

INTERACTIVE TEACHING/LEARNING GUIDE
Week 10

SESSION TITLE: “HONORING TO ONE ANOTHER”

FOCAL PASSAGE: (Rom. 12:10b; Matt. 23:5-12)

Central Teaching/Learning Aim: To help the learner display honor for others in his/her Christian community and to challenge him/her to live a life worthy of honor by his/her peers.

I. Creating Interest in the Series (Hook)

A. Share - the following information:

Recently the NCAA announced the formation of a college-recruiting task force to address recent scandals that have rocked athletic programs. A press release indicated the task force would target “practices that discredit the integrity and mission of intercollegiate athletics.”

One school that prompted this NCAA action is the University of Colorado. Their football program faces charges of wild recruiting parties. Several women, including former place-kicker Katie Hnida, also say they were raped, either at such parties or by football players.

Coach Gary Barnett was put on administrative leave after criticizing Hnida’s play and reportedly telling another alleged victim in 2001 that he “would back his player 100%” if she pursued rape charges against a team member.

Source: The Denver Post

State – Coach Barnett was one of the most respected and honored coaches in America until these comments. Now he has permanently damaged his reputation and has lost honor. Contrast Coach Barnett with Coach Shula’s story.

In his book with Ken Blanchard, *Everyone's a Coach*, Don Shula tells of losing his temper near an open microphone during a televised game with the Los Angeles Rams. Millions of viewers were surprised and shocked by Shula's explicit profanity. Letters soon arrived from all over the country, voicing the disappointment of many who had respected the coach for his integrity.

Shula could have given excuses, but he didn't. Everyone who included a return address received a personal apology. He closed each letter by stating, "I value your respect and will do my best to earn it again."

There are two ways to gain respect. One is to act nobly. The other is, when you fail to do so, to make no excuses.

State – Coach Shula is one of the most honored and respected coaches in history. His comment is very valid for doing “real life” together in our SGM.

“There are two ways to gain respect. One is to act nobly. The other is, when you fail to do so, to make no excuses.”

Today we are going to discuss how to show honor one for another and how to maintain honor in a biblically functioning community.

B. Optional Method

Share – The following quote:

“It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.”

Mark Twain

Share – The following information:

Saddam Hussein was not a picture of a leader who was honored. His people despised him and were scared of him. His whole dictatorship was a scam with all of the self-made palaces and statues of himself. His level of respect and honor was demonstrated in his demise.

Newsweek provided this description of the dethroned Saddam Hussein:

In a part of the world where pride and dignity mean everything, the images were clearly intended to shame. A nameless doctor or medical technician, wearing rubber gloves, was seen closely examining the man's hair, perhaps looking for vermin. Prodded with a tongue depressor, the man opened his mouth; the doctor peered at the pink flesh of his throat and scraped off a few cells for DNA identification.

Then the world saw the man's face. Haggard, defeated...meek and weak. The Glorious Leader, Direct Descendant of the Prophet, the Lion of Babylon, the Father of the Two Lion Cubs, the Anointed One, the Successor of Nebuchadnezzar, the Modern Saladin of Islam had been brought low, forced to bow down... to contemplate his fate while waiting to stand trial.

How We Got Saddam," Newsweek (12-22-03), pp. 23-24

State – Self-made and self-acclaimed honor is not real, it is a masked image of the real person. In an SGM there is no room for manufactured honor. "Real Life" implies life with no masks.

Today we are going to discuss how to show honor one for another and how to maintain honor in a biblically functioning community.

C. Optional Method – Movie Clip - "To Kill A Mockingbird"

Start: 1:40:38

Stop: 1:43:08

Synopsis: The 1962 film *To Kill a Mockingbird* stars Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch, a southern lawyer living in Macon, Georgia, during the 1940s. Atticus is a widower raising two children while operating his own law practice. He defends a local black man, Tom Robinson, who is accused of raping a local young white lady. The lawyer mounts a noble defense—one that leaves one highly doubtful of the defendant's guilt. However, most of the townspeople are not convinced. The father of the woman who was allegedly raped is outraged that Atticus would defend a black man.

After being tipped off that a mob is going to break into the jail and take the prisoner, Atticus sits outside the jail, guarding his client. Carloads of angry men arrive, some carrying rifles, and threaten Atticus, demanding him to step aside. He stands firm.

