How to Show Respect
Lesson 1: Godly Respect
Lesson 1—Godly Respect

Unit Summary
People often say: “Kids today have no respect.” But what is respect and where does it come from? We are quick to teach children to respect adults, but biblical respect begins with respecting God, respecting ourselves—who God made us to be—and then, based on that foundation, respecting others. Everyone wants respect, but giving it doesn’t come naturally. The good news is that teaching kids respect is simple: to teach respect you must show respect. Writer James Baldwin observed, “Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.” When children are respected, they are inclined to respect others. Jesus emphasized this concept in the Golden Rule—treat others the way you want them to treat you. If everyone consistently practiced this principle, the world would be a completely different place!

In this unit, your children will learn basic skills to help them show respect to God, themselves, their families, and others. They will realize that respect begins as an attitude. If we develop a respectful attitude, respectful behavior will soon follow. We can help children become more respectful by helping them accept who God made them to be and by encouraging them to improve their attitudes toward other people.

Lesson Summary
Respect begins with our attitude. This lesson will help children understand that if you want people to respect you, you must respect them. Respect comes from seeing others the way God sees them. When we understand that God loves all people, we want to love and serve others, which is at the core of respect. People will feel honored, and, in turn, respond with respect toward us. Respect will no longer be something we need to ask for; it will become something that we have earned and deserve. Children can actually be an example to believers in respect, as Paul challenged Timothy to be.

Paul’s Power Principle: When you show respect, you receive respect!

In this lesson, your children will...

**KNOW**
- If you want to be respected, you need to first show respect

**FEEL**
- Eager to show respect to others

**DO**
- Show respect to someone they know who needs it the most
SPARK INTEREST

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.

Welcome!—Enthusiasm
In order to help the children experience that “attitude matters,” let them see your enthusiastic attitude on display! You’ll need a leader on stage with a microphone and a leader at the door welcoming each child enthusiastically. The leader at the door greets each child, shaking hands vigorously with both hands, asking the child’s name (if the child is a visitor), and then calling up to the leader on stage, “Emily is here!” or “This is Emily, it’s her first time here!” The leader on stage then announces to everyone, “Hey, everyone! Emily is here! Let’s hear it for Emily!” The leader could even lead the kids in a cheer: “Give me an E!” going through every letter of her name. “What’s that spell? EMILY!” Be creative. The point is to have great exaggerated attitudes. When you start the service you can ask the children, “How did you like your welcome today? Did you like our attitude? What if we had said, ‘Ho hum, you’re here.’ What difference would that have made? Attitude makes all the difference in the world, doesn’t it? Today we are going to talk about the importance of your attitude and how it impacts your life.”

PowerPoint Presentation
As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the “Slide Sorter” View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.

SUPPLIES

General Supplies
Bibles, puppets, video projection (optional)
Pencils, pens, paper

Spark Interest
WELCOME!: microphone
LET’S PLAY!: cups for stacking
CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS: none

Explore Scripture
KEYVERSE: sleeping bag, blindfold, hand bell

Inspire Action
DRAMATIZE THE POINT: various props (see activity)
Let’s Meet-n-Greet!
Have the children turn and greet the kids around them, learn their names, and ask, **What are you most likely to get in trouble for at home?** When you open the service, ask how many said they got in trouble for having a bad attitude. **Today we will be learning about why it is important to have a good attitude.**

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the **How to Use DiscipleTown** guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)

Let’s Worship!
As you introduce the worship time, talk about how our attitude can draw people toward God or away from Him. Mention that we carry the light of Jesus!

**Recommended Song:** “Carry the Light” from *You’re a VIP to G-O-D*, available on [Kidology.org](http://Kidology.org)

Puppet Intro
*Leader & Puppet introduce today’s lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson.*

