

# Respect Others

Key Verse:  
**“I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with Me.”**  
 Revelation 3:20



Extra: Make a list of people you can show respect to.  
**Level 4 lesson 29**

## Read Luke 7:36-50 and Ephesians 4:17-32

Have you ever been told to, “Mind your manners?” ‘Manners’ are simply ways of doing things which show proper respect and consideration for others. They reflect what we think of other people. The Bible teaches us to “consider others.” Being well-mannered shows our respect and care for people. Each culture has different ways of doing this, and it is very important to learn how to behave properly in certain situations. It can be embarrassing to do the wrong thing at the wrong time! That’s why manners play a big part in our daily lives. To those who really love the Lord Jesus Christ, this little rhyme teaches us a lot: “You must show that Christ has saved, by the way that you behave!”

What are your manners like at home, at the table, or at school? Are you respectful to older people, kind, helpful, thoughtful and careful to say “please” and “thank-you?” Let’s be people who please God by ‘minding our manners!’ Of course, that goes for adults, too! Our story today shows us how one man’s manners revealed a lot about what he thought of Jesus.

**CURIOUS INVITATION**  
 A Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus for a meal. He’d no doubt heard that Jesus had been doing wonderful things and attracting great crowds. He was curious: what sort of man was Jesus? During the meal, a woman came in to see Jesus. She had been very sinful. Humbly and tenderly she wept tears of repentance at Jesus’ feet, then anointed them with her costly perfume and wiped them with her hair. Simon the Pharisee recognised the woman as a local prostitute and thought to himself, “What bad manners! Doesn’t Jesus know what sort of a woman she is?!”

Knowing Simon’s thoughts, Jesus told him a parable to show that the woman was only showing her deep repentance, gratitude, and love for Jesus. Jesus reminded the Pharisee that he, on the other hand, had not even shown Him good manners!

**CHRIST INSULTED**  
 In those days, people wore open sandals, and water was always provided for guests to wash and cool their feet. Simon hadn’t even offered Jesus a bowl of water to wash his dusty feet when He arrived! “As well,” said Jesus, “You didn’t greet Me properly with a kiss.” Here in New Zealand, we greet people with a hand-shake, but in Bible lands people greeted one another with a kiss. Also, Simon had not brought oil to anoint Jesus as he should have. Simon had ignored all these Jewish customs it seems - not merely an example of bad manners, but an obvious mark of disrespect on his part. Jesus pointed out to him that this woman had done all those things! She had washed his feet with her tears, and kissed them, and anointed them with lovely perfume. She had shown her love for the Lord Jesus in her manners and respectful behaviour toward Him. But Simon the Pharisee had shown how little he respected Jesus by his lack of kindness and good manners. Our Key Verse tells us that the Lord Jesus wants to be the guest in the house of our lives. He stands knocking at our heart’s door. Some won’t even let Him in! Others, who have, treat Him a bit like Simon. What about You? Is He your “Guest of Honour” today?

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. What are some ways in which we can show good manners?	.....
2. Why did Simon ask Jesus to have a meal with him? Clue: a=1, b=2, c=3, etc	<u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>23</u> <u>1</u> <u>19</u> <u>3</u> <u>21</u> <u>18</u> <u>9</u> <u>15</u> <u>21</u> <u>19</u>
3. How did the people in Bible lands show good manners towards their guests?	.....
4. What do you think of Simon’s hospitality?	.....
5a. What is the door at which the Lord Jesus is knocking today? 5b. How have you treated Him?	.....

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

# The Rich Fool



Key Verse:

**“Remember your Creator, in the days of your youth.”**

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Level 4 lesson 30

Extra: Compare foolish and wise people.

## Read Luke 12:13-21 and Ephesians 5:15-21

Have you ever done something really stupid? Perhaps made a big mistake and just felt like a fool? It feels so bad doesn't it? We wish we could change what we've done, but it's too late. God's Word warns us about calling others fools: only He has the right to do that. God refers to two types of people as FOOLS:

(1) THOSE who SPEAK and ACT as if there is NO GOD (Psalm 14:1). Many people never think of God for one minute - they ignore His Creation, ridicule His Word the Bible and its instructions, and live totally to please themselves.

