



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES
SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
3rd Grade





Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Overview and Milestones	6
Acknowledgements	7
Providing Feedback	7
Disclaimer	7
Building Block 1: Respect and Honor	8
Lesson 1.1 - Who Is God and how Can We Respect Him?	8
Lesson 1.2 - We Disobeyed the Commandment of God: Adam and Eve	14
Lesson 1.3 - The Consequences of Disobedience	20
Lesson 1.4 - Honoring God: Noah's Ark and the Flood	24
Lesson 1.5 - Respecting God: The Tower of Babel	29
Lesson 1.6 - Honoring God: Sodom and Gomorrah	34
Lesson 1.7 - Honoring God: Abraham's Obedience	39
Lesson 1.8 - Disrespecting & Dishonoring God: 10 Plagues of Egypt	44
Lesson 1.9 - The Ten Commandments: Respect & Honor and Judging & Envy	51
Lesson 1.10 - Samson Abused His Gift: Respecting God's Gifts	57
Lesson 1.11 - Honoring our Authorities: Nehemiah Respects the King	61
Lesson 1.12 - Respecting our Friends: David and Jonathan	66
Lesson 1.13 - How To Honour Our Family Members	71
Lesson 1.14 - Respecting Everyone: Bullying	74
Lesson 1.15 - Steadfast in Honoring God: St. Reweis, the Underestimated	80
Lesson 1.16 - Obedience of Jacob, Rachel & Leah	86
Building Block 2: God Wants Us to Share and Be Grateful	91



Lesson 2.1S - (SPECIAL for THE NATIVITY FAST): God's Gift: Himself	91
Lesson 2.2 - Gift Offering of Forgiveness: Cain and Abel	98
Lesson 2.3 - Forgiveness that Shares: Joseph and His Brothers	103
Lesson 2.4 - The Dishonest Givers: Ananias and Sapphira	109
Lesson 2.5 - Offering Your Talents: Building the Tabernacle	115
Lesson 2.6 - The Parable of the Rich Fool: Greed vs. Generosity	120
Lesson 2.7 - King Ahab and Jezebel: The Dangers of Greed and Jealousy	125
Lesson 2.8 - God Provides What we Need	130
Lesson 2.9 - Be Grateful: Jehoshaphat Gives Thanks Under Pressure	135
Lesson 2.10 - The Grateful Sinner	139
Lesson 2.11 - The Thanksgiving Prayer	144
Lesson 2.12S* - (SPECIAL for GREAT FAST): The Spirituality of Fasting	148
Lesson 2.13S - (SPECIAL): The Annunciation Feast	152
Lesson 2.14 - Do not be Greedy - Eulogius the Stone Cutter	156
Lesson 2.15 - Sacrificing to Follow Christ: St. Anna Simon	161
Lesson 2.16 - Jesus Wants us to be His Helpers: The Call of the Disciples	166
Lesson 2.17 - Giving Cheerfully: St. Nicholas	170
Lesson 2.18 - St. Pachomius, the Father of Communal Monasticism	174
Lesson 2.19 - Sharing God with the World: St. Philip and the Ethiopian Treasurer	179
Building Block 3: Respecting Others Through the Grace of the Holy Spirit	183
Lesson 3.1S* - (SPECIAL for PENTECOST): God Sends the Holy Spirit	183
Lesson 3.2S* - (SPECIAL for PENTECOST): Sacrament of Chrismation: Receiving the Holy Spirit	188
Lesson 3.3 - Fruit of the Spirit: What Does the Holy Spirit Do in our Lives?	192
Lesson 3.4 - The Holy Spirit: Our Helper, Counselor, Keeper and Comforter	196
Lesson 3.5 - Respecting Oneself: Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit	201
Lesson 3.6 - A Crippled Man Healed Through the Holy Spirit	206



Lesson 3.7 - Serving All: St. Barsoum the Naked	211
Building Block 4: Examples of Respect and Honor	215
Lesson 4.1 - The Wise Men: Our Gifts to God	215
Lesson 4.2 - Angels Honor God	220
Lesson 4.3 - David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem	224
Lesson 4.4 - Balaam and the Donkey: Obeying God's Direction	228
Lesson 4.5 - Tobias' Obedience	233
Lesson 4.6 - Washing of the Feet	237
Lesson 4.7 - Responding to Insults: Ibrahim El-Gohari	241
Lesson 4.8 - Respect and Appreciation for God's Creation and Gifts	244
Spare Lessons	250
SPARE.1 - St. Abanoub: Courageous with the Holy Spirit	250
SPARE.2 - The Resurrection Feast	255



Introduction

September 11, 2020

“Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide.”

St John Chrysostom

The book of Proverbs tells us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6) Although our Orthodox faith never changes, the society and challenges our children face are always evolving. In light of this constant change, and in honor of the 100 year anniversary of establishment of Sunday school in 2018, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States began working on a new curriculum named "Children of Light" to equip and educate our children in order to live a life pleasing to God in the midst of the world we live in. St Habib Girgis rightly reminds us that "education is the first need for the community after bread." Seeing the importance of educating our children, great effort was put over the past few years into ensuring a curriculum is developed that would feed our children with the proper foundations and tools appropriate to their age. Every grade will equip the child with strong biblical, liturgical, spiritual and morally appropriate lessons allowing them to grow in faith while providing them with tools to navigate the day to day issues they face in society so that they may be the true light of the world they are each called to be.

May this new curriculum be a tool that allows our children to grow in wisdom and in love of God, living up to their calling of being light of the world and true children of Light.

Bishop Youssef

Bishop Basil

Bishop Gregory

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



Overview and Milestones

Theme of the Year

The Golden Rule, Respect, Honor & Sharing

Rationale: As the children are growing to understand concepts, depend more on inter-relationships and seek to make right decisions, it is accordingly fitting to dedicate the year to focus on the basics of the Golden Rule Respecting, Honoring and Sharing.

Psych Analysis

Physical	Energetic, Rough, Daring
Intellect	Learns through experience, plans ahead
Social	Right and wrong are absolutes, questions authority, interested in rules
Detailed Characteristics	

Building Blocks

BB1: Respect and Honor

Who Is God and How Can We Respect Him? , Adam and Eve, The Consequences of Disobedience, Noah’s Ark and the Flood, The Tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham’s Obedience, 10 Plagues of Egypt, Respect & Honor and Judging & Envyng, Respecting God’s Gifts, Nehemiah Respects the King, David and Jonathan, How to Honour Our Family Members, Bullying, St. Reweis, the Underestimated, Obedience of Jacob, Rachel & Leah

BB2: God Wants Us to Share and Be Grateful

God’s Gift: Himself, Cain and Abel, Joseph and His Brothers, Ananias and Sapphira, Building the Tabernacle, Greed vs. Generosity, The Dangers of Greed and Jealousy, God Provides What we Need, Jehoshaphat Gives Thanks Under Pressure, The Grateful Sinner, The Thanksgiving Prayer, The Spirituality of Fasting, The Annunciation Feast, Do not be Greedy, St. Anna Simon, The Call of the Disciples, Courageous with the Holy Spirit, The Feast of the Resurrection, St. Nicholas, St. Pachomius, the Father of Communal Monasticism, St. Philip and the Ethiopian Treasurer

