

SESSION 4: RESPECT AUTHORITY

Welcome and Review Last Week's Homework: 20 minutes Session Session #4 Teaching: Respect Authority: 10 minutes

So far, we have covered the importance of parents living a life of integrity, starting with a focused, personal relationship with Jesus, and the importance of our marriage being our second priority. The model we live out will dictate how our children live out their faith. As Christian parents, everything we do, even if we think it's in secret, sends a message to our children and to nonbelievers including this one: **Disrespect any of our leaders, visibly, and you teach your children disrespect.**

Instead, you might be thinking, "**Respect is earned!**", but as you study God's Word, you'll see that God doesn't give us a choice! The best reasons to respect authority spring from love —our love for God, for our fellow man, and even for ourselves. Because we love Jehovah above all else, we want to make his heart rejoice.

Read Romans 13:1-5

When you start modeling respect for God, for your spouse, for the authorities over you, it will be much easier to expect that from your children. **You can't demand something you don't give!**

Respect also is dependent on time. If you are constantly rushed, you won't give the needed attention to respecting authority or respecting your family.

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

- Are YOU modeling respect in your home?
- How are some ways you disrespect each other? Other authorities in your life? YOUR OWN parents?
- Discuss some practical changes YOU can make to be the best model of respect.
- Discuss how time (or lack of) plays a part in examples of disrespect in your life.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time?
What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

- Discuss how you can improve "respect" in your home.
- Relook at your calendar and priorities if time is an issue with your lack of respect.
- Discuss how you can better respect your children, in order to model your expectations.
- Make a new "respect" plan together.

SESSION 4: Weekly Devotional: Day 1

Read Romans 13

Journal about respecting authority in your life.

L=Listen: In your journal, write the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, listen to the Holy Spirit and focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal. Writing helps you remember the verses...

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I = Investigate: the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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E = Engage: God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

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SESSION 4: Weekly Devotional: Day 2

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11

Journal about being more humble in your approach to leading.

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SESSION 4: Weekly Devotional: Day 3

Read Ephesians 6:1-9

Are you exasperating your spouse and your children?

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SESSION 4: Weekly Devotional: Day 4

Read Titus 3

What areas can you improve in your modeling of Jesus Christ as the head of your family?

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