

KIDS of
INTEGRITY

Respect



Play egg toss, visit an art gallery or be a “detective” in your neighbourhood! Discover these and other great ways to teach your kids to be respectful.

Here’s a treasure chest of ideas that help kids:

- respect God, His creation and His Word
- respect their community
- be considerate of others’ feelings
- use manners that show respect.

This lesson also helps deal with littering, vandalism and destructiveness.

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Parents’ prayer

As you prepare to teach your children the importance of showing respect, first commit your efforts to the Lord, trusting Him to be faithful to complete the work that you are beginning today. Use the sample prayer provided below, or formulate your own prayer using the Bible verses provided under “Scripture-guided prayer for parents.”

Sample prayer

Lord Most High, by Your Word the heavens were made; the starry host was made by the breath of Your mouth. You gather the waters of the sea into jars; You put the deep into storehouses. Let all the earth fear You Lord; let all the people of the world revere You. At Your command, the world came to be, and it stood firm. Your plans stand firm forever, the purposes of Your heart through all generations! From heaven, You look down and watch all who live on earth – You, who formed the hearts of all: You consider all we do (Psalm 33:6-15). Sovereign Lord, because I revere You, may I cherish and show respect for all You have made.

I humbly confess that I do not always show respect for some of Your most wonderful creations – human beings. My own sinfulness echoes in my ears when I hear the same disrespectful tone in my children’s voices as they have heard me use. Please replace my self-serving attitude with a loving graciousness that helps me see others the way You do – as precious treasures, worthy of tender care and respect. Please remind me to be respectful when I interact with my spouse, my children, friends and neighbours, especially when I am upset. Please forgive me for the times I have modelled a disrespectful attitude for my children.

I pray now for my children, _____ and _____. Please infuse their hearts with a deep reverence for You and all that You have made. Place in them a longing to read Your Word and a desire to obey Your commands. Please inspire them to be respectful and considerate of others and give them a willingness to put others first. Because they have a healthy fear of You, I pray that my children will serve those in authority with their whole heart out of respect for the Lord and to honour those individuals by obeying their instructions (Ephesians 6:7). In

Jesus' name, I ask that You will protect _____ and _____ from the schemes of the devil who will try and persuade them to honour themselves instead of others. Because the "sins of self" are linked to disrespect, please expose any roots of rebellion, selfishness or pride in my children's hearts, and destroy these attitudes through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Lord, You formed each of us in the womb. You are the Lord who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens and who alone spread out the earth (Isaiah 44:24). Our desire is to revere You and treat all You have made with deep respect. Please send Your Holy Spirit to enable our family members to be respectful and considerate of everyone. In all we say and do, we want to honour You, for You are great and most worthy of praise; You are to be feared above all gods (1 Chronicles 16:25). Amen.

Scripture-guided prayer for parents

Read and pray through one or more of the selected Scriptures under each heading. Focus on listening to God and allowing His Spirit to direct you as you pray.

Character focus

Begin by letting God know how much you are in awe of who He is and what He does and declare that He alone is worthy of glory, honour and praise.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 | Psalm 8 | Isaiah 46:5,9-10 | Daniel 4:34-37 | Revelation 5:9-13

Heart search

Acknowledge when and how you fail to be respectful.

1 Samuel 2:2-3 | Job 40:1-9 | Proverbs 3:7-10 | Proverbs 13:13 | Matthew 15:8-11

Gratitude

Thank God for ways you have seen respectful behaviour exhibited in your family.

Family requests

Ask God to help you and your family to be respectful of Him and all that He has made.

Genesis 1:27-31 | Joshua 4:23-24 | Psalm 33:6-11 | Romans 12:10 | 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Kids talk with God

Use this section to help your children learn to reach out to God in all things. The sample prayers all begin with "Dear God," however, you may use any other names for God your children are comfortable with (i.e. Jesus, Father God, Lord Jesus, Heavenly Father, Abba Father, Lord).

If your children are ready to pray original prayers, you may wish to use the Bible verses provided under "Scripture-guided prayer for children."

Sample prayers

Dear God, I love You and think You are amazing! Thanks for loving me, too. Amen.

Dear God, I thank you for making me in an amazing and wonderful way (Psalm 139:14). Amen.