BB3: Respecting Others Through the Grace of the Holy Spirit

God Sends the Holy Spirit, Receiving the Holy Spirit, What Does the Holy Spirit Do in our Lives?, Our Helper, Counselor, Keeper and Comforter, Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, A Crippled Man Healed, St. Barsoum the Naked

BB4: Examples of Respect and Honor

Our Gifts to God, Angels Honor God, David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem, Obeying God’s Direction, Tobias’ Obedience, Washing of the Feet, Ibrahim El-Gohari, Respect and Appreciation for God’s Creation and Gifts

End of Year Milestones & Objectives

Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The Bible is respected, at home, at church, in class. + Asks Parents/Servants/Abouna bible questions 	Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Respects their teachers & parents + Understands the concept of sin and consequences
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Shares joyfully their candies/games/toys. + Shows thanks/gratitude. + Respects creatures/animals. + Respects other races and cultures 	Rituals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Reads Coptic + Show reverence & respect to the church + Girls encouraged to wear veil during liturgy



Acknowledgements

The Diocese would like to thank all those who helped in this curriculum. There were collaborators and volunteers from across the globe throughout the US, Canada, and Qatar. We would also like to thank St. Mary and St. Mark of Edmonton for their significant collaboration in this service. May God bless and reward all to those who have labored and prayed for this curriculum.

Providing Feedback

Feedback, suggestions and material may be submitted at any time in the following [form](#).

Disclaimer

Only the content presented on this curriculum has been reviewed and verified. The provided links have also been reviewed. However, the remainder of the content of these websites were out of the scope of the review.



Building Block I: Respect and Honor

Lesson I.1 - Who Is God and how Can We Respect Him?

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chalk, chalk board, dry erase marker, dry erase board, pictiary words, and a bowl/basket.

Scripture References: Acts 17

Song: [SUSCopts - Our God is an Awesome God](#) (2:30) or [Agios o Theos](#) lyrics (Kiahk Praise) (tune available [here](#))



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of who God is according to Acts 17. They will also develop an understanding of how to show God respect.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust and Reverence.



MEMORY VERSE:



God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.



Acts 17:24

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Who Is God? Pictionary:

Instructions:

Before class, cut up the Pictionary words and place them in a bowl or basket.



Divide the class into two teams. Choose a child from each team to come to the board to draw. Pull a word from the bowl and show it only to the children who are at the board. When you say, “Go!” have the children start drawing something that depicts the trait on the card. The first team to guess correctly wins that round. You may need to whisper some suggestions from below to the children if they don’t know what to draw.

Suggestions:

- Strong: A muscle, a person lifting a big rock or a weight bar.
- Perfect: A+ on a test, an angel.
- Love: A heart or the cross.
- Smart: A brain or an A+
- Protector: A kid on a bike with a helmet or a tree giving shade from the sun.
- Creative: A funny looking animal or a paintbrush.

The servant may begin by posing this question to the class: Who is God?

Write this question at the top of the chalk board and divide the board into three parts.

On the left side of the board write, *What We Know* based on what they may have suggested during the pictinary.

In the center write, *What we Want to know.*

On the right side write, *What we Learned.*

Allow the children to write what they know about God on the left side of the chart. Next, ask them what they want to know about God. List this in the center of the chart.

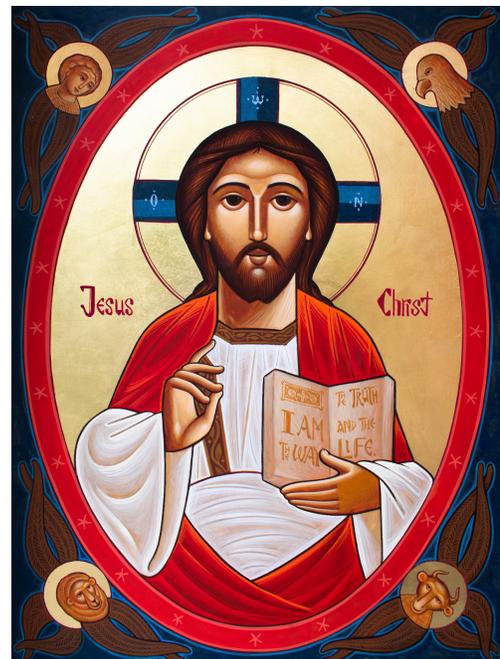
When you are done reading the passage, you will fill out the right side of the chart and see if the passage answered any of their questions. This chart will help them organize their thoughts about God and remember what they learned.



LESSON BODY:

Consider beginning the lesson by telling the children that they will be reading a story about Paul today. Paul was a missionary and in Acts 17 he was travelling to the city of Athens to teach the people about God and His son Jesus who saved them from their sins. The people in Athens believed that God was real, but they also believed that all of the other gods of false religions were real as well. When Paul arrived in Athens he called the people out and taught them that there is only one God. Let’s read Acts 17:16-34 to learn about who God is.

Read Acts 17:16-21 with them and the servant can elaborate with the following: When Paul entered Athens he talked to everyone that would listen to him and told them all about Christ. He told people who were like him and he told people





who were very different from him. The people of Athens could have had Paul kicked out of the city or sent to jail for proclaiming that Jesus was God’s Son, but he trusted God and boldly told them about God anyway. The people in Athens were typically educated and enjoyed debating the latest religions, even though they didn’t understand that what Paul was saying was true. Finally, Paul is invited to speak to a group of people at a place called the Areopagus.

Continue with Acts 17:22-23. While wandering through the city Paul saw an empty altar that said: To an Unknown God. He took this opportunity to tell the people about the One and only true God.

Continue with Acts 17:24-25. In this passage, Paul teaches that God is the **Creator**. He created the world. He created us. He does not rely on humans; He created them in the first place.

Continue with verses 26-27. From this passage we learn that God is the **Ruler** of the world. He created all of the people in the world and determined their lives. He rules over everything that happens in the world.

Read verse 28. In this verse we see that we are dependent upon God. God is the **Sustainer**. He sustains our life and allows us to continue to live on this Earth. He sustains us through good times and bad times. We need Him in our lives. Without Him we could do nothing. *Consider reminding the children of God’s power and how all things exist through Him. Consider reviewing the following from St. John Chrysostom prior to the lesson.*¹

Read verse 29. In these verses we are called God’s offspring. That means that we are His children. We have been adopted into His family. God is a **Father** to His children. He is not an image or an idol that we cannot reach, but our Father. He loves us because we are one of His own.

Read verses 30-31. In this passage Paul reminds us of the reality that God is **Judge**. When we die, we will be judged for our sins. If we know Jesus and are a child of God, then Jesus will serve as a sacrifice for our sins. However, if we do not believe in Jesus, then we will be on our own and will have to pay for our own sins. This payment is death and an eternity spent away from God and His Heavenly Kingdom. God is our Father and our Sustainer, but to those who do not know Him, He is also Judge.

