

# Respectful Words

Quarter 12 • Lesson 6

Focus on Character Development

1. **Connecting:** Watch or participate in a role-play about respectful and disrespectful words.
2. **Teaching:** Learn several Bible verses about speaking respectful words (Matthew 7:12; Ephesians 4:29; Luke 6:45).
3. **Responding:** Role-play speaking respectful words in different situations.

## SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Optional Supplies:*
- Memory Verse Poster
- Pencils
- Student Pages

## Teacher Devotion

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*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths,  
but only what is helpful for building others up  
according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*  
Ephesians 4:29

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Our words are powerful. We can build others up or we can tear them down. We can show respect to someone or we can dishonour someone. God wants us to use our words to show respect for those He has created in His image. Yet we often fail to do this.

At the end of each day this week, think about the conversations you had. List the words of respect you spoke. These include compliments, helpful words, polite phrases, and words spoken kindly. Then list any disrespectful words you spoke. These include rude words, insults, impolite phrases, and words spoken unkindly. If you are surprised by how many disrespectful words you list, do not be discouraged! Instead thank God that He is bringing this to your awareness so your words will become respectful.

**Family Connection:** Let families know that this week their children are learning to speak respectful words. Encourage families to practice using respectful words with each other.

## LESSON TIME

### 1. **Connecting:** Watch or participate in a role-play about respectful and disrespectful words.

Greet your children warmly as they arrive. Begin class with a quick review of last week's lesson.

- **Who can remind us what respect is?**

Allow 1–2 children to share. Add to their definitions if needed so that this information is covered: respect is to think very highly of someone and honour him, and treat him with consideration.

- **How did you show respect to the person you chose at the end of our last class?**

**One way we can show respect is with the words we speak. Today we will learn about respectful words. Let's do a role-play to get started.**

Invite 3 children to take part in the role-play. Read the situation to them, and let them make up their own conversation after you read the situation.

**Atif is the oldest child in his class. Most of the other students treat him with respect because he is older. But some children speak disrespectfully to him because he is poor and because of where his family comes from. He recently encouraged 2 other children to work harder in class instead of sitting around talking. One speaks respectfully to him and begins to work harder. The other child speaks disrespectfully to Atif because of his family.**

Let the 3 children act out conversations about this situation. After they are done, clap for the actors and ask them to sit with the rest of the class. Ask the child playing Atif to answer these questions:

- **How did you feel when the first person spoke to you?**
- **How did you feel when the second person spoke to you?**

**We do not like it when others speak disrespectfully to us, do we? It hurts! God want us to respect everyone because each person is made in God's image. It does not matter who that person is.**

**Teacher Tip:** It is important for your children to see that you respect them and to learn to respect each other. For more information on how to communicate well with your students, read the Resource Article "Communicating with Children" which is found just before this lesson.

## **2. Teaching: Learn several Bible verses about speaking respectful words (Matthew 7:12; Ephesians 4:29; Luke 6:45).**

**Let's learn what the Bible can tell us about how we should talk with each other. Listen to Jesus' words in a Bible verse. Think about how His words relate to the idea of respect.**

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*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

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- **How does this verse relate to the idea of respect?**

**Jesus tells us to treat others just like we would want to be treated. This includes speaking to others the way we would want them to speak to us. This is respect.**

Ask 2–3 children to share times when they were respectful to someone even though they were tempted to be rude. Have an illustration from your own life to share with the children.

- **What are some words we use that show others we are being respectful?**

Allow 3–4 children to share their ideas.

**Here is an important verse from the Bible that helps us understand how to speak to others with respect—even if we think they do not deserve it.**

If you are using the Memory Verse Poster, show it to the students.

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*Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths.  
Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs.  
Then what you say will help those who listen.*  
Ephesians 4:29, NIV

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**This verse tells us not to use evil or abusive words. We are to only use words that are good and helpful. This will help others listen to us and be encouraged.**

- **Why do people sometimes use abusive words?**
- **What kind of talk builds others up?**
- **How does talk that builds others up help those who hear it?**

Read Ephesians 4:29 again, and then read Situation 1. Ask for a volunteer to share the right thing to say or do. Repeat this for all 5 situations, asking for a different volunteer each time.

