

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What things about your parents make it easy for you to respect them?

What things about them make it difficult to respect them?

How do you think you need to respond when you see things in their lives that make it difficult for you to respect them?

2. Rate your radical respect using the ten statements below as a guide. Which of these do you most need to work on?

- *I do what I'm asked to do when I'm asked to do it*
- *I willingly listen to my parent's advice*
- *I accept discipline without complaining*
- *I don't criticise my parents behind their back*
- *I apologise when I do something wrong*
- *I let my parents know I love them*
- *I do extra jobs around home voluntarily*
- *I always keep my promises to my parents*
- *I forgive my parents even when they treat me unfairly*
- *I thank my parents when they do something for me*

3. What will you do this week as a positive and constructive step toward change?



GETTING STARTED

1. What popular TV programmes depict family life?

Which of these is the most realistic? Which is the least realistic?

In what ways do young people in these programmes show respect or a lack of respect for their parents? Give examples.

2. If you were a parent, would you be stricter or less strict than your parents? Explain why.

DIGGING DEEPER

Discuss the following statements. Do you agree or disagree:

- *We must respect our parents but we don't have to obey them*
- *If parents want to children to respect them they must earn it*
- *The main cause of a lack of respect of teenagers toward their parents is the lack of respect of parents toward their teenagers*

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read Ephesians 6:1-9 on the facing page. Discuss whether or not these verses teach the following:
 - *The longer a person lives, the more obedient they must have been to their parents when they were young*
 - *The command to obey our parents is conditional on them being right in what they say*
 - *A good parent won't strictly enforce discipline*

Look at the rules governing slaves and masters. Which of these rules do you believe applies to the parent/child relationship?

2. Read Hebrews 12:5-12. Describe what our attitude should be when our parents are disciplining us.

Our parents sometimes make mistakes and discipline us unfairly. In these situations what attitudes in our life could God be changing and correcting?

EPHESIANS 6:1-9

¹Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord,* for this is the right thing to do. ²"Honour your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: ³If you honour your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. ⁶Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. ⁷Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ⁸Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

⁹Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favourites.

HEBREWS 12:5-12

⁵Have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. ⁶For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."*

⁷As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? ⁸If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. ⁹Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

¹⁰For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

¹²So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. ¹³Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Rate your radical respect using the ten statements below as a guide. Which statements are true for you? Which are false?
 - *I speak respectfully about people who are in power: e.g. politicians, police etc.*
 - *I speak to and about my teachers with respect*
 - *I am polite, co-operative and attentive in class*
 - *I listen attentively when our minister/pastor preaches*
 - *I co-operate with our youth group leaders*
 - *I follow my coach's/tutors instructions respectfully*
 - *I obey the law*
 - *I thank authority figures for their leadership*
 - *I am willing to obey those whom God has put in authority over me even if I disagree with them*
2. Which authority figure are you having the most trouble with at the moment? What are they doing that is causing the problem?
3. What are you doing that is causing the problem? What is God trying to teach you?
4. What will you do this week as a positive and constructive step toward change?



GETTING STARTED

1. What qualities would you regard as essential in the lives of the following authority figures:
 - *Politician:*
 - *Teacher:*
 - *Minister/Pastor:*
 - *Coach:*
 - *Policeman:*
2. What happens if these authority figures lose the respect of the people they lead?

DIGGING DEEPER

Discuss the following statements. Do you agree or disagree:

- *The most important quality of a leader is not to lead but to serve*
- *People in authority (see previous page) cannot demand respect, they must earn it*
- *It is disrespectful to question those in authority*
- *If there is a law that contradicts the Bible, then God doesn't expect us to obey it*
- *The teachers who earn the greatest respect are the teachers who know their subject*

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read Romans 13:1-7 on the facing page. According to these verses how should we behave toward the teachers at school?

Why should we behave this way?

What if our teachers treat us unfairly? How do you think we should act? Why?

