

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)

- RESPECT ring from "RESPECT Ring Toss, Part 2"

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:

- Host
- LED Kids Ministry Bracelet for the winners (6)

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Host
- Small Group Leaders
- NIV Bible
- Bathrobe
- Wig with curlers attached
- Groucho Marx glasses/mustache
- Clip-on tie
- Baseball cap
- Skateboard
- Pillow
- Saucepan
- Spoon
- Plate
- Tablet computer

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 is on stage welcoming the kids as they enter and beatboxing along with the music.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, guys! How is everyone doing this morning? *(Pause.)* It's SO great to see you! We are feeling the rhythm here today. Can you feel it? After all, you've got to Respect the Rhythm. Around here, we're all about respect.

CG: Respect Slide

"Respect is showing others they are important by what you say and do.

"Before we head into our Bible truth for today, it's time to see how well we can Respect the Rhythm. You guys probably noticed me trying to beatbox a second ago. You guys know beatboxing, right? It's where you make a beat with just your mouth with no instruments or anything. Like this. *(Do some quick, basic beatboxing.)* It's tough, but I think I'm getting better slowly but surely.

"Really, I just want to be half as cool as this girl. Check this out.

VIDEO: "Daddy vs. Daughter Beatbox Battle"

"Um . . . wow. This girl and her dad actually do beatboxing together. How cool is that? And I definitely have some work to do on MY beatboxing skills. But it's fun to try, right?

"How about you guys? Do you think YOU can beatbox? *(Pause.)* You do? Awesome! Let's see if you can Respect the Rhythm with a little beatboxing challenge. Go ahead and get into groups of three! Small Group Leaders, you play too. I'll give you 15 seconds to find your trio. Ready? Go!

SFX: 15 second countdown

“Okay, great! Do you have your trio? Awesome! Anyone still need a partner?”

Small Group leaders should be ready to step out of the game, if needed.

“All right. This is going to be great. Really quick, everyone look back at my friend, [Tech Volunteer’s name]. Hey, [Volunteer’s name]! Ok, so [Volunteer’s name] is going to give us our basic beat.

SFX: Cowbell beat

“Yeah, that’s it! All right. *(To audience)* So you’ve got to listen to the rhythm and beatbox along to it. And I want you guys to get creative. One of you can do the basic beat, one person can do the cymbals, one person can do the record scratching, or maybe even a cat screeching—it’s up to you! The only rule is that you’ve got to Respect the Rhythm that [Volunteer’s name] has layed down.

“I’ll be going from group to group to see what you guys can do, and then I’ll pull two groups up on stage for our final head-to-head beatbox competition.

“Are you guys ready? Here . . . we . . . go!

Host walks around listening to each trio. After a while, he pulls the two best (or most interesting) trios on stage. (Note: Small Group Leaders can also help listen and choose the finalists, if they are not or no longer playing.)

“All right! Way to go, everybody! All of you were great, but I’ve chosen these two trios to come up on stage for our head-to-head competition.

“We’ll go back and forth with three rounds. You guys just do your thing into this microphone and we’ll see who will be victorious. Our audience is going to cheer you on. Ready, set, beatbox!

SFX: Cowbell Beat

Host facilitates the competition, letting the groups do their beatboxing into the mic, taking turns through three rounds (moving quickly).

“That was amazing! I don’t think I can even pick a winner today because my mind is officially BLOWN. Here is a bracelet that will keep the beat with you as you practice your beatboxing skills. *(Award each child a Kids Ministry LED bracelet.)* Let’s give both of these trios a huge round of applause! You guys can head back to your seats.”

“Now, give [Historyteller’s Name] a warm welcome.”

Host exits as Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hey, guys and gals! Today we’re going to talk about what it means to respect our parents. I’d like to share part of a letter written by Paul. This is the same Paul who at first DIDN’T

believe in Jesus, but then he DID believe in Jesus. After Paul put his faith in Jesus, he traveled around starting brand-new churches and helping the new believers understand how to follow Jesus.

“This is a letter Paul wrote to a church in Ephesus, so in the Bible, the letter is called Ephesians. (*Hold up Bible.*) Open your bible up to Ephesians 6:1-3, use your table of contents to help get you there. Now, let’s read what Paul said. (*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).*

RESPECTING PARENTS CAN BE DIFFICULT

HISTORYTELLER: “Okay, so Paul is pretty clear here: God wants us to obey our parents. He’s been telling us that throughout the whole Bible—even way back at the beginning of the Bible with Moses and God’s 10 Commandments.

“But why exactly would Paul write that in his letter? Well, chances are that Paul had seen a lot of DISrespect in the church in Ephesus, including families who weren’t loving and respecting each other very well.

“If we’re honest, we can sometimes find ourselves in that same kind of situation. We all know we SHOULD be obeying our parents. But somehow, it’s easy to forget that when we’re in the middle of real, everyday life. It’s easy to mess up and say something you didn’t mean to say, or forget to follow through on something you told your parents you would do. Am I right? Raise your hand if you think it’s hard sometimes to respect your parents. (*Pause.*) Right. It is!”

SITUATIONS

HISTORYTELLER: “Let’s look at a couple of situations where it might be a little difficult to give our parents the respect they deserve.

“First, I need two parents. Who wants to be a parent? Now’s your chance!

Historyteller picks a boy and a girl and brings them to the stage.

“All right. We need to make you two LOOK like parents. Let’s see . . . what could we do here?

