline their children. *Discipline* means learning self-control by accepting the authority of parents and family.
5. In addition to providing for basic needs, parents must also try to guide and encourage their children and to support them in their studies, activities, and choice of vocation. Above all, parents must help their children follow Jesus.
6. Respect for authority includes respect for government and support for society. Governments are obliged to respect human rights and to protect our ability to live in freedom.
7. We are obliged to follow the just laws of our society. If laws are unjust, we must resist, even to the point of civil disobedience.
8. When we see all people as part of our human family, when we value and respect one another as children of God, we glimpse the joy that Jesus told us is possible when we do God's will "on earth as it is in heaven."

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2014 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

