

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

for use with
Program 12

RESPECTING OTHERS

In the Youth Guidance Video Series



EDUCATIONAL GOALS

YOUNG ADOLESCENTS SHOULD:

- Develop an understanding of the importance of respectful behavior.
- Become aware of the many ways in which they show both respect and disrespect toward each other.
- Adopt a value for treating people respectfully.
- Learn to appreciate people's differences rather than fear them.
- Become interested in learning more about their own roots and those of their schoolmates.

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- ▶ **Trigger group discussion**
- ▶ **Stimulate critical thinking**
- ▶ **Boost self-esteem**

Big Changes, Big Choices helps young teens work their way through the turmoil of early adolescence while making positive, healthful life choices. In each program TV cameras follow comedian / youth counselor Michael Pritchard to middle schools around the country, as he thrills young audiences with warm humor about growing up and engages them in problem solving sessions about serious issues that affect their lives.



The purpose of this video program is to shape young people's attitudes by appealing to their minds and their hearts. By watching and discussing these videos, kids will come to a deeper understanding of the issues presented in the tapes, think more critically about their own choices and behaviors, and gain confidence in their own better instincts.

HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO

Use in classrooms, libraries, youth groups, or show it to your kids at home. Ideal for parents, too.

You can greatly enhance the effectiveness of this video by following it up with group discussions, writing assignments, and learning activities. This guide is intended to help you in your efforts.

We recommend that, before showing the tape, you ask a few questions to start the kids thinking about the issues treated in the program. You'll find some useful questions on page 6. Also, you can expect your students to have a lot to talk about after viewing the tape, so it's a good idea to allow ample time.

While this discussion guide may appear to be written for classroom teachers, any group leader or parent will find it a useful tool for getting the most out of this video program.

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

This program emphasizes that everyone is entitled to respect regardless of appearance, race, national origin, disability, social status, etc. It attempts to sensitize kids to the feelings of others, and develop in them a value for treating people respectfully. Also, since conformity is such a powerful force in early adolescence, this video encourages kids not to reject people who are different from them, but to appreciate and embrace diversity and multiculturalism.

PROGRAM CONTENT

PART I

Mike Pritchard on stage introduces the concept of respecting others by telling a story about a tough kid who comes to the defense of a "twerp" who is being picked on. He respected the "twerp" because that kid "never calls people names, even behind their backs."

CLIMATE OF DISRESPECT

Teentalk: Pritchard leads a group of middle school students in a discussion which reveals that they are routinely ridiculed for their looks, clothes, attitudes, intelligence, the group they're in, race, religion, accent, skin color. They talk about various forms of capping, including derogatory name-calling and racial insults.

FEAR OF DIFFERENCES

They lament that kids of different racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds tend not to mix in school. Several of the kids comment that they feel pressure to stay with their own kind rather than mixing. One boy says people are sometimes afraid of differences because they don't have enough interaction with other kinds of people to get to understand them.

PART II

Pritchard on stage tells about seeing kindergartners of different races and nationalities washing each other's hands. Young children just naturally treat everyone the same. Prejudice has to be learned.

RACISM & PREJUDICE

Teentalk: Discussion of racist attitudes and behaviors and how people are affected by it. Personal stories by kids who have been the target and how they handle it. When they express cynicism about the prospects for racial harmony in the world, Pritchard says "this is where it all begins, we change the future here. We change the future by learning to respect each other." He asks if everybody deserves respect. One boy says

everybody deserves respect regardless of who they are because we're all brothers and sisters. Another says nobody's really different, we're all human.

PART III

Pritchard on stage does a comedy bit about people from different regions of the country hating each other. "Everywhere you go somebody hates them. What we have to understand is that there is no them, there's only us."

APPRECIATING OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Teentalk: Discussion about the value of knowing your family history. The kids are of Native American, European, Asian, African, and Egyptian backgrounds. A girl says it's fun to learn from people who are from different places. Her family comes from all over the world. Pritchard asks why family pride is so important. A couple of girls reply that it helps you have pride in yourself and respect for yourself and that helps you respect others. They suggest ways of learning to respect each other's cultures and agree that knowledge is the basis for harmony.

Pritchard on stage says we can't wait for our leaders to make change happen, we have to do it ourselves. Respect yourself and others. That's a good choice to make, and it's up to you to make the right choice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions to ask **before** showing the tape.

1. Agree or disagree: It's okay to insult or make fun of people as long as they don't hear it.

Questions to ask **after** showing the tape.

2. Did anybody in this video say anything you disagree with? What would you say to that person?

3. What are some common signs of disrespect that you see in people here at school? How do you feel about that?

4. What do you dislike most about the way people treat each other here at school? What do you like the most? Why do you feel that way?

5. Are there a lot of put-downs here at school? Are put-downs a sign of disrespect? How, in what way?

6. Is there a difference between a put-down and an insult? What's the difference?

7. Do you have to like a person in order to be respectful, or can you be respectful to someone even if you don't particularly care for him or her?

8. When you're with a group of kids, what things might other people do or say that make you feel good? What things make you feel bad?

9. Do you think there is racism here at school? How is it expressed? How does that make you feel?

10. Have you, personally, ever experienced racism or some other type of prejudice? What happened? How did it make you feel?