Helpers enter and put the bathrobe and curlers wig on the girl, and put the Groucho Marx glasses/mustache and clip-on tie on the boy.

“Okay, awesome! You look fantastic. Of course, not EVERY parent looks exactly like this, right? And every family looks a little different, too. Some of you might have a stepdad or a stepmom, or you might live with a grandparent. No matter what your family looks like, the important thing is that we respect the parent or the person who’s in charge of us, right?

“So we have our parents. Now we just need a kid.”

Host enters, wearing a backwards baseball cap. He’s

carrying a skateboard.

HOST: “Oh, hey. What’s up? *(To the boy and girl)* Hey, Mom. Hey, Dad.”

HISTORYTELLER: “All right. Let’s think of some times when respecting your parents can be tough. How about getting out the door in the morning? Think about it.

Host lies down with the pillow and acts out what Historyteller is saying. Historyteller cues the “mom” to act out the action too.

“You’re SOOOOO tired. You sleep right through your alarm.

SFX: *Alarm clock*

“You know you’re supposed to leave the house at 7:15. Your mom comes in at 6:55 to tell you it’s time to get up. She’s calm and gentle at first. Then she comes back at 7:00. ‘[Host’s name], I mean it. Time to get up!’ Then she comes back at 7:05.”

At this point, Historyteller should be getting the “mom” to raise her hands and act agitated.

(Acting frustrated, speaking for the “mom”) “[Host’s name], I have been patient with you. I have asked you repeatedly to get up. You still have to put on your clothes, brush your hair, brush your teeth, eat your breakfast, pack up your homework, feed the dog, AND catch the bus . . . in 10 MINUTES!”

(To audience) “Whoa. It’s not easy to be your mom and make everything happen that needs to happen in the morning. And that wasn’t the most respectful way to treat her, was it?”

“What about when you’re watching TV or playing on your device, and it’s time for dinner?”

Historyteller gives the “dad” the saucepan, spoon, and plate and cues him to act out the action. Host picks up the tablet and is totally focused on it.

“Your dad has been working hard to cook spaghetti and get it on your plate all nice and hot—and you don’t even think about this, but it’s actually really hard to get everything finished at exactly the same time—but he did it. And now you hear him say, ‘[Host’s name], dinnertime!’

“What do you FEEL like saying in that moment? ‘Dad, just one more minute!’ ‘Dad, I’m almost finished with this level!’ *(Beat.)* Or my personal favorite: *(grumbling incoherently)* ‘Hhhmmmmhmmmm.’

(Do a face palm.) “Oh, man—how disrespectful to your dad! He was working so hard to get everything ready for you. But how in the world can you show him the proper respect when you’re so wrapped up in what you’re doing?”

“Thanks to all three of you for your exceptional acting. You guys can head back to your seats.”

Host exits. Boy and girl go back to their seats.

CONSEQUENCES

HISTORYTELLER: “Do those situations sound familiar to you? Has something like that ever happened at your house? The truth is: If we’re not careful, there are a lot of ways that we can show disrespect to our parents.

“We can talk with a disrespectful tone. We can moan and groan when they tell us no or when they tell us not to do something we really want to do. We can act like we know everything.

“But you guys know that every action has a consequence. If you choose to be disrespectful, life doesn’t go well. It’s going to be stressful. If you don’t respect your parents enough to get up and out the door in the morning, if you don’t respect them with the right attitude and tone of voice, then you might find yourself like the people Paul was writing to in his letter. You might find that your relationship with your parents can be a struggle.

“The good news is the opposite is definitely true. If you DO choose to respect and honor your parents, like our passage says, things will probably go well for you. This is true because when you can show them how important they are to you by your words and actions, your relationship with them can grow and end up being great! You can respect the boundaries they’ve set for you. You can appreciate all the things they do for you. Showing them respect isn’t always easy, but God can help you build a relationship with them that’s based on trust and kindness.”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

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

CG: Bottom Line

[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. They are part of the “everyone” that our memory verse talks about. God actually placed them in your life to be the first “everyone” you should show respect to, not the last or the sometimes everyone, but the first and always everyone. Think on that while we read the verse.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

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

“There’s this fun little exercise that you can do with Scripture to help you make it personal. We’re going to put ‘I will’ at the beginning and put ‘my parents’ in place of everyone. Here’s the slide.”

CG: Modified Memory Verse Slide

“Read it with me now. ‘I will show proper respect to my parents.’”

“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. Let's pray right now and ask for God's help."

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."

"If you have an offering today, go ahead and bring that on up."

"Now, everyone, stand up and give a warm respectful welcome to the Power Praise team."

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

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! You know it's true. God really does want us to respect our parents. He wants us to **[Basic Truth] treat them the way we'd want to be treated**. In this case, that means if we were in their shoes—whether we agree with them or not, whether we feel like it or not, or even when they make mistakes—God wants us to show our parents that they're important by what we say and do.

"That means when they tell you to finish your homework before you go outside, you don't roll your eyes and stomp your feet. You do your homework. When they tell you to eat your vegetables, you don't

whine about not being hungry. You eat your vegetables. You argue less. You complain less. And not because you believe you're any less right, but because you want your parents to know that you see how hard their job is and that you appreciate all they do for you. Plus, you'll be doing what God wants, and that's always a good thing.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"Here's the one thing to remember today: **[Bottom Line] You respect God when you respect your parents.** I know you guys are going to have some great discussion about this back in your small groups. Have an awesome time, 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.