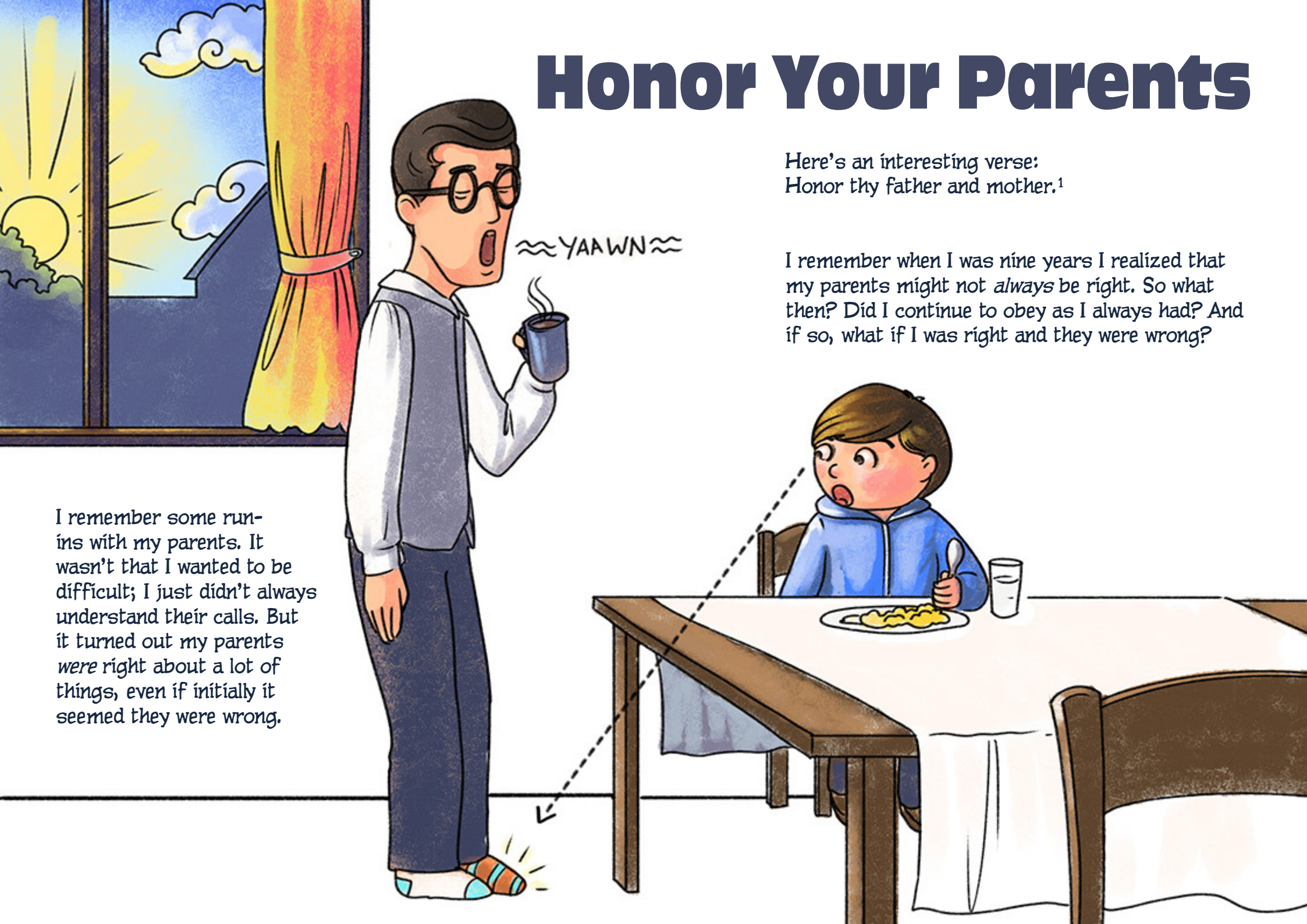


# Honor Your Parents

Here's an interesting verse:  
Honor thy father and mother.<sup>1</sup>

I remember when I was nine years I realized that my parents might not *always* be right. So what then? Did I continue to obey as I always had? And if so, what if I was right and they were wrong?

I remember some run-ins with my parents. It wasn't that I wanted to be difficult; I just didn't always understand their calls. But it turned out my parents *were* right about a lot of things, even if initially it seemed they were wrong.





# STOP!

Once, I decided to go to school in a certain outfit. I cringe remembering the outfit now; it was so terrible! My dad saw me on the way out and sent me straight upstairs to change. I was so angry at him! Why in the world did he have to tell me what I could or couldn't wear? Now, in hindsight I cannot tell you how grateful I was that he intervened.

You see, for my parents, it wasn't about being right. It was about helping me, making life better for me, and helping me learn all I could before I was grown and out on my own. Even before I really learned how to honor my parents, they honored me. They were an amazing example of sacrificial and unconditional love throughout my life.

The promise it speaks of in "Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)" is "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."<sup>2</sup> That's a very cool promise. So a great life starts by honoring your parents!



I can tell you this from experience, and/or you can learn this for yourself, but your relationship with your parents (or the one who plays the part of your parent) is one of the most important relationships you will ever have, and honoring your parents helps you to preserve that relationship.

As you're growing up, I think it's pretty normal to have some conflicts with your parents, but you can do yourself a great favor and start by honoring your parents. This doesn't mean that you can't be yourself, make your own decisions, or have your own personality. It just means that you are going to respect your parents as well.

I think God wants us to honor our parents because when we honor and respect our parents, we don't want to disappoint them. We want to listen to their counsel. We want to make choices that keep within the values our parents have imparted to us. Honor means to respect, credit, and even revere. In everyday life that translates into listening, trusting, communicating, and obeying.

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Ephesians 6:2 KJV

<sup>2</sup>Ephesians 6:3 KJV

**S&S link:** Character Building: Social Skills: Respect-2c  
*Authored by Mara Hodler, adapted. Originally published on Just1 Thing.*

*Illustrations by Yoko Matsuoka. Design by Stefan Merour.*

Published by My Wonder Studio.

Copyright © 2016 by The Family International

