

SALT & LIGHT

Build character and stand up for what you believe

RESPECT

Look up the word “respect” in multiple dictionaries, and you’ll find the same three words keep popping up: honor, regard, esteem. Why should you care? Respect is one of the key elements to loving someone. It isn’t about letting someone walk over you. Sometimes it’s about choosing to make someone feel good about who he or she is. At other times, it’s about cooperating to see positive results.

Know Yourself

What does respect mean? How do people show respect for each other? How have people shown you respect? How can you respect the people around you?

Know the Word

Read: Nehemiah 2.1-9

1. How did Nehemiah show respect for the king and king exhibit respect in return?
2. What resulted from the trusted relationship between Nehemiah and the king?

Remember It!: *“Please answer my prayer and the prayer of your other servants who gladly honor your name. When I serve the king his wine today, make him pleased with me and have him do what I ask.”* Nehemiah 1.11 (CEV)

Read More! (if you dare): Romans 12.10; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-13; 1 Peter 2.17

Know Others

When asked “who are your role models,” Rachael Lampa, a 17-year-old singer/songwriter of “Live for You” responded, “My parents. My mom has determination, the drive and the passion to do things. My dad is more laid back. He has a good heart. Both of those combined ... I just want to be like that ...”

(Source: rachaellampa.free.fr/ministry.html. Views of the publication do not necessarily reflect those of American Bible Society.)

The Choice Is Yours

You love it when people show regard for you, right—and if they honored you that would be even better. So why shouldn’t you do the same for the people around you? Yes, even your parents and teachers. It’s a good way to share the love of Jesus with those who don’t know him.

Think about it: Although, people ridiculed Jesus and his followers, he still suffered a painful and humiliating death. He esteemed us by coming out of his comfort zone to have a relationship with us. He regarded us through this living sacrifice. And honored us by lifting us out of the muddy mire called sin.

He showed the ultimate respect lovingly. Can you?