

Keep Calm and Respect God

Bible Truth: Keep Calm and Respect God (Faith of the Roman Commander) • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Bottom Line: Show respect to God because He's in charge of everything.

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 can trust God no matter what.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

RESPECT Ring Toss, Part 1

- 2 sets of RESPECT rings for each small group. Each set contains 7 rings; each ring in a set has a letter on it spelling the word "RESPECT." 2 "poles" for each small group. The pole diameter must be smaller than the RESPECT rings. Ideas for poles: pool noodles, stools, broom handles, dowels, etc.
- Painter's tape

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

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

Before kids arrive, spend some time praying in preparation for their arrival. Ask God to give you wisdom as you start this new series on respect, a topic that all kids struggle with at times (some more than others!). Pray that they would leave your group with a deeper understanding of why it's important to respect God.

RESPECT Ring Toss, Part 1

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: 2 sets of RESPECT rings, 2 "poles" painter's tape

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Create a line on the floor with tape and each team stands behind the line.
- Give one kid from each team a pole and tell them to stand about seven feet from the line across from their team.
- Each team tries to throw a ring on the pole. If a ring misses the pole, someone from the team needs to retrieve it.
- The first team to get the rings on the pole in the correct order to spell "RESPECT" wins.
- *Optional:* If the rings are big enough, such as a hula-hoop, teams can try to get the rings around their teammate instead of a pole.

What You Say:

"This month we have learned a lot about respect. We learned we should show respect to God because . . . can anyone finish the sentence? (*because He's in charge of everything*) That's right! We should show respect to God because He's in charge of everything. Can anyone remember what we learned last week? (*You respect God when you respect the people God made.*) **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear what God has to teach us about respect today.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- 3 kid volunteers
- Prop box or bag containing:
 - 3 pillows
 - 3 pair of chopsticks, wooden spoons, or other "drumsticks"

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "At the Top of My Lungs"
- "Movin' Me"
- "Forever Reign"

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Drumline Theme Slide*

Host enters with the prop box or bag full of three pillows and whatever you are using as drumsticks.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everyone. I'm really pumped for another week in The Fort, and I hope you are too! We've been having so much fun this month learning how to Respect the Rhythm. Does anyone remember what it means to respect someone? *(Pause to see if they remember.)*

CG: *Respect Slide*

"Respect is showing others they are important by what you say and do. That's right! Let's look at one of the things the Bible has to say about respect."

CG: *Memory Verse Slide*

"This is our memory verse for the month: *Show proper respect to everyone (1 Peter 2:17a NIV).*

"And for the last couple of weeks, we've seen how tricky it can be to show respect to everyone, huh? But we have risen to the occasion and have been respecting the rhythm. If you've ever tried to practice your rhythm at home, you know it doesn't usually go over really well with your big sister who's talking on the phone, or your dad who's trying to catch a Sunday afternoon nap. What can you do when the rhythm's calling you?"

Hold up a pillow.

"Pillow drums! I know it sounds so strange, but this is a great—and silent—way to practice. You'll see what I mean.

Take out one of the pillows and a set of "drumsticks" and play your drum pillow for 10-15 seconds.

“See? It’s super fun and super quiet. All this pillow drumming gives me an idea. I have three pillows and three sets of drumsticks. I just need three kids to help me out for an epic pillow drum battle!

Choose three kids and bring them up to the stage. Introduce each kid to the group and give each a pillow and set of drumsticks. The kids can spread out across the stage.

“Here’s how this will work. I’ll play a song, and the first contestant in the drum battle will give it everything they’ve got to create a rockin’ rhythm that will be sure to get the crowd pumped! Then we’ll give each of the other contestants a shot at their own rhythm. The rest of you will cheer for your favorite to discover the drum battle champion! Got it? Any questions? Let’s go!

SFX: “At the Top of My Lungs”

Give each kid about 30 seconds to really get into their drum solo. When they are all finished, have kids cheer for their favorite, but declare everyone a winner.

“That WAS an epic pillow drum battle! But all the cheers are just too close. I can’t declare a winner. You’ve all respected the rhythm. So all three of you can go back to your groups a champion! Let’s give them another round of applause as they head to their seats.”

