

Keep Calm and Respect Your Parents

SPLASH Small Groups: Kindergarten-1st Grade

August 30, 2017

Bible Story: Keep Calm and Respect Your Parents (Children honor your parents) • *Ephesians 6:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:16*

Bottom Line: You respect God when you respect your parents.

Memory Verse: “Show proper respect to everyone.” *1 Peter 2:17a, NIV*

Life App: Respect—showing others they are important by what you say and do.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

GET READY

The following supplies will be prepared ahead of time for Elementary Kids Small Groups this week and can be picked up from the Upper Resource Room on Wednesday evening:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (10 minutes)

Early Arriver

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

- “Honor your Mother and Father” color sheet for each kid
- Markers

Wows & Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

- No supplies needed

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (10 minutes)

Bible Story

- Bible
- Blank notecards; 3 for each kid
- Pens or pencils; 1 for each kid
- “Bottom Line” Poster – hanging on classroom wall

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Practice Respect

[Talk about God | Review the Bible Story | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

- No supplies needed

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction **(10 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, spend a few moments praying for them. Pray especially for the kids whose home lives are difficult or who are going through a rough season with their family. Pray for kids who have an especially difficult time showing respect to their parents and to other leaders in authority. And finally, pray for all of your kids in general, as every kid at some point in childhood struggles with respecting his/her parents! Ask God to reveal to kids the areas they can improve on.

Early Arriver Idea *(Activity for kids that arrive before 6 p.m.)*

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Before kids arrive, place several baskets of markers out on the tables.
 - Greet kids as they arrive.
 - Give kids a coloring sheet and encourage them to color the pictures.
 - Talk to kids about their week while they color.
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Wows and Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- If you haven't already, welcome the kids to your small group.
 - Ask each kid to share a Wow and a Pow with the group. Remember, a "Wow" is something good that happened during the week and a "Pow" is something not so good that happened to them. Encourage each kid to share at least one Wow.
 - Connect with the kids by sharing a Wow and Pow from your week.
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Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer time.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible, notecards, pencils or pens, "Bottom Line" poster

What You Do:

SETTING UP THE STORY

Invite kids to sit in a circle on the floor. While kids are finding their seats, Leader hands out 3 blank notecards and pencils or pens to each kid.

LEADER: "Does everyone have a pen and a notecard? Great! I have a little game to start us out this morning. On your cards, write numbers one, two, and three down the left side of your card. Leave room beside the number so you'll have room for your answer. I'll give you three different locations where it might be hard for you to show respect to your parents. For example, if I say, "Bedtime," you might write down, "I want to stay up later," or, "My show isn't over yet,"—something that would make it tempting for you to be disrespectful. Are you ready?"

"Number one: the grocery store. Write down or draw something that might happen in the grocery store that would make you tempted to be disrespectful to your parent.

Give the kids at least 30 seconds to write down or draw their answers.

"Number two: dinner time. How could it be challenging for you to show respect when your parent calls you to dinner?"

Give the kids at least 30 seconds to write down or draw their answers.

"Number three: getting ready to get out the door for school in the morning. What are some challenges to showing respect during that time?"

Give the kids at least 30 seconds to write down or draw their answers. Then collect their cards, and look over them quickly as you collect them, remarking on their creativity. If you have another adult helper who can read through them

and tabulate the most popular answers, then do that – use your Assistant Leader for this task!

“You guys have some great answers here, and we’ll read over some of them in just a minute. But before we have a conversation about what it means to show respect to our parents in our daily lives, I want us to look together about what God has to say about respecting our parents. We can find out from Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus. In the Bible, we call this letter the book of Ephesians.

(Open your Bible and read Ephesians 6:1) “Children, obey your parents as believers in the Lord. Obey them because it’s the right thing to do” (NIRV).

“That sums it well, doesn’t it? It sounds pretty simple, actually. We obey our parents, we honor and respect them because, like Paul said, it’s the right thing to do. But if it’s the right thing to do, then why is it so hard sometimes? Well, how about we go through our three scenarios and find out some of the challenges we have to overcome to show respect? Cool. Let’s do it!”

GROCERY STORE

LEADER: “Okay, the first scenario I gave you was the grocery store. Let’s see what you guys thought might be a challenge there.

Flip through the cards (or look at the tabulated responses your Assistant Leader tabulated) and determine a few popular responses. Share some of those with the group.

“Yes, it can be hard at the grocery store—especially if you’re hungry! You see all this delicious food and you want ALL OF IT RIGHT NOW! You might even be tempted to throw a temper tantrum or get angry when your parent says you have to wait until you get home to eat. But is that being respectful? No, of course not! So, at the grocery store, how can you respect your parents when they tell you no?

“You can say okay and move on, right? And maybe you really do want to know why your parent said no. If that’s the case, you can always ask your parent later, when they’re not trying to get out of the grocery store and go home to cook dinner. You’ll usually find that your parents are happy to explain their reason for saying no to something when they know you really want to understand and not just that you’re being disrespectful. Also, you can take respect one step further by NOT whining for things in the first place, right? That would be some amazing respect that could blow your parent’s mind!”

DINNER TIME

LEADER: “Now let’s move on to the dinner hour. I’ve got the results from what you guys said would be a challenge at dinner time.

