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parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**St. Michael
Lutheran Church**

hope@stmlc.us



Emphasize and Model Respect

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help your family respect and honor God in all you do.
2. To guide you as you model respect for your children.
3. To lead your children to live respectfully toward God, other people, and themselves.

Today's kids can often be viewed as being disrespectful—toward adults, property, each other, even themselves. Many parents teach children to be independent and to stand up for themselves, which can also result in perceived disrespect for authorities. Other culprits are media and music, as well as the lack of respectful role models.

Learning respect is an integral part of healthy child development, and it's never too late to start instilling this virtue. Here's how.

- By treating kids with respect, you're teaching them to respect others. Say thank you when someone offers help, make cards for sick friends, and acknowledge kind acts. Also

point out disrespectful and rude behavior so kids are aware of it.

- Talk to kids in a kind tone. Even when disciplining, your voice can be confident without yelling.
- Set fair but firm rules and boundaries. Kids crave fair limits, and it often helps to let them have a say in what rules are in place.
- Create immediate consequences for disrespect, and be sure to follow through. If possible, provide teachable moments by relating the consequence to the offense.
- Helping kids respect themselves is the first step toward respecting others. Tell children that God created them in his image and loves them unconditionally.

Read on for more ideas about emphasizing and instilling respect.

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Test. Bold. Love.

The Role of Honor

The Bible is our best resource for training children to act respectfully. When you hear these common phrases from your kids, offer the biblical corrections that follow:

- “You’re not my boss!” —Romans 13:1
- “Why do I have to do that!?” —Philippians 2:5-7
- “She hit me first!” —1 Thessalonians 5:15
- “He’s stupid!” —Ephesians 4:29
- “You’re not my friend anymore!” —Ephesians 4:32



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Worthy of Honor

You’ll need a blue ribbon (or one made from paper), as well as a safety pin or tape. Sit in a circle and place the ribbon on a family member. Then take turns saying kind things about that person and applauding for him or her. Let everyone have a turn wearing the ribbon and receiving compliments.

Ask: **How did it feel when others said nice things about you and clapped for you?**

Read aloud Deuteronomy 5:16. Say: **This verse talks about parents, but God wants us to honor everyone—even ourselves.** Ask: **How did our words and actions honor the person wearing the ribbon?**

Say: **Saying nice things and clapping aren’t the only ways to honor and respect someone.** Ask: **What else can we do to show honor and respect? How can we honor God? How can we honor ourselves?**

Close in prayer, asking Jesus to help you show honor and respect to all.

Charting the Course Together, make a Respect Chart, similar to a chart you may use for weekly chores. Add a square for each family member for every day of the week. After dinner, share ways you’ve each displayed respect that day. Add stickers and then celebrate when the chart is full.

Bridging the Gap Connect so your bodies can form a bridge across a large room. One person starts by touching a wall with a body part; then everyone else must connect to reach the opposite wall. If you get stuck, use clothing (socks, belts, shoelaces, etc.) to bridge the gaps. Afterward, discuss how everyone mattered in order to achieve the goal. Also talk about ways we can honor and “support” one another.

Certificates of Honor Search online for free certificate templates. Print one for each family member and fill in the person’s name, as well as ways he or she shows honor and respect to others.

Beach Ball Madness Form a circle. Say, “Let’s play the game. Go!” Throw a beach ball into the circle without instructions. When family members are stumped, say: “Toss the ball until everyone has a turn. Remember that pattern and

keep following it, going faster and faster.” Afterward ask: “What was it like to receive no instructions at first? Why do rules make games more fun? How are the Ten Commandments like rules to a game? How do the Ten Commandments make it easier to live with other people?”

All Around the Neighborhood Using graham crackers, frosting (or cream cheese), and snack items, create small houses. Then have family members trade houses. Read Luke 10:25-37. Say: “Just as we gave up a snack we really wanted, the good Samaritan gave up time and money to care for a stranger. Jesus wants us to love and respect everyone as our neighbor.” Eat the houses while brainstorming ways to show respect to all your “neighbors.”

Up to the Challenge Have family members huddle closely. Tie them together with twine or rope. Have the group try to move through an obstacle course carefully. Debrief the experience by asking: “How did you have to change your usual behavior to do this? What are some challenges of living and working with others?” Read aloud Psalm 119:15-16. Say: “God’s Word offers lots of guidance for how we can respect one another.”

“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. ... Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”
—Romans 12:9-10, NLT

MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Show Dogs*

Genre: Action, Adventure, Comedy

Rating: PG

Cast: Will Arnett, Stanley Tucci, Natasha Lyonne, RuPaul, Ludacris

Synopsis: Max, a macho but lonely police dog, goes undercover as a pampered competitor in an exclusive dog show. While trying to solve an animal-smuggling ring, Max bonds with his human partner and also gets a “puppy love” interest.

Our Take: Kids will enjoy the various personalities of the talking dogs. The movie contains some rude and suggestive language and humor. Possible discussion topics include getting along with different personality types and working together to accomplish challenging goals.



BOOK

Title: *The Hanley Series*

Author: Dana Wilkerson

Synopsis: This unique new book series is designed to spark meaningful conversations between moms and daughters (ages 8-11). Girls read one book at their level, and moms read another. The storylines intertwine, encouraging daughters and moms to discuss what's happening and their characters' responses.

Our Take: Wilkerson, a *New York Times* best-selling author, says the goal of these books is to build relationships. Themes include the importance of forgiveness, living well, and service. Each book pair comes with a discussion guide and ways for kids and adults to serve others. (anovelcompanion.com)



CULTURE & TRENDS

On an Adventure “Adventure playgrounds,” also known as waste-material playgrounds, are regaining popularity in urban areas as parents encourage free-range, risk-taking play. Children can build and tear down structures, spray graffiti, and develop “grit” without interference from adults. (*citylab.com*)

Fortnite Frenzy This free-to-play, cross-platform survival game has gained instant popularity and sparked a new tournament trend. Fortnite is now the most-watched game on the live-streaming website Twitch. In “battle royale” mode, 100 players try to be the last one standing. Violence is persistent but cartoonish, not bloody. (*dexerto.com*)

Games, Sites & Apps

Kung-Fu Zoo

In this board game from WizKids, players flick animal-themed dice into an arena to score points and to eliminate other players. Some dexterity is required, but a lot of randomness is involved as well. Kids as young as preschool age (who don't put dice in their mouth) can enjoy this fun family game.

Artkiveapp.com

This site and app provide a solution for preserving all the artwork your kids create. Artkive sends a box that you fill with masterpieces. After you mail it back, Artkive photographs the artwork and creates a keepsake book (with up to 200 images). You also can view and share the images on any device.

Clips

This free video-editing app from Apple lets users stitch together photos and videos. You also can add emojis, text, and filters. Clips is a clean-fun win for social preteens. It isn't as integrally tied into social media as other apps (such as Instagram) are. Just be aware of where kids share their clips.

QUICK STATS

A Real Page-Turner Two-thirds (66%) of kids ages 6 to 11 say they enjoy read-aloud time with parents because reading together is fun. (*scholastic.com*)

Undocumented and on Edge More than 4 million U.S. children under 18 have at least one undocumented parent. And nearly 6 million children share a household with a relative who's now a target of random deportations. Experts say that is leading to more school struggles, increasing rates of poverty, and more cases of PTSD. (*time.com*)