11. Do the kids in your school tend to stay within their own racial and ethnic groups, or

do they mix. Why do you think that happens here?

12. Several of the kids in the video commented that they feel pressure to stay with their own kind rather than mixing. Do you find the same pressures here at your school?

13. Do you think people are afraid of differences sometimes? Can you give some examples? Why do you think that's true?

14. Is it harder to respect someone who is very different from us? Why?

15. What are the benefits of having friends who are different from us?

16. Have you ever learned something new about a different culture from a friend?

17. How well do you kids know each other? What things stand in the way of getting to know people better?

18. What responsibilities do you feel you have toward your classmates?

19. Is it ever okay to treat another person with disrespect?

20. What are the benefits of treating people with respect?

21. The kids in this video said they think everybody is entitled to be treated with respect. Do you agree?

22. What was most meaningful to you in this video?

HOW TO TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT

Treating people with respect makes your world a nicer place to live in, whether it's at home, at school, or out in your community. And it's easy - all you have to do is treat people the way you like to have them treat you. Here are a few ideas.

- 🍏 Don't insult people or make fun of them.
- 🍏 Listen to others when they speak.
- 🍏 Value other people's opinions.
- 🍏 Be considerate of people's likes & dislikes.
- 🍏 Don't mock or tease people.
- 🍏 Don't talk about people behind their backs.
- 🍏 Be sensitive to other people's feelings.
- 🍏 Don't pressure someone to do something he or she doesn't want to do.

We live in a diverse nation made up of many different cultures, languages, races, and backgrounds. That kind of variety can make all our lives a lot more fun and interesting, but only if we get along with each other. And to do that we have to respect each other. In addition to the list above, here are some ways we can respect people who are different from us.

- 🍏 Try to learn something from the other person.
- 🍏 Never stereotype people.
- 🍏 Show interest and appreciation for other people's cultures and backgrounds.
- 🍏 Don't go along with prejudices and racist attitudes.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Imagine that some day you will have a child. Write a letter of advice for that child to open when he or she reaches the age you are right now. Tell the child about the way kids in your school or other groups treated each other at this age, and how you hope he/she will treat people.
2. How is the issue of respect portrayed on television or in the movies? Watch a movie or TV show and write about how the characters interacted with each other. In what ways did they treat each other with respect or disrespect? (Give some specific examples.) Do you approve of the way they treated each other? Did you feel different toward characters who treated others with respect than those who didn't? Which did you like better? Why?
3. Are some kids ridiculed at your school? Why? What do they get picked on about (height, weight, appearance, disability, accent, skin color, etc.)? Exactly how are they picked on? How do you think these kids feel about this? How do you feel about it? How does that kind of behavior affect the climate in your school?
4. Have you ever been made fun of for something that you couldn't change? Can you give some examples? How did (do) you deal with it? How did it make you feel?
5. In what ways do you treat people with respect? Are there any ways in which you don't?
6. Have you ever seen anybody mistreated for being different. Describe the incident. How did it make you feel? What would it take to prevent things like this from happening again?

GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. What does it mean to treat other people with respect? Have the class brainstorm a list of do's and don'ts for treating people with respect. Ask for specific examples of each behavior they identify. Compare their list with the one on page 8 of this guide. Hang the list up on the wall as a reminder.
2. Have the class identify as many differences as they can among their members. This should include national, racial, and cultural differences, as well as different talents, disabilities, etc. How do they feel about all this diversity?
3. The kids in the video suggested having class discussions about different ethnic backgrounds so they can learn to understand what other people are feeling. As one boy put it, "knowledge is the basis for harmony." Organize a multi-cultural appreciation week. Have kids representing different groups put together presentations designed to help other kids understand and appreciate the special characteristics of that group. Include such things as history, customs, values, cultures, anything that might contribute to breaking down the barriers that prevent people of different cultures from getting along.
4. Have the kids role play the following situation: Four good friends are planning to spend a day at an amusement park. Two of them want to invite another kid who's new in school. The other two don't want to include this person because he/she is different in some way (different race, a "nerd," from a foreign country, etc.). After the role play have a class discussion. Then, have four others do another role play changing what it is that's different about the new kid (for instance, he or she is HIV positive). Repeat this process changing the difference each time.

ABOUT MICHAEL PRITCHARD

Michael Pritchard is a juvenile probation officer turned comedian / youth counselor / public speaker. After his college graduation in 1973, Mike went to work for the St. Louis Police Department and then moved to San Francisco's juvenile hall. In his years of working with young offenders, Mike discovered that his penchant for humor served as a powerful counseling tool, enabling him to break down communication barriers and help a lot of troubled kids turn their lives around. As Mike is fond of saying, "the shortest distance between any two people is a good laugh." Mike's unusual combination of talents gained him recognition as California's "Probation Officer of the Year" the same year that he won the San Francisco International Comedy Competition.

Whether he's being funny or serious, Mike's big love is talking with kids about the choices they make in their lives. He teaches young people that they have the power of choice, that they are responsible for the choices they make, and that they owe it to themselves to choose the best.



"The shortest distance between two people is
a good laugh."

Big Changes, Big Choices®
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