**Situation 1: You ask someone a question, and he ignores you.**

**Situation 2: Your sister spills tea all over your clean clothes.**

**Situation 3: You use a crutch to walk, and someone knocks you down on purpose.**

**Situation 4: You love your mother, but you are ashamed of how she earns money. While you are walking with her someone starts calling your mother rude names.**

**Situation 5: You were born with AIDS. You told a friend about it in private, and now all the children at school refuse to sit by you. You think your friend told everyone your secret. You see your friend in the school yard when no one else is around.**

**Jesus tells us that our words come from what is in our hearts. Listen to this verse:**

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*A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart,  
and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.  
For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*  
Luke 6:45

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**Our words reflect what is in our hearts. So if you do not have respect in your heart for someone, your words will not be respectful either. As we learned last week, we respect others because we recognize that every person is created in the image of God.**

### 3. Responding: Role-play speaking respectful words in different situations.

God created you in His image, and you are important to Him. And He wants you to treat all people with respect because they are also created in His image and are important to Him. Even when you do not think that a particular person deserves respect, God still wants you to respect her.

Remember that showing respect to someone does not mean that you agree with everything that person does. For example, it is not right for someone to abuse you with her words. However, God wants you to respond with respectful words. One way to do this is to respond to her as though she were a stranger you just met. You would be polite and kind but not close to that person. That is a way you can show respect when someone is not acting in right ways. That's hard to do, but God will help you!

**We will now practice speaking respectful words, even in difficult situations.**

Have the children find partners. Tell them that you will read a situation and they will role-play it. In each situation, Person 1 is not respectful and Person 2 is respectful.

**Situation 1: Person 1 and Person 2 are in the market. Person 1 wants to steal some fruit but Person 2 does not. Person 1 takes the fruit and puts it in his pocket. What does Person 2 say?**

Have the children switch roles and play the other person.

**Situation 2: Person 1 sees a group of boys bullying his younger brother. He runs over and pushes the biggest boy in the group, calling him rude names. Person 2 sees the boys arguing. He is bigger and older than the other children. What would Person 2 say to Person 1 and the other boys?**

Gather the children together. Tell them to answer these next questions quietly to themselves.

- **Is there someone you know that you speak disrespectfully to sometimes?**
- **How can you show respect to this person with your words the next time that you see her?**

*Optional:* If you are using the Student Pages, there is space for children to keep track of the respectful words they speak to others this week.

Tell the children you will lead them in guided prayer. They will ask God's forgiveness for being disrespectful. They will also ask Him to help them to forgive those who have been disrespectful to them. When you pause, the children can answer that part of the prayer quietly to themselves.

**Teacher Tip:** If any children are not ready to pray, ask them to sit quietly and listen. Do not pressure children to respond. It is important to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in these children. We want their responses to be from the heart, not because they want to go along with the group. Talk with these children after class. It may be that a child is experiencing something difficult like abuse. You can listen, comfort, and pray with the child and try to get her help if needed.

**Dear God, I often use disrespectful and angry words that hurt others. I have been disrespectful to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Pause for the children to think of anyone they have been disrespectful to.

**Forgive me for not being respectful to someone created in Your image.**

**There are people who have hurt me with unkind, disrespectful words. Help me to forgive**

\_\_\_\_\_.

Pause for the children to think of anyone who has been disrespectful to them.

**Help me to care about others and be respectful to them because You have created them. May I show respect to everyone. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Close class by praying over your children the following blessing over the children, which is based on Matthew 7:12 and Ephesians 4:29.

**Blessing: May you do to others what you would have them do to you and speak to others the way you would want them to speak to you. May the words you speak be helpful to others and build them up.**

Lead the children in singing this quarter's song, if possible. "Mighty God" by Elevation Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAhYoWYxAY>