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SESSION 3 ALL IN IS ABOUT onor

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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.

SERMON NOTES

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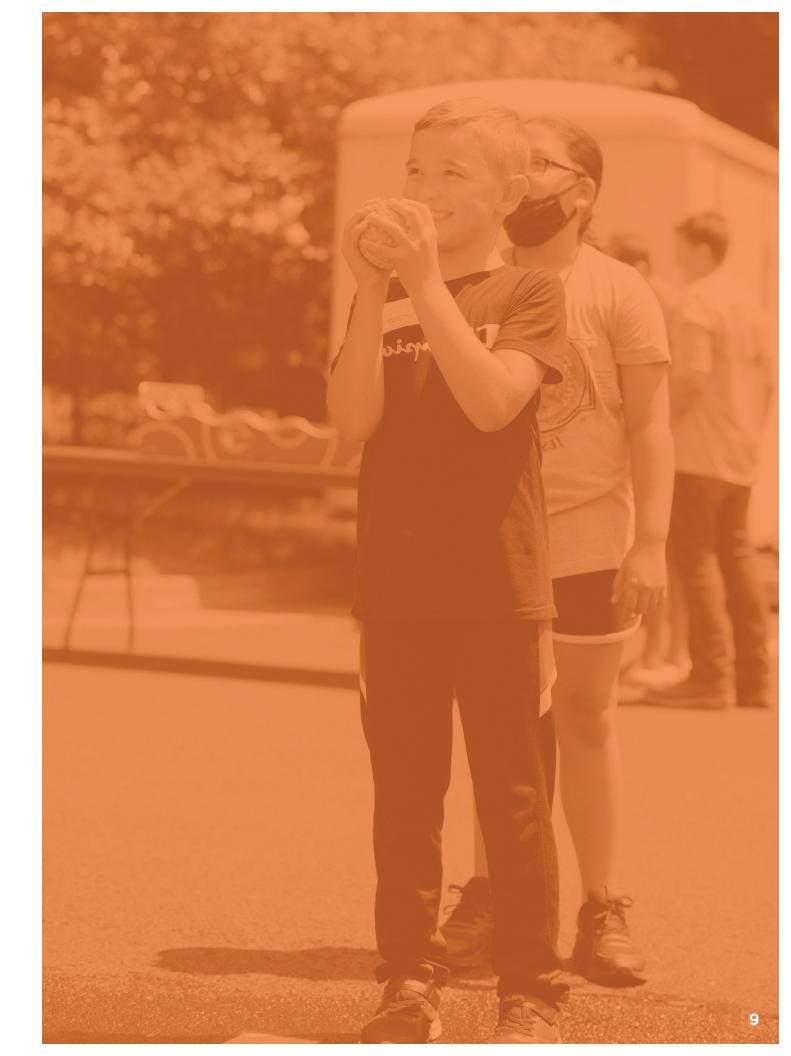
Small Group Leader Note: Open the time with prayer. Then use the following questions and activities to get people talking.

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 reevaluate how you use your resources?

WATCH THE VIDEO

You can watch the video online at cornerstone.ag/ALLIN. 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 Can we truly know God and not honor Him? Why is it important to honor God?
	2	How was giving a tithe to Melchizedek actually honoring God? What's the parallel for us today?
	3	Thinking about Pastor Shawn's teaching and the Scripture we just read, what different ways did Abram honor God (and others)?
	4	In the video, Pastor Shawn brings up two questions. What stood out to you about them?

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

We all 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.

- What is a way that you are, or have, honored God with your resources that led to God's grace and blessing in your life (or for others)? Share a testimony with the group as a means for inspiring others.
- During the ALL IN Initiative, What is God talking to you about in your life? How is God challenging you? What is he challenging you to do differently so you can honor God more with your time, your resources, or your relationships?
- 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.

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.

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 3

Read Matthew 8:8-9

"The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

REFLECT

How did this centurion combine faith with honor to acknowledge Jesus' power?

ACTION STEPS

Each day this week pick one person you can show honor to—someone from work, your family, etc

DAY 4

Read Luke 19:8

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

REFLECT
What happened in Zacchaeus that would cause him to honor God with everything?
DAY 5
Read 1 Samuel 2:29-30
"Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?
Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.' But now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.'"
REFLECT
God let Eli know that he was honoring his sons more than he was honoring the Lord. What promise did God also give that we can count on?
DAY 6
Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the
things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.



You are now members of the family of God and are built upon the foundation laid by the Scriptures of the apostles and prophets, **the cornerstone** being Christ Jesus Himself. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through Him you too are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. **Ephesians 2:19-22**

Jesus is before all things; and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**

By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35



This new logo for our church family shows how we live out the truth that Jesus is The Cornerstone of our lives and of our church.

Priority

At the center of the logo design is The Cornerstone, Jesus Christ, around which all of the other elements are situated. Without Him we can do nothing and are nothing. He is the One who saves and transforms. This logo reminds us that Jesus is the center and greatest priority of our church's identity, purpose and future vision.

Personally

Ephesians 2:19-22 is from where we get our church name. The three elements around the Cornerstone represent the Spirit of God, the Word of God and the people of God. When these three elements are active in our lives we will stay Jesus centered. As we do this, we contribute to the creation of a church that is truly a "holy temple" for people outside of Christ to come to and be saved and transformed.

Community

The three different shapes around the "Cornerstone" also represent the three major cultures of our community: African American, Anglo & Latino. By these three, plus many more, cultures coming together around The Cornerstone, we can find great unity and love for each other and become a powerful witness to our community of how Jesus and His Gospel are the answers it needs.

