

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: November 25, 2018

SUBJECT: HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS: Adults and Children (2 of 2)—Honor and Subjection to Older Ones

SCRIPTURES: 1 Samuel 3:1-18; 1 Timothy 1:2, 18; 3:4; 4:12; 5:1-2; 2 Timothy 1:2, 5; 2:1-2; 3:14-15; 1 Corinthians 4:17

AIM: As children of God, we should respect, honor and be subject to our elders. This attitude will help us be open to receive help and guidance from them, thereby equipping us to live a proper life before the Lord.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Leviticus 19:32 (You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the face of the old man. And you shall fear your God; I am Jehovah.); 1 Peter 5:5-6a (In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God...); 2 Timothy 3:15a (And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings...)

SUGGESTED SONGS: New Song about honoring and obeying (see lyrics at end of lesson); 3115 (How Do You Obey God's Word); 5205 (Obey); 5502 (People of the Lord); 7603 (We Love to Please); 2829 (Honor and Respect for Authority); 9535 BSS Vessels Unto Honor Song #15 (The Lord called unto Samuel); 2830 (Knock, Knock- A new song about Proper Greetings); 9211 BSS David Song #11 (Can You Say, How Do You Do); 9225 BSS David Song #25 (Let's Honor with Manners); 9219 BSS David Song #19 (I'd Like to Honor You); 7602 (We Have Come, We Have Come); 2831 (The Timothy Song)

CRAFT IDEAS: 1) Glue cotton balls for hair on a template of older persons. 2) Write a card of thanks or appreciation to an older person.

CONTENT: As God's children, we should regard adults and older ones with respect and honor. God put the adults in our lives in charge of taking care of us, and He made it such that adults are more experienced and wiser than children. These adults may include our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, serving ones, teachers and sometimes our older siblings too. If a six-year old knows much more than a one-year child, consider how much more an adult of 30 or 60 years of age knows than a six-year old child. God, in His arrangement, has mindfully placed adults over children to protect, guide and nurture them, but for children to gain this benefit they must submit to the authority that God gave to the grownups around us.

Today, we will hear about two young people positively mentioned in the Bible, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. They are good examples of those who listened to older ones. *For younger grades, we can just select one of the stories instead of both.*

Samuel Listening to Eli.

In the Old Testament, the Bible tells us about the Lord calling Samuel. As a boy, Samuel was brought to the temple by his mother Hannah, and he served Jehovah under the leadership of the priest Eli. While Samuel was lying down one day, Jehovah called to Samuel. Samuel thought it was Eli calling him because he did not know Jehovah at that time. So he answered "Here I am." He got up and ran to Eli, saying "Here I am, for you called me." Eli said he did not call him, and to go back and lie down. So Samuel went to lie down again.

Then Jehovah called Samuel again a second time, "Samuel." Again, Samuel rose up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Eli again told Samuel, "I did not call, my son. Go back and lie down."

This happened again a third time. Jehovah called Samuel, and Samuel rose up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." That's when Eli realized it was Jehovah calling Samuel. So Eli told

Samuel to go lie down and if God called again, to say, “Speak, O Jehovah; for Your servant is listening.” So that is exactly what Samuel did, and God spoke specifically to Samuel about some very important matters.

We can learn from Samuel’s example. Jehovah called Samuel three times, and each time he went to Eli. The attitude of Samuel toward Eli was proper. He said to Eli, “Here I am.” He did not say to himself; “I’m sleeping, why is Eli calling me and interrupting my sleep?” Nor did he say, “Why do I have to obey when Eli calls me?” He did not complain or give an attitude that he was called so many times. Rather, each time he was called, Samuel quickly ran to Eli. Samuel also obeyed Eli when Eli told him to go back to bed. Samuel did not argue with him and say, “You DID call me! I heard it!” Samuel also obeyed Eli’s instructions about what to say to God. His attitude was so proper toward the elderly Eli.

Timothy Listening to Paul.

In the New Testament, we can see that Timothy is a good example of how a child of God should behave toward his elders. When Paul wrote to Timothy, he called him his child, even his genuine child in faith. This shows us that Timothy was a child, or a young man, as well as Paul’s spiritual child. Paul writes to Timothy exhorting him and charging him to exhort and teach others. Timothy was a child who was open to receive Paul’s help and instruction and who was faithful to carry out what he was asked to.