“See how (he declares) His Providence, and His upholding power (συγκράτησιν); the existence of all things from Him, (from Him) their working (τὸ ἐνεργεῖν), (from Him their preservation) that they perish not. And he does not say, Through Him, but, what was nearer than this, In him.—”
- St. John Chrysostom

Lastly, Read verses 32-34. The people listened to what Paul had to say. Some believed and others did not. But, Paul was not discouraged and stayed in Athens and continued to teach the people about God.

Complete the Chart: At this point in the lesson, the servant can invite the class to tell them what they learned in the lesson and write what they learned on the *What we Learned* side of the chart. Look at *What we Want to know* side and see if their questions were answered or if they still have questions about God that they want to ask. Emphasize that God is the Creator, Ruler, Sustainer, Father and Judge. Ask them if they know any other roles that God plays in their life. Explain that though God is these five things, that he is also so

¹ Chrysostom, J., Schaff, P., & Stevens, G. B. (2005). Saint Chrysostom: Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans. Whitefish, MT, UK: Kessinger Publishing.



much more. He is Infinite and cannot be fully described using five words, but these are a big part of who He is.

The prophet Jeremiah says, *“Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great, Your name is great in might)”* (Jeremiah 10:6).

There is no one else like God and He created everything; we ought to honor Him. He loves us so much that He provided a way for us to have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. When we honor God, no matter what happens, He will bless and take care of us.

Disrespect for God is speaking or acting in any way that dishonors. This could be by using His name carelessly, using it as a curse word, or joking around about God in a way that shows no respect for Him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Using God’s Name Respectfully²:

Help children apply the lesson by giving advice to two fictitious children. Tell children that you’re going to relay a short story. Then, they’ll have to decide if the character in the story used God’s name the right way or the wrong way.

Story #1: Alex’s Church Story. Alex is at school, talking to his friend, Billy. Alex is telling Billy about his weekend. “We went to church and we saw this video about how Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life three days later.”

Did Alex use Jesus’ name the right way or the wrong way?

(The right way because he was really talking about Jesus.)

Story #2: Lisa overhears Billy and Alex talking. “Oh, God!” she says. “Church is so boring! I’m glad my family doesn’t go to church!”

Did Lisa use God’s name the right way or the wrong way?

(The wrong way because she wasn’t using God’s name respectfully. She wasn’t even talking to God or about God when she said, “Oh, God!”)

Story #3: After school, Alicia is rushing to put all of her stuff in her book bag and get out to the bus. She knows she’s running late and she’s afraid the bus might leave without her. She whispers, “Jesus, help me get to the bus!”

Did Alicia use Jesus’ name the right way or the wrong way?

² Wilson, R. (2020, May 14). Lesson: Respecting God's Name: Ministry-To-Children. Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/respecting-gods-name/>



(The right way because she was saying a prayer for Jesus to help her.)

Story #4: Billy is also running late for the bus. As he's stuffing his book bag, he accidentally drops one of his folders and all of his papers spill out onto the ground. "God darn it!" Billy says.

Did Billy use God's name the right way or the wrong way?

(The wrong way because he wasn't talking to God or about God. He was using God's name disrespectfully.)



SONG:

[SUSCopts - Our God is an Awesome God](#)

[Agios o Theos](#) lyrics (Kiahk Praise) (tune available [here](#))

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What city was Paul traveling to when his story took place? (Athens).
- What did Paul find written on an altar in the city? (To the Unknown God).
- Who did Paul say that the unknown God was? (Our God).
- What are the five roles of God that we learned about in Acts 17? (Creator, Ruler, Father, Sustainer, Judge.)
- How is God a Creator? (He is a Creator because He created the world and everything in it.)
- How is God a Ruler? (God is the ruler of the world because He has created us and determined where and when we would live. He also put us in a place where we would reach out to Him.)
- How is God a Sustainer? (God is our Sustainer because we can't do anything without Him. We are fully dependent on Him.)
- How is God our Father? (God is our Father because he adopted us as His own when we trusted in Jesus as our savior.)
- How is God a Judge? (God is a Judge because He will eventually judge each and every person on the earth. He calls for His people to repent and trust in Jesus.)
- How did the Council respond to what Paul had to say? (Some were curious and wanted to hear Paul speak again. Others, such as Damaris and Dionysius, believed what Paul said.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We are not going to use God's name in vain and learn to respect Him. If we make a mistake we will quickly run to God and say sorry to Him and He will forgive us. We should never joke about God in a disrespectful way and remember most importantly that He is our Father



Lesson 1.2 - We Disobeyed the Commandment of God: Adam and Eve

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Genesis 3:1-15

Craft: Puppet snake and apple paper cutouts that have lies on them.

Activity: Plastic toy snakes (can be bought from [this link](#), for example).

Song: [The First and Second Part of the Monday Theotokeia](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will demonstrate understanding of the Fall of Mankind (Genesis 3), and should gain an understanding of avoiding temptation by obeying God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.



Genesis 3:15

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may begin by showing the children that every action has its consequence: Life is full of choices and every choice makes other things happen (has consequences). Some choices may be beneficial while others harmful.



Call on a volunteer to hold a book at arms-length in front of them. Then ask them to choose to release the book from their hands. After the book falls to the ground, explain that it was the choice to release it that made it fall.

Now repeat the demonstration but have an adult volunteer sit on the floor where the book will drop. (This should be done carefully so no one gets hurt.)

Explain that our choices can often hurt other people.

The servant may then explain that in the lesson today, we will learn about the very bad choice that Adam & Eve made. This lesson will help us to understand how Adam and Eve's choice to disobey God first brought bad results into the good world that God made.



LESSON BODY:

Distribute the Bibles and ask the children to take turns in reading Genesis 3:1-15.

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” (Genesis 3:1).

God, having who set man in Paradise, and gave him the commandment to obedience in return for love. But, the devil was jealous of man, and desired to make him fall into death, using the serpent to enter with man into a debate. *The servant may ask the children, “What does cunning mean? (The serpent used deceit (bad tricks) to get Eve to disobey God. The serpent pretended that it had more care for Adam and Eve than God.)”*

“And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”” (Genesis 3:2-5).

When the devil opposes the words of God, such as when he said to Eve that “You will not surely die,” although God had said “lest you die,” we should choose to follow and believe God, and not the deceiver. In other words, I wish we receive God as the leader of our life, and reject the devil as a deceiver and a destroyer of our souls. *While preparing, consider the quote by St. John Chrysostom which describes how to identify deceit.*³

“How is it fitting for man to recognize an enemy and opponent, except by such an answer that contradicts the words of God?! It was more fitting for Eve to escape right away from the bait and retreat from the snare.”

- St. John Chrysostom

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves

³ Fr. Tadros Malaty. (2004). *The Book of Genesis*. Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxebooks.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Genesis%20-%20Father%20Tadros%20Yacoub%20Malaty.pdf>



together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” (Genesis 3:6-8).

God did not wait for man to come to Him to apologize for his sins, but He approached him, so that, by love He would draw him to recognize his sins and to confess them.

Consider reminding the children that in God’s infinite love for His creation, He approached them and gave them an opportunity to explain what had happened.⁴

Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust, All the days of your life. And I will put enmity, Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:9-15).

