

The Eye That Mocks The Father



**A Reflective Journal For Those Who Want To Improve Their
Relationship With Their Parents**

James H Burns

Who Should Use This Journal?

- If you are a parent and you are wondering why you are having discipline problems with your children you should use this journal.
- If you are in the ministry and want to use it as a Bible study to help those struggling in relationships this journal is for you.
- This journal is excellent for youth ministers.
- If you are a teen use this journal.
- If you want to improve your relationship with your parents use it NOW!
- If you are a teen and want to understand your parents better, this journal will help.
- This journal will help you learn to forgive, understand, confront, and heal.
- You answer the question, think, journal, reflect, and you arrive at your own conclusions that make sense to you. It is a great tool for everyone.
- The best part is you do it using the Word of God as your study guide. There is no better guide to follow.

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Introduction

The Eye That Mocks The Father

Proverbs 30: 17 *KJV*

The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

What does this mean in very practical terms? If an individual grows up in life with a mocking and contemptible attitude toward their father and despises to obey their mother they will lose their perception on right and wrong behaviors and even the smallest decisions that need to be made will create confusion in their life.

Our relationships with our parents can determine future success for ourselves and as we mature for our families. Honor Your Father and Your Mother is the first commandment that has a blessing attached to it: “That you will live a long full life.” NLT. As we mature the imprint from our upbringing can affect the relationship that should mean the most to us; the one with our parents. When we mock our father and despise our mother we lose our perception on life and may miss many of the blessings that God has for us. This Reflective Journal will give the reader and the writer an opportunity to evaluate what their relationship is or was with their parents and gain insights on how to restore a strained one or overcome past hurts that may continue to plague their minds.

When I discovered this verse I believed that I needed to be concerned about my relationship with my own children that was only partly true. In order to have success with my own children I first had to truly come to terms with my relationship with my own parents. At the time my father was deceased and the relationship with my mother was strained. As I meditated on this verse for many years I realized a few important points:

1. Forgiveness means that I have to live with and rely on the Grace of God as I did with the ongoing consequences of another person’s actions. In this case my parents.
2. Honoring your parents as an adult does not mean you have to do everything they tell you to do, but rather respect their opinions and thoughts and make decisions based upon conclusions that you have drawn as you sought out the facts yourself.
3. Confrontations were inevitable, and I had to learn how to disagree with the right attitude. I had to begin to understand productive conflicts with my mother and at the time or other adults who I may not see eye to eye with.

Children need to rely on their parents as their mentor, coach and advisor. Too often as the parent/child relationship gets strained during the teenage years teenagers seek out others to parent them by proxy. These people are usually friends who have not experienced enough of life on their own and offer advice based upon what their relationship is like with their parents.

This Reflective Journal will help you answer some key questions about your relationship with your parents. It will help you gain some insights and it will be an encouragement to you as you evaluate the steps that you can take to help you forgive, honor, and confront. Remember it is our job to do our best and we should rely on God to make up the difference. Any effort no matter how big or how small will be rewarded.

You are encouraged to seek out the scriptures in answering the questions. There is one scripture verse related to each talking point but the Bible is filled with answers to questions that seem to have no answer. God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts so seek and you will find the answers from the greatest counselor of all.

Topics and Verses To Consider

What Was Your Upbringing Like?

Psalm 119

Did Your Parents Get Along?

1 Corinthians 13

Do You Have Family Memories That Plague You?

2 Corinthians 10: 4-5

Were Your Parents Permissive or Autocratic?

Ephesians 6

Do You Fear Your Parents Even Now?

Colossians 3

Do You Talk To Your Parents?

1 Kings

Did Your Parents Ever Break Your Spirit?

Proverbs 17

What Is Your Relationship Like With Your Own Children?

Malachi 4

Can You Forgive Your Parents?

Ephesians 4

Can You Trace Any Problems You Have Now Back To Your Relationship With Your Parents?

Mathew 18

Your Journal

Your Action Plan

What was your upbringing like? How do you truly remember it?

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Did your parents get along or was there a lot of disagreements and stress?

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Do you have family memories that plague you that you might consider traumatic?

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Did your parents have a healthy balance of rules and regulations and compassion and understanding?

