

Junior Soldiers

Unit 2 : Lesson 2



R.E.S.P.E.C.T

Let's find out what it means for me!

PURPOSE : For children to understand the importance of showing respect and that by showing respect in all areas of their lives they are honouring God. (The Four areas covered will be: respect for your parents/guardians, respect for everyone, respect for God's name and respect for other people's things.)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Philippians 2:1-4 - 'Have the attitude of Christ'

One of the most important things you can teach a child is respect. Keep in mind that respect is not the same as obedience. Children might obey because they are afraid. If they respect you, they will obey because they know you want what's best for them. The best way to teach respect is to show respect. When a child experiences respect, they know what it feels like and begin to understand how important it is.

Keep in mind the 'golden rule': Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. Respect is an attitude. Being respectful helps a child succeed in life. If children don't have respect for peers, authority, or themselves, it's almost impossible for them to succeed. A respectful child takes care of belongings and responsibilities, and works towards getting along with their peers.

Schools work at valuing and teaching children about respect, but parents have the most influence on how respectful children become. Respect is also a biblical principle and by teaching children how to show respect we are teaching them how to honour God through their actions.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- A computer and data projector to show youtube clip (optional)
- Pass the Parcel pre-wrapped with RESPECT letters in it (you need newspaper, letters to spell out RESPECT and a prize for the middle of the parcel)
- Music

For 'The Main Thing'

- Whiteboard and whiteboard markers or butchers paper and textas
- Bibles

For 'Tying In'

- A3 paper for tying in 'R.E.S.P.E.C.T' activity
- Camera or video camera to tape chant

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.



Connecting In

Get Up and Groove ...

The below link is a fun song about showing respect in a variety of areas in our lives. If you have the use of a computer and data projector you might like to use this as an introduction to the lesson.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgidfFs-j4M&feature=related>

Pass the parcel...

You will need some newspaper, a small prize for the middle of the parcel and some individual letters that spell out the word 'respect'.

Wrap the prize in a layer of newspaper. Now wrap it in another layer and add a letter from the word 'respect' and repeat until you have 9 or 10 layers. Sit everyone in a circle and play a short snippet of music. When the music stops, the person holding the parcel removes ONE layer of wrapping and gets a letter, as the letters are revealed place them in the middle of the circle. Keep playing until all the layers are open and all the letters are out. Ask the children to see if they can make a word out of the letters that they have found in the parcel layers. You may need to give them some hints depending on the age of your group.

Link: Ask the children to help you with the definition/understanding of 'respect'. How is respect shown? Ask the children to share some examples of what that might look like. 'Today we are going to explore a bit more about respect and in particular what the Bible says about it.'



The Main Thing

Brainstorm...

On a whiteboard or a large sheet of butchers paper, brainstorm some ideas for the following sections:

- People that we need to respect (parents, teachers, friends, the elderly etc.).
- Items and things that we need to show respect for (their belongings, other's belongings, the environment, school rules).
- Ways of showing respect. (These could include using manners, taking turns and speaking kindly.)

Explore...

Look up some Bible verses and see if we can find out who God says we should respect.

This is a great opportunity to encourage and help the kids with their Bible skills, looking up, finding where things are and also reading and listening to God in the text. It might be nice to sit around in a circle on the floor with a large sheet of paper in the middle for the children to add their thoughts and findings about 'respect' as they go along. It is important when we are exploring God's word that we allow children the space to think, wonder and question, listen to God's voice and to not only be given the option of a pat answer.

There is only one verse provided for each of the sections but you might like to read some of the surrounding verses to give more context for the children.

Exodus 20:12 – 'Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.'

- Who is this verse suggesting that we show respect to? (parents)
- Why do you think God wants us to show respect to our parents?
- What does this look like? Do you have some examples?
- Is this easy all the time? Why/why not?

We should show respect to our parents at all times or to those who care for us (step-parents, grandparents, carers, relatives, etc.). If someone is caring for us, providing for us, encouraging us, helping us and so on, they deserve our respect. Jesus lived in a very humble home and his parents were not rich or highly educated, still He showed respect to them.

1 Peter 2:17 – 'Respect everyone and show special love for God's people. Honor God and respect the Emperor.'

- Who is this verse suggesting that we show respect to? (all people)
- Why do you think God wants us to show respect to all people?
- What does this look like? Do you have some examples?
- Is this easy all the time? Why/Why not?
- Can you give some examples of people that Jesus showed respect for?

Jesus showed respect for lepers, for those controlled by demons, for prostitutes, for tax-collectors, and for little children. He treated them so much differently than others treated them. He treated them like human beings worthy of respect. It is easy to show respect to those we like but harder to show respect to those we don't know or don't like. Showing respect to someone isn't always easy, but it is the right thing to do.

