

# Session **5**

## Parenting with Honor #1: Being Firm Without Being Harsh

### Summary of the Video:

Honor is a two-way street. Children need to honor their parents, but parents also need to learn to honor their children. Parents often fall into extremes in parenting. Either they become too lenient, wanting to please their children, or they become too strict and overly controlling. Honor-based parenting requires a number of skills, and since many parents don't have a good history with honor in their own family growing up, these skills provide a helpful framework. This session focuses on one skill, "Being firm without being harsh." Parents learn that firmness sets a boundary that won't be crossed without a consequence. Harshness pours emotional intensity into that limit to try to convince a child that you mean business. Suggestions are given for handling bedtimes. With a tighter action point and clearer consequences, parents can replace their harshness with honor.

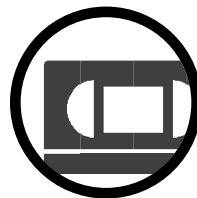
### Read Along in the Book: "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes, in You and Your Kids"

Pages 89-106 teach parents ways to communicate without anger. Children also need to learn good communication skills so that their words will help bring about positive change rather than just be hurtful.

### Suggested Introduction:

Do you ever wonder why anger is so common in family life? I think it's because anger and harshness with kids works. It gets the job done. Kids know we mean business. Kids get moving when parents get angry. The problem is that angry responses create a rather negative relationship pattern and parents and kids become distant from each other. So does that mean that we become more lenient? Dr. Turansky and Mrs. Miller don't think so and they have a lot of ideas of ways to apply this issue of honor to the parents in addition

to the children. Let's join them again as we evaluate the ways that we show or don't show honor.



**Show the  
Session #3 video**

### Suggested Transition:

Some of you are probably feeling pretty good right now because you are seeing that you're doing a lot of things right. You're not on one of the extremes and you're moving in the right direction. Others may be feeling overwhelmed so it will be interesting in the discussion time to exchange some ideas in this area. Let's be sensitive to one another as we all try to learn something new about honor.

### Goal of the Discussion:

To help parents evaluate their parenting style and determine to make some changes to become more honoring and more effective at helping children change their hearts.



**Give 30-35 minutes for group  
discussion and prayer, then  
encourage everyone to come  
back together**

### Suggested Conclusion:

I think we all have things we can do to become better parents. The idea of honor-based parenting can help us think about the ways we want to grow in our own relationships with our children. Pray and ask God to give you specific ideas of ways you can show more honor to your children without becoming lenient with them. Helping a child change the heart is more difficult than we sometimes imagine. Ask God for wisdom and guidance as you try to work with your kids this week.

# **Parenting with Honor #1: Being Firm Without Being Harsh**

Power-Directed Parenting is characterized by...

Freedom-Oriented Parenting is characterized by...

The difference between firmness and harshness is...

**One thing I'm going to work on is...**

A parent can be firm without being harsh by tightening the action point.

**“** *You need the nurse's hat when children are sick or injured. You need the manager's hat to keep everybody's schedule straight. The cook's hat and the play-mate's hat always have to be available. You need the coach's hat and the counselor's hat... and the teacher's hat when kids have homework. It's not so much what hat you wear but how you wear it when it comes to honor. Because honor addresses how we relate in family life.* **”**

## **Parenting with Honor #1: Being Firm Without Being Harsh**

- What did you think about the ending to the dramatic sketch? When is it best to change your mind as a parent and when is it best to continue with the consequence?
- When four-year-old Katie doesn't come when she's called, how might Mom handle the situation with firmness but not demonstrate harshness?
- Older children have a way of pushing our buttons, often drawing us into arguments resulting in harsh words. Using the principle of being firm without being harsh, how might you handle that kind of situation with honor?
- What kind of family did you grow up in? Was it power-directed or freedom-oriented? What were some of the advantages and disadvantages of that dynamic in your family?