Puppet* doesn’t want to come out. Whether you bring the puppet out of a bag or from offstage, the puppet’s voice can be heard, but he can’t be seen. He has a bad attitude and is grumbling and complaining as the leader tries to coax him to come out for the beginning of a new unit in DiscipleTown. The leader is enthusiastic and cheerful as he invites the puppet to come out, but the puppet grumbles and says he doesn’t want to come out for the “dumb old service.” He wants to sleep in more, and no one likes him anyway, so why should he? No one pays any attention to anything he says. The leader says, “Everyone is paying attention now, and everyone enjoys your lesson introductions. They always help illustrate the point of the lesson.” Puppet says with a really bad attitude, “Well, I don’t want to introduce the point of the lesson. I’m tired of introducing the point of the lesson. For once, I just want to do my own thing and not have anything to do with the point of the lesson. I want to have NOTHING TO DO with the point of the lesson. So just GO AWAY and LEAVE ME ALONE and take your point of the lesson with you!” Leader says, “Well, I’m afraid it’s a little too late for that.” Puppet says, “Too late for what?” Leader fights back a chuckle, “Too late for you not to illustrate the point of the lesson.” Puppet says with an even worse attitude, peeking up, “How can it be too late? I’ve not even come out.” Leader says, “Well, the point of our lesson today is on attitude, and you’ve been illustrating a bad attitude, so I’d say you’ve been introducing our lesson just fine with your bad attitude. So I’d say that even when you don’t want to, you do a great job. That’s how awesome you are.” Puppet comes out a little farther: “I am?” Leader continues, “Yes, your bad attitude could have ruined the day, but it just so happened that I wanted to talk about how a bad attitude can ruin a day, or a lesson, and you’ve been illustrating a bad attitude actually helped my lesson. So you can go now; I don’t need your help anymore.” Leader turns to leave. Puppet comes all the way up (or out): “But … if you really DO need my help, maybe I can have a good attitude and be a help to you … if you will forgive me for my bad attitude and if … well, if you really do like my help, and if the kids really do like my lesson intros, and if they really do help.” Leader asks the kids, “Do you like Puppet’s lesson intros?” (Allow kids to encourage the puppet.) “Puppet, we love your intros, but we like them even better when you have a good attitude.” Puppet says, “Then from now on, I will have a great attitude. I promise!”

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at [DiscipleLand.com](http://DiscipleLand.com)*
Let's Play!—Stacking Up a Good Attitude!

**Supplies:** cups for stacking (option 1: three sets of Speed Stacks® cups; option 2: giant cups to have on stage; option 3: styrofoam or plastic cups, available at any grocery store)

*Speed Stacks® sport cups are available at a discounted rate at: www.Kidology.org/SpeedStacks*

**Watch Your Attitude!** Choose three children from the audience to come up on the stage to compete in a cup-stacking game. As they come up, give the first kid who comes up three cups, the second kid six cups, and the third kid ten cups. But do not make any comment about the fact that you are giving a different number to each child. (Each should get a different color if you are using Speed Stacks®.) Explain to the first child (with three cups) that on “Go!” he or she is to make a stack of three cups, then unstack them and touch his or her head with both hands. Then instruct the second child to make a stack of six cups, then unstack them and touch his or her head. The final child must make a stack of ten cups, unstack them, and touch his or her head with both hands. Obviously, the child with only three cups has a great advantage and will win the game. When you declare the first child the winner and the faster stacker, watch for the attitude of the children with six and ten cups as well as the audience. See how they react, especially if you give a candy prize to the winner and tell the others they can sit back down. If they react poorly, that is okay. You can say that most people would act that way since the game was unfair—as is life. If they take it well, congratulate them on a good attitude. Then replay the game with all of them having to do a ten stack! Then award them all the same prize even though they all didn’t win—and note their reactions.

Read Matthew 20:1–16. The vineyard workers who worked different amounts but who were paid the same had to have a thankful attitude even though their payment didn’t seem fair. **Attitudes are important. Life isn’t always fair. What is important is that we are thankful for what we get and that we don’t compare it to what others get.**

Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. **What do you have that you did not receive?**

**Connect with Your Kids**

It is one thing to talk about something in the abstract. Kids need real stories from real people they know. Have you ever had a bad attitude that cost you something? Too often we give the impression that we have always done everything right, and it is only the children who make mistakes. Telling our students real stories of times we have blown it can help encourage them in profound ways. I remember a time when my dad came home with gifts for all three of his children. To each of my sisters he gave a gift of a different type of magnifying lens. My older sister got a magnifying sheet and my younger a magnifying ruler. I was so jealous! Didn’t my dad understand that it was ME who collected magnifying lenses, not my sisters?! I was so caught up in my anger and jealousy that I hardly noticed when he handed me an old two-inch-long cylinder that I didn’t recognize. Instead of asking what it was, I just threw it on the ground, breaking it, and yelled, “I don’t want this dumb thing, I want a magnifier!” My dad left the room obviously disappointed in me. Later, he explained that what I had thrown down and broken in my anger was actually a very valuable high-powered magnifier! He had bought my sisters some cheaper magnifiers so they would not be jealous of my gift. But my impatience and disrespect cost me that precious treasure. I still have it to this day as a reminder that my Father knows me best and delights in giving me what my heart desires if I will be patient and wait to hear His explanation.
Disciple Town Visitor