Why did God ask Adam "where are you?" Did God not know where Adam was hiding? Can anyone hide from God? God was inviting Adam to come out and confess his sin. When we confess our sins, let us learn to not blame others - let us accept that from our own choice, we decided to do what is against what God has desired for us. Adam did not respond to God by confessing his sin but blamed his wife and God for giving her to him ("The woman whom You gave to be with me.")

In dealing with the serpent God said that the seed of the woman (the child of the woman) will crush the head of the serpent which meant that Jesus Christ the son of St. Mary will crush Satan. God prepared a plan for humans to defeat Satan.

To make the lesson more engaging, the servant may engage the children in a variety of questions. Additionally, using visuals/auditory cues to engage their senses would be beneficial.

- How did the fruit look and how did Eve feel about it? It looked very delicious and she said to herself that it would be very good for her to eat it. Yet, this same fruit that looked outwardly beautiful, caused Adam and Eve to break the commandment of God. The same applies to everyday sin - although it may look outwardly tempting and beautiful, it brings about sickness. This sickness is leading to death, as God said to Eve, "God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But, as long as we are still in the body, we have a chance to repent and return to God.

Supplementary

⁴ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/574218613c6effa740ddce03>



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

This game may be played as a review.

That's a Lie!: This activity goes with the Adam and Eve Lesson on The Resource Room. In this activity children learn how to recognize Satan's Lies.

"The teacher uses a snake puppet to hand a child an apple cutout that has a lie that Satan often tells children written on it. The teacher or child reads the apple and then decides if it is a lie. The child should then say whether or not Satan has ever told him the lie, and then explain why it is a lie."⁵

Some of the lies may include:

- God does not love you when you sin. (*"God is love"* (1 John 4:8)).
- God does not care that you sin. (Sin harms us, and since God cares for us, He cares when we sin, because he cares that nothing harms His beloved children.)
- This sin cannot be forgiven. (*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9))
- The church is restricting you from the fun things. (*"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* (1 Corinthians 6:12)). The church cares for her children in every way. Like a loving mother, she desires the best for us. When we are told to not do certain things, it is not a restriction, but it is a freedom. For choosing to not sin is freedom, but being unable to stop sinning is slavery.)
- If you commit this sin, you will be happy. (*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."* (Galatians 5:23)). Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, showing that He is the source of all joy.)
- You are alone in this sin/you are the only one who commits this sin/you have no hope. (St. Peter denied our Lord, David committed both murder and adultery, Adam and Eve listened to the devil. From the Bible, it is clear that many of the saints committed a lot of sins. So, remember that you are not alone. Go to your father of confession and seek his guidance.)

Find the Snake⁶: Open this activity by telling children that the snake tempted Eve to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She did, and God cursed the snake to crawl forever on the ground. For us to be able to resist the devil, we need to be watchful, and ask God to help us see his deception and evil tricks.

Instructions:

1. Hide plastic snakes in the room.
2. Divide the children into groups and have them search for the snakes.
3. The group that finds the most snakes wins.



⁵ Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Adam and Eve Bible Crafts and Games for Children. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-themes-adam-and-eve.html>

⁶ Scheidies, C. (2019, January 10). Adam & Eve Games for Kids. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://oureverydaylife.com/adam-eve-games-for-kids-12083515.html>



This activity can be done in class. If the classroom is not big enough, take the children outside or into the gymnasium. If none of these options are available you can hide the snakes underneath objects in the classroom.



SONG:

[The First and Second Part of the Monday Theotokeia](#)

While Adam was sad, God was pleased, to bring him back, to his authority.

+ He shone in the flesh, taken from the Virgin, without the seed of man, in order to save us.

Eve who was tempted, by the serpent, was condemned, by the Lord.

+ "For in abundance, I will greatly multiply, your sorrows, and your sighs."

Yet God felt compassionate, through his love for man, and was pleased, to free her once again.

+ He shone in the flesh, taken from the Virgin, without the seed of man, in order to save us.

For a meditation on these verses, the servant may wish to consult the following resource: [The Monday Theotokeia by Alexander A-Malek, Bishoy K. R. Dawood & Mena Rizkalla](#). This may be utilized to explain to the children the meaning of the words they are singing.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, the servant may lead the children through a game of 'Ping Pong Review.' Divide children into two teams. children work as a team to answer a review question. Then, if they answer it correctly, they get a chance to bounce a ball into one of three plastic cups to get a prize for their team.

- When confessing our sins what should we never do? (Blame others for our sins.)
- What did Eve and Adam do wrong? (She disobeyed the commandments of God.)
- What is an important takeaway from the story of the fall? (We should not hear the words of the devil, who directly contradicts the commandments of God.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Now that we know the story of the fall, let us learn to not believe the lies of the devil. Let us be careful of them. Let us learn to seek forgiveness when we do fall, through the beautiful sacrament of confession. Let us learn to obey the commandments of God, because they are life-giving, while sin, *“when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”* (James 1:15).

We should pray as we do in the prayer before communion, that says, *“Help me obey Your life-giving commandments, and heal my soul and body from all sin.”*

- What are some ways we can work to become more obedient this week? (We can pray for God to give us strength to be obedient, we can read the Bible to learn what it is that God wants us to do, we can listen to our parents and to Abouna.)



Lesson 1.3 - The Consequences of Disobedience

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Sunglasses

Scripture Reference: Genesis 3:16-24

Activity: [Game board](#), dice, and game pieces.

Craft: [Template](#) (page 74), scissors, and colored pencils/crayons/markers.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of making choices and the consequences of sin as a separation from God, who is life.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Repentance.



MEMORY VERSE:



But he who sins against Me wrongs his own soul.



Proverbs 8:36

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider the following demonstration to introduce the topic of the consequences of sin.

Who here has glasses or knows someone with glasses? What about sunglasses? Now what do sunglasses do? (They reduce the brightness of the sun on your eyes.) Sunglasses don't change the sun though, they only change how we see the sun.



The servant may pass around a pair of normal glasses followed by a pair of sunglasses to demonstrate this concept. If the lights are turned off, they may allow the children to attempt to walk with the sunglasses, which will be difficult since the room is already dark. This demonstration can be used to show how sin affects us and its consequences on our lives.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may distribute Bibles, allowing the children to take turns reading the passage Genesis 3:16-24. The servant should remind them of the context of them being expelled from the garden which was discussed in the previous lesson.

When Adam and Eve sinned, by disobeying the commandments of God, there were consequences.

Consider asking the children if they know what consequences are and have experienced having consequences for their actions.

For example, what happens if you touch a hot stove? (You will get burned.) If for example, we choose to hurt someone, they will be angry with us and might want to hurt us back. If my parents tell me not to leave the house without their permission, and I leave anyway I could be hurt by a stranger. God's rules are not there to restrict us, but help protect us and make us free to live happily with Him and one another.

When Adam and Eve fell to the trick of the Devil, and ate from the fruit, they disobeyed God's commandment. By disobeying the commandment of God, they allowed sin to enter into the world, and could no longer live in Paradise with God. This is a consequence!

