

Chapter 21

Respecting Life

The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and all those who live there.

Psalm 24:1

For the Parents:

In chapter 21 your child learned to:

- Suggest specific ways that he or she can show respect for himself or herself
- Suggest specific ways that he or she can show respect for others
- Suggest specific ways that he or she can care for the environment

God's love for each person is profound and unconditional. It is difficult to take exception to this truth of our faith. It follows that Christians should treat people and creation with deep respect. Get down to specifics, however, and the picture changes. Take a fresh look at someone you know. You may be so comfortable with your spouse, a good friend, a colleague, a child, that you do not really see him or her anymore. You may see only faults or shortcomings. You may see a strong, capable person and not recognize needs and vulnerability. Look into the person's soul to discover again why you love him or her. Or, if your feelings are negative, try to see something good about the person. Either way, looking again should bring a new respect.

With Your Child:

1. Talk about how your family can use these four steps to respect life.
 - *Care*. Be concerned about the needs of other people and things.
 - *Aware*. Be informed about actions and attitudes that help or hurt people and the environment.
 - *Where*. Start where you live.
 - *Prayer*. Ask God to bless your efforts.
2. As a family, do something positive for the environment. Clean up a littered playground, collect materials for recycling, or volunteer at an animal shelter. To remind yourselves of why you are showing respect, begin and end your work with prayer.
3. Read about Mother Marianne on the Review and Explore page.