Host exits as Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hey guys! All month we’ve been talking about the different people we should respect: God and other people in our lives. And today we’re focusing on respecting people who you could probably say that you know best. That’s right, it’s your parents! Check out today’s video.”

CG: 252 Story

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “When it comes to respecting your parents, here’s what you need to remember.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] You respect God when you respect your parents. It’s true! When you show respect to your parents, you’re actually showing God that you understand that He’s put them in charge of you for a reason.

“Remember what Paul said in his letter: *Obey them because it’s the right thing to do (Ephesians 6:1 NIV)*. We can forget to do that because we get stuck in bad habits of everyday life. But God has a much better way. We know deep down how important our parents are to us; we just need to ask God to help us SHOW it. When we do, we will live out our memory verse in a big way. Read it with me.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

'Show proper respect to everyone.' 1 Peter 2:17a, NIV.'

"Let's pray right now and ask for God's help in respecting everyone, especially our parents."

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: "God, thank You SO much for our parents. In this room, we have a lot of different kinds of families. But we know that no matter what, You've put us in our families for a reason. We know You've put our parents in charge of us for a reason. Please help us to show respect to them and to show them how important they are to us by the way we speak and act every single day. We know we need Your help to do it. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"Hey, if you have an offering today, raise your hand and we'll bring the offering bucket over to you."

"Right now, I want you to show the Power Praise team some great respect. Let's get them up here and give them a great, loud welcome."

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

POWER PRAISE: "I can't wait for us to sing together this morning, so stand to your feet, everybody. Let's get loud together and make God's praises heard throughout this place. Let me hear you say this after me: 'At the top of my lungs I'll sing. *(Pause.)* With all of my heart *(pause)* I will praise You. *(Pause.)* God, You are everything. *(Pause.)* You're the reason that I lift my voice.' *(Pause.)* Okay, let's hold nothing back and sing this song of praise at the top of our lungs. Here we go!

SFX: "At the Top of My Lungs"

"Yeah, give a shout for God! *(Pause for response.)* YES! Actually, every day is a good day to sing and give praise to God. Let's rock and jam out together as we give praise to God for all the amazing things He is doing in our lives. C'mon, and let's sing!"

SFX: "Movin' Me"

"Yeah! You guys are awesome. We have one more song. So, use this song to just listen to God and to pray to Him. He love to hear your voices, all of the time!"

SFX: "Forever Reign"

"Way to go everyone! We will see you all next week!"

Power Praise team exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: "Hey, everyone! What a great reminder from God's Word! Okay, so you might already know this, but *(lean in; stage whisper)* parents aren't perfect. Parents aren't always right. Parents—just like you and me—sometimes make mistakes.

"Yet the Bible says you're supposed to obey and honor your parents. To put it another way, you're

supposed to respect your parents and show them they're important by what you say and do.

"That means when they tell you to finish picking up your toys before you go outside to play, you don't roll your eyes and stomp your feet. It means you do your homework without being nagged. It means when they ask you to eat your broccoli, you don't whine about not being hungry. You at least try to eat your vegetables.

"And you do these things because you want your parents to know that you see how hard their job is and that you are so thankful for all they do for you. And on top of that, you'll be doing what God wants, and that's ALWAYS a good thing. The one thing to remember today is, drum roll, please . . .

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "You respect God when you respect your parents. Say that with me."

HOST and KIDS: [Bottom Line] "You respect God when you respect your parents."

HOST: "We've already discovered a lot of ways we can respect our parents today, and we also learned we can respect their need for peace by respecting the rhythm (*stage whisper*) very quietly, just like we can do right now on our way to Small Group. Have fun with your groups, and we'll see you next week!"

Dismiss children to their Prayer Groups.

CG: Prayer Group Slide

Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to gather around and think of one thing that God is in charge of.
- Then allow time for each kid to thank God for being in charge of the thing they're thinking of. For example: "God, thank You for being in charge of birds."
- This is an easy prayer, so encourage kids to pray out loud, but don't force a child who's very reluctant or a first-time visitor.
- Close out your time together with the prayer below.

What You Say:

"God, thank You so much for creating everything—including us—and being in charge of it all. We're glad you're in charge of it all, because You're the wisest and the greatest. There's nobody else we'd want to be in charge! In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to tell their parents who's in charge of all things.