Ephesians 4:28 'If you are a thief, quit stealing. Be honest...'

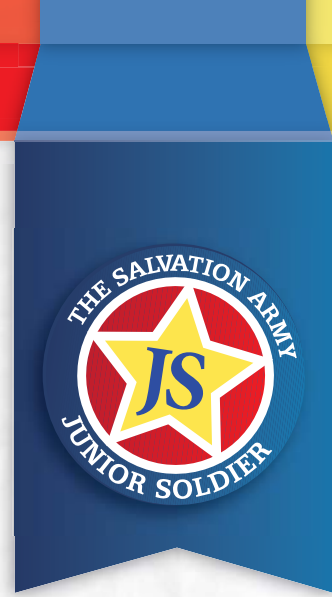
- Who or what is this verse suggesting that we show respect to? (other people's property)
- Why do you think God wants us to show respect to other people's property?
- What does this look like? Do you have some examples?
- Is this easy all the time? Why/Why not?
- How would you like people to treat your belongings?

Respect for the property of others is respecting their right to own and use the things they worked for or received from their families. It is also important to show respect for your own property and things that your parents have worked hard to give to you. Being responsible and taking care of your things and the things that belong to others is showing respect.

Exodus 20:7 – 'Do not misuse my name. I am the Lord your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.'

- Who or what is this verse suggesting that we show respect to? (God's name)
- Why do you think God wants us to show respect when using His name?
- What does this look like? Do you have some examples?
- Is this easy all the time? Why/Why not?

Respect is both an attitude and a way of talking and acting. Respect is giving honour to someone in word or in deed just because of who they are or the position they hold. Respect for God and for His name, then, is to give acknowledgement and honour to God.



Tying In

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

It would be good to give the kids a choice for this activity as we all like to express ourselves differently. They can either;

→ On an A3 sheet of paper write the letters of 'RESPECT' down the left hand side and encourage the kids to think about words that start with each letter that will remind them about the things we have learnt about respect. (For example: R – Respect, E – Everyone, S – School rules, P – Parents, E – Environment, C – Careful with words, T – Treat others well.)

→ Or it would be fun to create a chant/cheer using the letters and what they stand for including some actions and possibly some props. You might like to take still photos of each of the letters or film the chant/cheer, you could then use this in worship at an appropriate time.

When we treat others as we would like to be treated, we are being Christ-like. Showing respect is what Jesus did over and over and is how he wants us to treat others too. 'A challenge for each of you this week is to stop and think: 'Is that how I would want to be treated?''

Make a prayer circle and ask the children to pick one thing from their list and to pray a one-sentence prayer about, helping them to show respect in that area this week.



Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Challenge the children this week to be a 'Respect Detective'. Ask them to keep a list of times when they have seen people around them show respect. This could be at school when they see someone pick up litter or maybe at home when their parents use nice manners. This will help them to identify the many ways we can show respect during our daily lives. Encourage them to praise people they see showing respect and bring back their list of those they have caught being respectful.

Make sure they don't do the opposing list (those who have shown a lack of respect), we want to turn them into Junior Soldiers not cops and doblers!

Home & Beyond

Respect Detective...

Your challenge this week is to be a 'Respect Detective'. Keep a list of times when you see people around you show respect. This could be when you see someone pick up litter or maybe at home when your parents use nice manners. Make sure you encourage those people you see showing respect too. Bring your list of people you caught being respectful to share with the group next time.


**Junior
Soldiers**

Home & Beyond

Respect Detective...

Your challenge this week is to be a 'Respect Detective'. Keep a list of times when you see people around you show respect. This could be when you see someone pick up litter or maybe at home when your parents use nice manners. Make sure you encourage those people you see showing respect too. Bring your list of people you caught being respectful to share with the group next time.


**Junior
Soldiers**

Home & Beyond

Respect Detective...

Your challenge this week is to be a 'Respect Detective'. Keep a list of times when you see people around you show respect. This could be when you see someone pick up litter or maybe at home when your parents use nice manners. Make sure you encourage those people you see showing respect too. Bring your list of people you caught being respectful to share with the group next time.


**Junior
Soldiers**

Home & Beyond

Respect Detective...

Your challenge this week is to be a 'Respect Detective'. Keep a list of times when you see people around you show respect. This could be when you see someone pick up litter or maybe at home when your parents use nice manners. Make sure you encourage those people you see showing respect too. Bring your list of people you caught being respectful to share with the group next time.


**Junior
Soldiers**