

# Made for More: Small Group Guide

## Week 2: Revive Respect

January 11, 2026

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### Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** Share a time when someone showed you unexpected respect or honor. How did it make you feel?

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### Key Scripture References

- 1 Peter 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone
  - Ephesians 5:33-6:2 - Respect in marriage and family
  - Philippians 2:3 - Value others above yourself
  - Matthew 7:12 - The Golden Rule
  - Romans 12:9-10 - Honor one another
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### Summary of Main Points

1. **Respect is foundational** - God calls us to show respect to everyone, not just those we find easy to respect
  2. **The Crazy Cycle** - Without love, wives react without respect; without respect, husbands react without love
  3. **Familiarity breeds contempt** - What we initially found endearing can become irritating over time
  4. **The slow leak problem** - Small acts of disrespect accumulate and cause major damage
  5. **Our identity in Christ** - A strong identity in Christ gives us capacity to respect others consistently
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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Respect

1. **Why do you think the pastor emphasized that respect applies to "everyone," not just people we're close to?** How does this challenge our everyday interactions (drive-thru workers, receptionists, difficult customers)?
2. **The sermon mentioned "acceptable sins" - those things we won't get arrested for but that damage relationships.** What are some examples of acceptable sins related to disrespect that you've witnessed or struggled with?
3. **Discuss the "crazy cycle" from Dr. Emerson Eggerichs' work.** Have you seen this pattern in your own relationships or observed it in others? What makes it so hard to break?

## Personal Reflection

4. **The pastor said, "Familiarity breeds contempt."** Can you identify something that initially endeared you to someone that now irritates you? What changed?
5. **Read Philippians 2:3 together: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourself."** What's the difference between valuing others above yourself and being a doormat?
6. **The sermon talked about "the slow leak in the attic."** What are some "slow leak" behaviors that erode respect over time? (Examples: eye-rolling, snide comments, sarcasm, criticism disguised as humor)

## Practical Application

7. **The pastor offered this challenge: "Honor the maker of the one who made you mad."** How does remembering that difficult people are also God's creation change your perspective? Share a specific relationship where this truth could help you.
8. **Review Matthew 7:12 - "Do to others what you would have them do to you."** In your most challenging relationship right now, what would it look like to treat that person the way you want to be treated?
9. **Nehemiah said, "Out of reverence for God, I did not act like that."** Have you ever made a decision to treat someone respectfully specifically because of your relationship with God, even when you didn't feel like it? What happened?

## Going Deeper

10. **The sermon mentioned that honoring parents doesn't say "honor the father and mother who is honorable."** How do we balance showing respect with setting healthy boundaries when someone treats us dishonorably or abusively?
11. **God honors those who honor others.** What does this promise mean to you? Have you experienced God's honor in response to your honoring others?
12. **The pastor noted that a strong identity in Christ gives us the capacity to handle relationship challenges.** How does knowing who you are in Christ specifically help you show respect when it's difficult?

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## Accountability & Prayer

### Pair up and share:

1. Which relationship is God bringing to mind as you've discussed this topic?
2. What specific action will you take this week?
3. How can your partner pray for you?

### Group Prayer Focus:

- Pray for humility to see where we've been disrespectful
- Ask God to strengthen our identity in Christ so we have capacity to honor others

- Pray for specific relationships that need healing
  - Ask for wisdom to know when healthy boundaries are needed
  - Thank God that He honors those who honor others
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### **Closing Thought**

*"If our identity in Christ is secure, if we know who we are in Him, then internally we have a strength and a capacity to connect in more meaningful ways with people, and we have the ability to work through the natural stuff that our humanity does to impede those relationships."*

**Remember:** You can't control how others treat you, but you can control how you respond. And God sees and honors your faithfulness.