



Honouring parents – and still finding your own way

AT A GLANCE



Bible

Exodus 20:12; Luke 2:41–52



Topic

Growing up in the family



Takeaway

Respect and finding your own way are not opposites



8 minutes



Object: a rubber band or an elastic rope



Preparation: 5 min



indoors or outdoors



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic "Growing up in the family". Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

1 min

Opening

Stretch the rubber band. Ask: When does family feel tight – and when does it hold you up?

2 min

Bible text

Jesus is twelve when he travels to Jerusalem with his parents. On the way home Mary and Joseph realise: he is not with them! After three days they find him in the temple, discussing with the teachers. Mary is distraught. Jesus answers: "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Then he goes home with them and is obedient to them. And he grows – in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and people.

3 min

Thought

Between twelve and sixteen a lot changes: you develop your own opinions and paths – that is good and meant to be. The commandment "Honour your father and mother" does not mean doing everything without thinking, but treating each other with respect, even when arguing. But it never means having to let yourself be hurt: if home is not safe, talk to a person you trust. Like the rubber band: family can stretch without snapping.

2 min

Conversation

Where are you feeling tension right now between your own path and expectations at home?



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Prayer to read aloud

God, thank you for my family, with everything that is good and everything that is hard. Help me to be respectful and to find my own way with you. Amen.

To think further

- How can you disagree respectfully?
- What do you value about your family, even when things grate?

For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.
- Encourage them to say the prayer themselves – the written prayer gives confidence.

 **Section:** Holidays and occasions. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.