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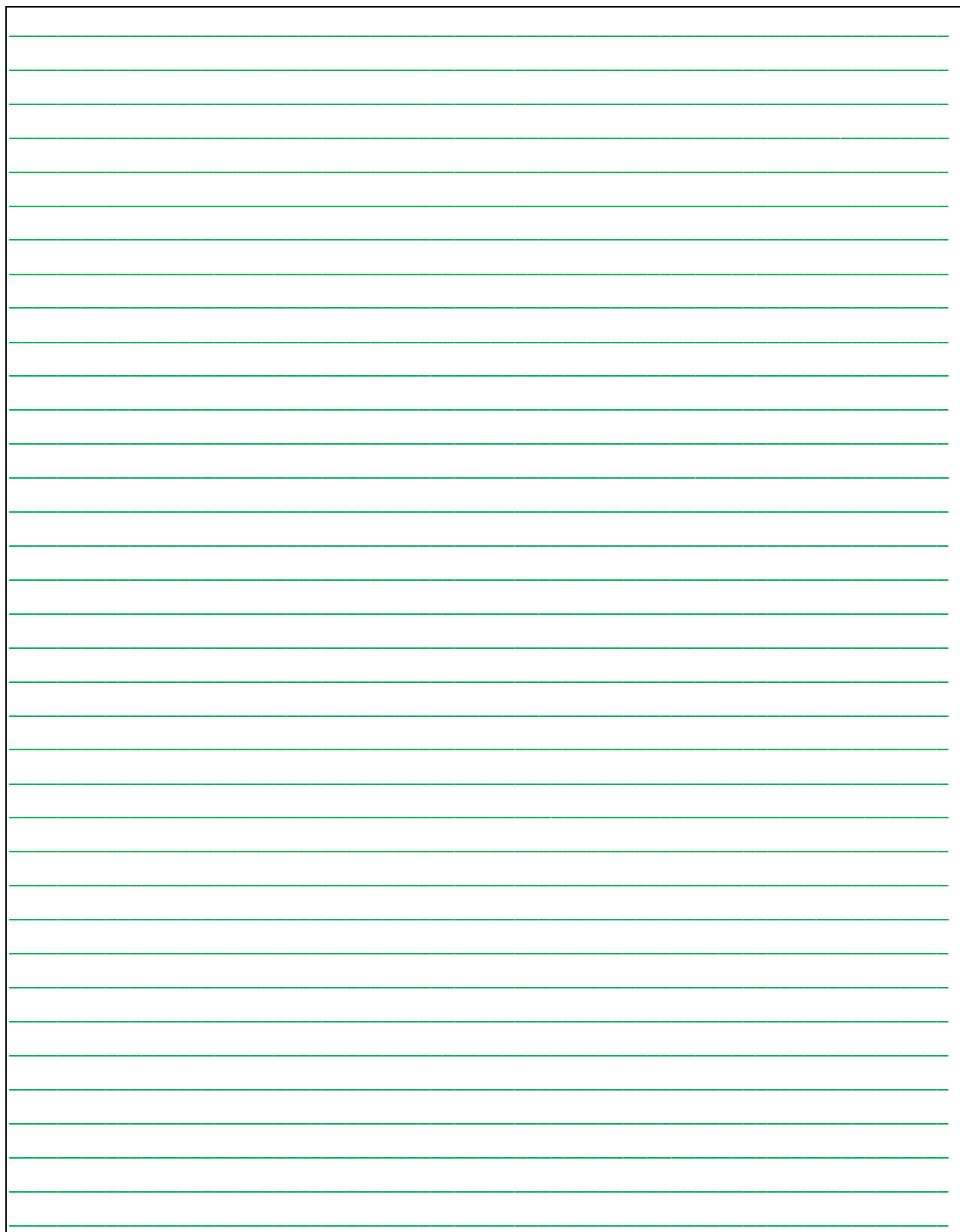
Did you fear your parents? Do you still fear them now even as an adult?

