

Introductory Discussion: Kids?

Discuss together:

- Would they like to have their own children one day? Why or why not?
- What type of parent do they think they would be? *Would they be strict, would they be fun, would they take them out all the time or just sit inside and watch tv, would they let them play games like the chocolate game they just did or would they think that was too unhealthy for their own children...?*
- What are the responsibilities of a parent? What is the most important one?
- When do parents get released from their responsibilities? When a child is 16? 18? 21? Never...?

Into the Word: Parenting

What do they know about what the Bible teaches about being a parent and the relationship we are meant to have with the grown ups who care for us? Is it something that God has lots to say about or not much at all?

Explore the following passages and build up a picture together about God's teaching on parenting...

<i>Ephesians 6:1-3</i>	<i>Honour and obey parents</i>
<i>Colossians 3:20</i>	<i>Obey your parents for this pleases the Lord</i>
<i>Exodus 20:12</i>	<i>Commandment</i>
<i>Exodus 21:15</i>	<i>Anyone who attacks father or mother must be put to death</i>
<i>Proverbs 1:8</i>	<i>Listen to your parents instructions</i>
<i>John 13:34-35</i>	<i>We show the world that Jesus is Lord by loving one another – our parents are included in this!</i>
<i>Matthew 10:34-38</i>	<i>Jesus is still the highest authority</i>

Do you think it is easy to follow what the Bible says about how we should relate to our grown ups who care for us?

Sometimes it gets harder and harder to obey your parents because of the umbrella problem...

If you have access to two umbrellas to act out the demonstration it can be a helpful visual cue...!

Just like Jesus is the mother hen, your safe adult wants to take you in and protect you - this can be shown by one young person holding an umbrella over another young person. This is fine, but it only works when the young person is happy to stay under the umbrella... as the young person gets older they start to want to do their own things, and they think it might be time to try and hold their own umbrella, but the problem with that is you are still in a small space and it is hard to put up your own umbrella when someone is trying to keep their umbrella over yours...

Application: Honour Your Grown Ups

Even though it may feel exhausting or frustrating sometimes, Jesus calls us to still honour the people who care for us. How can we do that in our day to day? *Explore some practical suggestions like taking time to say thank you, doing what they tell you to do without arguing about it, taking time away when we need it (going for a walk), remembering they are human too which means they can get it wrong but that is okay... etc. If you are the parent/carer of the person you are sharing this study with, share your own experience with them about the grown ups who cared for you when you were a child – did you always manage to behave the way that God called you to behave? How can you work together with your children on the relationship you have been talking about today?*

What are you going to do this week to honour one person who cares for you?