



Hidden Strongholds

20-Oct: Stronghold of Rebellion to Authority
6th - 7th

Series Summary: A stronghold is a sinful pattern in our lives that will control us and cripple us in our faith if we let it. In most cases, we know exactly what these strongholds are if we are honest with ourselves. But some strongholds are ignored so much that they remain hidden. In this series, we want to give students the opportunity to break free from the sinful strongholds that they may not even know they have.

Big Idea/Question: If we refuse to submit to earthly authority we will struggle to submit to heavenly authority.

Get Them Talking: Have you ever heard someone say that they won't show parents/teachers respect unless those people show them respect?

Do you think that is a good attitude/mindset to have? Why or why not?

Ephesians 6:2-3 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— **3** "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

What do these passages demand of us?

This is the only one of the ten commandments that give a promised blessing for those who obey it. How could honoring our parents be a blessing in our lives?

Leader Note: One key reason for this is that **Authority in your life does not end at 18!** Part of the blessing in submitting to parents is that we learn early on to submit to authority. Everyone has someone who is in authority over them in their lives. If we do not learn to submit to authority now, we will struggle with authority for the rest of our lives because authority does not disappear when we move out.

Who else outside of your parents is in authority over you?

When do you find it the most difficult to submit to your parents or any other authority? Be careful to not let this become a gossip session about parents (after all we talked about gossip two weeks ago).

Leader Note: It is ok for students to admit that sometimes parents may do things that frustrate them, we have all been there. But the key here is that we are still called to honor and submit to them even when it is not easy.

Is there rebellion to authority in your life that you need to confess (own up to) and repent of (turn away from)?

VIDEO TEACHING

If we refuse to submit to earthly authority we will eventually struggle to submit to heavenly authority.

Jonah 1:1-3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” **3** But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish (the opposite direction). He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Why did Jonah do this? Jonah had his own plans and they did not involve what God wanted him to do. Jonah likely wanted to be a prophet sent to his own people (the Jews). He hated the Babylonians and he did not want them to repent and turn to the Lord, he hated them that much.

But what is the Big deal?

#1 Jesus submitted: **John 6:38** “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My

own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” We cannot be followers of Jesus and throw away God’s authority in our lives.

#2 God Humbles: For those that are rebellious, God humbles. Based on Jonah’s experience it is not a pleasant experience.

Jonah 1:4-16 Summary

In what areas of your life is it the hardest to submit to God’s authority in your life?

What steps do you need to take to fully submit to God’s authority in that area of your life?