

Lesson 11: Respect

Objective: To encourage understanding that everyone's actions make a difference to the community as a whole.

Silent Sitting:

Discussion:

- Sanskrit word *adara* - a communication that shows an attitude of honor
- Respect can be shown in many ways –
 - ✓ Manner of speech – Indian languages have many forms of 'you'
 - ✓ By action – bowing one's head
 - ✓ Offerings
- Respect for knowledge
 - ✓ In the Vedic culture, all forms of knowledge are considered sacred Goddess Saraswati who symbolizes knowledge.
 - ✓ Knowledge gives clarity to one's thinking and vision
 - ✓ Two Kinds:
 - Knowledge of worldly objects
 - Knowledge of self
 - ✓ Self-knowledge is most sacred
- Respect for Elders
 - ✓ Age generally presupposes knowledge one is also expected to mature emotionally.
 - ✓ A younger person respects an older person since he or she can learn from the knowledge and experience of the older person.
- Respect for Self and others
 - ✓ One should not demand respect from others – this shows insecurity
 - ✓ Occupants of position of authority command respect

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln became the President of the United States of America in 1861. Many instances in his life bear witness to his kind heart, tolerance of others and love of truth and justice. His long, hard fight to have slavery abolished had only been resolved by civil war in 1861-65.

As a child, young Abraham helped anyone who was in need. Moreover, when he became president, he did not only fight for big issues.

Once, during his term of office, he was out with his friends for a walk. On the way home, they saw a horse with a saddle, but no rider. Abraham asked if anyone knew whose horse it was.

"I think I know whose it is," one of the men replied. "But I heard he drinks a lot. He must have fallen off somewhere along the road."

"We'd better go and search for him then," said Abraham. "He must be in trouble."

"Why should we? It is getting dark and we are in a hurry. Come on. We are already late. Let the drunkard learn his lesson".

They all agreed, turning quickly away. But Abraham did not join them. He strode off in the direction from which the horse had come. "Then excuse me. I feel that man may need some help. If he's fallen, he may be injured".

As his friends walked home, Abraham caught the horse's reins and led it back along the road, looking out for its former rider. After walking some distance, he saw a man sprawled unconscious on the roadside. With some difficulty, Abraham lifted him on to the horse's back and took the man home.

His family was angry with him for bringing in a drunken man. If he was ill, it was his own fault and he might be sick in the house. However, Abraham felt strongly that he could not leave the man in that condition.

"I'll look after him and clear up any mess he makes. He may be drunk. He may be weak and foolish getting himself like that, but he still needs help. He would not have been safe lying out on the road. It is my duty to help him. I wouldn't feel right about it if I didn't."

Abraham took the drunken man to the bathroom and went washed him down. When he was conscious, Abraham got him something to eat before seeing him safely on his way.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever helped a person in trouble? If so, what was your experience?
2. Why his fellow citizens loved Lincoln so much?
3. In what ways do you show respect?
4. What is the difference between being polite to someone you respect and not being rude to someone whom you fear?
5. Does it remind you of anything in your own life?

Activity: Scrapbook page for Respect

Name: _____

Lesson 11 Homework

1. What are 3 ways through which you can show respect?

2. What are some similarities and differences in showing respect between Indian and American society?
