

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 10****Focus:**

God puts authority in our lives for different reasons.

Lesson 10**Bible Basis:**

Matthew 22:15-22

Lesson 10**Memory Verse:**

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.
—Romans 13:1

Students will use what Jesus taught about respecting authority and relate it to their own lives as they watch a video about respecting those who have authority.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)

Begin today's lesson by discussing with your class what they know about respect and how it should be shown to those around us.

All of you have probably been in school long enough to recognize some of the rules that you are expected to follow every single year.

- **What are some of the rules that you follow at school each year?** (Answers may include following directions, being obedient, being kind, making good decisions, doing what you are told, etc.)

Make a list on a document and share it on your screen if you are meeting online. If you are meeting in person, make a list on a whiteboard (or screenshared document) as ideas are shared.

All of the rules we've listed are important for us to follow, not only while we are at school, but also in other areas of our lives. When we strive to follow the rules, we show respect to the people around us.

- **What does it mean to show respect?** (Treating someone in a way that shows their importance and value.)
- **To whom should we show respect?** (Respect should be shown to everyone.)
- **Is it easy to show respect, or is it hard? Give examples.** (It can be easy AND hard! Allow students to explain their answers.)

➤ **What kinds of things make it hard to show respect to someone else?** (Answers will vary but might include: When the other person doesn't show respect toward us, when we don't agree with what the other person says or does, when that person has done something to hurt us, etc.)

This video features a soccer player encouraging other athletes to show respect to the referees of their games. Let's take a look.

Share the following video with your students [1:29]:

Message About Referee Respect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwRAsi6lp0k>

➤ **How did the video suggest people show respect to the referees?** (They can avoid screaming or yelling at the referees, they will not physically intimidate or harm the referees, they will share feedback with the designated people rather than criticizing the referees directly, etc.)

➤ **While players and fans may not always like the referees of their games, they should show respect. What is the difference between liking someone and showing respect for them?** (Answers will vary but might include: Liking someone is how we feel toward someone. Respect is how we treat others. We don't have to like someone to respect them.)

Many times, when talking about respect, we think about giving respect to people in authority.

➤ **What is an authority?** (Someone who is in a position of leadership, who gives orders and makes decisions.)

➤ **Who is an authority over you?** (Answers will vary, but may include parents, teachers, coaches, ministers, government officials, etc.)

➤ **Is respecting authority an easy or challenging thing to do? When is it easy? When is it hard?** (Allow students to share examples from what they know or from their personal experiences.)

Jesus had the opportunity to teach others about respect when the religious leaders came to Him with questions about respecting and obeying authority. Today's lesson allows us to take a closer look at what the religious leaders asked Jesus and how He responded.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

upper elementary



Lesson 10 / August 9, 2026

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 10

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Bible Basis:

Matthew 22:15-22

Lesson 10

Memory Verse:

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.

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Materials:

- Index cards or paper
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

In our story today, Jesus taught us the importance of respecting the authority that He has placed in our lives. No matter how much we like or dislike an authority figure, no matter how we feel about how they treat us, Jesus commands us to show them respect.

➤ **Think about one person of authority in your life and share how you can show them respect.** (Answers will vary; if necessary, refer students back to the list of authority figures made in Step 1.)

One of the very best ways that we can show respect to the authorities in our lives is by *praying* for them every day. We want God to be working in and through their lives so that they can lead in ways that glorify Him and encourage us to live and act in ways that show the light of Jesus to those around us.

➤ **What are some ways that we can pray for the authority figures in our lives?** (Answers will vary and may include both general ideas and ideas that are specific to certain authority figures.)

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home.)

On this card, write down at least three authority figures whom you will commit to pray for every day this week. Your list could include someone like your parents or teachers with whom you interact with on a regular basis, or a person like our governor or mayor, or military leaders who you may not know personally. Your list could also include an authority figure to whom you find showing respect a challenge.

Give students a few minutes to think and create their list.

When you finish, it might be a good idea to tuck this card into your Bible or place it somewhere, such as taped to your bathroom mirror, where you will see it every day and remember to pray for the people on your list. As you spend time this week praying for the authority figures on your list, also pray that God would give you a heart that strives to always show respect to those around you.

Close in prayer.

Showing respect to people in authority can be very difficult. Be sure to check in with students throughout the week to give them encouragement in praying for authority figures.

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