Dear God, You have made such awesome plants and animals. Please help me to love and respect all of nature. Amen.

Dear God, thank you for giving me _____ (A home, a bedroom, toys, a vehicle to ride in, etc.). Please help me to take good care of it/them. Amen.

Dear God, You are the Maker of everything: people, plants, animals and the air. Help me to treat everything You have made with respect. Amen.

Dear God, help me to honour others before myself. Amen.

Dear God, please help me to be respectful of others even though sometimes I disagree with them. Help me to live my life in a way that I may be a good example of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear God, please forgive me for being disrespectful by _____. Please remind me to show proper respect for everyone when I am tempted to be disrespectful (1 Peter 2:17). Amen.

Dear God, if there are any ways I am disrespectful of You, others or the things You have made, please show me so I can confess this as sin. Amen.

Scripture-guided prayer for children

Read through one of the selected Scriptures under each heading and help your children pray based on the verse you read. Encourage them to listen to God and allow His Spirit to guide them as they pray.

Character focus

Thank God for sharing His strength with you.
1 Chronicles 29:12-13 | Isaiah 46:9-10 | Revelation 4:11

Heart search

Acknowledge when and how you are disrespectful.
Exodus 20:12 | Proverbs 13:13 | Matthew 15:8

Gratitude

Thank God for ways you show respect to people and other things He created.

Personal requests

Ask God to help you, your siblings and parents to be respectful of Him and all that He has made.
Psalm 33:6-9 | Romans 12:10 | 1 Timothy 4:12

Speak a blessing

Your affirmation will give tremendous encouragement to your children as they strive to grow in the area of respect. Use this section as a reminder to “speak a blessing” when you see this godly characteristic in your son or daughter.

- _____ is a boy/girl who is considerate and respectful of others.
 - _____ is such a joy to be around because he/she treats others with respect.
 - Thank you for respecting _____.
 - _____, that shows respect for _____ when you _____. I am proud of you and so is God.
-

Memory verses

Memorizing Scripture with your children helps God’s Spirit bring about lasting change. Choose a verse that your kids can learn in a pre-determined period of time. Aim to review the verse at least once every day.

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Leviticus 19:3 “Each of you must respect his mother and his father . . .”

Leviticus 19:32 “Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly, and revere your God. I am the Lord.”

Proverbs 3:19 “By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place.”

Proverbs 11:16 “A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.”

Proverbs 13:13 “He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.”

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

Isaiah 57:15 “For this is what the high and lofty One says – He who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’ ”

Romans 12:10 “. . . Honor one another above yourselves.”

Romans 13:1 “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. . . .”

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

1 Peter 2:17 “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the King.”

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things and by Your will they were created and have their being.”

Kick-off craft

List ways in which family members can show respect for one another and illustrate this with a “clothesline” of items or by making a mobile to display in a frequently visited area of the house.

Family rules of respect mobile

Directions

- 1 Begin by brainstorming a list of ways that family members can demonstrate respect for each other. Before opening the discussion for suggestions, be sure to explain to your kids that during the brainstorming, no idea is a bad idea. Emphasize that all ideas will be accepted and given equal consideration.

Examples of “family respect rules”:

1. We speak respectfully about God. We are quiet and attentive during prayer.
2. We knock before entering bedrooms and bathrooms.
3. We ask before we take food from another person’s plate.
4. We ask before borrowing someone else’s things.
5. We stay quiet when others are on the phone.
6. We do not interrupt when another person is talking.
7. We listen when others speak.
8. We keep a clean house by putting things back where they belong so others can find them and so others don’t have to pick up our things.

9. We speak respectfully, even when we are upset with each other.
 10. We eat the food prepared for us without complaining.
 11. We honour and show respect for others by letting them go ahead of us or giving them the more desirable seat or treat.
 12. We take the garbage out when it is full rather than overloading it.
 13. If God made it (animals, trees, plants and people), we don’t hurt it.
 14. We close doors quietly and gently.
 15. We don’t make fun of others when they are having trouble with something, when they make a mistake, when they get hurt or if they are different.
 16. We are quiet when others are sleeping.
 17. We take good care of our furniture, clothing, toys, books, home and vehicle.
- 2 Once you have outlined and selected your own “family respect rules” you can help your children learn the rules by making a mobile. Have your children come up with one small object that can be hung up to remind them of each rule that was selected. Hang these little objects as reminders for each rule, on a string across an area of the house that is frequented often (e.g. the dining area).