2. Read Colossians 3:22,23. Although this verse talks about slaves and masters, the principle applies to those in authority and those under authority. What is the attitude we should have toward those in authority over us? Why?

ROMANS 13:1-7

¹Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ²So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honour you. ⁴The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

⁶Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honour to those who are in authority.

COLOSSIANS 3:22,23

²²Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. ²³Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

HEBREWS 13:7

⁷Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

3. Read Hebrews 13:7. What do you think it means in practice to respect our youth leader? Why is respect important?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Rate your radical respect using the thirteen statements below which are based in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Which of these do you most need to work on?
 - *I am kind and considerate toward others*
 - *I am patient with people who are slower than me*
 - *I am pleased when someone does well at something*
 - *I do not boast to others about my achievements*
 - *I am polite to others*
 - *I place other's needs ahead of my own*
 - *I do not get easily angered by others*
 - *I am quick to forgive others*
 - *I am honest with others*
 - *I am supportive of others*
 - *I am loyal toward others*
 - *I trust others*
 - *I never give up on others*
2. Rate our small group's radical respect using the same list above and substituting "we" for "I". Which of these do we most need to work on?
3. What will you do this week as a positive and constructive step toward change?



GETTING STARTED

1. Listed below are some "Respect Ruiners". Have you seen or experienced any of these at school or in groups you've belonged to? Discuss the effect of each one sharing any personal examples:
 - *Putdowns:*
 - *Jealousy:*
 - *Gossip:*
 - *Cliques:*
2. What other "respect ruiners" can you think of that destroy groups and friendships?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Discuss the following statements. Do you agree or disagree:
 - *Radical respect can mean allowing others to take advantage of us*
 - *It is disrespectful to be critical of the actions of a friend.*
2. In the light of your answers how would you respectfully speak to a friend who annoys or frustrates you? Use one or more examples below to come up with some answers, or share some real life examples of your own.
 - *A friend who never opens up to you and talks about their feelings.*
 - *A friend who is always try to outdo you and go one better*
 - *A friends who gets jealous when you hang out with someone else*
 - *A friend who makes promises they don't keep*

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 on the facing page. The first two verses might just as easily have said “Fame, wealth and power are worthless without love.” What would you say to convince someone that this statement is true?

This third verse says that even good things such as serving others and giving to the poor are worthless without love. How this might be true?

These verses describe the love God has for us. In that light, which description of love in verses 4-8 is particularly meaningful to you?

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8

¹ If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

⁸ Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

2. Read Philippians 2:1-5. At times we will inevitably disagree with people. According to this passage what are the keys to overcoming these disagreements?

Think of a recent or current disagreement you've had with someone. What advice might you apply from these verses?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Read the ten “radical respect” statements below, each of which gives advice for boy girl relationships.
 - (i) Which ones don't seem all that wrong to you? Discuss.
 - (ii) Which of these is surprising—you'd not really thought of it before?
 - (iii) Which of these do you think is especially important to remember?
 - *I don't use others in relationships in order to get what I want*
 - *I don't pressure others to do things they don't want to*
 - *I don't talk about others in a degrading way*
 - *I don't dwell on unclean thoughts about others*
 - *I consider the feelings of others before my own*
 - *I allow others the freedom to end the relationship without pressure*
 - *I don't use relationships as a means of gaining status*
 - *I don't get jealous and possessive of the other person*
 - *I don't come between another person and their family*
 - *I don't flirt with another person or lead them on*
2. If you had to choose one of these to especially remember and apply in your friendships with members of the opposite sex, which would it be?



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GETTING STARTED

Read through the following “Record of a Relationship”. How many examples of lack of respect can you spot? What would you do differently?

When their eyes met across a crowded church it was love at first sight and they knew at once that God was telling them that they were right for each other! He was 17 and she was 15. Her parents had made it clear that she could not have a boyfriend until she was 18 and she wanted to do what they said. But he told her that her parents were old fashioned and convinced her to keep their relationship a secret. She felt guilty, but agreed. After some time he began to pressure her to become sexually active. She refused, yet he persisted in pressuring her.

