

DAY 4

HOW CAN YOU SHOW RESPECT TO YOUR LEADERS?

Did you know that respecting people can be a way of worshiping God? It's true!

Worshiping isn't just singing, after all. You can worship with your life and with the choices you make, and the way you treat other people. Living God's way is a way of telling Him you love Him and you trust Him. And that means respecting the leaders He's put in your life.

SO WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

It means trusting what your mom says, because you trust that she knows more about the situation than you do.

It means saying *good* things about your teacher instead of complaining behind her back.

It means listening to the substitute instead of goofing off with your friends.

It means having a good attitude for your coach when he tells you to run more laps.

It means choosing your words carefully instead of lashing out with frustration.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?



DAY 1

READ 1 SAMUEL 24

It must have seemed like the perfect opportunity. The soldiers hiding with David in the cave certainly thought so. David could have attacked King Saul while he least expected it.

After all, David knew that God had chosen him to lead the Israelites one day so *why wouldn't* he take his chance when he had it? But David knew that HE wasn't the one who had made Saul the king. God was. And he was willing to wait patiently for God's perfect timing even when his men were urging him to take action.

In that moment, David showed tremendous respect for God. He showed that he trusted God to raise him up as king *later* when the time was right. He decided to take the high road and let God take care of the situation between him and Saul.

If we respect God, we will also respect the people He has given authority to—especially those who lead us and protect us.

YOU RESPECT GOD WHEN YOU RESPECT THE PEOPLE HE'S PUT IN CHARGE.



DAY 2

Do you feel like someone has to earn your respect before you're willing to give it? If we're honest, that's how we treat people a lot of the time.

We may not agree with someone who's in charge, or we may not agree with the way they act and we have to decide if we can still respect them.

When it really comes down to it, we show respect to someone because we know God made them and God gave them their authority.

That can be really difficult to do, so take a couple of minutes to write the names of people who are over you in the space below and pray for God to help you respect them.

DAY 3

Remember when we were talking about having to respect people we don't necessarily agree with? The truth is, that's something you're going to bump into a lot in your life.

The adults you know have definitely had to deal with some tough situations like that. Your mom or dad or small group leader could definitely tell you some stories. Maybe they had a teacher or a boss who was really difficult to respect. Or maybe they had to respect a decision somebody made, even if it was the decision they would have chosen.

Remember, respecting doesn't mean that we submit in every situation—especially when that means going against God. But our actions should make it clear that we believe God does place people in charge and we're not always meant to understand the reason or the timing of it. Our job is to carry ourselves with confidence that God is in control.

So ask your parent or your leader . . .

1. HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO RESPECT SOMEBODY WHEN YOU DIDN'T AGREE WITH THEM? HOW DID YOU DO IT?

2. DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PEOPLE WHO HAD TO GO AGAINST AUTHORITY, BUT STILL IN A RESPECTFUL WAY? WHAT DID THAT LOOK LIKE?