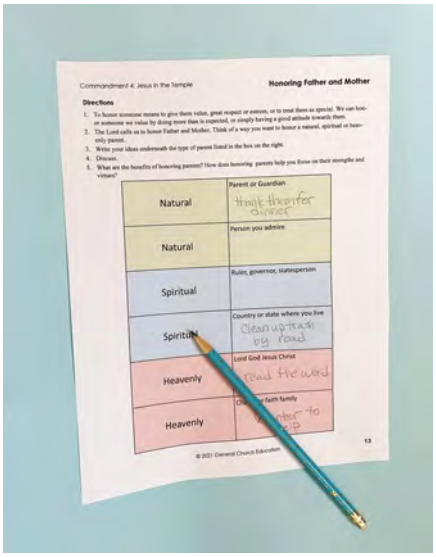
Ages 11-14: Honoring Father and Mother

Materials Needed

Honoring Parents on Different Levels, pens or pencils.

Prepare in Advance

Print a copy of *Honoring Parents on Different Levels* for each student.



When the Lord was born He was unlike any other child. His Father was God Himself! He needed to know His Father so He could fulfill His mission: the salvation of the human race. Like us, He studied the Word to learn about His heavenly Father. At age twelve, He went to the temple to learn more. But when Mary, His earthly mother, and Joseph, His earthly guardian, found Him, He returned home and was subject to them. Like the Lord, we have natural parents and a Heavenly Father. We also have "fathers" and "mothers" on other levels as well. This activity explores the idea that we should honor our natural, spiritual and heavenly, or celestial, parents.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

"People interpret father and mother [in the fourth commandment] to mean their father and mother on earth, as well as those who stand in place of their father and mother. and they interpret the commandment to honor them as meaning to hold them in honor and obey them. Spiritual angels, on the other hand, interpret their father to mean the Lord, and their mother to mean the church, and that to honor them means to love them. Celestial angels, however, interpret their father to mean the Lord's Divine love, and their mother to mean His Divine wisdom, and that to honor them means to do good from Him." *Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 67

1. What does it mean to be *subject to* your parents? (It means to trust and obey them.)
2. In what ways might Jesus have been *subject to* Mary and Joseph? Why was this important? In what ways was their care important?
3. In what ways are you *subject to* your parents or guardians? In what important ways do parents and guardians care for children in their care?
4. The fourth commandment says we are to *honor* our parents. What does *honoring* someone mean? (to give them great value, great respect or esteem, or to treat as special)
5. Parents and guardians are responsible for a child's earthly welfare. The Writings say we have spiritual parents who also protect our welfare. These are our country and its leaders. In what ways does our country protect us, as parents do? What about its leaders? How might you honor them?
6. Finally, we have heavenly, or celestial, parents—the Lord and the church—who guard our welfare. The Writings say that the church is not really an organization. Rather the church is people who care about and receive the Lord in their hearts. They are our *faith family.* In what ways do the Lord and our faith family protect us? How might we honor them?
7. Hand out the page *Honoring Parents on Different Levels.* Read the directions, and ask students to complete the activity.
8. Invite students to discuss their ideas if they wish to share them.
9. How does honoring parents, our country and the Lord help us? (Hint: It helps you to focus on their strengths and virtues and appreciate the things they do for us!)

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Honoring Parents on Different Levels

Directions

1. To honor someone means to give them value, great respect or esteem, or to treat them as special. We can honor someone we value by doing more than is expected, or simply by having a good attitude towards them.
2. The Lord calls us to honor our Father and Mother. But we have parents on three different levels.
3. Think of a way you want to honor a natural parent, a spiritual parent, and a heavenly parent. Write your ideas underneath the type of parent listed in the boxes below.

Natural	Parent or Guardian
Natural	Person you admire
Spiritual	Ruler, governor, statesperson
Spiritual	Country or state where you live
Heavenly	Lord God Jesus Christ
Heavenly	Church or faith family

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