Honor Your Father and Mother

By Dana Chau

Each year, we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. Some are fortunate to have our parents still with us. God wants to remind us to honor our parents.

"Honor your father and your mother (Exodus 20:12)…."

How do we do this? No matter how old we or our parents are, here are three suggestions:

1. Give a set amount of money to your parents each month.

If you're married, come to agreement with your spouse.

While most of our parents do not need our money to live on, they often see our gift of money as an expression of love, value and concern. (Matthew 15:3-6)

2. Spend time building memories and gleaning wisdom from our parents.

"The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!"

By the time we reach 35 or 40 years of age, we begin to see that our parents have always had wisdom and values to offer.

Affirm them with a written tribute. Or enable them to write down what they want to pass

Jesus replied, *"And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, `Honor your father and mother' and `Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, `Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' he is not to `honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition."*

onto you and your children through a memory journal. (Proverbs 10:1, 15:20, 23:24-25)

3. If we live near our parents, we can help them with chores or transportation to appointments.

If you're living in the "sandwich generation (taking care of young children and elderly parents)," learning how much help to give is key. This is an exhausting but rewarding season of life. You are teaching your children the values found in Exodus 20:12 and 1 Timothy 5:8.

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."