

SESSION 3

ALL IN IS ABOUT

honor

"[Jesus] replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" Mark 7:6

ABOUT THIS SESSION

Honor is not a word or an action that shows up regularly in life today. The concept may be mentioned in military settings or in discussions about what it means to honor one's parents, but honor is seldom part of our daily routine. When we begin our morning, we probably don't think, "today I want to live an honorable life." The absence of honor has a lot to do with the shallowness of our relationship with God and with other people.

So, what is honor? The word summarizes appropriate respect and actions toward someone's character, role, or position. The more someone's character, role, and position harmonize, the easier it should be to honor them. This is true of no one more than it is true of God. And yet, as we will see in this session, we often struggle with honoring God in consistent ways.

One of the passages we looked at last week included the phrase "In all your ways submit to Him" (Proverbs 3:6). Honoring God is not only submitting to Him, but submitting to Him in all our ways. Jesus was quoting Isaiah who was taking a direct quote from God when He said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.." We want to be a people who do a lot more than give lip service to the idea of honoring God.



COME
together

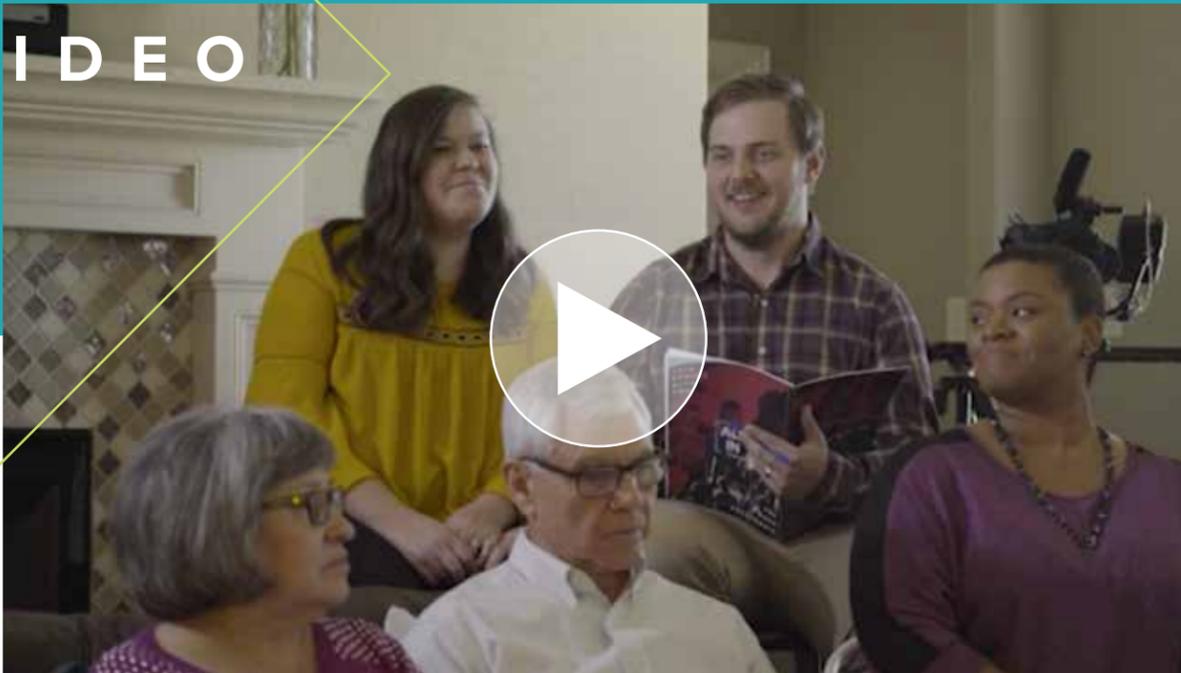
Small Group Leader Note: Open the time with prayer. Then use the following questions and activities to get people talking.

QUESTIONS

- 1** Who have you run across that you would say was easy to honor? What was it about them that caused that response in you?

- 2** How has this series caused you to re-evaluate how you use your resources?

WATCH THE VIDEO



You can watch the video online at allin.theoaksonline.org or on the ALL IN DVD. Use the space to record any key thoughts, questions, and things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the Scripture passage and questions in the Learn Together section and direct the discussion among the group. As you go through each of the subsequent sections, ask someone else to read the questions and direct the discussion.



LEARN TOGETHER

When we come together as a small group, we each have our own observations and responses to what we're hearing, but it often takes the impact of a group's response to help us see what we've overlooked or missed. God uses us in each other's lives for good in this way.

Use the following questions to guide your discussion of the teaching and stories you just experienced, and the Bible passage below. You may also want to refer to the study notes on the next page to guide your reading and discussion.

SCRIPTURE

READ: GENESIS 14:14-24

14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the three hundred and eighteen trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. **15** During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. **16** He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people. **17** After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). **18** Then Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, **19** and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. **20** And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. **21** The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." **22** But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, **23** that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' **24** I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."



QUESTIONS

- 1 Why is it important to honor God?
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- 2 How was giving a tithe to Melchizedek actually honoring God? What's the parallel for us today?
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- 3 Thinking about Pastor Scott's teaching and the Scripture we just read, what different ways did Abram honor God?
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- 4 In the video, when Pastor Scott was interacting with the group after his teaching, what stood out to you in the comments and questions?
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STUDY NOTES

Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive (v.14). Abram honored his relationship with Lot by "having his back" when he could have stayed at a distance. He was ALL IN when he went after Lot's captors. God calls us to live out our relationships with honor.

So he brought back all the goods (v.16). Abram routed the raiders and recaptured everything and everyone that had been taken. Every aspect of this episode has God's fingerprints all over it.

Melchizedek king of Salem (v.18). This figure appears without any introduction or background. He is mentioned again in Psalm 110 and in Hebrews 7:1-22 in discussing the unique role of Jesus who is both our king and priest, much as Melchizedek served both those roles. It is clear that Abram and Melchizedek recognized in one another an allegiance to the God above all gods.

And he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a tithe of all (v.20). When God blessed Abram with a victory, his first thought was "how can I honor God in return for this great blessing?" (vs. 17-24).

I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth (v.22). Abram understood that accepting bounty from the king of Salem would make him indebted to him and he insisted on giving credit for his abundance to God Himself and no other.



GROW TOGETHER

Like the people who were talking with Pastor Scott, we want our small groups to be safe places where we can ask questions and get biblical answers. The ALL IN Initiative is a special season to help us realize how much we need each other and discover the joy of helping one another. Each of us has a part, and we're in this together—we're ALL IN.

- 1 What is a way that you are currently honoring God with your resources? Share with the group as a means for inspiring others.
- 2 During the ALL IN Initiative, what changes have you made or considered making about the way you honor God with your time, your resources, or your relationships?
- 3 If you were to truly ask yourself the question, "What am I NOT giving and why?" how would you answer that as it relates to honoring God with ALL that you have and ALL that you are?

PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying.

- 1 Ask everyone to share, "How can we pray for you this week?" Be sure to write prayer requests on our Prayer and Praise Report on page 120.
- 2 Close your meeting with prayer.

DAILY devotionals

There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day 3 of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

“ [Jesus] replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

Mark 7:6

DAY 1

Read Mark 7:6

“[Jesus] replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’”

REFLECT

In the solitude of your heart's thoughts, how ALL IN are you to this challenge of honoring God with everything?

DAY 2

Read Revelation 4:11

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

REFLECT

How does this verse make the case for making everything we are and everything we have available to God 24/7?
