Today’s Objective
Children will learn the 5th Commandment and what it means to honor their parents.

Scripture
Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise, “That it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

KidSlot Activities

1. Have children share about their week. You share about yours too!

3. Have several children pray and ask Jesus to speak to each one tonight and help them to hear what He has to say to them.

4. Introductory Activity – “Mother, may I?” or “Father, may I?”
Remind children that they have been learning the Ten Commandments that God gave to His people to follow. Before we learn about the fifth commandment tonight, we are going to play a game that has to do with this commandment. It is called “Mother, may I?” or “Father, may I?” depending on whether a woman or man is leading the game.

To play this game have all children line up side by side along one wall of the room or along a line outside. You will be the “Mother” or “Father” and stand at the opposite them across the room at the other wall or 15-20 feet away from them outside. The goal is for the children to reach the place where you are. They will take turns asking permission to do things such as take two steps forward, hop 3 steps forward, take 5 giant steps, etc. by saying,

“Mother, may I take 3 steps forward?” You will answer “Yes, you may”, “No, you may not”, or “No, but you may take 1 step backward” changing the direction.

Children then have to obey what you say. Watch their behavior and attitudes when they are not allowed to do what they ask. What is their attitude as they obey? Do they refuse to obey? As the game progresses, occasionally make the children go backwards, sideways or even back to the beginning to delay their reaching you.

When finished, talk about their responses to not getting their way. Ask how they felt and acted when they didn’t get their way. Was it easy or hard to obey “mother” or “father”? Did it change the way they felt about “mother” or the way they spoke to her? Then tell them that the commandment they are going to learn tonight has to do with this.

5. Have children find and read Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-3. Discuss these verses for a few minutes.

6. Discussion Questions - Use some of the following questions to guide your discussion time. Be sure to end with the FINAL question. Questions that can be used with preschoolers or young children are bolded.
- Who does God say you should obey?
- Why does God want us to obey our parents?
Do you obey your parents?
When is it hard for you to obey?
What do you do when they tell you to do something you don’t want to do?
Does it make you angry when they tell you to do thing? Why?
Do you ever talk back to your mom and dad? Does this please Jesus?
Do you ever call your parents names or yell at them? Does this please Jesus?
Do you ever talk mean about them to your friends? Does this please Jesus?
How does Jesus want you to obey or honor your parents better?
What does it mean to “honor” your parents?
What does it mean to “obey” your parents?
In what ways are “obey” and “honor” the same? Different?
(Hint: they can obey outwardly and not honor, obeying can be more action while honoring is more attitude, honoring their parents involves also how they talk about them to others, etc.)
Which is harder for you to obey your parents or honor them?
Do you always obey them?
When is it hard to obey them?
Why should you obey them?
Have you ever thought they were unreasonable and argued to get your way? Is that obeying and honoring them?
When you don’t get your way, do you get angry at them, call them names either out loud or in your head?
Do you ever complain to your friends about your parents? Is this honoring them?
Have you ever watched a TV show where children smart mouth their parents or make fun of them? Is this good? Should you be watching shows like this?
How do you honor your parents?
What is the promise attached to this commandment? Have you seen this to be true? How?
Does it “go well” with those who don’t obey and honor their parents?
FINAL question – In what way(s) do you think Jesus wants you to honor or obey your parents better?

7. Creative Application – Cards for Parents
Children will each make 2 cards (1 for their mother and 1 for their father). Inside they will write messages of love and thanks to them. NOTE: If children do not have both parents tell them to make a card for a grandparent, step-parent etc. Remind them that Jesus wants them to obey and honor all those in authority over them.
• Begin by giving each child 2 pieces of paper and have them fold in half to make a card
• Have children write MOM at the very bottom of the front of one of the cards and DAD at the very bottom of the front of the other card.
• Children should open the cards and write a note of love and thanks to them. For younger children there are writing templates included in this lesson to help them write a note. Feel free to print and copy them as needed for your group. Adults should help little ones or allow older children to assist with the writing. Allow even very young children to respond to the incomplete sentences on their own. Remind children to sign their name to each card.
• Have children decorate the cards for both their mom and dad with things that they love about each of them

8. Prayer – Lead children in a time of prayer thanking Jesus for their parents and grandparents. Encourage them to ask Jesus to help them obey and honor their parents and confess any ways they have not been doing so. Be sure to have them pray for any other requests they may have as well as for their friends who do not yet know Jesus.

9. Report back to the adults and have children share about their time together tonight. Have them give their cards to their parents as part of this time. Be sure the adults also share about their facilitation time.
“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12)

I love you because...

________________________________________

________________________________________

Thank you for...

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Love,
#5

Honor your mother and father.

Exodus 20:12