After an emotional trial in which the accuser insists that the defendant is guilty and the accused tearfully proclaims his innocence, the all-white jury files back into the courtroom. Deliberations have concluded and a cloud of quiet anticipation settles over the segregated courtroom.

The judge asks, "Gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a verdict?" The jurors reply, "Guilty." At first Atticus's eyes reveal shock and disbelief. He then gathers himself and directs his concern toward his client, pleading with him to remain hopeful and patient, while vowing to appeal. (Unfortunately, there is no need for an appeal, because later that evening the sheriff notifies Atticus that while transferring Robinson, he made a run for it and was shot and killed.)

As the court clears and Atticus collects his papers, one by one the black townspeople, who are seated in the balcony along with Atticus's two children, stand out of respect. A black minister says to Atticus's daughter, "Miss Jean Louise. Miss Jean Louise. Stand up. Your father's passing by."

Jean Louise stands, and Atticus leaves the courtroom, his head hung low, appearing not to even see the honor being shown to him.

To Kill a Mockingbird (Universal Pictures, 1962), written by Horton Foote, directed by Robert Mulligan, based on the novel by Harper Lee

Ask – What characteristics did Atticus Finch display that would cause the townspeople to honor him in such a way? (Perseverance, hard work, forfeiting his own reputation, standing for what is right, non-judgmental, not prejudice, thinking of others above himself, sincerity, respect for others, etc.)

State – These characteristics are vital to live a life worthy of honor and respect.

Today we are going to discuss how to show honor one for another and how to maintain honor in a biblically functioning community.

BOOK Getting Into the Word

A. Utilize - the Discussion Guide to examine the scripture.

LOOK Getting the Word into Life

A. Place members into groups and have them complete the group assignment.

TOOK Conclusion

IV. Conclusion (Took)

A. Share – The following illustration:

I heard a story about a woman who moved to a small town. After being there for awhile, she complained to her neighbor about the poor service she'd received at the local drug store, hoping that her neighbor would repeat the criticism to the store's owner.

The next time the newcomer went to the drug store, the manager greeted her with a big smile, and told her how happy he was to see her again. He took care of her order quickly and efficiently, and even offered to help her family in getting settled.

Amazed, the woman reported the incredible change to her friend; "I suppose you told him how poor I thought his service was" she said. "Well, no," her friend said.

"In fact - I hope you don't mind, but I told him you were very impressed at the way he'd built up this small town drug store, and that it was one of the best run drug stores you'd ever seen."

People respond to kindness better than to complaints.

Next Share – The following quote:

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Every man is entitled to be valued by his best moments."

State – Let's look at the best in others not the worst. Let's treat each other with respect and honor this week.

B. Optional Method

Share – the following story:

After David Livingston had been in Africa about 12 years, he had a desire to travel from where he was, on the east of the continent, over to the west coast through a part of that continent that no other European had ever been before. He didn't have any possibility of doing it on his own, so he went to a local chief and asked for 27 men of the local tribe who would go with him. The chief was more than a little bit suspicious. The trip was dangerous and he'd learned that white men were not entirely trustworthy.

Livingston, sensing some of that feeling about him, made him a promise. "If you give me your sons, I promise to return with them, and to deliver them to their homes and their families. My life will be a pledge."

Well, the chief agreed on that basis, and Livingston set out. The journey was every bit as dangerous as it was thought to be. There was incredibly difficult terrain, there were hostile tribes, and all kinds of predatory and dangerous animals. There was sickness and illness. But finally, they made it to the west coast, and they stumbled into the port of Luanda, which had been their target, only to be amazed by finding a British warship there. And that warship had been sent from England for the specific purpose of finding Livingston and bringing him back, on the orders of Queen Victoria.

The captain came to him and said, "Sir, Queen Victoria has sent me to urge you to return. All England is waiting to honor you."

Very tempting. A request from the Queen was the same as a command. And there was the thought of going home, and being honored. But Livingston had a problem. He'd made a promise.

"Well," they assured him, "the promise of a white man to an African doesn't matter. And the Queen is more important than a chief."

