

# ALL SAINTS at HOME and TOGETHER

SUNDAY 28 February 2021  
RESPECTING AUTHORITY

Hi Everyone,

Before we consider the topic for today, I've got some sad news....

It's with great sadness that we have to tell you that Rosemary died last Friday. Rosemary was a dedicated and enthusiastic Junior Church Leader at All Saints for many years, and although she'll be missed by us all, we'll have great memories. Please remember Rosemary in your prayers and ask God to comfort her family.

This week we're going to consider the topic of respecting authority. Hopefully this isn't a problem for you ?

1. Here's the start of a list of the people with authority in your life. Add any others?
  - Your mum and dad.
  - The elders in your family (grandparents, aunts, uncles etc),
  - The teachers at your school.
  - People who referee games like football, netball, chess etc.
  - The police.
  - The government.
  - Other older people?
  -
2. Why do you think they are in authority and why are those in authority likely to know best?

3. People in authority want you to obey instructions, rules and laws. Who gives them the authority to want you to follow these instructions, rules and laws?
4. Do you respect authority? What things, or which people, do you find it hard to show respect to, and why?
5. When do you think you might be in a position of authority? How would you react if someone argued with you and challenged your authority?

Discuss your answers with your mum and dad.

Remember - people with authority over you are also, in different ways, responsible for you, your actions and how you live.

### **Disrespecting Authority**

Another way of looking at respecting authority is to think about the consequences of showing the opposite - in other words disrespecting authority by rejecting and disobeying rules and laws.

For example,

- Suppose most people disrespected traffic laws by ignoring them, what would we see?
  - the roads would be full of accidents. No one would know when to stop and go, or which side of the road to drive on. Everybody would travel at different speeds and faster drivers are likely to cause loads of accidents. Pedestrians are also likely to get knocked down and injured or killed.
- Suppose most people disrespected civil laws and there were no police to enforce them, what would you see?
  - more theft and no one would want to run shops because they would be forever being robbed,
  - more burglary in people's homes, and
  - more violence and fights.

- Suppose most people disrespected rules in schools, what would you see?
  - Children leaving school with poor reading and writing skills, poor knowledge of numbers and maths, poor knowledge of history and their place in the world. Therefore children not able to reach their full potential and get good jobs when they leave school. Also more bullying, arguments and violence between pupils.
  
- Suppose footballers ignored the referee at a football match, what would you see?
  - Lots of foul play and cheating, goals scored that were off-side, lots of arguments between players, fans being frustrated because they wanted to watch good football.

So **RESPECTING AUTHORITY AND RULES** makes good things possible.

Remember, respect is different from liking someone or something. We respect someone or something because of who or what they are, or for the position (e.g. a teacher or a police officer) they hold and their associated responsibilities. We may not like an individual teacher or police officer, but we need to respect them because, without them the world would be a very chaotic and bad place.

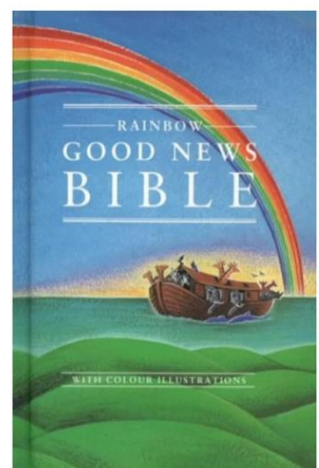
The bible recognises the need for laws and rules, for these to be enforced and for people to follow and respect authority. For example:

Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. "Respect your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise added: "so that all may go well with you, and you may live a long time in the land."

Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, bring them up with Christian discipline and instruction. **Ephesians 6 v 1-4**

Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.

**Deuteronomy 5 v17 - One of the 10 Commandments**



Everyone must obey the state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God. **Romans 13 v 1**

Do everything **without complaining or arguing**, so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky, as you offer them the message of life. If you do so, I shall have reason to be proud of you on the Day of Christ, because it will show that all my effort and work have not been wasted.

**Philippians 2 v14-16**

For the sake of the Lord submit to every human authority: to the Emperor, who is the supreme authority, and to the governors, who have been appointed by him to punish the evildoers and to praise those who do good. For God wants you to silence the ignorant talk of foolish people by the good things you do. Live as free people; do not, however, use your freedom to cover up any evil, but live as God's slaves. Respect everyone, love your fellow-believers, honour God, and respect the Emperor.

