

Description: This PowerTrax session is for anyone who thinks their parents are pretty difficult to live with and needs some encouragement about how to make it work at home.

Key Verses: on patterns - Romans 12:2; on Satan's pattern - Exodus 28:14-18; Isaiah 14:12-15; on Jesus' pattern - Matthew 26:39; John 8:28; 12:49; 14:31; on family - Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Ephesians 5:22-25; 6:1-4, 4

Prompt: It is easy for students to point out what they do not like in their parent. Most students, however, have probably not taken the time to describe the "perfect parent." Give your students a few minutes to shout out attributes and examples of the "perfect parent." Then tell your students even though this parent does not exist, our parents still have God-given roles in our lives. We are to honor them in spite of their imperfections. And if that is difficult, this PowerTrax will lead us in that direction.

Play: Video of Tim Wright, "My Parents Are..." www.buildmomentum.org/resources.html

Process: Select from the following questions to help students remember, rekindle and reengage.

- ◀◀ Tim said we often relate to others primarily based upon feelings. **What are some difficult feelings that often cloud how you relate to your parents?**
- ◀◀ Satan and Jesus exemplify two key "patterns" for choosing and deciding. **What two patterns did Tim talk about, and what are key actions and statements for each pattern?**
- ◀◀ **What is the Umbrella Principle? What are some examples of "umbrellas" in your life?**
- ◀◀ Reread Colossians 3:18-21 and Ephesians 5:22-6:4. **What do these verses teach about the intertwined roles in the family life? What is your role? What are your responsibilities?**
- ◀◀ **What are the God-given benefits living under the umbrella of God-given authority?**
- ◀◀ **What are some of the best sources for wisdom in your life?** Be specific.
- ◀◀ Tim stressed that God's design is for families "to operate under the loving umbrella of godly fathers and mothers, whose biblical responsibility is to bring their children up in the way of the Lord." **Are you responsible for honoring your parents if they do not fulfill their roles?** Explain.
- ◀◀ **What practical things can you do if your parents are "the worst" (i.e., spiritually irresponsible for leading the family in godliness)?** NOTE: Tim gave eleven.
- ◀◀ In his study notes Tim encouraged his students to "list as many benefits as possible for submitting to your parents' authority." **How many can you list?**

Pray: Reaffirm the importance of submission and gratitude. Remind students God has set them into their given family. As difficult as it might be, encourage them to pray thanks and forgiveness for their parent(s). Give them a minute or two of silence for this prayer time before closing.