Review the rules at mealtime, asking your children to tell which rule fits with which object, until the rules have been memorized.

Other ideas

To simplify this exercise, make a poster that lists your selected “family respect rules.” Beside each rule, draw a picture to remind your children what each rule is. Include your choice of memory verse on your poster.

Bible stories

This section provides Bible stories with the theme of respect, along with questions that can be used as a guide for family discussions. Choose one that is most appropriate for your children. Before reading aloud, take a few minutes to review the story. If the Bible passage is too complex for your kids, paraphrase the story yourself or use the summary provided under “key concepts.”

Making fun of others – Elisha is jeered

Read 2 Kings 2:23-25.

Questions for discussion

1. How did the youths make fun of Elisha?
2. What happened to them?
3. Who are you tempted to tease?
4. Do you think God likes it when we tease others?

Key concepts

The young people made fun of Elisha’s bald head and made fun of where he was going by saying, “Go on up, you bald head.” Obviously, God was not pleased with them as He sent two bears out of the woods to kill those who made fun of Elisha. God is not pleased when we tease or pick on others.

God is worthy of our best

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-16 and Malachi 1:6-14.

Questions for discussion

1. How would you feel if someone gave you a dirty, beat-up old toy for your birthday? Would you feel even worse if you knew they had kept the new toy for themselves?
2. How do you show respect and honour for a friend on their birthday?
3. How can you show respect and honour to your parents?
4. Why is God worthy of our respect?
5. How can you show respect and honour for God?

6. How did the priests dishonour and disrespect God?
7. How did God respond to this dishonour?
8. How do you think God feels when you don’t respect people or the other things He has made?
9. How do you think your parents feel when you don’t take care of your toys?

Key concepts

God is worthy of our respect because He created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, including us! He is more awesome and powerful and greater than any other being. He has provided us with everything that we have (e.g. house, clothing, food, friends, family, etc.). Without God, none of us would be alive. In Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:24-28).

One of the ways we can show respect and honour for God is by verbally acknowledging who He is as David did in 1 Chronicles 29:10-16. Another way to honour God is by giving Him our best. “Our best” may mean dressing carefully for church. It means offering God the first part of our allowance called a “tithe.” When we honour God, it means we give Him our full attention, focusing on Him instead of other things during worship.

When we refer to ourselves as Christians, we are calling ourselves by “Christ’s name.” We honour his name when we treat others, as God wants us to, with love, respect and consideration. We can dishonour God by fooling around in church, thinking of other things during worship, honouring other things more than we honour God and by keeping all of our allowance for ourselves. We also dishonour God when we say that we love Him and then turn around and treat others with disrespect.

In conclusion, take time to pray with your children, asking God to help all of your family members behave in a way that honours God and shows respect to each other.

Respecting authority

Read Ephesians 6:5-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:12 and Romans 13:1.

Questions for discussion

1. What is “authority”?
2. Who is in authority over you?
3. How can you show that you respect these authorities?
4. Why should you obey those in authority? (Ephesians 6:5-6)
5. How are you to serve? (Ephesians 6:7)
6. Who is in authority at church?
7. How can you show respect to these individuals?

Key concepts

Authority, by definition, is the power or right to enforce obedience (Canadian Oxford Dictionary). Most children have parents, teachers, babysitters, grandparents, police, government, pastors, Sunday school teachers as authorities in their lives. Technically, children are not slaves, but the slaves and earthly masters concept can apply to a situation where any of us are put in a position where we must obey someone.

Ultimately, God is the authority in all of our lives. God asks us to obey all the earthly authorities He puts over us (Romans 13:1). We can show respect for authority figures by obeying their instructions, being polite, looking at them when we talk to them and by encouraging them with kind words.

Hezekiah's prayer

Read Isaiah 36-37.

Take note of the key verses in Isaiah 36:11-20 as they illustrate the mocking and disrespect shown for God and the Israelites by the Assyrians. In Isaiah 37:14-20, we read that Hezekiah responds by praying. In Isaiah 37:36-37, the Bible tells how God answered Hezekiah's prayer.