(2) THOSE who LAUGH at SIN (Proverbs 14:9). God says that anyone who makes a joke of sin, or treats it lightly, is a FOOL! Only a fool would look at Jesus on the Cross of Calvary and think that sin was not serious, or something to laugh about. Now if God calls someone a fool we had better listen - this is serious!

In our lesson today, we learn of a man to whom God did just that! It's interesting to see what sort of man he was. Most people today would think he was very clever - not a fool at all! He was a successful farmer and very rich. Jesus didn't condemn him for that though. We read in the Bible of many rich men, and there are many rich people today doing great service for God.

### BIG PLANS

Some would say this man was just being careful and wise in making plans for his ever-increasing business. We too, should seek to do well in life: to study hard for our exams; to prepare ourselves for our life's work; and to do all we can to be good citizens. Your Mums and Dads have to plan things out too, so they can afford to clothe, feed and educate you.

Yes, this man had gone to a lot of trouble preparing for the future.

His bank account was full and he thought he had "enough goods to last me for many years." He even planned to pull down his barns and build larger ones to hold all the grain and produce. He'd worked hard all his life and now he planned to 'sit back and take it easy'; to 'put his feet up' and enjoy life. What could be wrong with that? Where had he made such a mistake that God would call him a fool?

### BIG MISTAKE

Friends, this rich man's mistake was in not planning far enough ahead! He had only made plans for this life and forgotten all about Eternity! He hadn't considered for one minute, that after this life he must meet God and give an account of himself and his life on earth. He failed to realise that his sinful heart was not right with God.

Perhaps, like many people, he thought he had plenty of time to think about God and get right with Him. But just when he thought everything was going well and he had everything under control, God said, "TONIGHT your life will be demanded from you!" His life on earth was over! How foolish this man was to leave God out of his life and ignore Him.

Friend, where would you stand before God if He said the same words to YOU tonight? Don't be someone God calls a fool and make the same mistake. The Bible warns us not to "count on tomorrow." Instead, we should wisely prepare to meet God by accepting Christ as Saviour and asking Him to forgive our sins, while we are young. Then, we have our whole life (however long that may be) to live to please Him and stay ready to meet God at any time!

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Which two types of people does God say are fools?	a. .... b. ....
2. What great mistake did the man in this lesson make?	.....
3. What had the man forgotten would happen at the end of his life?	.....
4. How can we avoid making the same mistake as this man?	.....
5. Why is it good to remember God while we are young?	.....

# "Come, Follow Me!"

Key Verse:

**"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."**

Luke 18:16

## Read Luke 18:15-30 and 1 Timothy 6:3-10

One day, some mothers brought their little children to Jesus, so He would speak with them and bless them. However, Jesus' disciples didn't think that was such a good idea! Perhaps they thought that Jesus was too tired, or too important to be interested in these little ones. "Take these kids away!" they told the group of ladies.

So the disappointed mothers began to leave. But Jesus, observing all this, called out, "Let the little children come to me, and don't stop them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, will never enter it."

### JESUS BLESSES

Happily the young children ran to Jesus and He lovingly took each one in His arms, and blessed them. How special to have been one of them; to hear His voice calling you by name and feel His gentle arm around your shoulder! The Saviour is still calling, still seeking; He wants YOU to COME to Him TODAY, so that He can save you. Will you answer from your heart, "Here I am Lord Jesus, save me today. Cleanse me from my sin and make me wholly yours, I pray."

Shortly after this incident, a young man came running up to Him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus looked at him and wishing to make him consider the words he had used, replied, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good - except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.'"

### JESUS REJECTED

"But, Master," he said, "I have kept all those rules since I was a boy." Jesus gazed at the young man before Him. His expensive clothes and long robe showed him to be a rich businessman, eager to achieve great things in life. "You still lack one thing," Jesus gently replied, "Sell all you have and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come, follow Me!"

Jesus wanted to be first in this man's heart. Ah! Such a pointed request! The popular young ruler was very rich, with great possessions and many friends. He looked longingly for a moment at the Master he would have loved to serve - if only it didn't mean giving up so much! Sorrowfully, he turned and walked away. The price was too high. His heart belonged to his earthly riches; he would not give them up - not even to know God and have Eternal Life!