Livingston felt differently. He'd made a commitment, and despite all the urgings of the naval officers, he turned his back and headed back to the jungle. The round trip ended two and a half years after he started, with him delivering those people back.

To honor his promise. That was probably why, when Livingston died, the Africans were very committed to bury his heart in Africa. They were more than willing to listen to a man whose word was something they could trust.

Share – Livingston gave up personal honor by royalty to follow-through with his promise. He took care of the "small things" and in the end was honored by the people he loved. Let's think of other's needs first in our SGM, family, work and neighborhoods this week.

C. Optional Method - Movie Clip - "A Beautiful Mind"

Start 1:59:57

Stop 2:04:43

Synopsis: A Beautiful Mind tells the story of John Nash, a brilliant mathematician whose career and life were crippled by schizophrenia. Nash taught at MIT until schizophrenia and delusions took over his life. After years of struggle, he began teaching at Princeton and went on to win the Nobel Prize for his theory of the dynamics of human conflict as it relates to economics.

Toward the end of the movie, Nash is invited into the professors' lounge by a man who has just told him he's being considered for the Nobel Prize. Nash is uncertain of how he should respond; he wonders if his

mind is fabricating a dream. He even asks a student whether the man is real or a hallucination. When Nash is convinced that the man and his invitation are genuine, he still resists, feeling unworthy of the exclusivity of the professors' lounge. He never enters this lounge, aware that his episodes of psychotic behavior are well known by faculty.

Nash walks warily through the gothic entrance and sits at a table. Unexpectedly, the professors begin to walk over to John's table and lay down their pens in front of him. This is a tradition Princeton faculty use to honor highly esteemed colleagues. One by one, the professors acknowledge their love and support for the troubled man who, despite difficulties, stayed the course: "It's an honor, John." " It's a privilege, John."

"Congratulations, John."

*A Beautiful Mind (Universal, 2001), rated PG-13,
written by Akiva Goldsman, directed by Ron Howard*

State – John Nash did not work to be honored in fact he was the most surprised by the honor his peers bestowed upon him. May we work for others this week, not for recognition but because it is the right thing to do.

DISCUSSION GUIDE (Teacher's Copy)

1. a. What are tangible examples of giving preference to others in an SGM?
b. What are tangible examples of showing honor to others in an SGM?
2. What do the following passages teach about honoring others?
 - a. **(John 13:12-15) Those who deserve honor are the servants of others.**
 - b. **(Matthew 6:1-2) If we do good deeds for the honor of men that is our reward.**
 - c. **(Matthew 15:7-8) A hypocrite gives lip service not heart action.**

3. What is the most difficult aspect about honoring others? (Philippians 2:3-4)

Looking past ourselves and thinking of others first.

4. Why were the Pharisees practicing "religion" before men? (Matthew 23:5)

To appear devout and to be noticed by men.

5. How can Christians be guilty of "practicing religion" before men in an SGM?

6. What should motivate our every action according to (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

Bringing glory and honor to God.

7. According to (Matthew 23:8-10) how are we to regard one another?

As brothers and sisters in Christ. No one should be esteemed over another although we should have mutual respect and honor for one another.

8. (Matthew 23:11-12) gives a prescription for how an SGM should function.
What is the model?

An SGM should be a place of servant hood as we honor one another through our deeds.

9. What is the outcome of living a humble servant-like life?

10. Who are people in your life that you could honor by word or deed?
Make a list.

11. What steps do you need to take this week to help this happen?

Group 1 Read the following and discuss the questions that follow.

One day while walking with some children, Queen Mary was caught in a sudden shower. Quickly taking shelter on the porch of a home, she knocked at the door and asked to borrow an umbrella. "I'll send it back tomorrow," she said. The queen had deliberately disguised her appearance by putting on a hat that partly covered her face and by wearing some very plain clothes. The householder, reluctant to give a stranger her best umbrella, offered her a castoff she found in the attic. One rib was broken and there were several holes in it. Apologizing, she turned it over to the monarch, whom she did not recognize. The next day she had another visitor—a man with gold braid on his uniform and an envelope in his hand. "The queen sent me with this letter," he said, "and also asked me to thank you personally for the loan of your umbrella." Stunned, the woman burst into tears. "Oh, what an opportunity I missed that I did not give her my very best," she cried. Many, I fear, will have to make the same confession when they face the Lord at the end of life's road.