Reginald Rightly* Reginald enters wearing an old-man suit, top hat, and spectacles, and he holds a cane. Reginald carries himself in a stately and confident manner. He has a small book, and he is looking for something in it.

Leader: Oh ... uh ... Good morning, sir, are you looking for something?

Reginald: Oh, pardon me there. Yes. My name is Reginald Rightly. [Tips hat and extends hand to leader.] And yes, I am looking for the Common Court Esy.

Leader: Is that a kind of bird?

Reginald: I’m not sure, but they say it was once very common, but it is hard to find nowadays.

Leader: I don’t think I’ve ever heard of a Court Esy. Do you have a picture?

Reginald: Well, there are many pictures, but none look the same, and I’ve hardly seen evidence of any of them.

Leader: Well, perhaps we can help. May I see your book?

Reginald: Sure. See here. [Points to pages.] I was looking for this one or this one.

Leader: [Looks at the book and suddenly realizes what he is looking for.] Oh, I think what you are looking for is common courtesy!

Reginald: Is that a kind of bird?

Leader: [Chuckles.] Well, no. Courtesy is another way to say friendliness or respect. Common courtesy is made up of actions of respect or friendliness that every common man or woman or child deserves.

Reginald: Of course, in my day it was common. You opened doors for others, you shook hands when you greeted someone, and anyone older than you was addressed as sir or ma’am. No wonder I couldn’t find it! It doesn’t seem to be anywhere anymore. It just breaks my heart!

Leader: What do you mean?!

Reginald: I guess, when I think about how much God loves me, it just seems normal and right to treat others with this common courtesy I think you’re talking about! I hear people talk a lot about God, but truthfully I don’t see a lot of courtesy! I guess I just feel that God deserves better from us! Don’t you think so?

Leader: Wow, Mr. Rightly, I agree with you absolutely. I think our ability to be courteous and respectful comes from our choice to love God and have a good attitude in our hearts towards others. Thank you for reminding us about that Reginald, sir!

Reginald: My pleasure. I’ll tell you, nothing makes this old man smile more than when I see young people like these here being polite and respectful! It’s shining God’s light so bright, I tell you! Well, since I don’t have any more hunting to do to find this common courtesy, I think I’ll retire to my bunny slippers! You have a nice day, ladies and gentlemen!

Leader: [To audience:] Our respect and courtesy for others shows that God is at work in our hearts. If God’s love is in us, then it will come out in our words and actions—how we treat others. When we address those older than we are with sir or ma’am, it shows great respect and honor. When we open doors or offer help, it is the same!

*CHARACTERS: These are suggested characters and names. Please feel free to change or adjust according to the actors and props you have available.
Let’s Search!—Bible Dash

Supplies: Bibles

Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command “SEARCH!” have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, “FOUND IT!” Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- 1 Peter 4:1  Arm yourself with the same attitude Jesus had.
- Ephesians 4:22-24  Put off the old self and get a new attitude in your mind.
- Romans 12:18  Try to get along with others.
- Hebrews 4:12  God’s Word helps judge and change our thoughts and attitudes.
- Romans 15:5  God gives us good attitudes so we can follow Him together.

Paul’s Power Principle: When you show respect, you receive respect!

Suggested Bible Narrative
Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13

Jesus washed the disciples’ feet to demonstrate to them that to be respected, we must be willing to first serve others, willing to do the lowest of jobs normally reserved for the lowest servant of the house. Jesus washed His disciples’ feet to give us an example to follow.

Let’s Learn!—Godly Respect

Object Lesson: The Whine List

Make a fake menu titled “whine list.” The more it looks like a wine list at a fancy restaurant, the better. When kids see a wine menu at a restaurant, they are likely to remember your lesson.