Consider reminding the children that although man was driven out of Paradise, it was out of God's love and care for His children, in that this consequence allowed them to understand their sin, and through repentance return to God. While preparing the servant might refer to the quote from St. John Chrysostom.⁷

Even after they were sent out of Paradise, God still continued to care and provide for them. Remember that when Adam and Eve sinned, they made clothing out of the leaves of the fig tree, which is not the best form of clothing. God, out of His love for them, made them clothing out of an animal. As a loving father God still provides for those who sin against Him. So even when Adam and Eve turned their back on God, He did not stop caring for them.

When preparing the lesson, consider the quote by St. Anthony the Great on God's loving care for both the righteous and the wicked. This can also be used to tie the lesson back to the original demonstration with the sunglasses.⁸

"Paradise was given to man, and when he proved not worthy of it, he was driven out, for staying out and feeling insulted, he would turn to a better condition (through repentance), to be worthy of returning."
- St. John Chrysostom

"Thus to say that God turns away from the wicked is like saying that the sun hides itself from the blind."
- St. Anthony the Great

⁷Fr. Tadros Malaty. (2004). *The Book of Genesis*. Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxebooks.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Genesis%20-%20Father%20Tadros%20Yacoub%20Malaty.pdf>

⁸ St. Anthony. (2016, December 18). St. Anthony On The Unchanging Nature of God. Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://ststephenoca.com/2015/05/st-anthony-on-the-unchanging-nature-of-god/>

If we remember the example from before with the sunglasses, we can understand this a little better. What do you think the sun represents? (God). What do the sunglasses represent? (Sin entering our lives.) So when we sin and disobey God, it is as if we put on a pair of sunglasses which stop us from fully seeing and being in communion with God. Each time we sin, it is as if we put on another pair of sunglasses and our vision keeps getting worse. So when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they chose to put on the sunglasses.

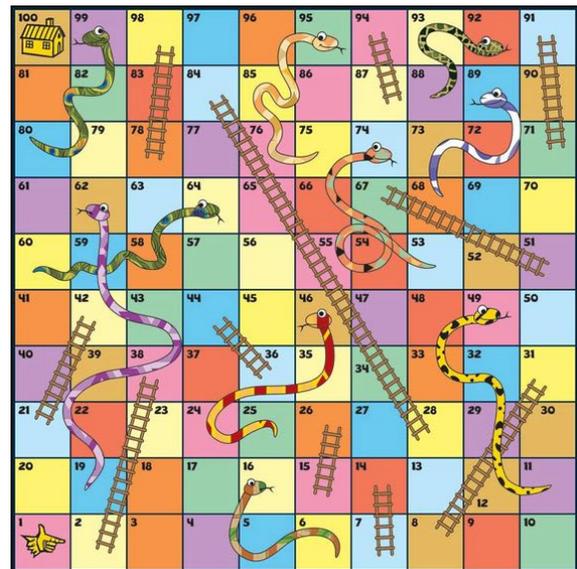
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Snakes and Ladders: After printing this [game sheet](#), use the following instructions.

1. Separate the children into groups of 5-6.
2. Explain the instructions of the game:
 - a. Each player puts their counter on the space that says 'start here'.
 - b. Take turns to roll the dice. Move your counter forward the number of spaces shown on the dice.
 - c. If your counter lands at the bottom of a ladder, you can move up to the top of the ladder.
 - d. If your counter lands on the head of a snake, you must slide down to the bottom of the snake.
 - e. The first player to get to the space that says 'home' is the winner.
3. Play the game for 10-15 minutes or until everyone wins (whatever happens first).



Consider asking the children the following questions after the game:

- How does it feel when you land on a snake?
- How does it feel when you land on a ladder?

When we sin, it is like we land on a snake, we have to face the consequences of our actions - there is a fall. But, God gives us a chance for repentance, like you have a chance to get back ahead with the ladder, God gives us a chance to say we are sorry.

Story puppets⁹:

1. Pre-cut the shapes of Adam, Eve, the snake and their bases.
2. Have the children color them in using crayon pencils and markers.



⁹ Adventures in the Story of Hope. (n.d.). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.goodsoil.com/docs/Adventures-in-The-Story-of-Hope.pdf>



3. Assist the children in standing the characters up on their bases.

Questions:

- Did God love Adam and Eve? (Yes, very much. He gave them a garden filled with many trees.)
- How did Adam and Eve disobey God? (By eating from the forbidden tree.)
- Who told Eve that she would not die if she ate from the tree? (Satan who was a serpent.)
- What happened to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed God? (They found themselves naked, terrified, and embarrassed.)
- Why did God not allow Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of life after they disobeyed their agreement? (Because if they ate from the tree of life they would continue in the wrong state; therefore, their nature needs to be renewed before they eat from the tree of life.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin? (Death and the fall were the consequences. Eve had birth pangs and Adam had to toil the earth.)
- Can you tell if God continued to love them? (Yes, because He continued to take care of them even after they rejected Him by offering to cover them with garments of skin.)
- Do you think that God still asks where you are? What do you think that means? (God is always looking for us and wants us to be close to Him because He loves us dearly.)
- Why is it so easy to disobey when we know better? (Sin is tempting and we sometimes forget how good it is to be with God when we sin.)
- What happens when we disobey? (We suffer consequences but God is awaiting our return and wants us to ask Him for forgiveness.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We are going to ask God for His forgiveness whenever we sin and fall so that we can return to Him. We are going to take off the sunglasses of sin so that we can see God's Light more clearly.

- How can we obey God? (Follow His commandments, attend church regularly, read our Bible, do confessions with Abouna, etc.)



Lesson 1.4 - Honoring God: Noah's Ark and the Flood

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Blocks

Scripture Reference: Genesis 6-8

Craft: Paper plates, scissors, glue, water paint, markers, and pencil crayons.

Video: [God's Story: Tower of Babel \(3:44\)](#)

Song: [Great Lent - Sunday Vesper Praises](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the story of the Great Flood in order to understand the importance of honoring God and being obedient.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



*Come into the ark, you and all your household,
because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.*



Genesis 7:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Before the lesson, build a couple of simple objects out of building blocks. A tower, wall, or small house would work well.



When the children come in, give them some blocks and show them your example. Ask them to build the same thing, just like you did.

Do the same thing with your second object.

When the children have finished building their objects, consider telling them about the assignment God gave Noah. (God wanted Noah to build a boat that is 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.)

Consider asking the children if they think they can build that, could they make a boat that big?

Well, Noah obeyed God, although he found it difficult God gave him the strength to complete this assignment.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may summarize Genesis 6-8 using the Bible story below and asking the included questions as you read.

God saw that all the people had become bad and that they only thought about bad things all the time. The whole world was falling into sin and they were evil to one another. But as we saw in our previous lesson, what happens when we sin? There are consequences. What was the consequence of the first sin? (Removal from Paradise with God.) Therefore these wicked people were harming themselves.

Consider asking the children if they have ever felt the need to start fresh or to be cleansed. Tell the children that that is what God wanted to do. He wanted to start fresh by cleansing the earth of all sin. Consider asking them what are some ways we can start fresh? (We can start fresh by repenting, going to church etc.)

