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Respect

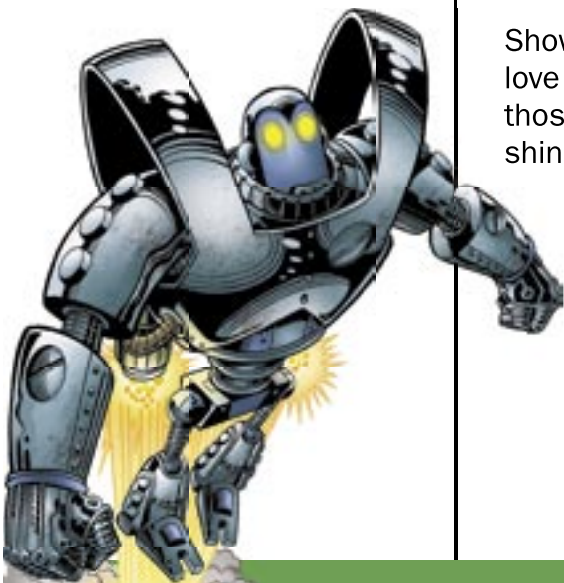
Opening Doors through Respect

Why is it important to show respect to others? First of all, God has told us we need to do it. “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31, NIV). But He hasn’t given us the “Golden Rule” without a reason. As we show each other respect, we will live in better harmony with each other. Much conflict arises when our selfishness gets in the way.

Showing respect is easy when we show it to someone we like. But it’s not easy (nor is it fun) to give our respect to someone we don’t get along with or like very much. We must also learn to show respect to others when they have nothing to offer us in return. We must choose to show respect to one another, even when it isn’t easy.

But what happens when someone doesn’t show respect? Does that give us the right to disrespect them? Absolutely not! As you talk about showing respect with your students, help them understand we are to treat others how we want them to treat us ... not how we ARE treated. We need to treat others with respect even when we have been disrespected.

Showing respect is more than just a simple act of courtesy. It is God’s love and grace in action. As we show respect to everyone around us—those we get along with and those we don’t—we open doors for God to shine through us.



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

After kids have read [Welcome to Holsom, Issue 13](#), begin a discussion about respect by asking these questions:

- What is respect? (*Treating others as you want to be treated.*)
- Who showed Ms. Vile respect? How? (*Mr. Simmons—Shelby's dad; by helping her get away from the burning barn.*) Who didn't show her respect? Why? (*Jake; because he wanted to get out of the barn first, etc.*)
- Is the respect JD Raye is receiving from others "true" respect? Why or why not? (*No. He is only receiving respect because he is paying people.*)
- How does Mr. Simmons show the Sheriff respect? (*By trusting him to get to the bottom of the situation at the barn.*)
- How does Mr. Simmons show Lucy respect? (*By believing that she wasn't connected with Jake or doing something illegal out at the Holsom barn.*)



The Consequences of Disrespect

You Need: Water, vinegar, four clear containers (glass or plastic), shallow baking dish (with sides), baking soda, liquid dishwashing soap, paper towels, red and blue food coloring

Before class: Put 2 Tbsp of baking soda each into two of the containers. Place these in to the baking dish.

Pour $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water into one of the remaining containers and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vinegar into the last one. Add a few drops of dishwashing soap and red food coloring to the vinegar and a few drops of blue food coloring to the water.

Say: The containers in the tray represent the people we interact with—our friends, family, teachers, other kids at school, etc. How we treat them affects how well we get along with them. Let's say this container of blue liquid represents respect. (Hold up the container of water.)

Ask: What are some ways we show respect to others?

(Allow responses.) How does showing others respect affect your interaction with others? (We get along better, etc.)

Pour the water into the first container with baking soda. (The water dissolves the baking soda, and nothing else happens.)

Say: When we show others respect, life is calm and peaceful. We get along! Now let's see what happens when we don't show respect. This red liquid represents disrespect. (Hold up the container of vinegar.)

Ask: What are some ways we show disrespect to each other? (Allow responses.) How does being disrespectful affect your relationship with others? (We don't get along, we fight, etc.)

Pour the vinegar into the second container with baking soda. It will fizz and overflow into the baking dish.

Say: Showing disrespect can cause things to blow up. Disrespect causes arguments, hurt feelings, and other problems. But as we choose to show respect to others, we get along much better.

Adapted from the Respect Unit from HighPoint.

