## THE GOOD SON

**Independent Reading.** Read the story below. Read aloud then answer the questions that follow.

**Notes for reading**: Preview the text to be read. Before you start reading, ask yourself, what does the writer want me to think or feel? Do I agree with the author? While you read pay close attention to the details presented in the text.



There was once a jeweller noted for many virtues. One day, the Jewish elders came to him to buy some diamonds, to put upon that part of the dress of their high priest, which the Bible calls an ephod. They told him what they wanted, and offered him a fair price for the diamonds. He replied that he could not let them see the jewels at that moment, and requested them to call again. As they wanted them without delay, and thought that the object of the jeweller was only to increase the price of the diamonds, the elders offered him twice, then three times, as much as they were worth. But he still refused, and they went away in very bad humor.

Some hours after, he went to them, and placed before them the diamonds, for which they again offered him the last price they had named; but he said, "I will only accept the first one you offered to me this morning."

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"Why, then, did you not close with us at once?" asked they in surprise. "When you came," replied he, "my father had the key of the chest, in which the diamonds were kept, and as he was asleep, I should have been obliged to wake him to obtain them.

"At his age, a short hour of sleep does him a great deal of good; and for all the gold in the world, I would not be wanting in respect to my father to take from him a single comfort."

The elders, affected by these feeling words, spread their hands upon the jeweller's head, and said, "Thou shalt be blessed of Him who has said, 'Honor thy father and thy mother;' and thy children shall one day pay thee the same respect and love thou hast shown to thy father."

Questions

1. Match the definitions for each of the following words.

#### Word list: close, diamonds, elder, ephod, jeweller, humor

 - one who buys and sells precious stones.
 - well known.
 - an officer of the Jewish church.
 - part of the dress of a Jewish priest, made of two pieces,
one covering the chest and the other the back, united by a
girdle.
 - precious stones.
 - state of mind, temper.
 - come to an agreement.

Questions

1. Relate the story of the jeweller and his diamonds in your own words.

2. How do you show honor and respect to your parents?

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3. Why did the jeweller reject the elders' offer at first?

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