

Fourth Commandment

Brian T. Sniffen C.J. Stratton

27 February 2011

1 Why are we here?

1.1 Parents brought us

- Who came here tonight on their own?
- Who was brought here directly by a mother and father?
- Whose parents don't know where they are right now?

1.2 Why did our parents bring us?

- They hate us and want us to be bored.
- They want some time to themselves.
- They want us to believe what they believe

1.3 Is it different than why parents bring kids to Sunday School?

2 Bible passages for discussion

2.1 Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

2.2 Luke 14:26

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

2.3 Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

2.4 Colossians 3:21

Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

2.5 A closing puzzle: Matthew 21:28-31.

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

3 Bible readings for skits

3.1 Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

3.1.1 Stubborn and rebellious son

You're the stereotypical teenager. Be as big a dork as you can: lazy, say no to anything your parents ask. But—it's easy for this character to run off with the scene. Make sure the other actors get a chance to talk.

3.1.2 Mother

You want your son to do something: wash the car? Take out the trash? Pile on chores until he refuses, then ask your husband to help discipline the brat.

3.1.3 Father

The kid's upsetting your wife. You want him to obey and do something about it, and after he won't stand in the corner or stay grounded or anything, you'll suggest taking him to the elders.

3.1.4 Elders

First time: listen to the evidence. To convict, he has to be stubborn, he has to be rebellious, he has to have disobeyed every command—so that even if they say "laze around and play video games," he gets up to work. He has to be a glutton, which means eating all their food. He has to be a drunkard. You have to check each and every one of these, and get both the father and the mother to agree that every one is true. They probably won't; then you can send them home with their kid.

Then you have to get every man in the village together for the stoning—and the Smiths are out of town, but by the time that they get back, the Jones's will be in Florida...

3.2 Matthew 13:53-58

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.”

And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

3.2.1 Jesus

You need two things: Jesus-lines like “Love one another” and miraculous powers, like turning things to wine. Your mother will take you to introduce you to others—this is like coming back from college to your church. Talk nicely with everyone, but make sure you either unload some Jesus-lines on each person or use a miracle to do something nice for them.

At the end, use the lines from the story: “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home. I won’t do many miracles here because of your lack of faith.”

3.2.2 Mary

Welcome Jesus home. Take him around to talk to everyone. You’re proud of him, even though he doesn’t have a fancy job or a lot of money.

3.2.3 Synagogue people

You each need a name, and an embarrassing thing you remember Jesus doing. These should be **three words**, no more: “stole my apples,” “lost my horse,” “burned the grocery,” that sort of thing.

When you meet Jesus, let Mary tell you what he does. Ask if he’s a doctor or a lawyer or an engineer. How much money does he make? It’s so sad for Mary that her son turns out to be a bum!

At the end, use the lines from the story: “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

3.3 John 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Ma'am, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine.

3.3.1 Mary

Expand on the lines of the story: you know Jesus can help, though you don't know how. You expect him to get up and give a speech, or tell jokes, or entertain the crowd: he's great in public, he's a good speaker. Surely he has some way to help?

3.3.2 Jesus

It's not time to do healings and stuff yet. You and your Father have a plan—but here's your mother asking you to do something. You'll hem and haw, look for a way out: maybe the host has dancers ready. Or he had a clown on staff last year. Or people will be just as happy with water. But ultimately, you'll do what you can to help.

3.3.3 Banquet guests

What a great party! As long as there's good food and wine, we'll enjoy ourselves. We don't want to listen to any silly speeches, and we'll boo those down.

3.4 Matthew 8:21-22

When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

3.4.1 Jesus

Use the lines from the story.

3.4.2 Teacher of the law

Write some lines to complain after your interaction with Jesus. You're a law professor. You have a nice house, a good horse, servants, rich food—you thought Jesus would say "come to Rome," and you could get a hotel room or something. You didn't think he'd want you to go camping—without even a tent or a stove.

It's up to you whether you end up going with Jesus or not.

3.4.3 Disciple

After you talk with Jesus, go talk with your father. Jesus work is important! You could—maybe should—go follow Him. But staying with your father is important too. Tell the audience about your thoughts about the decision: what pulls you to go? What pulls you to stay?

It's up to you whether you end up going with Jesus or not. Tell your father (and the audience) which you pick and why.

3.4.4 Father

You're sick. You're dying! It's important that your child stay here with you to take care of you. Alone, how would you cook or eat? You're too old to work. You took care of your kid when the kid was little; now it's the kid's turn to take care of you.

Ultimately, it's up to your child: stay with you or go with Jesus.