Kids, often in a restaurant you will see a wine list. Well, today I brought a “whine list.” Let’s see what kinds of things are in my whine list. Perhaps you will recognize some of these that are on order in your house sometimes.

Have fun imitating some of these “whines” that kids will be familiar with, and be sure to say them in a whiney voice. Read them from different parts of the menu, saying things like, Oh, and how about this one? or Why don’t we try that one?

I don’t want to go to bed.
I don’t want to eat my vegetables.
I don’t want to do my homework.
(Add your own whines!)

Then ask the kids if they can guess what some of the other “whines” are. Be sure to say things like, Yes, yes, that one’s right here, and quite expensive or Oh, no, that one’s not listed.
but it’s a good one. Have fun with it. It is good to help the kids express their whines and see how bad they sound.

Do you think God is pleased when we order off the “whine list”? Do you think God likes when we whine and complain and have a bad attitude? (Allow the kids to answer no.) Of course not. I have something incredible to tell you. This might shock you. Not only does God not want you to have a bad attitude, but He also says that you can actually be a good example to grown-ups. Can you believe that? It’s true!

High Fives!
Everyone give your neighbor on each side a high five. In fact, give everyone around you that you can reach a high five. I’ll tell you why in a minute.

Open your Bibles to 1 Timothy 4:12. This was written by the apostle Paul to a young man named Timothy. Read the verse. Sometimes you might feel people look down on you because you are young. Well, Timothy felt that way too. But the apostle Paul said, don’t feel that way. Instead, decide to be an example to believers—that means ANY believer, even grown-ups—in five areas:

1) Speech (how you talk)
2) Conduct (how you act)
3) Love (how you treat people)
4) Faithfulness (what kind of friend you are)
5) Purity (keeping clean in this world)

And that’s what respect is all about. Paul said if you do that, grown-ups will notice that you are different, and they will respect you.

The best way to remember these five things is to look at your hand. You have five fingers (if you count your thumb): speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. I call it the High Five. If you live the High Five, people will respect you.

If you are ever in doubt about what to do or say, just ask yourself two questions: “What would Jesus do or say?” and “What would I want someone to do to me?” Answer those questions, and you’ll usually have your answer.

Respect just comes down to having the right attitude—putting others first.

Dee’s Disciple Tip: What would Jesus say?
Sometimes when words hurt us or anger us, we want to send back a “zinger,” but we need to stop and ask ourselves, “What would Jesus say?” He would respond in love and gentleness, or even silence. We can show respect to people even when they don’t deserve it. That is when we will truly show God we are one of His followers.
Key Verse

**Topic:** The Golden Rule  
**Reference:** Luke 6:31

**Memorization Activity:** The Key Verse for this unit is commonly known as the Golden Rule. The drama to follow will be a skit illustrating a meeting of secret agents to report on their assignment to infiltrate the world with respect—going on secret missions to do unto others secret acts of selflessness, things they wish others would do to them in order to live out the Golden Rule.

Each week during this segment children will be given the opportunity to report on any “secret missions” they have accomplished by doing for someone else something they would like done for them, as assigned the week before. During this first week, you need to teach the verse and give kids their first assignment.

Teach the verse, having the kids repeat it several times. Their assignment, “should they choose to accept it,” is to respond with a good attitude in some situation when it is least expected! Describe some different situations where someone would definitely NOT expect a kind or polite answer, and challenge them to respond with a good attitude. They can report next week when they had a good attitude when it was hard to do, and not expected.
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Dramatize the Point—Top Secret Respect Bureau

**Supplies:** Agent Grand Poohbah 777 (GPB777), Agent Darrin DoLittle 111 (DD111), Agent Justin Tyme 321 (JT321) wearing black hats, trench coats, black boots; briefcase, cell phone, magnifying glass, chocolate bar, napkin, water bottle, various trash under a bench

[Agent DoLittle enters in a black trench coat, carrying a briefcase and magnifying glass. He acts a bit rushed. He sits down on a bench, opens his briefcase and tears into a chocolate bar hungrily. As he eats, he lets the wrapper fall to the ground along with a napkin. He takes a drink from his water bottle and sets it down beside him on the bench. Suddenly his cell phone rings. He reaches into his pocket, grabs his phone, and answers it.]

