

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER LESSONS

RESPECT:

“RESPECTING AUTHORITY”

Read Ephesians 6:5-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:12 and Romans 13:1.

Questions for discussion

1. What is “authority”?
2. Who is in authority over you?
3. How can you show that you respect these authorities?
4. Why should you obey those in authority? (**Ephesians 6:5-6**)
5. How are you to serve? (**Ephesians 6:7**)
6. Who is in authority at church?
7. How can you show respect to these individuals?

Key concepts

Authority, by definition, is the power or right to enforce obedience (*Canadian Oxford Dictionary*). Most children have parents, teachers, babysitters, grandparents, police, government, pastors, Sunday school teachers as authorities in their lives. Technically, children are not slaves, but the slaves and earthly masters concept can apply to a situation where any of us are put in a position where we must obey someone.

Ultimately, God is the authority in all of our lives. God asks us to obey all the earthly authorities He puts over us (**Romans 13:1**). We can show respect for authority figures by obeying their instructions, being polite, looking at them when we talk to them and by encouraging them with kind words.