Noah listened to God and he built a very big ark-boat, and Noah loved God and followed him with all his heart. God wanted to save anyone that would listen to Him. Noah told the people to repent and God was urging the people to change through Noah. But the people wanted to continue to destroy themselves with their sin and so they perished in the flood.

Consider emphasizing that even with all the darkness surrounding, God does not ignore a single individual who walked in the light. Even in the middle of pitch darkness, God finds the light in each of us. In every generation, God rejoices in His saints.

Then God told Noah how to build the Ark-boat and Noah did everything that God told him to do.

When the Ark-boat was finished, God told Noah and his family and some of every kind of animal to go onto the boat. Then God made it rain very hard for forty days and forty nights. It rained so much and the water got so high all over the earth that even the tops of the mountains were covered with water!

“Was not Noah a holy man, who alone in the whole human race together with his whole house deserved to be delivered from the flood? And is not the church prefigured by Noah and his sons? They escape the flood, with wood (which symbolizes the cross) carrying them.”

- St. Augustine of Hippo



But Noah and his family and the animals with him were safe on the Ark-boat, which was made of wood, and led them to safety.

Consider emphasizing to the children how Noah’s family symbolizes the Church and the Ark symbolizes the wood of the cross, which carried our Saviour and brought us to salvation. Consider reviewing the quote by St. Augustine of Hippo prior to the lesson.¹⁰

Finally, after one hundred and fifty days, the water started to go down and the Ark-boat that Noah and his family and the animals with them were on, came to rest on a mountain called Mount Ararat.

Then God said, "Noah, you and your family and the animals with you can come out of the ark. It's safe now" So, Noah and his family and the animals with them came out of the ark and they were fruitful and multiplied on the earth. Through the great flood and the ark of Noah, the earth became renewed.

This renewal is what happens every time we repent. When we confess we cleanse ourselves of our sins and in baptism, we receive this renewal; we sing about it in the Third Canticle of the Midnight Praise: *“Take off the old man and put on the new and superior one...”*

After this Noah thanked God for saving him and his family in the Ark-boat. And God put a rainbow in the sky, promising, "When I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My [promise] which is between Me and you and every living creature... [that] the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all [humans]." (Present a picture of a rainbow to the children.)

Consider asking the children why such a flood was necessary. Remind the children that God did give humans an opportunity to return to Him, but they chose not to. So the flood was used to remind people to respect God, and the rainbow demonstrates His forgiveness, showing that in Him sin never wins. Review the quote by St. Ambrose prior to giving the lesson.¹¹

God is telling us, through the story of Noah, that every time we do bad things we harm ourselves and God does not want us to harm ourselves because He loves us very much. What He wants us to do is to repent and honor Him like Noah did. He also wants us to stay safe in the arms of the Church just like Noah and his family did inside the ark.

“He punished once in order to give an example that would have raised fear, but he forgave for the future, so that the bitterness of sin would not have prevailed.”

- St. Ambrose of Milan

Supplementary



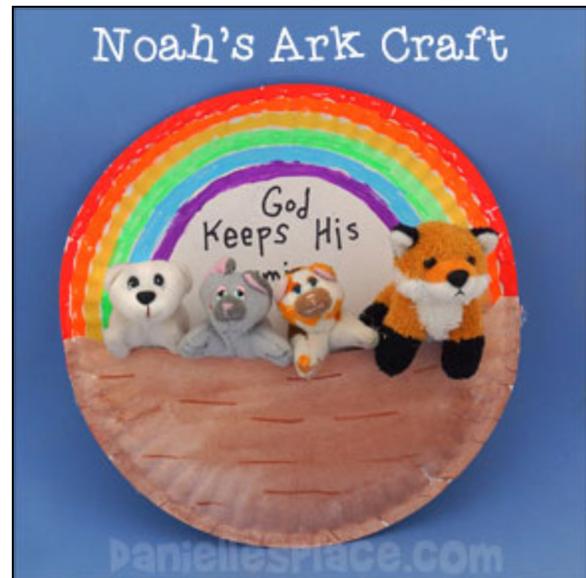
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

¹⁰ Augustinus, A., & Rettig, J. W. (1988). *Tractates on the Gospel of John*. Washington, D.C., DC: Catholic University of America Press.

¹¹ Ambrose, S. (2020). *Treatises on Noah and David*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press.

Noah's Ark Rainbow Paper Plate Craft¹²:

1. Pre-cut one paper plate in half and use one half to form the front of the ark, save the other half to use as the front of another ark.
2. Pre-paint each ark front brown using water paint.
3. Have the children draw a rainbow on the paper plate and write "God Keeps His Promises" in the center of the rainbow.
4. Assist the children in glueing the ark paper plate onto the rainbow paper plate to form a pocket.
5. Once this is done the children can go home and put their toy animals in their very own ark.



SONG:

[Great Lent - Sunday Vesper Praises](#)

*Noah the righteous, before the flood,
Because of fasting, he made the ark.
Suddenly the men, of nineveh,
Because of fasting, the lord heard their voices.*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider playing the sit-down, stand-up game for a review. When the children think a statement is true, they stand up, when false, they sit down. If a statement is false, ask them to explain why.

- God sent Noah an ark from heaven that was already made and ready. (False. Noah had to build it with his family.)
- Noah made an ark that was big enough for just his family. (False. It was a very large boat with room for two of every animal.)
- God gave all the people a chance and sent Noah to remind them to repent and join them on the ark. (True).
- The ark symbolizes the church as our place of safety in a world of sin. (True).
- The water started to go down after one week on the boat. (False. The water went down after 150 days.)
- Through the flood, the earth became renewed by God. (True).

¹² Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Noah's Ark Crafts and Activities for Kids. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_noah.html



- God promised to never flood the earth again. The symbol of His promise was a dove. (False. The symbol was the rainbow.)
- God wants us to be safe by ourselves in a world of sin. (False. He wants us to be safe in the presence of the Church like Noah and his family were safe in the ark.)
- We should always be prepared and be ready for the kingdom of heaven like Noah was ready for the flood. (True).



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Noah made the ark because God told him to, just like Noah, we should also obey God.
- How can we obey God? (We can obey God by going to church, reading our Bible, obeying our parents, servants, etc.)
- Noah was strong and obeyed God even though no one else did. How can we be strong like Noah? (Ask God to give us strength when we pray, read our Bible to look for tools to help us, and talk to Abouna to get advice.)



Lesson 1.5 - Respecting God: The Tower of Babel

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Whiteboard and erasable markers.

Scripture Reference: Genesis 11:1-9

Activity: Jenga blocks and a carpet

Song: [Praise Him](#) (tune available [here](#))



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children should be able to identify the story of the Tower of Babel, and understand the importance of humility and giving praise to God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Worship and Humility.



MEMORY VERSE:



*And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?*



Micah 6:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson in another language or give the instruction for the crafts in another language. Then, ask the children if they understood what you said.



“Make Up Your Own Word” IceBreaker Activity¹³:

The purpose of this craft is for children to understand the difficulty in communicating when you can not speak or understand the same language as someone else!

1. Tell the children that there are 2800 known languages in the world and instruct them to make up their own word for “hello” in their heads. They can not share with anyone else until they are told to do so!
2. When all of the children have thought of a word, ask some of the children to share their words with the class and write these words, phonetically, on the board. Instruct the children to read all of these words.