**Voiceover:** It is the top secret Respect Bureau. No one knows they exist. They walk among us, looking like normal men and women and boys and girls. But instead of acting or responding like everyone else, they treat others with respect, no matter what. They are Golden Rule Agents. They are changing the world, one right decision at a time.

**Agent DD111:** Oh, hey boss! Yeah, I was just on my way. I stopped for a break. But of course, sir! [Pause.] Uh, no sir, I didn’t bring my banana bike [Pause.] or my musical manatee. I do have my electric cupcake, though, would that work? Excellent. Be right there, sir! [Gets up to leave and, using his magnifying glass, looks everywhere for all the garbage he left. He picks it up quickly, then as he walks away, notices garbage that is not his. He checks his watch.] Oh man, I’m gonna be late. I don’t really have time to pick up someone else’s trash. [Checks his watch again, and begins to pick up all the trash he can find.] Aw, I’m gonna do it; it’s just the right thing to do! [Stuffs garbage in his pocket till it bulges and hurries off stage left.]

[Enter Agent GPB777 and Agent JT321 stage right, one at a time. They arrive at imaginary wall beside bench and put hand on imaginary scanner.]

**Agent GPB777:** Agent Grand Poohbah 777 checking in. [Sound effect of “beep”—if available.]

**Agent JT321:** Agent Justin Tyme 321 checking in.

**GPB777:** Welcome Agent JT321. You are just in time!

**JT321:** Uh, yes sir, that is my name!

**GPB777:** Uh, right! Where is Agent DD111?

**[DD111 enters imaginary door and raises right hand to scanner.]

**DD111:** Darrin DoLittle 111 checking in!

**GPB777:** Ah, there you are! I daresay you’re late!

**DD111:** It’s DarrIN sir, not DareSAY. I know, I know. I just saw a little garbage by the park bench. I needed to deal with it before it got out of hand!

**JT321:** Just a little garbage, eh? Do you need a dumpster to unload those pockets? Ha ha.

**GPB777:** Let’s get down to business, gentlemen. Here at the Respect Bureau, we need to stay on top of the little things. Great work, Agent!

**DD111:** Thank you, sir!

**GPB777:** I need a status report. What’s going on out there, gentlemen?
JT321: Well, boss, it’s tougher than ever. The masses just don’t seem to value consideration the way we do. Everywhere we turn, there is more work to be done.

GPB777: You’re right, Agent; that is where we have the advantage. We do what we do because God has given us His power to do it. The masses don’t have that. That is why we must continue to look for recruits! Our world can be changed if we don’t quit! DD111, what did you work on this week?

DD111: By God’s strength, sir, I helped several little old ladies carry their groceries, and I cleaned up a garbage can that a kid knocked over with his bike! I did have some trouble though, sir.

GPB777: Trouble? What kind, Agent?

DD111: [Hangs his head, ashamed.] Well, sir, that mean kid down the road from me was walking to school today. I could see he was having a bad day; a car drove in the puddle beside him and splashed muddy water up at him. Well, I didn’t really want to help him, I have much more important work to do. Besides, he’s always so mean! So I just kept on my way. Was that the right thing, sir?

GPB777: Well, what would Jesus have done in your place, agent?

JT321: Oh, that’s a tough one. The work God calls us to is so important, I don’t think we should stop to help the undeserving, personally!

GPB777: Hold your horses, Agent! As agents in service to God, it is our job to serve, not to decide who gets served. We must be willing to serve ALL should God ask it of us, because God desires ALL to be saved. If you want to be a great agent, you must be willing to do what’s right at ALL times, with anyone God calls you to serve. Your kindness today may be the thing that changes everything for that person! How are you going to fix that, Agent?!

DD111: Oh, man, you’re right. I guess I’d better go talk to God about that. I certainly have some apologizing to do.

GPB777: And what about you, JT321?

JT321: Uh, well, sir, I picked up some garbage, and I gave a water bottle to a homeless guy!

GPB777: And?

JT321: Well, I had other stuff to do this week, you know. I had a friend over, and we got a new video game. I know God’s missions are important; I’ll get to them!