Flip through the cards (or look at the tabulated responses your Assistant Leader tabulated) and determine a few

popular responses. Share some of those with the group.

“Yeah, lot of things can happen around dinner time that give you a chance to show respect, huh? Like maybe you’re in the middle of a video game or TV show that you really want to finish. What can you do to show respect? Pause it, right? And do you think you should pause it right away, or when you feel like it? *(Pause for responses.)* Exactly. What if your dad asks you to set the table, and it’s not your chore that day? Should you whine about it, complain about it, and tell your dad all the chores you already did? Nope! The respectful response would be to obey right away. And imagine if your dad ends up finding out that it was your brother’s turn and not yours? He’ll probably be knocked over by how respectful you were when you obeyed anyway!”

LEAVING FOR SCHOOL

LEADER: “Now for our last scenario. It is morning time and everyone is trying to get out the door for school. What are some things that might happen in the rush to the car or bus that would be opportunities for showing respect?”

Flip through the cards (or look at the tabulated responses your Assistant Leader tabulated) and determine a few popular responses. Share some of those with the group.

“Mornings might be the most stressful part of the day for most families. When your mom has to wake you up five times or is asking you to focus on eating your breakfast or to stop playing with your LEGOs® and get your shoes on, but you just want to sleep in, take your time, and have fun, you have to remember that a big part of showing respect is obeying your parents with a happy heart. That means you don’t just stop playing your LEGOs with a big sigh and stomp upstairs to get your shoes on, right? Nope, it means you obey and show an attitude of respect as you do!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “So let’s say you’re not convinced. You understand the Bible says that you’re supposed to respect your parents because it’s the right thing to do, but in the heated moments, you sometimes don’t understand WHY you should respect your parents. Well, the Bible actually tells you exactly why respect is so important. We already read Ephesians 6:1 earlier, but this time I’m going to read verses 1-3.

(Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:1-3 and read.) Children, obey your parents as believers in the Lord. Obey them because it’s the right thing to do. Scripture says, “Honor your father and mother.” That is the first commandment that has a promise. “Then things will go well with you. You will live a long time on the earth” (NIRV).

“Now we’re talking! Not only is respecting your parents the right thing to do, God also promises that if you do, things will go well for you. Why do you think it says if you do this, things will go well for you? Well, think about it. When you respect your parents in the morning by getting dressed, eating your breakfast, and getting out the door, that means you won’t miss the bus or get a tardy at school. Things will go well with you. When you set the table with a good attitude even though it wasn’t your turn, you might get to pick the first slice of pizza. Things will go well

with you. And when you don't beg your parent for something at the grocery store, you never know, they might buy you some cookies or candy at the checkout because you were so respectful. You never know what might happen, but chances are things will go well with you.

"Yes, sometimes you will receive a reward for being respectful, but most of the time, you'll just avoid consequences. That's why God promises things will go well with you if you obey and respect your parents. When you respect your parents, you're definitely **[Basic Truth] making the wise choice.**

"And here's another really cool thing: When you show your parents respect, you're also respecting God, because He's the one who put them in charge of you.

Point to bottom line poster hanging on wall.

[Bottom Line] "You respect God when you respect your parents. But like we talked about, it's not always easy to do, so let's ask God to help us respect our parents."

PRAY

LEADER: "Dear God, we know that we should respect our parents because it's the right thing to do, but we also know that it will often keep bad things from happening to us. Thank You for giving us parents to guide us and lead us and protect us. Help us to show our parents how important they are to us by obeying, respecting, and honoring them. We love You, and we pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Practice Respect

[Talk about God | Review the Bible Story | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids that you're going to give them a scenario.
- They will first decide if the kid is being respectful or disrespectful of his parents or grandparents.
- If the kid is being respectful, they will act out the scenario.
- If the kid is being disrespectful, they should talk about how to change the scenario so the kid is being respectful, and then act it out.
- As you go through the scenarios, help arrange the groups so that every kid ends up being able to participate.
- Scenarios:
 - Jami's mom tells her to clean her room. Jami says she will, but then she sneaks downstairs to play a video game with her brother.
 - Lamar's mom is really tired after a long day at work. After dinner, Lamar's dad asks Lamar to help him clear the table, put away the leftovers, AND put the dishes in the dishwasher. He usually only has to clear his own plate, but he does it all without complaining.
 - Toni's stepmom tells her it's time to go to bed. Toni doesn't want to; her dad never makes her go to bed this early. She says, "No! Dad always lets me stay up later than this!"
 - Karson's dad is sick and in bed. He has asked Karson and his brother Kris to be quiet so he can sleep. Karson and Kris end up getting mad at each other about what quiet game they are going to play, they start yelling at each other, and their dad wakes up.
 - Max KNOWS his grandma doesn't like it when he whines when she asks him to do something. When she asks him to help find her glasses for the FOURTH time today, he is frustrated, but he says, "Sure, Grandma. I'll help you."

What You Say:

"These are only just a FEW of the many situations you might face with your parents. But whatever the situation, it's important to treat your parents with respect. **[Bottom Line] You respect God when you respect your parents.** It's not always easy, and there will be times

when you just don't want to. We've all been there—even me. But it's what we need to do. This week, whenever you find yourself wanting to do something that shows disrespect to your parents, take a minute to ask God to help you show respect, and then do it!"