

RELATIONSHIPS: AUTHORITY FIGURES

Who are the authority figures in your life other than parents?

In general, what makes it hard to submit to an authority figure?

What would make it easy to submit to one, in your opinion?

ROMANS 13:1-7

Why should we obey authorities?

What does Paul mean by “be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God?”

If God establishes rulers/governments, how does that change how we view them? Why?

Who are we ultimately disobeying if we disobey authority figures?

Do you think that this means that Christians should obey every single thing a government ever commands? Why or why not?

- What was one situation where you felt you needed to make a different decision than an authority figure wanted you to make? (maybe with a teacher, etc.)
- Can you imagine a situation where our government here in America would try to get us to do something that was the complete opposite of what God wants us to do? How would you handle that situation?

What are some ways in which we can appropriately not follow through on something that we feel convicted not to do?

Recommended Bible Stories to Talk About:

Recount story of Daniel and friends refusing to eat the emperor's food. Daniel 1:8-16

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego handle that kind of situation? Daniel 3

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

How does the idea of praying for our president or your principal make you feel? Why is it important to God that we do it?

Take some time as a cell group to pray that you would all be respectful and obedient to authorities in your life. Pray that you would honor God above anyone and everyone else. Pray for some specific authority figures in your own life (teachers, principals, government officials, the President, law enforcement, etc.)

Other passages on Authority Figures: 1 Peter 2:13-17, Titus 3:1, Daniel 3:1-29, Acts 5:17-42.