--From "Unrecognized Royalty"

In what ways are "Children of God" more worthy of honor than earthly royalty?

How can we be more sensitive to the needs of others and treat them like royalty?

Share examples of times when you felt honored due to others caring for your needs.

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Group 2 Read the following story and discuss the questions that follow.

Ted Engstrom gives a succinct definition of integrity: Simply put, integrity is doing what you said you would do. It means you keep your promises. When you promised to be faithful to your mate, integrity says you'll stay with that person no matter what—for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health. If you promised the Lord that you would give Him the glory, integrity means you keep on doing that whether you're reduced to nothing or exalted to the highest pinnacle on earth. If you promised a friend that you would return a call, integrity means you return it. If you promised your child that you would spend Saturday together, integrity means you keep that appointment. A promise is a holy thing, whether made to a chairman of the board—or to a child.

--From "Keeping Promises"

Do people with poor integrity seem to be honored in today's society? Why or why not?

Share examples of people in your lives who have high integrity.

How could you show honor to these people?

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Group 3 Read the following quotes and discuss the questions that follow.

"Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, those who cheer today may curse tomorrow; only one thing endures—character." *Harry Truman*

"When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; When health is lost, something is lost; When character is lost, all is lost." *Anonymous, Quoted by Ted Engstrom in Integrity*

What are the key characteristics of people worthy to be honored?

How can we enhance and develop these characteristics?

How should these characteristics be modeled in our SGM?

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Group 4 Read the following story and discuss the questions that follow.

"If you work hard, good things will happen...to someone else." So goes the motto of the All-Joes Team. Each year USA Today honors overlooked and often unappreciated football players by naming them to what the newspaper calls its All-Joes Team. Now in its tenth year, the All-Joes award celebrates men who sacrifice their egos for the good of their team. For all their hard work, these grunts receive little glory. "You have to know your role," says William Henderson, fullback for Green Bay's Ahman Green. "I'm there to create a cavity for Ahman to get through and to protect the quarterback from bodily harm." Guess who gets the accolades when Green runs for 1000 yards? "People don't respect the position," says Henderson. But teammates notice. Fullback Mack Strong blocks for Seattle's Ricky Watters, and Watters depends on him. "Mack does all the dirty work in the run game. He does everything. I mean, if the goal posts fell, I wouldn't be surprised to see him go over there and hold them up." As a result of being named to the All-Joe team, some players have gone on to further glory. Previous All-Joes have made it to the Pro Bowl, including Washington defensive end Marco Coleman, New York Jets receiver Wayne Chrebet, and Seattle offensive tackle Walter Jones. We as Christians need to work for someone else's glory too. Our role is to diminish so that Jesus may increase. If we make this our goal, Jesus will make sure our efforts won't go unnoticed. *Larry Weisman, "All-Joes honor fullbacks for dirty job well done," USA Today (12-16-02)*

What characteristics are evident in being on the All-Joe Team?

How do these characteristics translate in an SGM?

How can we be more sensitive to the needs of others even-though we may not receive visible rewards?

Word for the Week

"Comforting One Another"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

March 8-12, 2004

Monday

- Describe in your own words what "comfort" is to you.
- Make a list of things that comfort you when you are tired, angry, ecstatic, lonely, frightened, alone, grieving.
- Thank the Lord for the comfort He provides today.

Tuesday - Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- How eagerly are you awaiting Christ's return?
- Turn to Isaiah 26:8.
- How is it that we are to wait on God?
- How intently focused on God's name and renown are the efforts of your life?
- How much more liberated would your life be if all your decisions were based on these things! Praise God for who He is today.

Wednesday - Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

- Who in your life has been the most influential person in your life that wasn't a follower of Jesus Christ?
- Who in your life have been the most influential followers of Jesus Christ that have gone on to be with God? Describe how this passage comforts you?

Thursday - Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

- The triumphant return of Christ is pretty clear in this passage.
- I saw a shirt one time that said, "Jesus is coming...look busy."
- What will you be doing for Christ at his return?
- A truly surrendered life finds an urgency about itself. At what pace are you involved in ministry at church in developing other followers of Christ? Pray for opportunities to help develop disciples.

