

# JIMMY EVANS

## Honoring Our Two Fathers

**Focus** The Bible tells us to honor our father. We all have two fathers—an earthly father and a heavenly Father. Fathers provide protection, provision, affection, training, and guidance. Even if your earthly father had shortcomings, your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Fun** Would you rather have an extra free day each week or an extra paycheck each month? Why?

**Review** Key Scripture: Ephesians 6:1–3

- **The Bible commands us to honor our father.** Ephesians 6:1–3 tells us to honor our father and our mother. This command comes with a promise: if we do this, our lives will be long and blessed. There is no qualifier in this verse that says we only honor them if they are worthy or deserving. We are to honor them in obedience to God's Word.
- **We have two fathers—an earthly father and a heavenly Father.** Our two fathers were designed to operate as a team and bring blessings into our lives. Many of our concepts of God come from our earthly father. Fathers are supposed to provide protection, provision, affection, training, and guidance.
- **Honor both fathers.** Even though your earthly father is imperfect and has shortcomings, your heavenly Father is perfect. Honor your earthly father by remembering what he did right and thanking him for it. Give him grace for his imperfections and mistakes. Honor your heavenly Father by believing in His love and putting your faith in Him.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Get involved in another ministry at Gateway as a group. You may decide to attend an Equip class series together. Or, you may all go through Freedom Basics or Financial Peace University together. Take advantage of the great ministries offered at Gateway and do them together as a group.

### **Discuss**

1. Read Ephesians 6:2 and Deuteronomy 5:16. Why do you think God commands us to show honor to our fathers?
2. How have you experienced God's fatherly provision, protection, or guidance in your life?
3. Why is it sometimes difficult for people to show honor to their fathers?
4. Earthly fathers are imperfect, and you may or may not have had a good fatherly role model growing up. What does it look like to still show honor to a father who doesn't seem to deserve it?
5. What are some of the positive things your father did that you can thank him for?
6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What can you do today to honor your father? Is there something you need to forgive him for? Is there something you appreciate about him that you can share? What is one thing you can do this week to show honor to your father?

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The Bible commands us to honor our father.
- We have an earthly father and a heavenly Father.
- Show honor to both fathers.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we want to honor You today. Thank You for loving us and calling us Your children. Thank You for providing, protecting, nurturing, training, and guiding us. Thank You for giving us earthly fathers. Help us to honor You as we show them honor. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** A great way to raise up new leaders is to give different people opportunities to lead the group. Often, the only thing people need to become great leaders is an opportunity and a little encouragement.