

## Collective Worship – RESPECT week 6

**Welcome – We light the candles as we join together to worship God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and to think about our value ‘Respect’**

We welcome Robert who is going to read us a story.

(Robert begins to read and I yawn really loudly start humming and playing with my phone.

Robert gets up and walks off crossly.)

‘I don’t know what is the matter with him! So sorry for his rude behaviour!!!’

Why do you think Robert didn’t stay to read the story?

We all need to respect each other. Sometimes it's very hard for grown-ups to remember to respect children, and sometimes it's very hard for children to respect grown-ups. But there was one grown up who always knew how to respect everybody, whether they were young or old.

### **Story:**

(In this story, any time you hear the word 'respect', put your thumbs up and make them bow down like a finger puppet. *Respect!*)

What a noise there was in the Temple courtyard! The two priests looked down their noses in disapproval. 'My word, this is noisy!' said Ebenezer pompously.

'Absolutely, my dear chap,' replied his friend Silas. 'People today just don't show any *respect*. When I was young, we used to show *respect* for everyone older than us. Now no-one seems to *respect* anyone else at all.'

The two priests looked down their noses at the crowd in front of them.

Ebenezer snorted. 'It's all the fault of that young whippersnapper from Galilee. What's his name? - Jesus. He's a troublemaker. He doesn't *respect* any of us! Do you know what he did yesterday? He stormed into the courtyard here and tipped up all the tables of the pigeon-sellers and shouted out that nobody was showing any *respect* for the house of God! He called us a den of thieves!'

'Dreadful behaviour!' agreed Silas. 'No *respect*! And look! There he is now! With all those horrible sick people around him. And those revolting children! Ugh! Children! Has Jesus no *respect* - encouraging them to come into the house of God?'

Ebenezer gasped and pointed across the courtyard. 'Who is that rude man, dancing about, waving his legs in the air? Oy! You! Show some *respect*! This is the house of God!'

But the dancing man shouted back, 'Jesus has made me better! I can walk! Look! I can dance too! Thank you Jesus!' And he jigged away happily.

Then a little girl shouted, 'I can see! Jesus has made me see again!'

The two priests were horrified. But not as horrified as when a whole gang of children suddenly jumped up and shouted yelling at the top of their voices:

'Praise to the Son of David! Jesus! Wow Jesus, you're great! *Respect!*'

This was too much for the two priests. They strode across the courtyard and shouted at the children:

'Will you be quiet! This is God's house, not a playground! Show some *respect!*'

The children were frightened by the two important men getting angry with them. They looked at Jesus with big worried eyes. Would he be cross too?

But Jesus stood up and smiled at the children as if he thought what they were saying was brilliant. Then he turned to the two priests and he looked very sad. Silas shouted at him rudely, 'Do you hear what these revolting children are saying?'

Jesus' face broke out in a big smile. 'Oh, I can hear them all right,' he said. 'Haven't you read your Scriptures?'

'We're priests!' bellowed Ebenezer. 'We know our Scriptures back to front!'

Jesus nodded. 'Well, then. Can't you remember that bit in the Psalms where David says, 'Oh God, you've taught children and babies to sing praises?' These children are just doing what they should: showing God's Son some *respect*!'

'You call that *respect*? shouted Ebenezer, his face purple with rage.

'I certainly do,' said Jesus quietly. 'That's real *respect*. Not just pretending.'

Silas and Ebenezer frowned. How dare he speak to them like that!

'We'll have to get rid of this Jesus,' muttered Silas.

'Yes indeed,' agreed Ebenezer. 'He has no idea who he needs to *respect* round here.'

[Key Bible passage: Matthew 21:12-16](#)

#### **Follow-up:**

Who showed no respect in that story? (Silas and Ebenezer showed none for Jesus or for the children or for the dancing man)

Who did show respect? (The children showed respect for Jesus and Jesus showed respect for them. He also showed respect for his 'enemies' the priests, because he was polite, even when he was challenging them.)

Questions:

- I wonder if we should respect everyone?
- I wonder if that means doing everything they tell us to do?
- I wonder how we can show respect for each other?
- I wonder if showing respect always means being quiet?
- I wonder if adults should respect children?
- Who do you respect and why do you respect them?
- Do you think that people respect you?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, help us to show respect for each other in the way we behave today. Help us to remember to put other people first and to think about their feelings. Amen

And now I am going to go and apologise to Robert for not giving him my attention and for looking bored and not allowing him to read a story. I'm going to give him the respect he deserves!!!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The link for this Collective Worship is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSgD6-B6E\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSgD6-B6E_E)