



HONOR

Preview Video Transcript

Chances are, somewhere in your attic or your basement or in a tucked away corner of your home you have something that reminds you of some of your past achievements. There are many different symbols that we use to honor what people have accomplished in life. Maybe you keep a piece of cloth that was once attached to a graduation gown. Maybe there's a stack of plaques, or ribbon or trophies. But the truth is, for most of us, we don't even know where that stuff is anymore. It's put away in a place where we rarely see it. It sits untouched, collecting dust. Or maybe it's even thrown away. What was important to us at one time because it was a symbol to honor our achievement, has somehow lost value over time.

There's nothing wrong with honoring someone for what they've accomplished. That's an important part of celebrating what we do in life. But I think honor can also have a different meaning. Instead of only recognizing a person for his or her accomplishments, what if honor was more about recognizing a person because of who they are? You see, something happens when we begin to look at people from God's perspective. Something changes when we recognize that we are all created by God. We tend to see people that are overlooked in a different way. We tend to see people in authority in a different way. We tend to see our peers around us in a different light. We begin to attach value to people, not because of what they can do, but based on the fact that God created them.

What would happen if we decided to take the idea of performance out of the concept of honor? This month we want to concentrate on talking about the kind of honor that has more to do with who we are and who we belong to. That's why we are going to define honor this way: Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

If you want to honor someone in a way that will last a lot longer than a trophy, you might consider a story I heard several years ago by a guy who owned a leading restaurant in our country. He said that he began to train his host team and his waitstaff with a simple principle in mind. He would say to them, every time someone walks in the door, I want you to imagine putting a button on them that says: 'I want to feel like I'm worth something.' This principle helped his staff mentally recognize their role in helping every person feel valued.

What if, as parents and leaders, we were to recognize the importance of helping children grow up and understand how to honor people around them? What would happen if we simply followed the example of this restaurant owner, and we began to teach children to look at the people around them as if they really believed those people have been made by God? As if each person really were wearing an invisible button that said, 'Make me feel like I'm worth something?' As Christian leaders we have this great opportunity to raise a generation of Christians who look at the world around them and attach value to other people simply because they're created by God.

As we talk about the concept of honor this next month, we are going to invite you as teachers, leaders and communicators to take a journey through the life of David. There are an awful lot of lessons about honor that show up in David's life.



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In the first week we are going to start with David as a young boy on an epic battlefield. No one recognizes David's value or his worth. His dad doesn't. His brothers don't. King Saul and the army don't. Even Goliath doesn't. But because of David's relationship with God, he recognizes that God can do something incredible through him—even if no one else understands his potential. This is a powerful story about how honor causes us to look at those who are overlooked and attach worth to their life.

Then, in the second week, we are going to look at David's relationship with Jonathan. Remember Jonathan? He was the rightful heir to the kingdom. He was next in line for the throne, but he saw David's military victories and his increasing popularity with the people, and instead of being jealous, what did he do? He gave David his robe, his sword and his bow. Why? To show David honor. To recognize David's value in the kingdom. You see, the concept of honor often drives us or moves us to value others over ourselves.

Honor also causes us to begin to see those who are over us in authority in a different light. In the third week we are going to look at something that happened in David's later years when, Absalom, his own son, failed to do that. He failed to show honor to his father, the king. Instead, Absalom incited a rebellion that led to dire consequences in his own life and in the life of his family.

The story of David has so much to say about honor. As a matter of fact, it is obvious when you read the Psalms and you get into David's story that one of the things that marks his life is that he recognized who God was, and he was consumed with honoring God. We're going to end this month with the story of the Ark of the Covenant coming back into Jerusalem. It's a story about David celebrating the very presence of God. We want to teach kids that it's important not only to recognize value in ourselves and others, but to recognize God's value and to honor Him!

There's a connection in this last story that we don't want you to miss. When you see what God has done, and you recognize Him for who He really is, it affects how you honor everyone else He's created. That's why our memory verse is: *"Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves."* It's found in Romans 12:10. This is a perspective we hope that every child who grows up in our ministry will walk away and understand: because of their relationship with God, because they recognize who God is, it changes the way they honor the people around them.