

LEARNER SHEET: FATHER AND MOTHER

John 2:1-12



THE BIG IDEA

God intends that people in families honor and respect each other.

BIG FUN IDEA

Have a movie-night get-together at church or someone's house, make or order your favorite food, and watch the movie *Dad* (PG, 1989; starring Jack Lemmon, Ted Danson, and Ethan Hawke). Discuss the father-son relationships in the film. How did the characters honor or dishonor each other?

BIG SERVING IDEA

Visit a nursing home together. Honor these grandparent figures by listening to their stories and spending time with them. Play a game, read a book (the Bible, if they'd like), share a gift of music—the possibilities are endless!

PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

DISCUSSION TIME

- Write down ways you have witnessed your own parents honor or dishonor their parents (your grandparents).
- Talk about a time you have been forgiven and a time you forgave someone.
- As a group, rewrite Martin Luther's explanation to the Fourth Commandment.
- Write a thank-you note to your parents and give it to them tonight.

LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: FATHER AND MOTHER

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Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

PRAYER TIME

Incorporate into your devotional life a prayer on behalf of families. Write a petition together, or use the following:

Almighty God, we commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Keep them from bitterness and pride in self; fill them with faith, virtue, wisdom, moderation, and patience. Let children and parents have full respect for one another, and light the fire of kindness among us all, that we may show affection for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

- Adapted from *Lutheran Book of Worship: Minister's Desk Edition*, page 115.

TALK TIME

- Identify people you see as role models who show honor to parents and others in authority. Why did you choose these people?
- Parents, share what you love about your child, and what you love about being their parent. Children, share what you love about your parents, and what you love about being their child.
- Parents, talk about a time when you struggled to respect your own parents. What was the conflict about? Did it ever get resolved? Has your opinion of their motives or attitudes changed now that you are parents?

WEB TIME

Sit down together to do an Internet search on "family communication skills." Look into some of the Web sites that come up. What kinds of information do they offer? Are these helpful suggestions for communicating? Are there any you would like to practice in your family?

RITUAL TIME

Set aside time each evening this week for a brief service of confession and absolution. You can use page 103 of *The Lutheran Handbook* as a guide, or find model liturgies on pages 76, 155, or 196 of *Lutheran Book of Worship* and pages 238 or 243 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

RESPECT
CARE
RESPONSIBILITY
DEFERENCE

