



Focus Any relationship we have can be made stronger by practicing the principles of honoring and receiving the other person.

Open In observation of Father's Day, share one thing you admire about your Dad.

Read In celebration of Father's Day, there are two principles that we can apply that will help our fathers be better fathers. These also work in any relationship—wives become better wives, bosses become better bosses, etc.

The principle of honoring comes from Mark 6:1–5. Even Jesus, the Son of God, was limited by dishonor. He couldn't do many miracles in his home region because of dishonor from his family and neighbors. Dishonor stems from familiarity and offenses. Honor is a man's greatest need, and when we honor someone, we help them reach their potential. When we honor our fathers, it also benefits us—we live better and longer lives (Ephesians 6:2–3).

We find the principle of receiving in Matthew 10:40–41. To receive someone means to relate to them with unconditional acceptance. When we receive a person as God's perfect gift to us, we release them to be all God intended them to be in our life. This is true in our relationship with Jesus (John 1:12) and with the Holy Spirit. In our relationships with people—spouse, children, parents, friends, boss—this doesn't mean they're perfect, but that we accept them, as they are, as a gift from God.

Talk

1. Which of the two principles do you find easier to practice? Which one is more difficult? Why?
2. What are some practical steps we can take to honor people in our lives? Think specifically about words we can say and ways we can serve.
3. Sometimes we have strained relationships where it's difficult to honor someone because they have hurt us. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. How do we obtain this kind of love that helps us honor even when it hurts?
4. Who do you know that's good at receiving others (showing unconditional acceptance)? What impact have they had on your life?
5. Why do you think it's sometimes difficult for us to receive others? What do we miss out on when we don't receive them?
6. In observation of Father's Day, tell a favorite memory about your Dad. Is there anything you feel challenged to change in how you relate to him?

Live

Write down the names of a few people to whom you want to show honor. Now write down some small way you can honor them, and make plans to do it this week.

Pray

Lord, I thank You that You honor and receive us as Your children. I praise You, Father, that You give us Your Holy Spirit to help us honor and receive the people in our lives. Please forgive us for the ways we have failed in our relationships. We receive Your grace to begin again today in honoring and receiving the people You have given to us.