Jesus, watched him go (probably with tenderness and sadness) and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were surprised! In fact, He added sadly, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!"

Jesus didn't mean it was a sin to be rich; He simply knew that great wealth can blind us to our need of a Saviour, and steal our heart away from God. Is there anything more important to YOU today? When Jesus says to you, "Come, follow Me," is there something that stops YOU from saying, "Yes Lord, I come?" Decide to follow Jesus today!

Extra: Do some research on money. How should we wisely use it?

Level 4 lesson 31

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What invitation did the Saviour give to encourage children to come to Him?	.....
2. How do we receive the Kingdom of God like a little child?	.....
3. Why did Jesus tell the young man to sell everything?	.....
4. What did the young man do when he heard the Saviour's words? Clue: 1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc	<p style="text-align: center;">             _ _ _        _ _ _ _ _        _ _ _ _ _        _ _ _ _ _              8 5          23 5 14 20          1 23 1 25          19 15 18 18 15 23 6 21 12 12 25         </p>
5. What kept the young man from following Jesus?	.....

# Invitation Declined

**Key Verse:**  
**“I tell you now is the time of God’s favour, now is the day of salvation.”**

2 Corinthians 6:2b

**Level 4 lesson 32**

**Extra:** What makes a person truly happy?

## Read Luke 14:12-24 and Revelation 3:14-22

### SPECIAL INVITATION

What makes YOU happy? What is happiness anyway? People have lots of different ideas about it. There is a chorus that begins, “Happiness is, to know the Saviour” - and it’s right! The best and happiest thing in the entire world is to be a Christian, knowing that Jesus has forgiven all your sin.

### INVITATION DECLINED

Our Bible reading today, talks about a happy feast which cost a great deal and took a long time to prepare. When everything was ready, the invitations were sent out to various people. Now, most people I know would be happy to be invited to a free banquet, but strangely, these people were not!

One by one they all began to make excuses why they couldn’t come, and what silly excuses they were! They clearly show that it was simply too much trouble for these people and interfered with their own plans. They didn’t really care about the host and couldn’t be bothered! And so they missed the happy occasion.

### INVITATION EXTENDED

The disappointed host didn’t cancel the feast though - he just extended the invitation. Now anyone could come! There was enough room and food for all. Now, what a happy scene we see: poor, lame, blind, sick, and crippled people, all responding to the invitation and enjoying the magnificent banquet freely provided by their loving host. What a happy, grateful company they were!

Friends, this feast is a picture of how we need to come to Jesus Christ to be saved.

Sometimes, some people are like those foolish ones who refused the invitation. People hear the Saviour’s invitation, “COME”, yet they also make all kinds of silly excuses. Some say, “I’m too young,” or, “I’m too old!” Some say, “I’m not bad; I don’t need a Saviour!” Others say, “I’m too bad; God would never accept ME!” Others are frightened and say, “My friends will laugh at me if I become a Christian.” And yet others are just “too busy.”

### INVITATION OPEN

Friend, we all need to accept God’s loving invitation to be reconciled (made friends again) with Him while He extends it to us. We were reminded last lesson that none of us knows when our life will end and the invitation can no longer be accepted. The Bible tells us that “all have sinned” and that we too are “poor, wretched, and blind” (Revelation 3:17).

Yet God’s Word tells us that “whoever wants to, may come.” Our memory verse today reminds us that “NOW is the day of salvation.” Jesus Christ has died and shed His blood in order for your sins to be forgiven. Don’t be like those foolish people who made excuses, but accept the Lord’s gracious invitation now.

Tell Him you are sorry for your sins; trust Jesus as your Saviour and accept His forgiveness and all the blessings of His salvation. Then you will know fellowship with God your Creator, which is true happiness! And always remember, “Happy is the man who trusts in the Lord” (Proverbs 16:20)!



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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|---|-------|
| 1. What is the best and happiest thing in the entire world? | ..... |
| 2. Why did the people refuse the kind invitation?           | ..... |
| 3. What does this story picture for us today?               | ..... |
| 4. Who can come to the Lord Jesus Christ?                   | ..... |
| 5. How can we know fellowship with God, our Creator?        | ..... |