

Loop Teaching: The People You Didn't Choose

Teaching Focus: Honor and love family and the other people God placed in your life.

Scripture: *"Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: "If you honor your father and mother, things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."* • Ephesians 6:2-3 NLT

1. Opening & Prayer

"Today we're going to learn about the people God placed in our lives, including family members and other trusted adults we did not choose. As you watch the video, pay attention to what it can look like to honor and love them."

Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for the family members, caregivers, teachers, leaders, and other people You have placed in our lives. Help us listen with respect, speak with kindness, show gratitude, and choose loving actions. Please help us understand today's message and show us one way we can honor someone this week. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

2. Video Lesson on Jellyfin

3. Discussion

"Let's talk about what we learned in today's Loop video. Ephesians 6:2-3 tells us to honor our father and mother. To honor someone means to treat that person as valuable and show respect through our words, attitudes, and actions."

- "What is the difference between honoring someone and agreeing with everything that person says or does?"

(Honoring someone means treating the person with respect. We can listen, answer calmly, and choose kind words even when we disagree. Honoring someone does not mean pretending a wrong or unsafe choice is okay.)

- "What could honoring and loving the people God placed in your life look like this week?"

(Examples may include obeying a parent or caregiver, helping without complaining, speaking kindly to a sibling, thanking a teacher or coach, listening without interrupting, or apologizing after acting disrespectfully.)

"We do not choose every person who becomes part of our family, classroom, team, or church. We can still choose how we respond to them. God can help us show honor with our words, attitudes, and actions. Remember our **[Teaching Focus] Honor and love family and the other people God placed in your life**. If someone asks you to hide something wrong or you ever feel unsafe, honoring God also means telling a safe, trusted adult."

4. Honor and Love House

What You Need:

- ☐ Foldable house template printed on white cardstock, one per child
- ☐ One completed sample
- ☐ Pencils and erasers
- ☐ Markers or colored pencils



- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print the house template in landscape orientation at 100% or “Actual Size.”
- Make one completed sample. Color and cut out the house, crease the solid fold lines, and glue the roof pieces in place. Leave the two doors unglued so they can open and close.
- Inside the sample house, draw a heart in the middle and write “Ephesians 6:2-3” inside it.
- Draw or write the names of three to five family members or other people God has placed in your life.
- Under the people, write one way you can show honor and love to all of them.
- Write suggested people and actions on the whiteboard.
 - People: parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, coaches, neighbors, pastors, and classmates
 - Actions: listen, help, include, encourage, speak kindly, forgive, pray, and show respect
- Pre-cut or pre-crease templates for children who need additional support.

During the Activity:

- Give each child a house template and invite them to color the house.
- Have the children cut along the dashed outside lines only.
- With the printed side facing up, have the children fold each roof corner and side panel backward along the solid lines. Press each crease firmly with a finger, and then reopen the template until it is flat.
- Have the children flip the template over so the blank inside is facing up.
- In the center, have them draw a large heart and write “Ephesians 6:2-3” inside it.
- Around the heart, have the children draw or write the names of three to five family members or other people God has placed in their lives.
- Under the people, have each child complete one shared action sentence, such as:
 - “I can honor and love them by listening.”
 - “I can honor and love them by helping.”
 - “I can honor and love them by speaking kindly.”
 - “I can honor and love them by praying for them.”
- Help the children assemble the roof:
 - Place glue on the blank side of each patterned roof corner.
 - Fold both roof corners inward.
 - Carefully line them up so they meet in the center and form one complete roof.
 - Press the roof pieces down firmly so they remain glued in place.
- Fold both side panels inward so the two door halves meet in the center.
- Do not glue the doors. The doors should remain movable so the children can open and close them.
- Help the children make small adjustments so the doors close evenly.
- Set the houses aside briefly to allow the glue to dry.

After the Activity:

- Invite the children to open their house doors and quietly read the action they wrote.

- If time allows, have them share their house and action with a partner.
- Remind the children to take their house home and place it somewhere they will see it during the week.
- Collect the scissors and glue sticks.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"Today's video is called The People You Didn't Choose. There are some people we choose to spend time with, like our friends. There are also people God has placed in our lives, like our parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers, coaches, neighbors, and church leaders.

Our Scripture today is Ephesians 6:2-3. Listen while I read the entire passage:

'Honor your father and mother.' This is the first commandment with a promise: *If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.'* •
Ephesians 6:2-3 NLT

Now I will say one short part at a time. Repeat each part after me.

Leader: 'Honor your father and mother.' Children repeat.

Leader: 'This is the first commandment with a promise.' Children repeat.

Leader: 'If you honor your father and mother,' Children repeat.

Leader: 'things will go well for you,' Children repeat.

Leader: 'and you will have a long life on the earth.' Children repeat.

To honor someone means to show respect and treat that person as valuable. This verse specifically tells us to honor our parents. God also wants us to show honor and love to the other people He has placed in our lives.

Our [Teaching Focus] is: **Honor and love family and the other people God placed in your life.**

Today, you will make a house that opens. Inside your house, you will draw a heart in the middle and write 'Ephesians 6:2-3' inside it. You will also draw or write the names of people God has placed in your life. Then you will write one way you can show honor and love to all of them."

During the Activity:

"As you think about the people inside your house, remember that every person is valuable to God. You may not always agree with them or get to choose what they do, but you can choose how you respond.

What is one action you could practice with everyone you listed? You might listen when they speak, help without complaining, use kind words, include someone, forgive, pray for them, or show respect.

After you finish the inside, we will glue the roof pieces down so the house stays together. We will not glue the doors because we want them to open and reveal the people, Scripture, and action inside."

After the Activity:

"Open your house doors and look at the heart, Scripture reference, and people inside. What is the one action you chose?

