

Read Romans 13:1-2

DAY 1

Imagine for a moment. Think about what life would be like without rules. No one telling you what to do. Just 100% fun, 24/7. Wouldn't it be awesome to do whatever you wanted whenever you wanted? No bedtime. No school work. No problem, right?

Maybe. But think about this: without people in authority over you, you'd be on your own. No one would be there to protect you from the consequences of your actions. Run to the hall closet and grab an umbrella. Now open it and hold it over you. Think about rules this way. The adults over you are sort of like that umbrella. When you're outside and it's pouring down rain, the BEST place you can be is underneath the protection of that umbrella. Step out from under that, and you'll get SOAKED!

God has placed people with authority over us not because He doesn't want us to have any fun but because He knows that they can protect us from harm.

Think about all the people in your world who are in authority over you. Every time you see an umbrella, think about those people, placed in authority over you by God, to protect you.

Thank God for the people in your life who are in authority over you.

WEEK TWO
RESPECT
those who are in charge.



Read Romans 13:7

DAY 2

Have you ever owed anyone something? This verse reminds us that we don't just owe those in authority over us our obedience. We also owe them our respect. And respect is ALL about your attitude. Think about it. If your mom asks you to clean your room and you whine and complain the whole time, is that showing your mom respect? Not so much. God wants us not only to obey the people in authority over us, but to have the right attitude and RESPECT them too.

Read the examples below and circle whether it's an example of respect or disrespect.

Your dad asks you to finish your homework. You say, "Sure, Dad." and grab your backpack to tackle those spelling words. RESPECT DISRESPECT

Your mom asks you to put your shoes and backpack away instead of leaving them on the floor. You roll your eyes because she ALWAYS tells you to put your stuff away. RESPECT DISRESPECT

Your coach tells you to run around the bases four times at the beginning of practice. You grab your friends and start running right away. RESPECT DISRESPECT

The librarian at school reminds you to be quiet during your hour in the library. You nod "yes" to her and then giggle with your friends about how silly it is to have to be so quiet in the library. RESPECT DISRESPECT

ASK God to help you show respect to the people in authority over you this week.

Read Hebrews 13:7

DAY 3

WEEK
TWO

Think for a minute about your Small Group Leader at church. I bet you know their name. But what about their job? Or their favorite color? What else do you know about them?

No matter how much you know them, your Small Group Leader at church is another person with some authority over you. But instead of HAVING to hang out with you, your Small Group Leader has CHOSEN to hang out with you. They're not getting paid or expecting anything in return for their time as your Small Group Leader.

Your Small Group Leader has a ton of wisdom to share. You can learn more about God from their example. The more you know about them, the better you'll be able to see how they follow God and respect others in their own life!

Write down three things you know about your Small Group Leader. Now write down three things you'd like to know about them. Take your list with you so you'll remember to ask them at church. Oh, and don't forget to ask them about how they show respect to people in authority in their lives!

LOOK for ways to show your leaders at church respect this week.



Read Deuteronomy 5:16

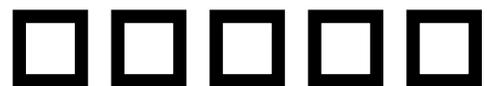
DAY 4

Back when God's people, the Israelites, were about to enter the land God promised to them, He had Moses review the rules. Today, we call these the 10 Commandments. These laws marked the first time in history that God had said, "Here are my rules. This is the way I expect you to live." So yeah, you could say that these commandments were pretty important.

And of all the commandments God could have made, this rule about honoring your parents made the top 10. Why do you think showing respect to your dear old mom and dad make it on God's short list? Well, maybe it's because God put your parents in charge. There's a good chance that they know you better than anybody else on the planet. They deserve your respect even when you don't feel like it. Even when you think their rules are lame. And when you respect your parents, you're also showing respect to God.

Think about one rule in your house that's hard for you to obey. Maybe it's an early bedtime on school nights. Maybe it's eating all your vegetables. Write that rule in the box below. Now challenge yourself to obey that rule with a great attitude for the next five days. Can you do it? Put a check mark in each box as you complete each day.

ATTITUDE CHALLENGE



know that God gave you your parents and expects you to respect them.