

# AIN'T GOT NO RESPECT

by Bill Pieper

## PURPOSE

To help participants understand that respect comes from God and is to be shared by the children of God.

## PREPARATION

Gather songbooks, Bibles, pencils and 3 x 5 cards.

Write out each of the following scripture verses on four 3 x 5 cards:

- Galatians 5:25; 6:2, 10
- Ephesians 5:21; 6:1-4
- Philippians 4:8-9
- Colossians 3:12-15

On two 3 x 5 cards write these outlines for role playing:

Role play 1: Four students are standing in the school hallway. Three are talking about something in common, such as a sports event. The fourth person is trying to be a part of the conversation, but the others only give him or her token recognition.

Role play 2: One person is idolizing another, fawning over his or her every word and action. The worshiped person is loving the attention.

Select young people to do the role plays and give them time before the meeting to think of their parts.

Make copies of the following study sheet:

### Luke 18:9-14 Study Sheet

1. If I had been a Pharisee listening to Jesus tell this story, I would have . . .
  - a. punched Jesus.
  - b. got mad, but said nothing.
  - c. been ashamed.
  - d. been speechless.
  - e. other (explain)
2. Looking at my life and thinking about this story of Jesus, I feel more like . . .
  - a. Jesus.
  - b. the bystanders.
  - c. the Pharisee.
  - d. the tax collector.
  - e. not even in the story.
3. If I could compare the way I show respect for others (especially those who are not my friends) to a football game, I would be . . .
  - a. in the locker room.
  - b. sitting on the bench.
  - c. in the thick of the game.
  - d. behind in the game.
  - e. sitting in the crowd.
  - f. face down in the mud.
  - g. totally exhausted.
  - h. doing my best in the game.
4. If God were my coach and were talking to me about respect, he would . . .
  - a. chew me up and spit me out.
  - b. bench me.
  - c. encourage me.
  - d. kick me out of the game.
  - e. understand me.
  - f. send me back in to try again.

## OPENING

Begin with songs, then divide into small groups.

Have each participant reflect on the following and share his or her thoughts:

- Recall a time when you felt respected.
- Recall a time when you felt you were invisible.
- Think of a time you genuinely respected someone. Did your behavior reflect this respect?

## THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Have the actors present their role plays. Explain the respect the group will be discussing will fall somewhere between the two extremes these role plays represent.

Ask the group members to share some of the respect-killing phrases they hear in school such as, "When God was passing out brains you must have been out of the room."

Ask the participants how they feel when they or good friends are treated this way. Have them share this in their groups.

Distribute the study sheets for Luke 18:9-14. Have the participants read the selection, complete the study sheet and share the responses.

After the discussion, explain respect begins with the right relationship with God. Remember who we are—first, we are sinners. Second, we are no better than anyone else in God's eyes. Third, we need forgiveness and respect we need. We can learn from God's word how we should act.

Distribute the cards containing the Bible verses. Have each group

read its passage and then share it with the others. What are the instructions God gives his people about how they should treat each other?

Read Galatians 6:7-8 and 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12. Ask what the verses say about our actions.

Have the young people write a positive statement as to how they will change their attitude toward respect and how they treat others.

Have them complete the statement, "If I could make a change in my life right now I would \_\_\_\_\_."

Share these responses within the small groups.

## RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Tie the discussion together by explaining: The lack of respect can hurt ourselves and others. Only when we realize we are sinners forgiven by God can we feel respect and that as forgiven sinners we need to use God's word as a guide for our relationships.

Have the participants write a one-sentence petition about respect or relationships on a 3 x 5 card and incorporate these thoughts into the closing prayer.

As a closing game have the group play Moving Pyramids. Each group of six forms a pyramid and in two minutes tries to move as far as it can. Give each pyramid several tries to see which can move the farthest.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

**Praise the Lord**, by Theodore Wuerffel, ed., Concordia, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118.

**Songs for a New Creation**, Augsburg, 426 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis, MN 55415.