



RESPECT

BB5

Related values

responsibility, empathy

Intro & Object

Hat - Taking your hat off to someone



Equipment

selection of hats

Game

Appendix B

'I pack my bag for Paris'
using actions of respect

Story

Appendix A

Esther

Reflection

Appendix B

Showing respect is a way of recognising a person's value as a human being, even if we disagree with them.

Song

Suggestion

'Love one another'
Orange Kids Music

Follow-Up Activity

Appendix D

Treasure hunt spinner

Suggested Entry Music

'Respect'
Aretha Franklin

Prayer

There are different phrases used to show respect in a prayer:
"Dear God, Holy, Lord, Hallowed be your name" We can also show respect simply by listening, reflecting, allowing space for others to pray...

Thank you that you have given dignity and respect to humans. Help us to honour and respect each other and you, in the way that we live, listen, speak and treat each other.

Notes:



Story

The Bible is not just one book, but a whole library, 66 books with different types of writing and stories, songs and letters... let's explore it together. Today we're exploring a passage/story from the Old Testament, the first half of the Bible.

Xerxes, the king of Persia chose Esther to be his queen. She was Jewish but her uncle Mordecai had told her to keep it secret that she was from one of the king's captive lands. Xerxes gave a great banquet for Esther and invited all his important men and royal officers, and announced a holiday in all the empire. Xerxes was generous and gave everyone a gift.

Now, Queen Esther's uncle Mordecai discovered a plot to kill the king and he told Queen Esther. The Queen told the king what uncle Mordecai had heard. When the report was investigated, it was found to be true. So Mordecai had saved the king's life.

In Xerxes' kingdom there was an important man called Haman, and all the royal officers at the king's gate would bow down and kneel before him. This was what the king had ordered. But Mordecai would not bow down and he did not kneel (because he believed that he should only kneel before God). This got him in big trouble. Haman was very angry and plotted his revenge. He wanted to kill all of Mordecai's people, the Jews.

Mordecai asked Esther to go into the king's presence. He wanted her to beg for mercy. Esther replied, "All the royal officers and people of the royal areas know this: No man or woman may go to the king in the inner courtyard without being called. Anyone who enters must be put to death unless the king holds out his gold sceptre, then that person may live. I have not been called to go to the king for 30 days."

But the queen was very brave. On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner courtyard of the king's palace, facing the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the doorway. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, he was very pleased. He held out to her the gold sceptre, so Esther went up to him and touched the end of the sceptre.

Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What do you want to ask me? I will give you as much as half of my kingdom."

Esther answered, "My king, if it pleases you, come today with Haman to a banquet. I have prepared it for you."

Haman was excited to be invited (but he had no idea that Mordecai was Esther's uncle). He thought he was in for a special honour. But Esther reminded King Xerxes of how Mordecai had saved his life. Xerxes commanded Haman, "Go quickly. Take one of my royal robes and my noblest horse, give great honour and respect to Mordecai the Jew in public."

So Haman put the robe on Mordecai and he led him on horseback through the city streets. Haman announced before Mordecai: "This is what is done for the man the king wants very much to honour!" Then Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried home with his head covered. His plot had failed, he was embarrassed and ashamed.



RESPECT

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B

Introduction / Object Lesson Wear a (fun) hat.

'Hat/ hats off' or "chapeau" (sh-a-p-o) as the French would say. It is short for: "I take my hat off to you".

It is an expression that means congratulations or shows approval. It is also a sign of respect, showing that you recognise someone else's achievement or (intrinsic) value.

Game: Chapeau! Play this version of "I packed my bag for Paris" adding fun actions to think about different ways of showing respect.

"I went on my travels and when I reached Thailand I bowed to show respect." Repeat, each time adding more and making up actions (In Germany I made sure that I was on time; in Japan I took off my shoes; in Ethiopia I ate with my right hand; in China I used chopsticks and never poked at my food; in Turkey I gave firm handshakes; in England I asked permission before taking a photo; and everywhere I went I showed respect to my elders.)

Reflection

What different signs/customs of respect were in the story?

What signs of respect can you think of?

Who should we show respect to? How do you show respect? How do others respect you?

Etiquette and respect. Some customs may seem strange to us and maybe also some people's expectations or sensibilities. People can even expect us to show respect in ways that may annoy us, for example: putting your hood down in class! But, showing respect means to consider what is important to others.

One time some people from the temple asked Peter, "Does your teacher (meaning Jesus) not pay the tax?" Peter wasn't sure what to say, so he replied, "Yes of course he does." But later Jesus challenged him and explained that as the son of God he didn't really need to pay money to God! However, Jesus said, so as not to give offence, "Go to the beach with your fishing rod, the first fish you catch will have a coin in its mouth. You can use that to pay the tax for both of us." (Mathew 17:24-27)

Different signs of respect might not always make sense to us but avoiding causing unnecessary offence is one way in which we can follow Jesus' teaching to love our neighbours as ourselves or to treat others as we would like them to treat us.

Even if we disagree with a person, showing them respect is a way of recognising that their value as a human being does not depend on what we think of them but simply on them being human. Christians believe that all people are made in God's image; this gives us great dignity and values, making us all worthy of respect.

Follow-up Activity:

Look-again treasure hunt! Use the spinner template in Appendix D. With each option, try and identify as many really good things about that object/person as you can.



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D

Print this spinner onto card and stick a pencil through the centre ring

With each segment that the spinner lands on, take a moment to "re-spect" - look again - and think of all the ways that this person/object is special

Flip the spinner over to make you own version!

