

## Kid's Slot –August 13-19

### Keep Calm and Respect Others (Don't show favoritism principle)

**OVERVIEW:** Keep Calm and Respect Others (Don't show favoritism principle) • You respect God when you respect the people God made.

**PREPARATION:** Paper, markers, Bibles

**BIBLE STORY & VERSE:** *James 2:1-4, 8-9*

#### ICEBREAKER:

- What does “favorite” mean? What is your favorite book? movie? song?
- If you could create your favorite place to visit, what would it look like? What could you do there? What would you eat? Would it be warm or cold?

**READ Keep Calm and Respect Others (Don't show favoritism principle)**

#### LIFE APPLICATION:

- Why do we play favorites?
- Why do you think we play favorites based on how people look especially?
- Where do you see people playing favorites most? (No specific names so we aren't gossiping—keep it general.)
- How does that make you feel?
- How does it make other people in the situation feel?
- Why else do you think parents, teachers, and coaches “play favorites” among kids?
- What do you think should happen instead?

## Keep Calm and Respect Others (Don't show favoritism principle)

I am so glad that you are here today. We have a great lesson on respect. The Bible has a lot to say about respect. And today we find some truth about respect in the book of James. This book is called James because it was written by a guy named James. But he wasn't just any James. Does anyone know who James was related to? (*Pause to see if they know.*) Yes, he was Jesus' brother! How cool is it that we have a letter from Jesus' brother to read? James had a lot to say about respect. Let's check it out together.

*(Open your Bible and read James 2:1-3) “My brothers and sisters, you are believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. So treat everyone the same. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes. And suppose a poor man in dirty old clothes also comes in. Would you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes? Would you say, “Here's a good seat for you”? Would you say to the poor man, “You stand there”? Or “Sit on the floor by my feet”? (NIV)*

James' message about respect is this: Treat everyone the same. That doesn't sound so hard in theory, but James had seen plenty of examples of people NOT showing respect. In fact, the example he shared in this passage comes from—of all places—the synagogue, which is basically like their church! You would think of all the places in the world where people should be treating everyone the same, church would be top of the list. But that wasn't what James was seeing.

Can you imagine what it would feel like to go to church and see everyone divided by how they looked? If they were important or rich or even LOOKED rich or LOOKED important, they got a special seat. Everyone else either sat or stood. Not sure about you, but that seems kind of rude, doesn't it?

James is talking about when we treat other people differently because we think some people deserve honor or respect while others don't. Sadly, what James was talking about is what we sometimes do to each other. Like maybe we look at someone who seems to have it all together—they have really nice clothes or a pair of sneakers that that we've been dreaming of—and we treat them differently than

someone who maybe dresses a little funny or might have sneakers that are completely worn out. It might not even be about something they own. We might look down on someone who never plays with others at the playground. You might think that just because you're not making fun of someone for being different, you're doing the right thing. But here's the thing: if you're treating them differently just because of how they look or what they do, then you're not showing them respect.

Thankfully, GOD doesn't do that. What God does is different. Let's read verse five one more time. *(Read James 2:5.) My dear brothers and sisters, listen to me. Hasn't God chosen those who are poor in the world's eyes to be rich in faith? Hasn't he chosen them to receive the kingdom? Hasn't he promised it to those who love him? (NirV).*

This verse tells us that God treats the poor with respect, which shows them how important they are. But it's not just about people without a lot of money. Think about the verse we talk about often: *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life" (John 3:16 NirV).* It doesn't say God loved the rich people, or the smart people, or the people in charge so much that He sent Jesus, does it? This verse tells us that God loved the WORLD and everyone in it so much that He gave us Jesus!

So if this is how God treats us, what do you think that means that we should do for others? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! And when you show respect to others, you're also showing respect to God! "You respect God when you respect the people God made.

Here's what James goes on to say. *(Read James 2:8-9) The royal law is found in Scripture. It says, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." If you really keep this law, you are doing what is right. But you sin if you don't treat everyone the same. The law judges you because you have broken it (NirV).*

The Bible says it's wrong to not treat everyone the same. Clearly God takes the issue of respect very seriously. God loves everyone, and when you respect everyone, you're respecting the God who made everything. How about we ask God to help us treat everyone the same?

### Pray

"Dear God, thank You for making all of us and for loving us the same, no matter who we are. We want to respect You and everyone You made, so help us this week to seek out ways we can **[Basic Truth] treat everyone the way we want to be treated.** We want them to know we see them as important with everything we say and do. We love You and pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

## Bible Story Extension

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Bibles, pieces of paper, thin markers or dark pens, one chair

#### What You Do:

- **Pass** out Bibles (or let students use their Bible apps) so that at least every 2 or 3 kids have one to share.
- **Ask** for volunteers to read James 2:1-4 out loud. (One person could read all 4 verses or if there are several people who want to read out loud, they could do 1 or 2 verses each.)
- **See** if you can get some volunteers to help you recreate the scene James is describing. (A rich man in a chair/good seat and a poor man on the floor.)
- **Ask** someone else to create each of the characters a nametag with the piece of paper (rich man, poor man).
- **Challenge** them to tell you the setting of the story that James wants them to picture. (a meeting, synagogue or church, depending on translation and kids' understanding)
- **Ask** someone else to skip down in James 2 and read verses 5, 8, and 9.
- **See** if anyone can put these ideas into their own words.
  - What is James basically saying?
  - What does he want the people to do because they say they follow and love Jesus?
- **Challenge** students to get in smaller groups and think of some other settings where people play favorites (for example: at school, home, sports teams, or dance).
  - **Direct** them to create a scene about characters that are playing favorites.
  - **Set out** the nametags and markers, reminding students not to use people's real names but keep it general (a mom, coach, teacher, a kid, teen).
  - **Give** them a few minutes to come up with their idea, plan, create nametags, and practice their scenes. (Note: they can create props or use things from around your small group space.)
  - **Let** groups take turns sharing their scenes.

## Hot Seat

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle. Choose one kid to sit in the middle of the circle. Explain that the person in the middle is on what is called the hot seat.
- Tell the other kids that you want three different people to say something kind to that person. They might say things like: "You're really funny," or "I like the way you draw," or "You're really fast when we do relays."
- If there's ever a lag, give some prompts to the kids and/or say something yourself.
- Give each kid a chance to be on the hot seat. At the end, take a turn yourself.

#### What You Say:

"A great way to respect the people God made is to let them know they're important by what you say to and about them. We should do this for the people we know well and like, but we should also do it for people we don't know, or even for people we don't really like or who don't like us. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when either you said or did something kind for someone you didn't know well, or when a stranger did something kind or said something kind to you. How did it make you feel?)** When we show respect to other people, we're also showing respect to God, who made them and who is in charge of everything! **[Bottom Line] You respect God when you respect the people God made."**

#### RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids' videos available to you on [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org) – it's free!