Consider telling the children that they are about to hear a story in which the pride of a group of people in themselves led to total confusion! The servant may then ask the children what it means to glorify God. (To worship Him and praise Him for all that He has done.)

Consider asking them what it looks like when people glorify themselves instead of God. (When they think they are really great and brag about themselves a lot, etc.)

Today we will hear the story of a group of people who tried to put themselves above God. We will learn that only God is worthy of our worship and praise.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may begin by mentioning that the Tower of Babel builds off the story of Noah and the flood. If necessary, a review of Noah’s ark lesson can be done.

After God restored the world after the great flood, humanity became very prideful and thought they could depend on themselves. They felt that now, they did not need God’s help, even though God was showing them love and patience. They decided they would build a tower so large, that in case of another disaster, they would not need to depend on God’s support but could save themselves.

The whole earth had one language and the people used the same words. And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come let’s make bricks, and bake them.” And they had brick for stone, and then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top

“After the flood, as if striving to fortify themselves against God, as if there could be anything high for God or anything secure for pride, certain proud men built a tower, ostensibly so that they might not be destroyed by a flood if one came later. For they had heard and recalled that all iniquity had been destroyed by the flood. They were unwilling to abstain from iniquity. They sought the height of a tower against a flood; they built a lofty tower. God saw their pride, and he caused this disorder to be sent upon them, that they might speak but not understand one another, and tongues became different through pride. ”

- St. Augustine of Hippo

¹³ Digital by Design. (n.d.). Tower of Babel Crafts and Games. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-themes-tower-of-babel.html>



is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

Their human plan has been to arrange for building a city and a high tower, so that, in case of another great flood, they would find for themselves an escape from God.¹⁴ Instead of trusting in God, and depending on Him, the people decided to trust in their own strength and power. They thought that they would make a tower reaching into the heavens, that even a big flood would not be able to destroy it.

Consider emphasizing the fact that people did not try to avoid the sins that led to the flood, but rather were guided by their pride instead of their love for God. They wanted to receive the glory for protecting themselves, instead of thanking God. Consider reviewing the quote by St. Augustine while preparing for the lesson.¹⁵

The servant may emphasize that the evil did not lie in building the city itself, or in the desire to build a high tower, but in the purpose of the work, “To make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

Then, the Lord came down to see the city and the tower. And the Lord said, “They are the one people, and they have all one language...come let Us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” God did not do this because He was upset that they were building a tall building, He did this out of His love for them and it was for their benefit.

The servant should emphasize that God’s love is what caused Him to confuse them and prevent the tower from being built. By dividing up the people, God prevented them from growing further in their sinfulness. Consider the quote by St. Jerome when preparing for the lesson.¹⁶

And so, the people, not being able to communicate stopped work and they could not complete the building, and the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth. Therefore, its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth.

Conclude the lesson by discussing with the children the importance of being humble. Explain to the children that being humble means always recognizing that everything we have comes from God and that He is the most important thing in our lives. Consider outlining some ways that the children can grow in their humility and remember to thank God.

“Just as when holy men live together, it is a great grace and blessing; so, likewise, that congregation is the worst kind when sinners dwell together. The more sinners there are at one time, the worse they are. Indeed, when the tower was being built up against God, those who were building it were disbanded for their own welfare. The conspiracy was evil. The dispersion was of true benefit even to those who were dispersed.”
- St. Jerome

¹⁴ Malaty, T. (2004). A Patristic Commentary: The Book of GENESIS [PDF] (1st ed.).

¹⁵ Augustinus, A., & Rettig, J. W. (1988). Tractates on the Gospel of John. Washington, D.C., DC: Catholic University of America Press.

¹⁶ Sister Marie Liguori Ewald. (1964). The Homilies of Saint Jerome, Volume 1 (1–59 on the Psalms) (The Fathers of the Church, Volume 48). Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Tower of Babel:

1. If possible, bring the children to a safe, carpeted area in the church. If not possible, place a carpet on the ground.
2. Have the children build a tower using jenga building blocks and see how far they can keep piling the blocks on top of each other.
3. Ask them not to talk to each other but to just continue adding blocks on top of each other. If they talk or motion to each other they have to start over.
4. As they continue to pile blocks atop each other the tower will continue to become more unstable.
5. Eventually the tower will fall. Make sure that the children are safe in the process so when the tower falls they are not hurt in any way.



Consider asking the children why they think the tower fell.

As humans we are limited. There is always an end to our capacity. Only God is unlimited. When we think that we can do everything, we are leaning on ourselves instead of God. The only way we can build together is if we humble ourselves before God and before each other.

Consider asking the children if they had listened to each other would they have built a higher tower. (Answers may include; Yes, we could have built a higher tower if we were allowed to speak to each other.)



SONG:

[Praise Him](#) (tune available [here](#))

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- Where did the people go? (They went to Shinar.)
- What did they aim at? (They wanted to build a high tower so that, in case of another great flood, they would find for themselves an escape from God.)
- Why did the Lord confuse their language? (Because of their pride.)
- Why was the city called Babel? (The city was called Babel because there, the Lord confused the language of all the earth.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

The servant may bring to the childrens' attention the Syncretica of blessed memory's quote, 'A ship cannot be built without nails and no one can be saved without humility.'

It is of importance that we learn to put on humility, that is, to know and to live in God, trusting only in Him - "for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Let us then learn to depend on God only, in everything to lift our eyes up to Him and tell Him, "let Your will be done" - as we say in the Lord's prayer.

- What are some ways we can become more humble? (We can remember to always thank God whenever we do well in school or receive something nice. We must pray that God gives us the strength to be humble and read our Bibles to learn from saints who were humble.)



Lesson 1.6 - Honoring God: Sodom and Gomorrah

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Fishing line or thin string.

Scripture Reference: Genesis 18:20-19:30

Activity: Two tissues per child, a piece of white paper, liquid food coloring, and scissors.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 18 & 19 | Sunday School Lesson & Bible Teaching Story for Kids |HD| \(3:56\)](#)

Song: [I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N \(1:21\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in order to understand the importance of respecting God's will and repenting when they make mistakes.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honor and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



*For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,
Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.*



Psalms 125:3

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Begin the lesson by bringing a fishing line or thin string to class. Unwind it and let the children tangle it all up. When it seems to be a hopeless mess then ask them to untangle it. Ask them how long it would take to untangle the string before it could be used for fishing.

In today's Bible story, we are going to learn about two cities whose people kept sinning over and over again so much that they became tangled in sin just like this string. They were so tangled up in sin that they would not even listen when people talked about God. This happened in the city where Lot had moved to. In this story, we are going to learn how Lot was very sorry he had ever chosen to live in a place where there was so much sin.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may prepare by reading Genesis 18:20-19:30.

Upon learning that the Lord was about to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham bargained with God to spare the city. He asked God if He would spare the city if there were fifty good people living there. God said yes. Then Abraham asked if He would still protect the city if there were only, forty five, forty, thirty, twenty, and even only ten. Each time God said that he would not destroy the city, even for only ten good people.

