

Proverbs and Ephesians Let Your Mom Rejoice!

Scripture: Proverbs 1:7-8, 23:25 and Ephesians 6:1-3

Memory Verse: Proverbs 23:25 *"Let your father and your mother be glad and let her who bore you rejoice."*

Lesson Focus: On this Mother's day weekend, we want to remind the kids that it is good and right that they honor their Moms, but we also want to explore WHY that is so. We will look at how this command flows directly from the one and only God who made us and loves us. When we cause our Moms to rejoice, we also honor and please the King of the universe!

Activities and Crafts: Happy Mother's Day Coloring Picture, Word Search, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for ALL Grades: Mother's Day Flower

Starter Activity: M&M Cleanup Relay

To get our lesson started, consider playing a silly game that involves cleaning up a mess of M&Ms. We will provide you with M&Ms, straws, and a bowl. * Line the kids up into two teams on one side of the room and put a pile of M&Ms on the other side of the room. Each kid will be given a straw and will have to run to the other side of the room, "vacuum" up one of the M&Ms with their straw, and place it into the trash can (the bowl). Then they will run back and tag the next kid in line who will continue either until time is up or all M&Ms are "vacuumed" up. Modify as you see fit but have fun! Afterwards, ask the kids a couple of questions to transition into the lesson:

Q: Do you ever have M&Ms or other bits of food on the floor at your house?

Q: Who is often the one that makes sure the floor is clean and vacuumed? A: MOM! (though she may have you do it as part of your chores!) *

This is just one of many things that your Mom may do for you and your family every day.

Q: What are some other things she might do? A: Drive you to your activities, work to put food on the table, pray with you, give you hugs, make your meals, find your lost stuffie, etc.

Teachers: Be sure to stress here and throughout the lesson that not all kids in the class have Moms in their lives that do these things. Point out that it is OK if their aunts, grandparents, or dads are the one's that do some of these things.

Q: When your Mom (or other guardian) is doing these things for you, who is she thinking of?

A: YOU and NOT herself! She is serving YOU, because she loves YOU!

We can get so used to our Mom's doing these things that we take them for granted. This just means we expect Mom to do these things without every saying "thank you". Let's open up our Bibles and see what God has to say about how we should treat our Moms!

Bible Study:

Before we can understand what the Bible says about Moms, we first need to understand what the word "authority" means.

Q: What does the word "authority" mean?

A: Having power over some sphere or domain where you give orders or make decisions.

The Bible has a lot to say about authority and it all begins with Someone in particular.

Q: Who do you think that is? A: God, of course!

Proverbs 1:7a: It says the BEGINNING of knowledge/wisdom/understanding is fearing or honoring the Lord! * This isn't just any God, but the God of the Bible. (**Teachers:** See the drawing on the last page. This is the final drawing, but consider drawing the circles with the various authority figures as you go through the lesson. To start, draw just the big circle with God on top and the kids in the middle!)

If we are to rightly understand the world we live in, it BEGINS with knowing and surrendering to God's authority! He is the King, Creator, Maker, and Author * of the whole universe and therefore, He has ALL authority including telling us right/wrong. *

The Bible says that God is holy and ONLY does what is right. And when we sin and do what is wrong, we rebel against His authority. We are GUILTY! This should cause us to FEAR God's punishment and GLADLY WELCOME the LOVING forgiveness God provides in His Son, Jesus Christ. (**Romans 5:8**) So to fear God is NOT to be afraid of God, but to respect and obey Him for who He is. *

Proverbs 1:7b: Notice how the person who ignores God and His authority is described!

Q: What is a fool? A: Someone who just can't seem to get it right because they don't want to learn! Ever seen a dog chase its tail? (**Teachers:** Consider briefly switching God and the kids in the picture to show that the fool wrongly thinks HE has all authority!) *

Boys and Girls: Don't be fools! Learn from God's Word about who He is, and how He says we should live. The universe does NOT revolve around you (or me either)!

Q: What do you think the very first thing God wants from you?

A: To believe and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ! (**John 3:16**) When you understand God's love for you, despite your sin, you respond with love for Him. Then you obey God not because you have to, but because you want to!

Proverbs 1:8: Now that we have established that God is our loving KING, He has put another authority figure over us.

Q: Who is that? Our parents! Throughout the Bible, God commands children to listen to and obey their parents. Let's turn to the book of Ephesians to learn some more. *

Ephesians 6:1: Kids are told to obey their parents in the Lord. (**Teachers:** Update your drawing now to add parents as another circle of authority under God, but over the kids). *

Q: Why is this right? A: Because this is God's way and how He ordered the world! When you obey your parents, you are obeying God, pleasing God, and doing right. When you disobey your parents, you are also disobeying God and doing wrong (sinning)!

Ephesians 6:2: Sometimes we might obey, but we might do it with the wrong attitude.
* This verse says that we are to "HONOR" our father and mother.

Q: What does it mean to honor someone?

A: This means we esteem, regard, and show appreciation to them from our hearts! Our parents aren't perfect and might make mistakes just like we do. But that is no excuse for us not to honor them! **Teachers:** Consider playing a quick game where you will read some statements and have the kids decide if it honors their Mom or not. Have them stand up if they agree or stay seated if they disagree or have an "agree or disagree" corner in the room that they go to.