Friday - Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- After reading this passage, do you think that Christ will return in your lifetime?
- God is not looking for more Great Commission Christians, but for a generation to complete the Great Commission. What will your response be?
- Who are you preparing, supporting, praying for, discipling, sending?

REAL LIFE
“Honoring One Another”
Romans 12:10b & Matthew 23:5-12

(Exegetical . . . What it meant to the Romans/Disciples back THEN)
THE CONTENT OF PAUL'S COMMAND TO THE ROMANS
REGARDING LIVING IN THEIR MASTER-PLANNED COMMUNITY
(IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH JESUS' WARNINGS
AGAINST SEEKING SELF-EXALTING HONOR)
WAS THAT THEY DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO
HONORING ONE ANOTHER.

- I. The Content of Paul's Command to the Romans regarding living for Jesus (12:1) in their Master-Planned Community (the Church) was that they Devote themselves to honoring One Another, (12:10b).
[The word “honor” was used originally to speak of an amount of money or property given in pledge or payment or as collateral. It came to represent the value placed on something or someone. In Romans 12:10 it meant, “to give value to” another. The word “devote” meant to lead the way or surpass.]
- II. Jesus' Observation, to the crowds and His disciples, regarding the motives of the Scribes and Pharisees, based on their public behaviors aimed at gaining public honor, was that their motives were selfish, (Matthew 23:5-7).
 - A. Jesus' Evaluation of the motives of the Scribes and Pharisees was that they did everything (religious) merely to be Seen (out of a selfish desire to be honored (valued as important or superior), (5a).
 - B. Jesus' Observation of the behaviors of the Scribes and Pharisees was that they dressed to be honored as super-religious, they coveted the places of honor at banquets and in the synagogue, and they coveted the honorable title of “Teacher” when greeted in public settings, (5b-7).
- III. Jesus' Warnings, to the crowds and His disciples, concerning humility and exaltation, condemned the Scribes' and Pharisees' Arrogance that would result in their Being Humbled and Encouraged His Followers' Humility that would Result in their Being Exalted, (8-12).
 - A. The Content of Jesus' Warning was that His followers . . .
 1. . . . not covet superior titles since they all had only one “Master” and since they were all equals before Him, (8).
 2. . . . not call anyone on earth the honorable title of “Father” since they had only one “Father” in heaven, (9).
 3. . . . not seek the title of “Teacher” since they had only one “Teacher,” Jesus the Christ Himself, (10).
[Jesus' warnings were aimed at those who sought undue honor and those who granted undue honor to others rather than to God. He was not forbidding the use of titles. He was forbidding human pride.
 - B. Jesus' Warnings concerning the Scribes' and Pharisees' Arrogance . . .
 1. . . . advised that “the greatest among them would be their servant, (11), and
 2. . . . promised that those who exalted themselves (sought honor) would be humbled while those who humbled themselves would be exalted (honored), (12).

(Theological . . . What it means to believers ALWAYS)
THE MASTER-PLANNED COMMUNITY
HONORS ONE ANOTHER.

- I. Christ's Master-Planned Community Honors One Another, (Romans 12:10b).
- II. Hypocritical Spiritual Leaders Who Desire Honor Expose their Selfish Motives, (Matthew 23:5-7).
- III. A Genuine Spiritual Leader's Humility in Honoring Others Secures him/her lasting Honor from God, (Matthew 23:8-12).

(Pedagogical . . . What it means for us NOW)
HONOR ONE ANOTHER.

- I. Honor One Another, (Romans 12:10b).
 - A. Value others as Image Bearers.
 - B. Esteem others' God-given Abilities.
 - C. Respect others' Positions of Service.
 - D. Honor others' God-given spiritual Gifts.
 - E. Give Weight to others' faithful Obedience.
- II. Watch Your Own Motives, (Matthew 23:5-7).
 - A. Examine your religious Activities – (what are you doing?)
 - B. Watch your Motives – (why are you doing it?)
 - C. Eliminate self-honoring Activities.
- III. Wait for the Honor God (God's people) Gives, (Matthew 23:8-12).
 - A. Don't Honor the Arrogant.
 - B. Do Honor the Humble Servant.
 - C. Wait for God's Honor.