

RESPECT OTHERS



Goal:
The word is out—
Respect.

Scripture Verses:
Romans 12:10
1 Peter 3:8-12

Option 1: Disrespect

(For this activity, provide balloons, markers, and a pin)

Give each child a balloon and a marker. Have kids inflate and tie off their balloons. **Say:** Think of a person you'd like to say unkind things about, and draw that person's face on your balloon. Choose someone you don't respect, but don't let anyone know who your picture represents.

When everyone is finished, **Say:** Call out disrespectful things to your balloon faces, as if you're talking to the people the balloons represent. Don't say actual names, and don't use bad language. For example, you could yell: "You don't know a thing. Why should I listen to you?"

After about 30 seconds, walk around and begin popping the balloons with the pin. Pop as many balloons as possible before kids try to prevent them being popped. Then gather kids in a circle, and **Ask:**

*How did you feel when you were showing disrespect to your balloons?

*How is this like or unlike the way people show disrespect toward others in life?

*Why do we disrespect others?

*What was it like when your balloon was popped?

*How is what happened to the balloon like what happens when we show disrespect to people?

Say: Today we'll explore how Jesus showed respect to others. We'll learn how we can also be respectful.

Option 2: Respect Yourself

(For this activity, play songs about respect. Like Aretha Franklin, 'R.E.S.P.E.C.T")

Play a song about respect, then have kids stand and demonstrate the song's message through an action or words directed at a person across from them. For example, kids might greet others with kind words.

After playing the songs, **Ask:**

- *What do these songs say about respect?
- *Why is respect important in relationships?

Say: Respect is something we know about but probably don't frequently practice. It's too easy to say unkind or disrespectful things to people we don't like. But today we'll discover through Jesus' example that it's important to respect others.

THE BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Respecting Others

(For this activity, provide newsprint, tape, markers, and Bibles)

Tape a sheet of newsprint to a wall, and title it "Respect." Have kids call out definitions for the word "respect", and list these ideas on the newsprint. Then have someone read aloud Romans 12:10 and 1 Peter 3:8-12. Have kids amend their definitions in light of these verses.

Give each child a sheet of newsprint, a marker, and a Bible. Assign each one of the following topics and related Scripture passages:

- *respecting parents (Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 13:1)
- *respecting peers (Matthew 20:25-28; 1 John 4:19-21)
- *respecting neglected people (Matthew 18:1-4; John 4:7-10)
- *respecting authorities (Leviticus 19:3; Hebrews 13:17)

Say: Read your Scripture passages, discuss what they say about your topic, and list on the newsprint ways to show respect to your friends. For example, the child assigned "respecting peers" might write, "Don't think of yourself more highly than others" based on the insights gleaned from Matthew 20:25-28.

After 5 minutes, **Ask:**

- *What do these passages teach you about respect?
- *Why is respect seldom demonstrated in our society?
- *Why is it important to show respect to one another?

Say: Show disrespect to others is a game we shouldn't play. Let's take a few moments to practice respecting one another.



I Respect You

Say: Respect comes easily when we like a person. But it's a lot harder to respect someone when we disagree with that person or dislike what he or she does.

Have kids choose a topic that others might not agree on such as favorite movie, hiding truth from parents, importance of homework or grades...favorite foods. Have them discuss the topic while showing respect for one another through words or actions. **Say:** Remember, you don't need to agree with other people to show them love and honor. For example, you could listen to another person's opinions without interrupting, then say, "That's an interesting point of view" before offering your own opinion.

After about 5 minutes, **Ask:**

- *How easy or hard was it to show respect while disagreeing?
- *What lessons did you learn about showing respect to others?

Say: It's not always easy to show respect to others. But with Jesus' help, we can be kind and courteous to one another even when we don't agree or get along.

Choose Your Closing

Option 1: Paying Respects

Have kids form a row. Say: Let's close by showing the respect we have for each other.

Have the first person walk along the row, greeting and shaking hands with each person in line until he or she joins the line at the other end. Repeat this process until each person has respectfully greeted the entire group.

Then have someone close in prayer, thanking God for the Bible's guidance on respecting others.

Option 2: My Commitment

(For this activity, you'll need paper, envelopes, pencils, and stamps.)

Give each child a sheet of paper, an envelope, and a pencil. **Say:** Think of someone you've been disrespectful toward. This could be a friend, parent, or even God. Then write a short letter to that person, asking for forgiveness for your actions. When you've written your letter, address it so it's ready to mail.

When kids finish their letters, have them decide if they want to mail them or talk to the person they've written to. If kids have written letters to God, suggest they spend time this week in prayer, asking for forgiveness. If kids decide they want to mail their letters to friends or parents, supply stamps for them to do so.

Have kids join hands as you close in prayer, asking for God's help in showing respect to others.