- 1) Doing what Mom says right away (TRUE)
- 2) Throwing a fit if you don't get what you want (FALSE)
- 3) Complaining about what Mom made for dinner (FALSE)
- 4) Eating your dinner with thankfulness even if you don't like it (TRUE)
- 5) Telling your Mom that you love her (TRUE)
- 6) Telling your friends that your Mom is mean (FALSE)
- 7) Writing a letter to your Mom telling her what you appreciate about her (TRUE)

Remember the things we talked about before the lesson that your Mom typically does for you EVERY DAY? Such love and care! We truly are FOOLS when we dishonor our Moms considering how much they do for us!

Ephesians 6:3: God says that not only is this right, but that God's blessing rests upon those who learn to honor and obey their parents. God wants you to learn to respect and obey authority now because if you don't learn now the consequences only get worse as you get older. For example, would you rather go into "timeout" or to jail?

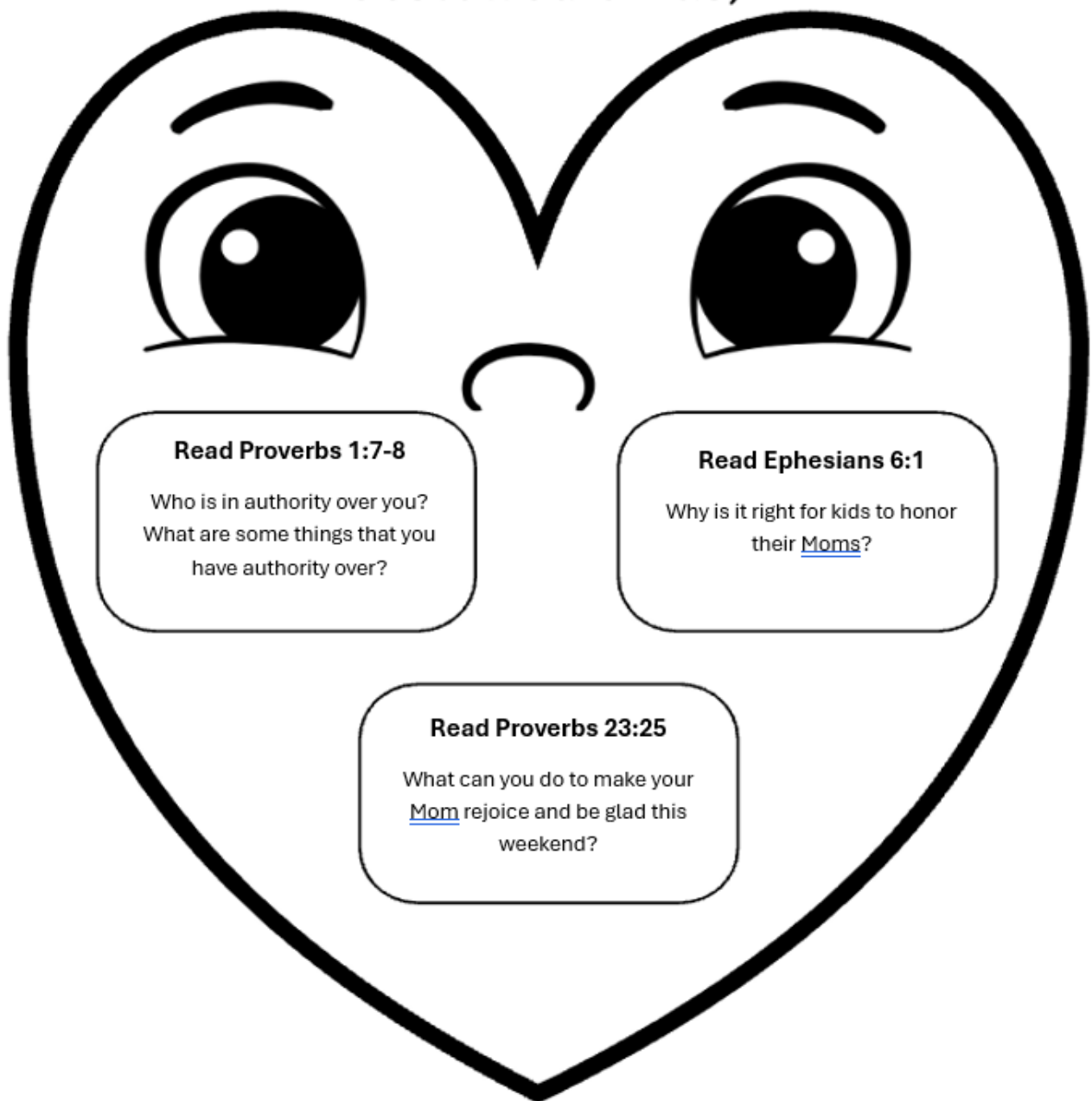
So far in this lesson we have been talking about authorities that are over us. But God has also put us in authority over certain things too! (**Teachers:** At this point add the final circle under the kids and fill in the circle with the things kids are in charge of)

Q: What are some things that you have authority over? A: Pets, toys, money, etc.

Key Point: You also have been given hands, arms, and a mouth. With these things, you can choose to obey God and your parents, or you can choose to disobey. **Read Proverbs 23:25.** May you be the cause of your Mom rejoicing on this Mother's Day! Show you love her and you love God by honoring her today with your hands (write her a letter), your arms (give her a big hug), and your mouth (tell her why you love her)!

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!

|1 JOHN 3:1


GOD (of the Bible)

