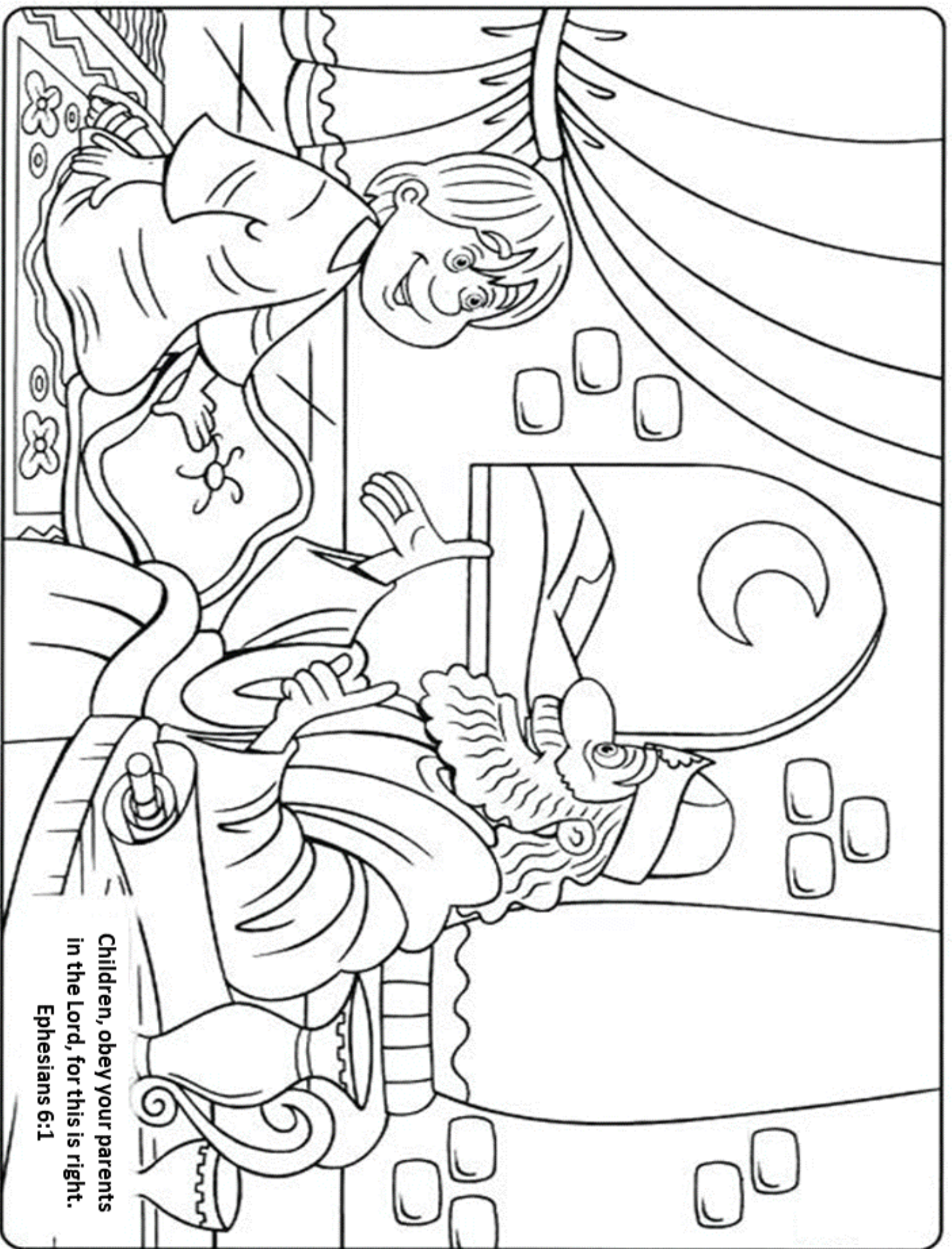




Children, obey your parents
in the Lord, for this is right.
Ephesians 6:1

Learning At Home

Walking with Jesus - Part 6: Honor your father and mother



Bible Study:

This week we're taking a look at the life of Samuel. He lived a life of obedience to his parents and to his heavenly father. Read Samuel 1-3, consider the many displays of obedience. Samuel lived by his parents' example, obeyed Eli's instructions and didn't follow the disobedience of Eli's sons. It is because of Samuel's faithful parents that he learned the ways of God and followed in their footsteps. He chose obedience to his parents and to God and the rest of his life reflects that.

Take a look at Ephesians 6:1-4, we see a new testament perspective from Paul, who was also obedient to his parents and to God. He calls children not just to honor, but to obey their parents, even when they are demanding or unfair. And he calls parents to care gently for their children, even when they are being disobedient or unpleasant. Because we as Christians are called to live like Jesus, responding in love even when others are not being kind to us.



The gospel in the story:

We are not always going to honor and obey our parents and our parents are not always going to care gently for us in their correction and discipline, but that doesn't mean that God's way isn't the best way. The Son obeyed the Father in dying on the cross, (he said, yes dad, even when it was the hardest thing to do) which made a way for us to be redeemed despite our failures and selfish tendencies. Because of Jesus' obedience in going to the cross, we may choose to respond in love toward God because he made a way for us to be with him.

Application:

Head: What did we learn?

Q: What did Elkanah and Hannah do yearly to show their love and devotion for God? A: Traveled to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice.

Q: What was Hannah's prayer? A: To give her a son.

Q: What was Hannah's promise to the Lord? A: She promised to give her firstborn son to the Lord for all of his life.

Q: How did Samuel show obedience to his parents as he grew up? A: He faithfully followed the ways of God that they taught him.

Q: How did Samuel respond to Eli's instructions when God spoke to him? A: Samuel obeyed.

Q: Why did God say that Eli's sons were wicked? A: They did not obey God's instructions given to the priests.

Q: What do we learn about God from his commandment to honor our parents? A: That God's ways are right, and parents are to teach their children in the ways of God's righteousness.

Heart: Memory Verse:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Ephesians 6:1

Hands: How does this affect the way we live?

As we respond in awe and love toward God for making a way for us, we desire to obey his commands. Like Elkanah and Hannah, our obedient actions will flow out of our love and devotion to God. Sometimes it takes faith and trust to follow his commands, it is through that obedience we see good fruit and come to know God's heart better.