From the time he was a very young child, Timothy knew the sacred writings of the Scriptures. He was instructed in the faith by his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. He must have had a proper attitude of honor and respect toward them because he was able to receive and learn so much from them. Since this was his habit as a young child, when he became a young man he also had a proper attitude toward Paul, who was older and more experienced in the Lord. Thus, Timothy was able to receive much spiritual help from Paul and eventually was useful to Paul in his ministry.

Children should honor and respect all adults but especially the adults in the church life, ~~like~~ such as our serving ones. The adults in the church life have gotten to know the Lord and His ways. Their knowledge and experience of Him and His Word can be beneficial the young ones if they would be willing to listen to them and receive their help.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- **Like Samuel, we should obey right away.** Every time Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, he ran to Eli right away and said, “Here I am.” When our parents or an older adult calls us, we should not just answer the person from where we are or say, “What?” Rather, we should go to them and ask politely what we can do to help them.
- **We should be open to the advice of our parents and older ones.** Last week, we heard about Rehoboam, who forsook and rejected the advice of older ones. Instead, he listened to the advice of young men he grew up with. In contrast to Rehoboam, we have the positive examples of Samuel and Timothy, who respected and listened to the older ones God put in their lives. Because they respected and honored God’s authority, they were blessed.
- We can ask the children -- What are some ways we can show honor to older ones? Make a list together with them. To help the discussion, here are some ways:
 1. **Greet them politely when you see them.** If someone says hello to you, make eye contact and say hello back. You can even smile and say hello first! Or greet them by saying, “Good Morning” or “Good Afternoon” or “Good Evening” It’s also a sign of respect to stand up when you greet them or when they come to greet you. There are many examples of this (e.g. soldiers stand at attention

when their captain or general is speaking to them; everyone stands when a judge enters the courtroom; we even stand when a bride is walking down the aisle at her wedding!). By standing up when greeting a person, our body language communicates to them, “I am giving you my full attention and I respect you.”

2. **Address them properly.** For example, we may refer to our relatives, serving ones or family friends as “Brother or Sister”, “Uncle” or “Auntie”, “Grandma or Grandpa”, and address our teachers, neighbors and other adults with surnames such as “Mr.”, “Mrs.”, “Ms.”, or “Miss”, “Dr.” or “Professor.” Even though some children do this, it is improper for a child to call an adult by his or her first name; it is even disrespectful to call an elderly person by their first name.
3. **Listen attentively and quietly when your parents are speaking to other adults.** To allow people to finish their conversations is a respectful thing to do. If you have to interrupt because of something urgent, you can politely say, “Please excuse me” to get the adults’ attention. They will appreciate your respectful manner!
4. **Be subject to them** (1 Pet. 5:5), which means to obey or submit to their instruction. Just as Samuel listened to Eli and obeyed his instructions, we should also follow this pattern. This includes not talking back to them or arguing. As children we should learn to listen and learn from older ones, instead of trying to argue, defend, or raise our voices. Even if we disagree, we should learn to submit to the way of one who is older. To obey and submit is a way to show honor, too.
5. **More Ways to Honor Older Ones:**
 - Hold the door open.
 - Help reach for something high or low on the shelf at the grocery store.
 - Help carry grocery bags.
 - Give up your seat on the bus or subway.
 - Help a younger child cross the street.
 - Share a meal together. Help serve food and a drink.
 - Visit them and spend time with them. Listen to their stories and history.
 - Call or video call them to stay in touch.
 - Write a note of appreciation and gratitude and send a Thank You card.

New Song

Honoring and Obeying our Family Members
(To the tune of: “Oh, be careful little eyes what you see”)

When my parents need my help, I’ll say, “Ok!” (Echo: “O-K!”)
When my parents need my help, I’ll say, “Ok!” (Echo: “O-K!”)
’Cause the Lord gave them to me, and to all my family
To take care of me and help me to obey. (Echo: “Obey!”)

(Replace “parents” with “grandma”, “sister”, “uncle”, “teacher”, etc.)

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting lessons: 11/16/97; 12/2/01; 12/2/07; 12/15/13