



Week 4



Day 1: Respect Starts in the Heart

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 18:5–9

Devotional:

David was doing everything right: he obeyed God, helped the king, and won battles. People noticed this obedience that led to success and they celebrated David's accomplishments. But instead of celebrating David, Saul became *jealous*. Jealousy is a feeling you get when you wish you had something someone else has OR when you feel upset because someone else is getting attention, a reward, or something you wanted. Jealousy is a feeling, and feelings aren't wrong, but what we do with that feeling *matters*. Jealousy tries to make us focus on what we don't have instead of being thankful for what God has given us. Jealousy made Saul's heart fill with anger towards someone who had helped him, served him, and been kind to his family. Meanwhile, David's heart stayed focused on God. Respect doesn't start with how we act, it starts with what's happening inside our hearts! David teaches us that a heart after God chooses respect even when others don't.

Discussion:

1. Have you ever felt jealous of someone or felt like someone was jealous of you? What happened?
2. Do you ever find it difficult to celebrate others like Saul did? Why do you think that happens?

Prayer:

God, help my heart to stay focused on You. Even when things feel unfair or others are unkind, help me choose respect. Amen.



Welcome to our week 4 devo for Pet Squad! All month long we are taking a look at the life of David to see what it looks like to have a heart after God's heart! This week, we are learning A Heart After God Respects Others through the story of David sparing Saul's life. We're not kitten around, this is going to be epic!

Day 2: Respect Shows in How We Respond

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 22:1–2

Devotional:

Saul's jealousy took over his heart, he became angry, and started to fear David. All of these feelings led Saul to make unwise choices. He tried hurting David multiple times (even throwing a spear at him!), he sent David into dangerous battles, hoping he wouldn't come back, and even though David married Saul's daughter and became part of the family, Saul still wanted to harm him. David's best friend Jonathan (Saul's son) warned David that Saul was planning to hurt him. So David had to make a hard choice and he ran away to stay safe. David had every reason to be angry. But instead of getting revenge or becoming bitter, David chose to lead and care for others who were hurting. When people treat us unfairly, we have a choice: react or respond. Reacting is quick: it's yelling, snapping back, or getting even. Responding takes self-control: it's choosing kindness, patience, and respect. David responded in a way that honored God, even when life felt unfair!

Discussion:

1. What's the difference between reacting and responding?
2. What is one way you can respond with respect this week at home or school?

Prayer:

God, help me slow down and choose responses that honor You, even when it's hard. Amen.

Day 3: Respect Honors God's Authority

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 24:1–7

Devotional:

In this passage we find David in a moment where he could have said, “I don’t agree with Saul, so I don’t have to respect him.” Saul was being unfair, mean, and even dangerous. If *anyone* had a reason to ignore authority, it was

David. But David didn’t think that way. He understood something really important:

Respect isn’t about agreeing with someone, it’s about honoring God in how you treat them.

David chose not to hurt Saul, even when he had the chance. He didn’t pretend Saul was right and he didn’t say what Saul was doing was okay. Yet he still treated Saul with respect because Saul was the king, and David trusted

God to handle the situation. So what does it mean to respect when you don’t agree? You can feel, “I don’t like this” or “I wish it was different” but you still choose to respond with obedience, kindness, and self-control. This kind of respect shows a heart after God that says: *I obey what is right because I honor God*

first!

Discussion:

1. What does it look like to respect others, even when you don’t agree?
2. What’s one rule you don’t always like but you can choose to follow with a respectful heart this week?

Prayer:

God, help me trust You, obey You, and respect the leaders You’ve placed in my life even when I want to take control. Amen.

Day 4: Respect Leaves Space for God to Work

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 24:8–22

Devotional:

After sparing Saul, David didn’t just walk away, he spoke with honesty and respect. He called Saul “my lord the king,” bowed down, and explained, “I could have hurt you, but I didn’t.”

Think about that, David told the truth about what happened, but he didn’t yell, insult, or try to embarrass Saul. He chose a tone and attitude that honored God. And something amazing happened: Saul’s heart softened, even if just for a moment! When someone hurts us, our first instinct is usually to get even, say something mean back, or prove we’re right. When we do that, it’s like we’re trying to control the situation ourselves.

David shows us a better way: When we choose *respect* instead of *revenge* we leave room for God to work in someone else’s heart.

We can’t control others, but we can control how we treat them. Respect can change moments, relationships, and even hearts. When you choose respect, God can use it in powerful ways!

Activity:

Think of someone who has been hard to get along with. Write or draw one way you can show them respect this week, and then make a plan to do it!

Prayer:

God, help me choose respect so You can work through me to have a positive impact on others. Help me focus on what You call me to do more than what I want to do. Amen.

Memory Verse

**“The Lord does not look at the things people look at.
People look at the outside of a person.
But the Lord looks at what is in the heart.”**

1 Samuel 16:7b