**1 Peter 2 v13-17**

Question: Did Jesus respect authority?

Answer: Yes ....

- He respected his parents.
- He gave the Jewish leaders as much respect as possible. without compromising the work God gave Him to do.
- He obeyed the laws of Rome.

For example in **Matthew 22 v15-21**

Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it against our Law to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?" Jesus, however, was aware of their evil plan, and so he said, "You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin for paying the tax!" They brought him the coin, and he asked them, "Whose face and name are these?" "The Emperor's," they answered.

So Jesus said to them, "Well, then, pay to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay to God what belongs to God."

"Respecting Authority" pretty much means obeying the rules or law of the authority.

Not all people in authority use that authority properly, but **most do** and they deserve our respect.

In the true sense of the words, "respecting authority" means that when instructions (including laws, and rules) are given by an authority figure, that the instructions consider the feelings, wishes, concerns, safety and rights of others.

In most cases the authority (God, your parents, elders, teachers, police and government etc) are there to help you and guide you to make good choices.

So how can you show someone that you respect their authority and appreciate what they are doing (particularly someone close to you) .....

- (1) By following their instructions, rules and laws.
- (2) By showing gratitude towards them by saying.....

thank you.

## Prayer

Dear God,

Sometimes we find it hard to respect authority and obey instructions, rules and regulations, and we end up arguing and then going into a bad mood.

Please help us to be less selfish and to realise that respecting authority benefits us all and makes good things possible - even if it doesn't seem that way at first.

Help us to appreciate the work of those in authority and to show our gratitude by saying "thank you".

Amen



## Prayer for Rosemary

Dear God,

We pray for our friend, and Junior Church Leader, Rosemary who has recently died. Although it's very sad, we remember many happy times at Junior Church with Rosemary as she taught us about You, Jesus, the bible and following a Christian life. We appreciate all she did for us and we'll miss her. May she rest in peace.

Please also comfort her family at this time.

Amen

# Word Searches

G	Z	Y	R	U	L	E	S	R	Y
R	E	R	L	S	U	Y	M	K	W
A	O	B	E	Y	B	D	O	G	V
T	N	K	W	E	V	Q	A	V	T
I	X	X	W	J	W	T	I	C	S
T	M	W	T	A	R	C	E	J	R
U	T	D	L	Y	O	P	V	X	V
D	P	P	Q	P	S	U	S	E	J
E	S	T	N	E	R	A	P	M	W
Y	T	I	R	O	H	T	U	A	U

RESPECT  
GOD  
RULES

AUTHORITY  
PARENTS  
OBEY

JESUS  
LAW  
GRATITUDE

O	Y	L	R	N	W	Y	W	E	S	Q	X	W	P	H	F	I	J
B	A	V	E	B	C	A	E	R	X	F	S	L	J	Z	P	V	O
S	Q	A	F	K	O	S	E	B	C	K	M	T	A	F	W	M	S
N	F	L	E	Z	N	H	Y	Q	O	K	O	T	N	E	C	M	Q
L	C	I	R	F	C	W	Y	J	U	V	L	H	E	E	S	R	I
C	A	G	E	A	E	Q	T	D	N	S	R	A	M	L	R	Y	O
U	F	U	E	D	R	H	I	E	L	E	F	Q	P	I	U	A	C
R	T	T	L	W	N	W	R	N	M	Q	C	N	Q	N	L	V	P
S	G	C	P	G	S	D	O	V	O	D	A	I	R	G	E	U	A
G	T	X	V	V	L	Q	H	A	T	E	U	O	L	S	S	V	J
S	F	B	P	I	J	M	T	X	X	J	T	W	M	O	R	L	Z
U	M	C	H	B	E	D	U	T	I	T	A	R	G	L	P	T	L
S	E	C	X	T	C	D	A	G	X	F	W	I	Z	I	Q	C	M
E	Z	I	N	S	T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	S	J	R	E	D
J	Y	Z	W	J	I	J	E	S	K	L	D	O	R	I	A	P	T
O	Y	Q	F	A	M	I	L	Y	J	O	C	U	H	Z	L	S	F
K	E	Y	Q	I	L	A	Y	K	G	N	I	E	B	L	L	E	W
J	F	C	W	L	W	M	Y	T	I	T	Q	C	H	W	C	R	L

