

**Lesson 9: Honoring Parents**

**We Can Learn to Recognize Our Parents' Love**

Read story

- Do you sometimes wonder if your parents love you?
- In what ways do your parents show their love?
- How can you learn to understand your parents better?



**Understanding Parents Is a Key to a Better Relationship**

Our love and appreciation for other people grow as we come to know and understand more about their backgrounds, experiences, and feelings.

Questionnaires

- Do you understand why your parents feel as they do about religion (or the Church)?
- How can learning about your parents' early lives help you understand their feelings?
- How does knowing the answers to these questions help you build a better relationship with your mother and father?

Finding out more about our parents will help us improve our relationships with them.

Just because someone doesn't love you the way you think they should, doesn't mean that they don't love you the best they know how.

**Heavenly Father Has Commanded Each Young Woman to Honor Her Parents**

As we read Exodus 20:12 listen for the promise that is given with the commandment.

- What promise does the Lord give those who honor their parents?
- What might this promise mean?
- Why do you suppose God made it a commandment to honor our parents?

President Spencer W. Kimball said, "If we truly honor our parents as we are commanded to do, we will seek to emulate their best characteristics and to fulfill their highest aspirations for us. Nothing we could give them materially would be more prized than our righteous living."

Read Paul's admonition in Colossians 3:20.

- What reasons does Paul give for being obedient to parents?

Learning to honor and obey our earthly parents helps us have a better relationship with them. It can also prepare us to more fully love and obey our Father in Heaven.

**We Are Responsible to Improve Our Relationships with Our Parents**

To improve my relationship with my parents, I will:	

A daughter can do many things to improve her relationship with her parents. Different parents would be pleased with different things, but being a good person is one way in which every young woman can honor her parents. A daughter cannot change her parents, but she can improve and strengthen her relationship with them by changing her own behavior. Elder Loren C. Dunn gives a good example:

"I recall a stage play that recently was made into a movie. It dealt with parents whose only child, a son, returned from military service. The father and son had never been close. It was a situation in which both father and son loved each other but were unable to find ways to express themselves, and therefore hostilities arose because each thought the other did not like him. ... The high point of the play came when the boy said to his father something like this:

" 'Dad, I always resented you when I was younger because you never told me that you loved me, but then I realized that I had never told you that I loved you either. Well, Dad, I'm telling you now: I love you.' "

"For one electrifying moment the father and the son embraced each other as the pent-up love and appreciation of years came flooding out. This probably would never have happened had the son not realized that he was as guilty of lack of expression as his parents" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1969, pp. 22–23; or Improvement Era, June 1969, pp. 52–53).

One young woman who was determined to improve her feelings about her parents went to her Father in Heaven in earnest prayer. While praying, she decided to thank the Lord for her parents, even though she had never done so before. As she uttered the words of thanks, her mind was instantly filled with reasons why she should be grateful for her parents. She got up from her knees filled with a new love and understanding for two people whom she realized were as much God's children as she was herself.

- What will you do to improve your relationship with your parents and thereby please your Heavenly Father?
- How does improving your relationship with your parents improve your relationship with Christ?