Questions for discussion

1. Who mocked God?
2. What did Hezekiah do when he heard the mocking?
3. What did he tell the people to do?
4. What did God do to let Sennacherib know that He was worthy of his respect?
5. What should you do when people mock you?

Key concepts

The king of Assyria, Sennacherib, was a very powerful king. He had defeated many of the nations surrounding Jerusalem where Hezekiah, king of the Israelites was. Sennacherib sent his men to mock Hezekiah and God, intending to turn the Israelite people against Hezekiah and God. Hezekiah could have gotten angry and yelled disrespectful things back at Sennacherib's men. Instead, he asked his people to remain silent. Hezekiah went to God and prayed. Because Hezekiah prayed, God chose to deliver the Israelites by sending an angel to fight for them – killing 185,000 of Sennacherib's men during the night. It doesn't pay to mock God.

There are two lessons to learn from this story. One is that when others treat us with disrespect, we should remain silent and take our concerns to God instead of arguing and taunting back. The other lesson is that God is worthy of our respect and there are severe consequences for disrespecting God.

Treat the Lord your God with utmost respect

Read Daniel 5, and 1 Samuel 2:30.

Questions for discussion

1. How would we feel if someone came into our house and took our best dishes and then went to their own house and had a party using them?
2. How would you feel if someone took a special toy from you and allowed all of his or her friends to play with it?

3. Whose cups did King Belshazzar use at his party?
4. Who did they praise while they were drinking from them?
5. What would you think if you saw a hand come and write on our wall? Would you be frightened?
6. Who did they get to interpret the writing?
7. What did Daniel tell Belshazzar that he did wrong?
8. What did God do to Belshazzar that very night?
9. Who did Daniel say is worthy of praise?
10. What does God say about those who honour Him? (1 Samuel 2:30)
4. How would you feel if you offered someone your last candy and they tossed it on the ground and mashed it under their shoe?
5. What did David do to show sympathy to Hanun?
6. How did Hanun treat David's men disrespectfully?
7. What do you think is the meaning of these words: "... they had become a stench in David's nostrils"?
8. What was the end result of Hanun's treatment of David's men?
9. Do you seek out friends who treat you well or treat you poorly?
10. Do you treat others in a way that would cause them to want to be friends or enemies?

Key concepts

King Belshazzar was blatantly disrespectful of God. He used the gold goblets his father, King Nebuchadnezzar, took from God's temple in Jerusalem. Not only did he drink from them, he had a party in honour of other gods while he was drinking wine from them. God was so displeased, He wrote on the wall of the place where they were partying. God revealed to Daniel what the words He wrote meant. Daniel told Belshazzar that he had praised other gods, but did not honour the God who held his life in His hand (Daniel 5:23). Belshazzar was killed that night. Disrespecting God is dangerous business.

Disrespect is smelly business

Read 1 Chronicles 19.

Questions for discussion

1. Has anyone ever made you feel humiliated?
2. Have you ever felt as though someone treated you with disrespect?
3. Have you ever tried to do something nice to someone who in turn rejected your kindness?

Key concepts

David and Nahash were both kings. They were friends with each other. After Nahash died, his son, Hanun became the king of the Ammonites. Because Nahash had shown kindness to David, David sent a "sympathy" party to Hanun. Hanun rejected David's friendly gesture and treated his men with utter disrespect. The end result was that Hanun made an enemy out of a man who had been friends with his father – to the point that Hanun had to hire another army to help protect his kingdom from David. In the following chapter, 1 Chronicles 20:2, we read of David's men completely destroying the land of the Ammonites. This story shows us that treating others with disrespect can cause us to lose friends.

Creative discipline

Few parents enjoy their God-given responsibility of disciplining their children, and even fewer children enjoy being on the receiving end. The Bible tells us to expect discipline to be uncomfortable, but also promises positive results. This section will provide you with innovative suggestions to use when correcting your children, to help them learn to practice respect.

For problems with disrespectful behaviour

Biblical basis

Psalm 107:11-12 “. . . for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. So He subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.”

Suggested disciplinary action

Begin by establishing suitable boundaries. When a child wilfully crosses the boundary, follow through with a pre-determined consequence. For example: “Renee, Tom has asked you to stop tickling him and you have not respected his wishes. If you do not respect your friend’s boundaries, then you have to go home.”

