

**Classroom Guidance Newsletter**  
**Lesson Four: Tolerance and Respect for Others**

Dear Parents,

In Lesson Four, the students learned the importance of tolerance and respect for others. The Bible teaches that we must show respect to parents, to elders, and most importantly to God Himself. We must respect each other as well, treating everyone with kindness and fairness, in order to obey God's Word. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.' Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:1-4). "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:32). "Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king." (1 Peter 2:17). We are also taught to be tolerant by not judging others. "Judge not, that you be not judged." (Matthew 7:1).

Tolerance and respect was reinforced with activities that focused on valuing the different opinions of others, recognizing how we are the same and how we are different, the ways we can demonstrate them, and practicing these skills in various situations.

*What is Tolerance and Respect?*

People have to live, learn, and work with others who are different than them in many ways. Even though people are different, they can still be friends. Tolerance and respect is about accepting people for who they are: not about accepting bad behavior.

*What Tolerance and Respect Looks Like During the Elementary School Years*

During this time, children are more socially interactive than they've ever been before. Along with this social growth comes a new ability to empathize with others' experiences and feelings. Children are establishing a greater sense of themselves in relation to others. At this age, children can see how they're similar to, and how they are different from, others in the group. They are shifting away from their very egocentric view of the world (in which everything is as they see it) to a more global perspective, in which they realize that people have different experiences and views. Justice and equality are becoming increasingly important. This ability to acknowledge that there may be more than one answer to a problem lies at the core of conflict resolution. Children solve interpersonal problems by recognizing the concept of similarities and differences of opinion.

*Ways Parents Can Instill Tolerance and Respect in Their Children*

Encourage children that showing tolerance and respect means:

- Treating other people the way you want to be treated.
- Being courteous and polite.
- Listening to what other people have to say.
- Not insulting people, or calling them names, or making fun of them.
- Not bullying or picking on others.
- Not judging people before you get to know them.

*Tolerance and Respect Resources*

<http://www.parenting-child-development.com/christian-parenting.html>

[http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual\\_growth\\_for\\_kids/character\\_crew/respect.aspx](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual_growth_for_kids/character_crew/respect.aspx)

<http://www.parentsupersite.com/ad/parenting/parenting-general/teaching-children-respect-in-a-disrespectful-world.html>

<http://www.squidoo.com/respectlesson>

Sincerely,  
Heidi Jolliffe  
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