2025-2026 Confirmation
Year 3: Lutheran Christianity
The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Lesson 5. The Small Catechism: The Fourth Commandment

The Fourth Commandment
Honor your father and your mother

What is this? Or What does this mean?
We are to fear and love God,
so that we neither despise nor anger
our parents and others in authority,
but instead honor, serve, obey,
love and respect them

> ***20:12*** *Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 NRSV*

Quick review:
The Law is given us to teach us what we should do and also to show us the limits of our abilities – to teach us in our bones how very much we need Christ!

The "first tablet" of the Commandments is about our duties and relationship to God: No other Gods. Honor God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy.

Now we move on to the "second tablet", our duties to our neighbors. And chief of these, the top of the list, is that we would honor our parents and all others in rightful authority over us!

Do you wonder what "Great Work" God demands of you? Start here!

Gain Awareness! Practice Gratitude! Practice Forgiveness and Grace!

> *Luther's Large Catechism: Everyone ought to think what his parents did for him. He who does think of this will find that he received his body and life from his parents, and also that*

he was fed and reared by them, without which care he would have choked a hundred times over in his own filth. Therefore, it has been well and truly said by wise old people: "One can never adequately thank and repay God, one's parents, and one's teachers."

Practice the skills that make for a harmonious world – this includes "Saluting the Uniform".

So what are we commanded to do?

- Honor
- Serve
- Obey
- Love
- Respect

And what is forbidden?

- To despise our parents
- Or to anger our parents

This applies to all who have authority over us

This is the only commandment connected to a promise: "That our days may be long in the land that the Lord our God gives to us" As we learn and practice rightful obedience, gratitude, grace, forgiveness, awareness, & peace we change the path of our lives – and of our families. As this is practiced across generations prosperity and peace bloom.

Obviously influenced by life stages…

Obviously "honor" does not mean blind obedience…

Luther makes fearsome threats of punishment for those who misuse their offices of authority and for parents who do not pour themselves out for their children! Go to Luther's Large Catechism if you are interested! You can get it online for free.