In the case of showing disrespect for friends or toys, ending a playdate works well. God chose to subject those who rebelled with bitter labour. Once you have returned home, emphasize work instead of playing. You may also choose to bring your child to do errands with you, such as grocery shopping or washing your vehicle. You may also choose to find a “bitter” job (one that he/she does not enjoy) for the offending child to do.

Affirmation

Talk to your children about God’s heart of love and willingness to forgive them when they are sorry. Encourage your child with Isaiah 57:15: “For this is what the high and lofty One says – He who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

Explain that when we are deeply sorry in our hearts, God is willing to forgive us and continue His

friendship with us. Affirm that earthly parents are also pleased to hear their children repent when they have done wrong and are quick to forgive as God is.

Hands-on options

In the busyness of day-to-day life, we often forget to look for opportunities to teach our children God-honouring character traits. These ideas require very little preparation, making it easy for you to share some simple but memorable lessons with your kids. Read over the options at the beginning of your week and choose one or two that will fit your schedule.

Build a respect habit

servicing others

When opportunity arises, have kids offer to carry groceries, help a neighbour, offer their chair to a grown-up or friend, open the door for others, etc. Begin at home! Be sure to commend children for following the “family rules of respect” represented on the mobile you made in the **kick-off craft** activity.

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 20:11 “Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.”

Respecting your community

servicing others

While walking in your neighbourhood, make a point of picking up pieces of garbage others have dropped. Let your children know that it does not show respect for others who live in the community when we litter, leaving our garbage lying around on the ground.

Explain that being “de-litter-bugs” serves others who use the park paths you have cleaned up. Talk about other ways you can show respect for your neighbourhood (e.g. following community rules, sharing sidewalks and walkways, saying hello to those passing by, etc.).

Egg toss

physical activity

This activity needs to be done in an outdoor area or on a washable surface, as it can get messy.

Begin by passing a raw egg back and forth between two people or around in a circle. Keep backing up and increasing the distance of the toss. The egg may or may not break.

Use this game as an opportunity to talk about how we must treat others with respect. Explain that people are fragile like the egg. Humans don't have shells, but people can have very sensitive feelings. Treating others with consideration demonstrates respect for their feelings.

The game can also be used as a reminder to care for the family home and possessions and for the things that others own.

Questions for discussion

- How do you feel when someone speaks harshly to you?
- What do people say to hurt the feelings of other people?
- Do you think it makes God sad or mad when people hurt each other?
- Which toy do you enjoy playing with? How would you feel if a friend broke it because they played roughly with it?
- Should we walk on carpets with shoes on? Why or why not?
- Why do we wash our hands after we are finished eating a messy meal?
- Why do we put our things away instead of leaving them lay around the house?
- Why do we knock before entering a closed door?
- Why do we ask before we take food from someone else's plate?

Relevant Scripture

Genesis 6:5-6 "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil

all the time. The Lord was grieved that He had made man on earth and His heart was filled with pain."

We are works of art

creative crafts

Take part of a morning or afternoon to stop by a local art gallery or museum. Prior to entering the gallery, explain what kind of behaviour shows respect for the artwork and other people who are there.

Basic rules include speaking in quiet voices, being polite as you discuss the artwork, looking with your eyes only, not touching with your hands, and walking calmly in the gallery as horseplay can damage artwork and be disruptive.

Spend time looking at all of the different styles of paintings there are. Point out how each one is beautiful in a unique way. Have your children pick out a favourite artist and ask why they like the style of that artist's work. On the drive home, explain that we are all "works of art," fashioned uniquely by God.

When you get home, allow your children to create their own work of art. Admire it and tell them it is as uniquely wonderful as they are. Ask your children how they felt when you appreciated the beauty of their art. Tell them it makes God happy when we treat His artwork (other people) with respect and consideration (Ephesians 2:10, Isaiah 43:7, Psalm 139:14).

In the future, when you hear your children speaking disrespectfully, you can remind them to treat others as valuable works of art who have been created by God.

Note: A scaled down version of this activity can be done by critiquing the art and illustrations in a variety of children's books.

Relevant Scripture

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Isaiah 43:7 ". . . everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

Psalm 139:14 “I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Mealtime manners

fun with food

Pretend the Queen (or someone equally important) is coming to dinner. The menu is not significant, as the focus should be on how the food is eaten and on finer points of conduct.

