

Treating Others with Respect

Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 7:12*

Teaching respect is about instilling values that shape character. The teachings of the Bible serve as a compass for navigating relationships. When your teens learn to respect others, they're not just following rules; they're embodying a deeper understanding of empathy, kindness, and Christlikeness. Take time to chat about it over dinner or in the car. Share your own experiences and let the life of Jesus guide your conversations. It's an investment that pays dividends in building a compassionate and considerate adult.

➤ **conversation starter**

I was thinking about a time when receiving someone's respect had a positive impact on me. Have you ever experienced something like that? How did you feel?

Imagine you're in a situation where a friend is being treated unfairly. How do you think you would handle it?

➤ **navigating the conversation:**

- **Create a Comfortable Setting:** Choose a time and place where you and your teens can have an uninterrupted and relaxed conversation. Whether it's over a meal or a quiet evening at home, creating a comfortable setting can set the tone for open discussion.
- **Start with a Story:** Share a biblical story that highlights the importance of treating others with respect. One such example is the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Discuss the actions of the Samaritan and how it reflects the principle of loving one's neighbor.
- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Encourage teens to share their thoughts and feelings. Ask questions like, "How do you think Matthew 7:12 applies to our daily lives?" or "Can you think of a situation where showing respect might have a positive impact, just like in the stories we've read in the Bible?"
- **Explore Relevant Scriptures:** Look into other passages that emphasize respect and kindness. Proverbs 15:1 and Ephesians 4:32 are great verses to explore and discuss.
- **Relate to Real-Life Situations:** Connect biblical principles to everyday scenarios. Ask teens how they can apply the teachings of the Bible to their interactions with friends, classmates, and family members. Encourage them to think about how their words and actions impact others.
- **Emphasize Compassion:** Discuss the concept of empathy and understanding another's perspective. Philippians 2:4 is a powerful verse that underscores the importance of considering others.