RESPECT  
 GOD  
 TEACHERS  
 LAW  
 CHILDREN  
 FEELINGS

AUTHORITY  
 PARENTS  
 POLICE  
 RULES  
 OBEY  
 CONCERNS

JESUS  
 FAMILY  
 REFEREE  
 INSTRUCTIONS  
 GRATITUDE  
 WELLBEING



# Colouring Pages - Authority figures we should respect



Teachers

Police



RESPECT



Referee

RESPECT

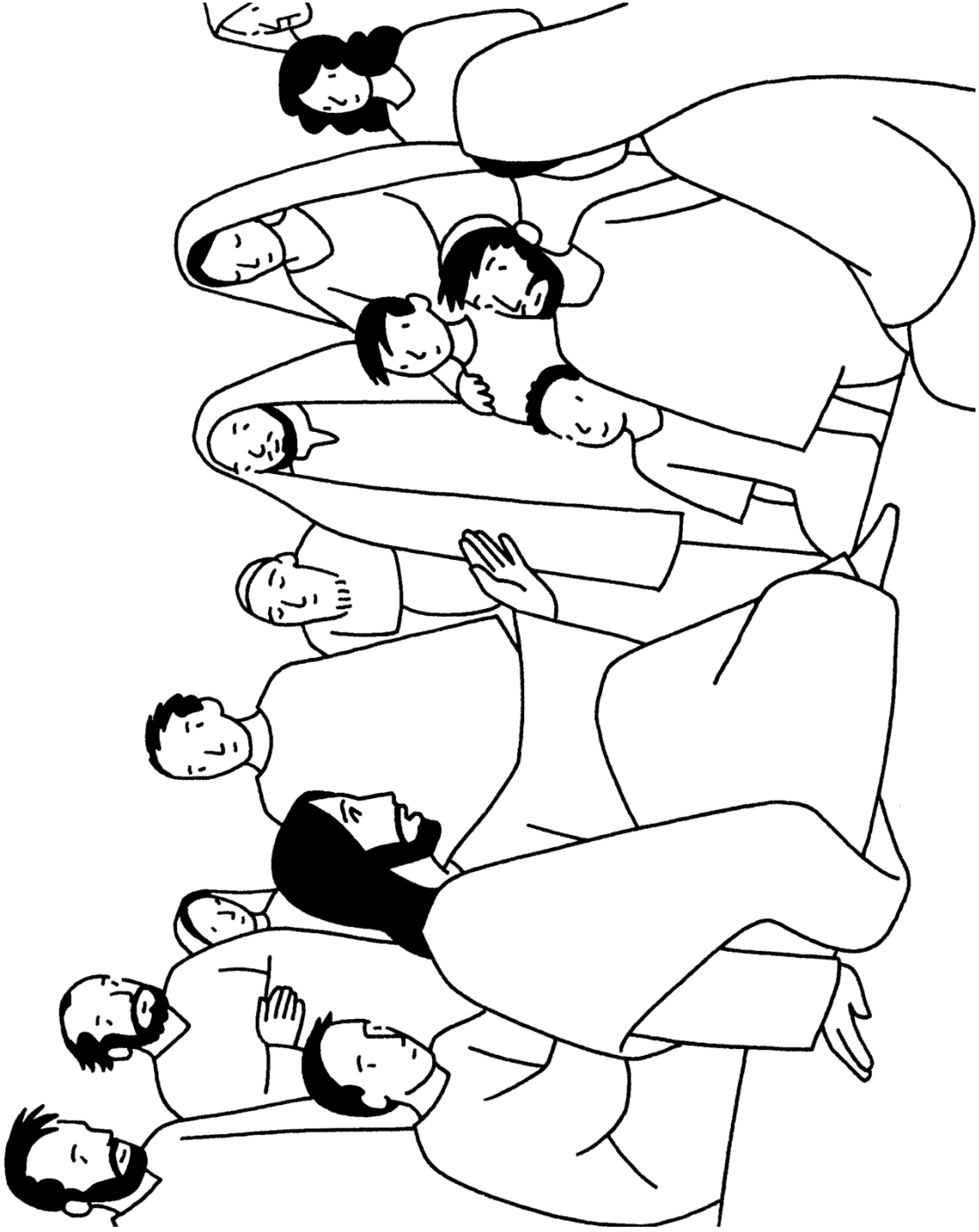
Judge



Lollipop Lady

And also mum and dad, and most of all God





Jesus teaching with authority