GPB777: I see. Your lazy attitude, Agent, is causing more work for someone else. One of your missions this week was to help Jordan cook dinner for his family. His mom’s sick, you know. Agent Double Duty 421 had to jump in and cover in your absence. Recruits, choosing to be agents at the Respect Bureau is a tough job, but the missions God calls us to are about PEOPLE, not about tasks. You must choose to have the heart of a servant for the sake of loving people! I expect better from both of you! Now I want you to take some time with Jesus and get your hearts in the right place! Got it?

DD111 and JT321: You’re right, boss. We’re going to fix that right away, sir!

GPB777: DD111, do you still have your electric cupcake?

DD111: Yes sir. It seems like an odd request, but here you go. [Reaches into briefcase to get cupcake box.] Can I ask what you will use it for?

GPB777: [Sheepishly:] Well, my pet bunny keeps eating my cupcakes, and I am hoping to teach him a lesson. [DD111 and JT321 laugh.]

DD111: Well, it oughta work! See you tomorrow, boss!

Voiceover: Kids, you can be members of the Respect Bureau! Your code name is your initials plus your birthday! Your mission is to infiltrate the world with respect and consideration! Do you have what it takes to be an undercover agent of Respect and help change the world?
Object Talks—Your Attitude Matters

**Supplies:** video projection

The video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, doing a short object lesson featuring two Speed Stacks® cups. A younger cup is talking to an older experienced championship cup who is overconfident about winning and who is mocking the younger cup’s enthusiasm. The younger cup ends up proving that a great attitude can win over laziness and pride.

*Featured verse:* Romans 12:11

Let’s Talk!—Small Group Discussion

**Small Group Activity:** Have the kids look around the room to find how many things need to be done—picking up trash, washing walls, vacuuming carpet, etc. See who can come up with the longest list in two minutes.

Look up the following Scriptures to find the common word in all of them.

- Matthew 14:14
- Matthew 20:34
- Mark 6:34

Have the children draw a star beside TWO items on their lists that they will look after before leaving class today.

**Discussion Questions:**

1) How difficult was it to find things to add to your list of things that needed to be done?
2) Opportunities to serve rarely jump out at us; we have to look for them. How can we improve our ability to find ways to serve others?
3) What was the common word in the three verses you read today? Why is compassion important in learning to serve?
4) How do you feel when others notice something that you need?
5) How do we make compassion grow in our lives?

DiscipleTown Super Citizen

Select someone who was seated and ready at the beginning of the service. Award that person the Super Citizen certificate.

Let’s Pray!

*Dear Jesus, thank You for being such a great example to us about what it means to serve others. Forgive us for the times when we let our hearts get cold and selfish. Change our hearts so they are like Your heart, full of compassion. Help us to serve others with no strings attached, just as You would for us. Thank You for teaching us how to love and serve others. We choose to honor You by serving others every day. In Your holy name, amen.*

Cy’s Challenge: Respond with a good attitude this week in a situation when it is hard or not expected.
Let's Review!

**Supplies:** eight pieces of paper, two trash cans

Print out or write out review questions, one question per sheet of paper. Crumple up the papers and scatter them all over the stage area.

Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a trash can. Pick a team member to select a crumpled paper from the floor. If the child can answer the review question, the child puts the crumpled paper in the trash can. The team who collects the most “trash” wins.

**Review Questions:**
1) Where is the Golden Rule found?
2) Who is the author of the Golden Rule? (“God” and “Jesus” are both acceptable answers.)
3) Name a situation where a polite or courteous response might not be expected.
4) How could you respond with a good attitude when your mom asks you to clean your room?
5) What humbling job did Jesus do to show His disciples His servant attitude?
6) Why did Jesus serve His disciples?
7) What does it mean to serve others?
8) Why does God want us to have an attitude of cheerfully and willingly serving others?