Depending on the age of your children, introduce appropriate manners for them to follow. This is a basic list. Add to it as you desire:

- Begin every meal by thanking God for your food.
- Remember to say, “Please” and “Thank you.”
- Sit straight on your chair without rocking it.
- Wait for everyone to be seated and served before you start eating.
- At the beginning of the meal, place your napkin in your lap, and use it to wipe your mouth and hands.
- Use your fork and spoon to eat food unless it is finger food. If you are unsure, ask.
- Put only bite-sized pieces into your mouth. Eat like a bunny, not a wolf.
- Chew with your mouth closed. Chew quietly. Be careful not to slurp.
- Speak when your mouth is empty. Speak quietly.
- Ask politely for food to be passed instead of reaching across the table.
- Before helping yourself to the last portion of food, ask if anyone else would like it, or would like to share it with you.

- If bodily functions occur during a meal such as burping, passing gas, sneezing or coughing, these things should be done as quietly and discreetly as possible. If necessary, excuse yourself from the table to not disturb others who are eating.
- Be kind to others at the table. Do not complain about the food to be respectful of those who prepared the food.
- End every meal by asking to be excused, taking your dishes to the sink and thanking the person who made the meal.

Preserving nature

science with a twist

If the season allows, go for a walk where you will see wildflowers but ask your children not to pick any. Explain that if all the wildflowers get picked, there will be none left for others to enjoy. Teach your children that allowing the flowers to grow shows respect for the beauty God made. This can extend into a discussion on caring for the environment so that the animals God created can continue to thrive.

If your children enjoy learning about animals, consider doing some research and finding children’s books on how to preserve the environment of their favourite animal on the potential extinction list. Some Canadian animals listed as endangered or vulnerable on the IUCN (The International Union for Conservation of Nature) red list include the polar bear, sea otter, northern fur seal, great white shark, wolverine, wood turtle, spotted turtle, and many whales, fish and birds. To begin your research, visit your library for children’s books on the topic of extinction and endangered species.

“Check for respect” game

drive time or any time

While you are driving or standing in a line up, fill the time by playing the “Check for Respect” game. Here are two ways you can play the game:

- Tell your kids a story or provide a scenario. For example:

A friend is over and you have a wonderful time playing together. Toys are spread all over the playroom. Your friend leaves without offering to help clean up the toys.

An older man comes to your home to visit and your little brother asks him how old he is.

Ask your kids, “Did the characters in the story show respect?” If the characters in the story showed respect, your kids answer, “Check for respect.” If the characters did not demonstrate respect, have your children make a noise like a game show sound when someone gets eliminated from the game: “Ennnnh!”

- Another option is to make it a multiple-choice game where your children select the correct answer. The laughs gained with playing the game this way can add some fun, given your children have the maturity and judgement to understand that the humour is funny to listen to, but not funny if it is acted out. Some examples include:

You feel a sneeze coming, so you a) look for someone to sneeze on b) cover your mouth and nose with your hands c) turn your head away from people and let the sneeze out as loudly as possible.

Company is over. You notice that after the meal, your mom has a big piece of lettuce on her tooth. You a) point at it and start laughing as loud as you can, b) ask if anyone can tell which of your mom’s teeth is not like the other, c) quietly whisper in your mom’s ear that she should check her teeth in the bathroom.

Once your children understand the idea behind making up scenarios for the game, they may want to make up some of their own, too.

If you have completed the **kick-off craft** activity for the **respect** lesson, you can add this game to daily life. When you notice family members treating each other or possessions with respect, remember to say, “Check for respect.” Family members can say “Ennnnh!”, when they notice other family members not following the “family respect rules,” provided it is done in a respectful way.

Mouldy attitudes

science with a twist

This experiment is a hands-on illustration of how attitudes of self-centeredness and pride precede disrespectful behaviour, which then spoils relationships.

You will need a piece of bread (stale is ideal), a re-sealable freezer bag, a water spritzer, water and dust.

