

Topic: Proper Humanity – Dignified (Lesson 104)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “But all things must be done becomingly and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Focus: We should be dignified persons in the way we act. We should act properly in a way that befits the setting.

Practical Application: Being dignified means being worthy of respect and honor; behaving in a way that others would look up to; being proper and composed and not loose or wild. We should act properly in various settings. Consider giving the children different scenarios like a restaurant, when someone is visiting, when they are on vacation, when they go to school, etc. Discuss what types of behavior are appropriate and what types are inappropriate. Relate stories of appropriate and inappropriate behavior to enforce the lesson.

Intermediate:

Verse: “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up” (Ephesians 4:29a).

Focus: We should be dignified persons in the way we speak.

Practical Application: We should not only be dignified in the way we act but also in the way we speak. Our words reveal a lot about us. Ask the children if some of their friends speak unseemly things out of their mouths. Discuss how vulgar language expresses the opposite of being dignified, whereas proper words can be used to express a dignified person. Using proper language such as, “Excuse me,” “Thank you,” “I’m sorry,” etc., contribute to an expression of being dignified. Even the tone in which we speak can express dignity. Application can be extended to the way the children speak to their parents and/or siblings.

Advanced:

Verse: “...what you have spoken in the ear in the private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops” (Luke 12:3b).

Focus: We should be dignified persons both in public and in private.

Practical Application: We should not only be dignified in public when others see, but also in private when no one sees. Do you only act dignified when others are observing but not when you are by yourself or just with family at home? Consider using ex-president Richard Nixon as an example. The dignity of the Presidential office was damaged when Nixon’s infamous tape of what he spoke secretly was released to the public. He acted differently when he thought that no one was watching or listening. We need to be dignified in private as well as in public, that is, we should not do anything vulgar or improper even if we think no one is watching. Our private life should match our public life.