

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **March 27, 2022** Family Theme | **Submitting to Authority**
Study Text | **Romans 13:1-14**

Objective: Family members submit to God, and then submit to those God has put in positions of authority over them.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Rome, written around AD 57, Paul dealt with how believers are to relate to governing authorities.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first 17 books of the Old Testament this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Romans 13:1-14

Disciple Your Kids

Make sure family members understand that God wants His followers to submit to His loving leadership first, and then to those He has placed in authority over us.



Key Truth: Believers Submit to Those in Authority Unless It Means Disobeying God (Romans 13:1-7)

Paul began by expressing that all people are to submit to the governing authorities. The exception would be directives that would cause us to disobey God. God instituted civil authority and He places governing leaders in their positions (see Daniel 4:17, 25 and John 19:11). God's establishment of government, however, does not mean that He approves of evil and corrupt regimes. Paul challenged his readers to submit to authority in order to be free from danger and punishment and to keep a clear conscience. He affirmed that authorities have been given the responsibility to enforce the law and exact punishment on crime and criminals. We are to show honor and respect to governing officials because of the positions in which they serve.



Key Truth: Believers Fulfill God's Law by Showing Love to Others (Romans 13:8-10)

Here, Paul moved to a more personal motivation — love for people. Paul reminded his readers that the law of love is the primary law for the believer to submit to. We are called to love all people, especially other believers. This is the basic principle of the Christian life and was the *new commandment* given by Jesus to His disciples. Truly loving others would cause us to keep all of God's commands regarding our relations with other people.



Key Truth: Believers Display the Character and Lifestyle of Christ (Romans 13:11-14)

Paul called believers to “wake up” from slumber or lethargic, lazy Christianity. Understanding that we are living in the “last days” calls the believer to cast off sinful works. The believer is then to equip him or herself with the *armor of light*. Because Christians are engaged in a daily spiritual warfare, they must be equipped and ready for battle. Paul was encouraging a shedding of evil deeds and replacing them with Christ-honoring works that will invade the darkness. We are to live in the example and spirit of Christ who not only was light, but also yielded His life to the authorities of His day.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- For what purposes has God placed governing authorities over us?
- How does demonstrating love to others fulfill the Law of God?
- How do we “put on” the Lord Jesus Christ?
- How will you demonstrate submission to the Lord and to other authorities this week?
- **What does it mean to submit?**
- **Who are some of the authorities we are to submit to?**
- **When should we not submit to someone in authority over us?**

Everyday Extras

The Bible tells us that we should always obey those in authority; the only exception would be if obeying others would make you disobedient to God. Play a game of “Simon Says” with your children. Start the game as you normally might, but as you progress add actions that would be disobedient to God. Some examples are, “Simon says, hit your brother” or “Simon says to tell your mom she is mean.” In order to win the game they should be obedient to everything you say except for the actions that would be displeasing to God.

Learning to obey authority will help your child be successful in all of life. Play “Red Light” together — where the leader gives the green light, turns his back, and then calls “Red Light” whenever he is ready to turn back around. Anyone who is caught moving must return to the starting line. Children must quickly obey their parents and their teachers to stay safe.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a tax collector named Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. He climbed a tree so he could see Him. When Jesus passed by the tree, He stopped and told Zacchaeus to come down because He was going to Zacchaeus’ house. Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus so he would believe in Him. **I Can Believe in Jesus** and spend time with Him too.