



# Helping Your Child Respond Correctly to Authority



Here are two ideas to help your child think about and respond correctly to authority:

**1. Pantomime (no words) the different attitudes we might have toward those in authority.** Write the words *respectful* and *disrespectful* on an index card or piece of paper. (Place these face down so kids can't see the word.) Share a situation and ask for two volunteers who will choose a card and then act out a possible response, per the card they chose.

Some situations to get you thinking: (I'm sure you can think of some that apply to your house!)

- Parent says, "Turn off the TV!"
- Teacher says, "You're having extra homework."
- Coach says, "You're on the bench!"
- Pastor says, "God wants us to forgive others."
- Mom says, "No snack before dinner."
- Dad says, "Pick up the trash in the yard."
- Teacher says, "Today we're going to play a get-to-know-you game."
- School bus driver says, "Get quiet!"

**Read Hebrews 13:7** and ask: *What attitude should we have when the person in authority tells us to do something? We can "say" a lot about respect/disrespect without saying a word. We can still be respectful even when we disagree. Why is important to obey the ones in charge over us? (They want what is best for us, they want us to be happy, they want to teach us the right way, etc.)*

**2. Write each of the following reactions on a slip of paper and put them in a basket.** (If you have older kids, you might not even need the prompts; they can think of the different responses themselves.)

- Pout
- Get mad and stomp foot
- Argue that your job is too hard
- Say you will obey, but get busy and forget to do it
- Whine
- Complain about what others are doing
- Say mean things about the person telling you to obey





- Say “Sure, I’ll do it”
- Smile
- Listen carefully to what you are being told to do
- Encourage others by offering to help
- Do it right away
- Politely ask for help if you need it

Different people respond differently when told to do something by parents or others in authority. Take turns letting family members draw one and act out the different responses. After each one is acted out, let the others guess the response and decide if it is the right/wrong way to respond.

**Read Colossians 3:23** (*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men; NKJV*). Then ask, *how should we obey and do what we are told to do?* (heartily, with a good attitude, remembering that we are pleasing God and not just men) ***It is important to submit to/obey those who are in charge of us, but it is also important to do it with a right attitude. Even when we disagree, we can still be respectful.***