Ephesians 6:2-3 teaches us to honor our parents. Honor means showing respect and treating someone as valuable. We can also show honor and love to the other people God has placed in our lives.

When you see your house this week, remember our [Teaching Focus]: Honor and love family and the other people God placed in your life.”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Provide a pre-cut or pre-creased template when cutting or folding would create a barrier.
- Allow children to write names, initials, relationship words, or draw pictures of the people in their lives.
- Let children copy an action sentence from the whiteboard.
- Read Ephesians 6:2-3 slowly and pause after every short phrase so all children have enough time to repeat it.
- Avoid requiring children to identify specific family members aloud.
- Use broad language such as “family and other trusted people God has placed in your life” to support children with different family situations.
- Offer one-on-one help when children are aligning and gluing the roof pieces.

5. Listen Up! Partner Drawing (Optional, if time allows)

What You Need:

- ☐ Listen Up! picture cards, one set of five cards per pair
- ☐ Blank paper, one sheet per child
- ☐ Clipboards, one per pair
- ☐ Pencils and erasers
- ☐ Timer or phone timer

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Prepare one set of five picture cards for each pair. Each set should include:
 - A house with a triangle roof, two windows, a door, and a sun in the upper-right corner
 - A robot with a square head, two circle eyes, an antenna, a rectangle body, and three buttons
 - A sailboat with a triangle sail, a flag, two waves, and a cloud in the upper-left corner
 - A rocket with a pointed top, a round window, two flames, a moon, and two stars
 - A palm tree with three coconuts, an island, two waves, and a sun
- Keep each set of five cards together.
- Assign partners instead of allowing the children to choose their own partners.
- Have each pair sit back-to-back with enough space between them that they cannot see each other's materials.
- Give each pair one clipboard, two sheets of blank paper, two pencils, and one set of five picture cards.

During the Activity:

- Have each pair choose one child to be the first Speaker and the other child to be the first Drawer.
- Give the Drawer one sheet of paper attached to the clipboard.
- Have the Speaker quietly look through the five picture cards and choose one to describe.
- Explain that if a picture seems too difficult, the Speaker may choose a different card before the timer begins.
- Once the Speaker chooses a card, have the Speaker keep the card hidden from the Drawer.
- The Speaker must describe the picture using shapes, sizes, directions, and locations.
- The Speaker may not:
 - Show the picture card.
 - Name the complete object.
 - Turn around to look at the drawing.
 - Trace the picture in the air.
- The Drawer may ask questions such as:
 - "Is the circle above or below the square?"
 - "Is the triangle large or small?"
 - "Is the star on the left or the right?"
- Give the pair 90 seconds to complete the drawing.
- Say, "Three, two, one, pencils down!"
- Have both children remain seated back-to-back while the Drawer puts the pencil down.

- Then allow the partners to turn around and compare the picture card with the finished drawing.
- Remind the children that funny differences are part of the game, but they should never make fun of someone's drawing.
- Have the pair count how many picture details appear in the correct place. They receive one point for each matching detail.
- Place the used picture card to the side.
- Have the children switch roles.
- Give the new Drawer the second sheet of paper on the same clipboard.
- Have the new Speaker choose one of the four remaining picture cards. The Speaker may choose a different card before the timer begins if the first choice seems too difficult.
- Play the second round using the same rules.
- End the game after each child has been the Speaker and the Drawer once.
- If time allows, play a bonus round. The pair may choose one unused picture card and decide who will be the Speaker and who will be the Drawer.
- If a Speaker accidentally names the complete object, continue the round without taking away points. Remind the Speaker to return to describing shapes and locations.
- If a pair finishes early, encourage the Speaker to describe smaller details or check the locations of the shapes without looking at the drawing.

After the Activity:

- Ask: "What helped you understand your partner?"
- Ask: "What made listening or explaining difficult?"
- Ask: "How did your partner show patience or respect?"
- Invite the children to applaud their partners for working together.
- Collect the picture cards, clipboards, papers, and pencils.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

"Today we learned about honoring and loving the people God placed in our lives. For this game, you will work with a partner you did not choose. One person will describe a hidden picture, and the other person will try to draw it. Success will require clear words, careful listening, patience, and respect."

"Speakers, you will receive five picture cards. Look through them and choose the one you feel most comfortable describing. If a picture seems too difficult, you may choose another card before the timer begins."

"You may not show the picture or say what the complete object is. Describe the shapes and tell your partner where each part belongs. The Drawer may ask questions. Remember, we are not trying to create perfect artwork. We are practicing how to communicate and work together."

During the Activity:

"Speakers, give one direction at a time and allow your partner time to draw. Drawers, listen carefully and ask respectful questions when you need help. If something goes wrong, do not blame your partner. Pause, communicate, and try again."

“When the round ends, compare the pictures respectfully. You may laugh together at surprising differences, but we will never laugh at someone or criticize their drawing.”

After the Activity:

“You did not choose your partner, and you could not control exactly how your partner listened, spoke, or drew. You could control how patiently and respectfully you responded.”

“We do not choose every person God places in our family, classroom, team, or church. Sometimes communicating with them can be difficult. We can still choose to listen, speak kindly, ask respectful questions, and remain patient. Remember our ***[Teaching Focus] Honor and love family and the other people God placed in your life.***”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Give additional time to children who need more time to process spoken directions.
- Encourage Speakers to give one short direction at a time.
- Allow a child to choose the simplest picture card without drawing attention to the accommodation.
- Provide a larger pencil grip or allow a leader to steady the clipboard.
- Let a child serve as the Speaker during both rounds if drawing is difficult.
- For an odd number of children, create one group of three with one Speaker and two Drawers. Switch roles so everyone can participate.
- For a small group, play together. One child describes a picture while everyone else draws on a clipboard or at a table.