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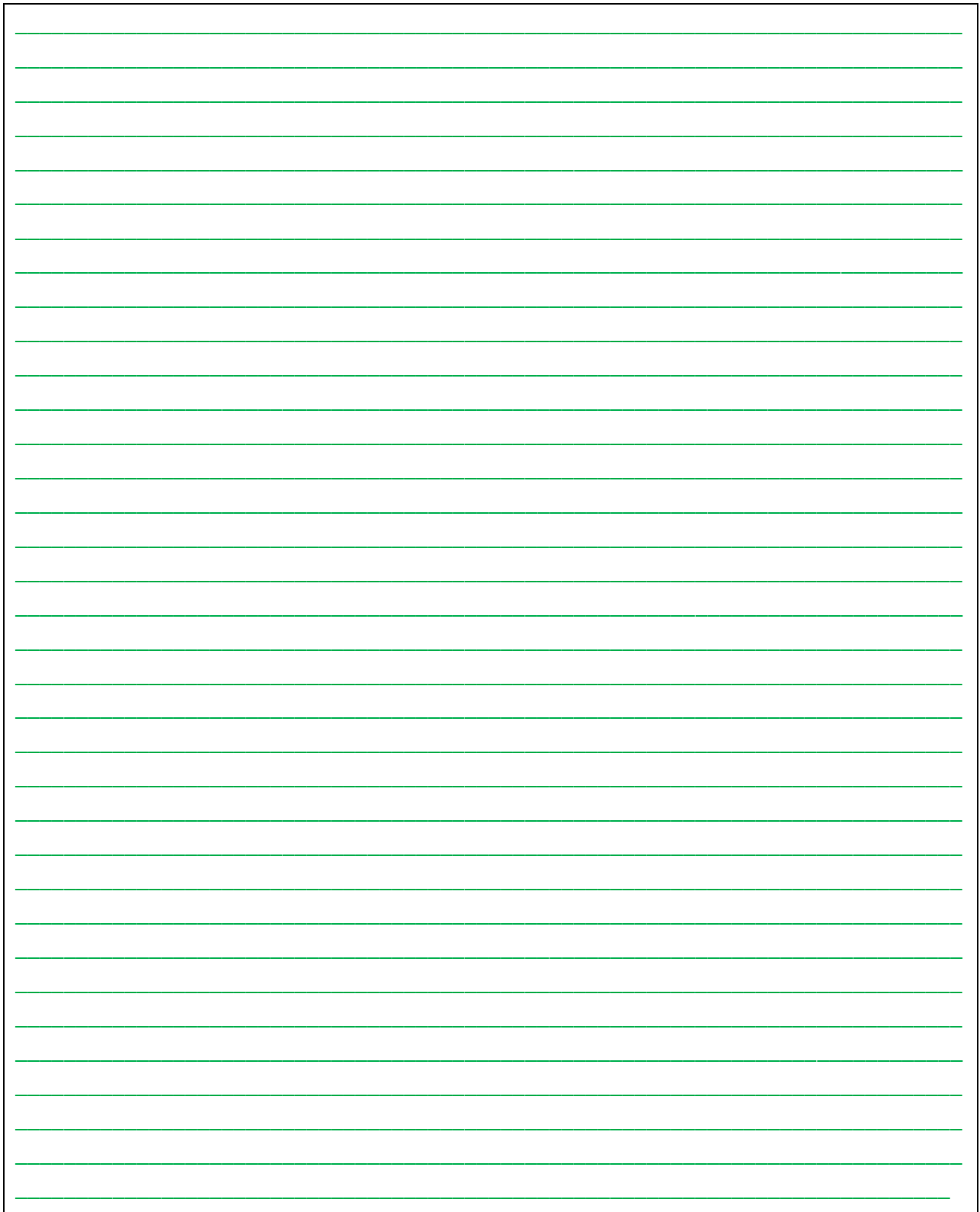
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A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal green lines, serving as a writing area.



Do you talk to your parents? Does every conversation seem to result in an argument?

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Did your parents ever break your spirit by not spending time with you or by not keeping some promises that they made?

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What is your relationship like with your own children? Does the relationship seem to mirror some of the events that occurred during your own upbringing?

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Can you forgive your parents for any hurts that may have been inflicted on you during your upbringing?

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Can you trace any of the problems you have now back to your relationship with your parents?

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My Action Plan – What course of action do I need to take to improve my relationship with my parents and improve my own life?

Lined writing area for the action plan.

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About Jim Burns

Since 1977 Jim Burns has been working with students who have learning disabilities and behavioral problems. He has almost 40 years of experience working as an administrator, teacher, college instructor, and a seminar leader. He is committed to helping administrators, parents, and teachers establish standards of excellence and to help them build successful relationships with their staff, students, and children. He has written and designed The Bully Proof Classroom, a graduate course that is offered at The College of New Jersey and Gratz College in Pennsylvania in partnership with The Regional Training Center and is endorsed by the New Jersey Education Association. Jim was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his work in the area of anti bullying. He has also written several books on the topic of anti bullying and classroom climate.



“Anti Bullying 101” is a great resource for teachers, administrator, support staff, and parents as it provides permanent help in dealing with unruly behavior and can be used as part of any anti-bullying program. He is available for on sight in-services and keynotes.