

# FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

## Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

### Respect v. Rudeness



#### Treating others with honor and dignity

Everything and everyone that God created has value therefore we are expected to respect everything and everyone. For things, this respect takes the form of care of ours and others' possessions. For people, this means treating others with honor and dignity. That can be easy when we are respecting those whom we love, or those that respect us. It gets difficult to be respectful to someone we do not like or someone who has different views, but this is exactly what we are called to do.

The faithful understand that respect is not something that needs to be earned to be given. By being a child of God, we all deserve respect.

This month, practice seeing God in others and offering them the respect they and God are due.

#### To Practice Respect I Will:

- Have consideration for those around me.
- Treat others as I would want to be treated.
- Be careful not to use offensive language.
- Honor my elders and authorities.
- Not keep others waiting.

Any others appropriate to your family?

#### God's Word on Respect

*"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

*Romans 12:10*

*"Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others."*

*Philippians 2:3-4*

*"Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king."*

*1 Peter 2:17*

*Jesus said : "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."*

*Matthew 7:12*

#### Abram Teaches Us About Respect

When Abram left Egypt with his family, his herds and all of his possessions, he also had with him his nephew, Lot. Now Lot had his family and his herds and his possessions, too. The Lord had blessed both abundantly and soon there wasn't enough room for both families. Abram trusted God to take care of him and he knew that he and Lot must go separate ways. "So Abram said to Lot: "Let there be no strife between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are kinsmen. Is not the whole land at your disposal? Please separate from me. If you prefer the left, I will go to the right; if you prefer the right, I will go to the left. Lot looked about and saw how well watered the whole Jordan Plain was as far as Zoar, like the LORD'S own garden, or like Egypt. (This was before the LORD had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) Lot, therefore, chose for himself the whole Jordan Plain and set out eastward. Thus, they separated from each other; Abram stayed in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the Plain, pitching his tents near Sodom." Genesis 13: 8-12

Abram knew that giving Lot first choice was the way to keep peace in the family. He knew that was more important than getting the better grazing land.



# Kisses for Manners

You will need to plan this activity around a family meal. You can make it a special meal by using the good china or serving special food. It can also be done at an ordinary family dinner. Put 5 chocolate kisses in front of each person's place setting. Explain that during dinner we will be practicing our table manners. Before the meal begins, ask for examples of good and bad table manners. Now tell them that if you see someone exercising bad table manners, you may kindly ask for a kiss. If you are caught and someone asks for a kiss you must hand one over nicely. At the end of the meal, you can see who has the most kisses. Each child gets to keep the kisses they won. You may also have a stash of extra kisses to hand out as a reward for exhibiting good table manners as you see them. When the meal is over, ask why table manners are important. Is the meal more pleasant for everyone when we are mannerly? What would happen to a salesman entertaining a client at dinner, if he had poor table manners? What would happen if you are dining at a friend's house and you behaved poorly? What if it was a girlfriend's or boyfriend's house? Extend the discussion to other manners. What if your lack of manners showed up during a job interview? Be sure to remind them that pointing out someone else's lack of manners is not polite and that it was only done as part of a learning exercise during this meal. You may want to keep the extra kisses handy and reward mannerly meal behavior throughout the rest of the week.



## POSTER IDEA:

### **Respect**

**Treating others with  
honor and dignity**



**“ ‘Honor your father and mother’—which is the first commandment with a promise so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”**

**Ephesians 6:2-3**

**Does loving your  
parents show honor,  
too?**

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of deference in your life. You were considerate to everyone you met, especially the poor and the sick, who came to you for help. Help us to notice and respect the feelings of those around us as you did. Remind us to use courteous language at all times. Guide us in the importance of modesty in our dress and moderation in all of our actions so as not to offend those around us. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

#### **Other ways to teach character in the home:**

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit  
[www.charactercincinnati.org/respect/](http://www.charactercincinnati.org/respect/)