- 1** Send your children on a dust hunt. Give them a slice of bread and have them gather dust from dusty areas of the house on the bread. Tell your children that the dust represents selfishness and/or pride.
- 2** Spritz the bread with warm water so that the slice is damp and place it in an airtight bag.
- 3** Place the bag in a warm place for three days to allow mould to grow. After you have successfully grown some mould, take some time to discuss how disrespect “spoils” relationships as the mould spoiled the bread.
- 4** Compare a fresh slice of bread and the mouldy slice. Ask your kids which bread they would prefer to eat. Tell them that the mould represents disrespectfulness.
- 5** Then read Romans 12:16-18, 1 Corinthians 10:24, Philippians 2:3-4 and discuss how attitudes of selfishness and pride can cause people to treat each other disrespectfully. For example, if we are thinking only of ourselves, we will be more likely to push in front of someone in a line up. If we are proud, thinking that we are more important than others, we will be tempted to treat them poorly. On the other hand, if we are considerate of others, we offer to let them go ahead of us. If we consider other people to be valuable, then we treat them with kindness and respect.

Use the discussion questions to help your children discover we all prefer to be around people who are kind, thoughtful and loving, than those who are out to please themselves.

- 6 Pray together, asking God to enable you to think of others instead of yourselves and to show proper respect to everyone (Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Peter 2:17).

Questions for discussion

- Which slice of bread would you want to eat?
- The mould has spoiled the bread. How does failing to show respect for others spoil relationships?
- If you are thinking only of yourself, what will you do when someone pushes you by mistake?
- Who would you rather be around – someone who treats you as a valued friend or someone who always wants the best for themselves?

Relevant Scripture

Romans 12:16-18 “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

1 Corinthians 10:24 “Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Respect detectives

drive time or any time

Tell your kids you are going to be “respect detectives.” Your job is to look for ways people are not showing respect for others. While driving around your community or out on a walk in your neighbourhood, look for litter and graffiti. Also look for doggy doo on the path or the grass.

Use any of the following questions for discussion to encourage your child to consider how he/she can be a respectful member of your community. To take this lesson a step further, pick up litter when you go on a

walk to make your community a more beautiful place to be.

Questions for discussion

- Do fences, cement paths and buildings look better with spray paint or clear of painted words and drawings?
- Does the park look better clean or full of litter?
- Do you like to step in doggy doo when you are walking on the path or playing in the park?
- Did those who dropped the litter, painted the graffiti or left the doggy doo around show respect to others?
- How can we show respect to others by taking care of our community?

Animal examples

getting into nature

Discuss the territorial habits of animals. Explain that animals mark their territory with scents such as urine and feces.

When animals do not respect the territorial markings of other animals, the likely result is animal fights and possible death. We can learn from the wise animals who choose to respect the boundary markings of others animals. They live in peace, whereas those whose choose to trespass risk conflict and death. When we respect others, we are more likely to live at peace with them than when we choose to show disrespect to others.

Use the discussion questions and Romans 12:16-18 to relate this to humans respecting one another.

Questions for discussion

- What part of the house is your “territory”?
- How can we show respect for each other in our home?

Relevant Scripture

Romans 12:16-18 “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not

repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

1 Peter 2:17 “Show proper respect to everyone . . .”

Boundary game

physical activity or drama / role play

To play the boundary game, draw a circle around a child with a piece of chalk (or use a hula-hoop). Give examples of respecting other’s boundaries. Here are some ideas:

Please stop tickling!

One child steps inside another child’s circle and begins tickling him/her. The child already inside the circle must say, “Please stop tickling me.” Then the child must leave the circle, demonstrating that they are respecting the other’s boundaries.

No hugs, please

Have one child ask another child if they can give him/her a hug. If the second child says “Sure,” then the first child may step inside the second child’s circle. However, if they say “I’d rather not,” then child number one must respect child number two’s boundaries.

May I have that back, please?

Have one child play with a toy that belongs to another child. Then have the owner ask if they may have their toy back please. The child must step inside the owner’s circle to give back the toy and then leave the circle once again to show they are respecting the other’s wishes.

Afterward, you can use the questions for discussion to debrief. Also discuss ways in which people can respectfully communicate their boundaries to others.

Questions for discussion

- How does it make you feel when someone is disrespectful to you?
- Do you like to be around people who are disrespectful?

Relevant Scripture

Luke 6:31 “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Recommended resources
For a list of children’s stories that reinforce the theme of this lesson, consult the home page for the **respect** lesson at KidsOfIntegrity.com.