Her friends felt that she was spending too much time with him. She never seemed to have time for them anymore. She valued their friendship and so, even though she loved him, she began to spend less time with him and more with her friends. He resented this and so he began to flirt with other girls. This made her jealous. After all, he belonged to her and no right to steal him.

Before long he found someone he liked more than her. He didn't want to hurt her feelings so he began to treat her badly hoping she would get the message and leave him but this only hurt her. Finally he sent a text telling her it was all over. He deleted her from facebook and avoided her.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Discuss the following statements about relationships. Agree or disagree?
 - *Respect means overlooking one another's faults*
 - *Respect means allowing the other person to have their own way*
2. Do you think love between a boy and girl is primarily a feeling or a commitment? Explain.
3. Do you think young people should wait until they are at least eighteen before getting into relationships? Explain why?

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Read [Ephesians 5:21-27](#). These verses speak of mutual submission to one another in marriage so as to model Christ's relationship with the church. Describe how you think these principles apply when dating
2. Read [1 Corinthians 6:14,15](#). Why do you think we should not get into relationships with people who don't share our religious convictions?
3. Read [1 Peter 3:3,4,7](#). Discuss the advice given here to girls and guys. Just old fashioned views or great advice for today?
4. Read [Colossians 3:12-14](#). This passage tells us how would should treat other people. Do you think the advice extends to boy girl relationships? Why or why not?

EPHESIANS 5:21-27

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Saviour of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. ²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault!

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14,15

¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?

1 PETER 3:3,4,7

³ Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewellery, or beautiful clothes. ⁴ You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. ⁷ In the same way, you husbands must give honour to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Rate your radical respect toward God using the statements below. Which of these do you most need to work on?
 - *I set aside time each day to pray and read my Bible*
 - *I put into practice the truths God teaches me*
 - *I focus on God during times of worship*
 - *I use my gifts, money and time to honour God*
 - *I have faith and confidence in the promises of God*
 - *I am a good witness for God in front of my friends*
 - *I thank God for the many blessings He has given me*
 - *I thank God for answered prayer*
 - *I don't joke about the things of God*
 - *I reflect deeply about my faith and the things of God*
2. What practically do you need to do in order to grow in your radical respect toward God?



GETTING STARTED

1. In the Bible we read that thousands of years ago God destroyed all humankind except Noah and his family. Of all the people on the earth only Noah knew what it meant to show God “Radical Respect”. What evidence is there that the world is not much better today? In what way does humankind not show God the Radical Respect that He deserves?

What do you think it means in practice to live a life of Radical Respect toward God?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Which of the following do you regard as being disrespectful toward God:
 - *Referring to God as “the man upstairs”*
 - *Any jokes about God or Jesus*
 - *Playing non Christian music in church*
 - *Giving Jesus “a round of applause”*
 - *Singing worship songs but not really meaning the lyrics*
 - *Calling ourselves a Christian but not living like it*
2. If you were God, what would be your attitude to the following people? What things would you say to them?
 - *People who use your name as a swear word*
 - *People who only pray when they’re in trouble*
 - *People who say they’ll follow you and don’t*

INTO THE BIBLE

1. Based on what you read in the three passages on the facing page, explain what you think it means to show Radical Respect to God in each of the areas listed below:
 - *Giving (Matthew 6:1-4)*
 - *Prayer (Matthew 6:5,6)*
 - *Worship (Mark 7:6,7)*
 - *Leadership (Matthew 23:1-7)*

MATTHEW 6:1-6

¹“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ² When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³ But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁵ “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

MARK 7:6,7

⁶ Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

*‘These people honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.*

⁷ *Their worship is a farce,
for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’*

MATTHEW 23:1-7

²³ Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² “The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. ³ So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. ⁴ They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden. ⁵ “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. ⁶ And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honour in the synagogues. ⁷ They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’