

# Living In Relationship To God

## The Fourth Commandment

### A Letter Sent to Ann Landers:

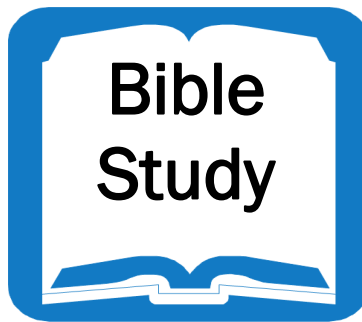
I realize that a great many men and women have lost people they love in the many wars our country has fought, but I have had more than my share of such grief. When I was little, my father died in the Korean War. My older brother was a paratrooper in Vietnam and was killed when he was barely 19. My husband died in the barracks that were bombed in the Persian Gulf. Now I have a teen-age son who tells me he wants to go to West Point and be a commissioned officer in the Army. I am really frightened....I have prayed, cried and have found no answers. What do you suggest?

Ann responded: There is nothing you can or should do. If your son has his heart set on a career in the military, it would be unfair to attempt to change his mind. This decision should be his and his alone.

Do you agree with Ann's advice? What guidance does the Fourth Commandment give to this situation?

**God has given a special position of honor to the estate of father and mother, higher than all other estates under Him. He tells us not only to love them but also to honor them.**

*From Luther's Large Catechism*



*What do the following passages have to say to children about their parents?*

**Day One:** Proverbs 1:8

**Day Two:** Ephesians 2:6

**Day Three:** Leviticus 19:3

**Day Four:** Ephesians 6:1

**Day Five:** 1 Timothy 5:1



Concordia Seminary  
Center for Stewardship  
Rev. Wayne J. Knolhoff, Director



### For Discussion:

**Genesis 46:29-34**

Read the above passage and discuss the following questions:

1. Christian stewardship always begins with God giving to us. What blessing did God give Israel as it is recorded in Genesis 46:3? What additional blessing is found in 46:30?
2. Christian stewardship calls for a response. How did Joseph respond to being reunited with his family? See Genesis 47:1
3. What blessings has God given me in my family?
4. What are some ways that I can live to honor God?

Pray that God would bless you and your family with the joy, peace, and love that is found in Christ Jesus.

### Stewardship Truth

**Living in relationship to God means that I honor all of God's representatives.**