For the Home

**DiscipleTown Table Talker:** Give each child a copy of this week’s DiscipleTown Table Talker. Be sure to show the kids how to put it together and encourage them to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

**Parent Email:** Copy and send the email below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these emails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this email as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

*Dear Mom and Dad,*

*Today in DiscipleTown, we began a new series that explores our need to learn respect and live by the Golden Rule. Our culture does not teach respect, but the Kingdom of God is built on respect in many areas—including respect for God, ourselves, our family, and our world. During this series we will explore what the Bible teaches us about respect and how your kids can cultivate respect within themselves. Respect is a choice, and choosing to have an attitude of respect is something that requires much practice.*

*This week we focused on respect for God, and how we can demonstrate our respect for God by serving others and putting others ahead of ourselves. During this week, take time to intentionally serve together as a family—consider visiting an elderly neighbor, cleaning up litter, or helping weed a garden. Use the DiscipleTown Table Talker around the dinner table or before bed to initiate conversation with your child(ren) about serving. Most of all, share a story with your child(ren) of a time when someone’s act of service blessed you.*

*As always, we are committed to helping you and providing resources and support where you need it as you raise your child(ren). Let us know how we can help.*

*Building young disciples,*

*[your name]*
BONUS MATERIALS

Use these options to extend your time or as substitutes for the ideas above.

Chip’s Snack Time!—Hot Potato Chip

**Supplies:** Single-portion-size chip bags (one per child), music, music player

Inform the children that you are going to play a game of Hot Potato Chip! It is just like the game of hot potato. When the music plays, the children must quickly pass the bag of chips from one person to the next. If the music stops, the child left holding the bag of chips must take that bag of chips and sit out of the game. The next round starts with a new bag of chips. Since children never know which bag of chips they are going to get, they need to handle each bag of chips with gentle care so no one gets crushed chips! Once everyone has a bag of chips, they can eat and enjoy!

**The Point:** Serving others out of our love for God means being careful with EVERY action that our hands, feet, and mouth make. When we choose to be gentle with our words and actions, helping wherever we can, we show that God’s love rules our hearts.

Additional Ideas

**Random Act of Kindness**—Plan a random act of kindness you will do for your family, church or neighborhood. Practice serving with no strings attached. When asked why you are doing what you are doing, say that you are doing it to communicate God’s love in a practical way.

**Object Lesson: Money on a Fishhook**—Choose a couple of volunteers to demonstrate how much fun it is to tease others with money on the end of a fishing pole. Ensure the kids can’t get the money by constantly pulling the string so the money moves away from them.

**Serving that comes from God’s heart of love comes with no strings attached. When we serve, we shouldn’t serve in hopes of getting something in return. We should serve as Jesus served, out of love and compassion.**
Puppet Intro—The Bad Attitude

DIRECTOR’S NOTES

The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

Puppet begins offstage.

Leader: All right, [puppet name], it’s time to introduce another DiscipleTown lesson!

Puppet: [Offstage:] I don’t feel like it. I should just go back to sleep.

Leader: But if you go to sleep, who will help me introduce today’s lesson?

Puppet: I don’t know, and I don’t care. I don’t want to introduce the lesson. Lessons are silly, anyway.

Leader: Come on! All the kids want to know what you have to say today!

Puppet: Nah, I don’t think anyone likes me. They don’t pay attention to anything I say.

Leader: Everyone is paying attention now, and everyone enjoys your lesson introductions. They always help illustrate the point of the lesson.

Puppet: Well, I don’t want to introduce the point of the lesson. I’m tired of introducing the point of the lesson. For once, I just want to do my own thing and not have anything to do with the point of the lesson. I want to have NOTHING TO DO with the point of the lesson. So just GO AWAY and LEAVE ME ALONE and take your point of the lesson with you!

Leader: Well, I’m afraid it’s a little too late for that.

Puppet: Too late for what?

Leader: [Fights back a chuckle.] Too late for you not to illustrate the point of the lesson.

Puppet: How can it be too late? I haven’t even come out.

Leader: Well, the point of our lesson today is on attitude, and you’ve been illustrating a bad attitude, so I’d say you’ve been introducing our lesson just fine with your bad attitude. Even when you don’t want to, you do a great job. That’s how awesome you are.

Puppet: [Peers out a little.] I am?

Leader: Yes, your bad attitude could have ruined the day, but it just so happened that I wanted to talk about how a bad attitude can ruin a day, or a lesson. So, lucky for you, your bad attitude actually helped my lesson. You can go now; I don’t need your help anymore.

[Leader turns to leave. Puppet comes all the way out.]

Leader: Hey kids, do you like Puppet’s lesson intros? (Leader allows kids to encourage the puppet.) Puppet, we love your intros, but we like them even better when you have a good attitude.

Puppet: Then from now on, I will have a great attitude. I promise!

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com
Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential "how to" skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!