The servant can emphasize that the Lord does not forget His children. He who is just would not leave those who love and follow Him. And Abraham, whose soul was very tender and loving, was asking for the sake of his own salvation, as well as of others. Likewise, we ought to live and pray for the salvation of the whole world - remembering our neighbors who have asked for our prayers.

The story continues, and only Lot and his two daughters were found righteous and the cities were destroyed. Lot, having received the two men (angels), had his house surrounded by the people of the city, old and young, who wanted to harm his guests, showing the extent of their evilness. Lot had to resist the evil men entering his house, and with the help of the two angels, they pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door; then they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, so that they found it difficult to find the door (Genesis 19:9-11).

The servant may emphasize that if God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah with abolishment, He did that after He said: "I will go down and see" (Gen. 18:21). That is, He gave the verdict after deliberation. He probably allowed the presence of Lot among them, to be a living role model for them, as well as a witness against them. But now, having done what they did [to the angels], they had no excuse.¹⁷

"For proof that such persons' good standing is a means of winning long suffering for us, take heed in that very story to what he says to the patriarch: "If I find ten good people, I will not destroy the city." Why do I say ten good people? No one was found there free from lawlessness, except alone the good man Lot and his two daughters. His wife, you remember, perhaps on his account escaped punishment in the city but paid later the penalty for her own indifference... The Lord's goodness is immense, and frequently he finds his way to grant the salvation of the majority on account of a few just people."

- St. John Chrysostom

¹⁷ Malaty, T. (2004). A Patristic Commentary: The Book of GENESIS [PDF] (1st ed.).



As Lot and his family fled the city, Lot's wife turned and looked back at the city despite being warned not to. She turned into a pillar of salt. By turning back, she showed that she still desired to live in the cities full of sin, and was unthankful for the Lord saving her.

Consider reviewing the quote by St. John Chrysostom while preparing for the lesson which reviews Lot's wife's indifference to the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah¹⁸.

God did not hate the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, for God is love. But, on the opposite side, they hated God by sinning.

Conclude the lesson by emphasizing the importance of following God's will and trying to avoid sin. Remind the children that the point of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is not to make them afraid of God, but to encourage them to remember to always be focussed on doing God's will, and repenting when they make mistakes.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Balance Game:

1. Give each child 2 tissues with one that has mercy written on it and the other has justice written on it and let them place it on their heads.
2. Play the song [I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N](#), and let the children dance freely without dropping one of the tissues on the ground.
3. If the tissues drop and they catch them before touching the ground, they can put them again on their head, and keep dancing. If they touch the ground, the child is out!
4. After they play the game, explain the following point.
5. Tell them that one tissue is like mercy and the other is like justice. Sodomites and Gamorrites have abused God's mercy and taken it for granted. They have gone way too far and God needs to balance between his mercy and justice. Psalm 85:10 says, "Mercy and truth have met together;" The truth is what is right. The truth is that Sodom and Gomorrah have deeply sinned and deserve judgement.

Spreading Ink Demonstration:

1. Bring a blank sheet paper. Explain to the children that the piece of paper represents the whole world.
2. Drop liquid food coloring on the corner of the paper. Tell the children that this ink represents sins. *Consider asking the children what they notice about the ink. Is it spreading? (Yes). How would they help prevent the spread?*
3. Tell the children that in order to prevent the spread of sin, the source of sin had to be removed. *Cut the corner of the paper off at this time.*
4. *Consider ending the review by telling the children the following Bible verse: "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened." (1 Cor. 5:6-7)*

¹⁸ Chrysostom, J. (2006). *Homilies on Genesis 18-45*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 18 & 19 | Sunday School Lesson & Bible Teaching Story for Kids | HD | \(3:56\)](#)



SONG:

[I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why did God want to destroy Sodom? (Because there was so much sin in the city.)
- How did God feel about the sins of the people? (He was angry and sad because He never wants to see His children living in sin.)
- What prompted God to save the righteous, since they were so few? (His compassion and love. God never desires the death of a sinner.)
- Why was Abraham so worried about the righteous people in the cities? (His nephew Lot lived there.)
- Why was Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt? (She disobeyed God by looking back. She lacked faith in God and did not follow His plan.)

Consider playing the sit-down, stand-up game for a review. When they think a statement is true, they stand up, when false, they sit down. If a statement is false, ask them to explain why.

- God was clear that the people of the cities had done evil. (True).
- Lot's family was influenced by the people they lived near. (True).
- God spared some of the wicked to save the righteous. (False - a little mold will make the whole lump moldy.)
- Abraham pleaded with God to spare the city for ten good people. (True).
- God found ten good people in the cities. (False - only Lot and his family were found to be righteous).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?



- God always provides a way of escape from the destruction of sin for His beloved. When we choose that route we should never look back. God wants us to run away when something bad happens so that we are not harmed by sin.
- When God told Lot to leave Sodom because it is a bad place with bad people, Lot obeyed God and left the city with his daughters.
- We should not surround ourselves with bad people who do bad things because people who do bad things can have a bad influence on us and may influence us to do bad things.
- Should we be like Lot or like his wife? (We should be like Lot because he obeyed God and Lot's wife disobeyed God by turning back.)
- How can we be more obedient and respectful of God's will? (We can read our Bible's to know what God wants us to do, we can get advice from Abouna, and we can pray that God gives us the strength to know His will and do it.)



Lesson 1.7 - Honoring God: Abraham's Obedience

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Three plastic cups and a ping pong ball.

Scripture References: Genesis 22:1-19

Craft: Crayon pencils, mini-popsicle sticks, glue, and orange tissue paper.

Activity: [Worksheet](#) and [answer key](#).

Song: [ThroughtheWaters: Father Abraham](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children should develop an understanding of the importance of obedience and the blessings God gives us when we obey Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,
because you have obeyed My voice.*



Genesis 22:18

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have the children line up in a horizontal line across the back of the room. Children should listen to your question and respond with, "Yes, I do".



You then issue the command and they all may respond. In this game everyone will be a winner when they reach you. (Adjust the commands according to your room size, so that they can reach you by the time you've finished asking the questions.)

- Your mom asks you to turn the TV off. Will you get up and do it without saying, "why"? (You may take 3 baby steps forward.)
- The teacher asks you to stop talking in class when they are talking. Will you stop talking? (You may take 4 little hops forward.)
- Your older brother asks you not to play in his room while he is at school. Will you stay out of his room? (You may take 1 giant step forward.)
- Your grandmother tells you eating cookie dough is bad for you. Will you keep your fingers out of the mixing bowl when she's not looking? (You may take 2 scissor steps forward.)
- Your dad tells you to come straight home from school and not stop for any reason. Will you go straight home even though your friend calls from his house to come see his new kittens? (You may take 3 side-winder steps forward.)

Remind the children that often we have to obey even though we can't understand the reason for it. Only God can help us do that. When someone asks you to do something good and you feel like saying, "no" say a prayer for God to help you.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may prepare by reading Genesis 22:1-19.

Abraham and Sarah left everything they knew to follow God's directions. He took them to a new land that would eventually be used for their descendants.

Abraham and Sarah waited a very long time (over 20 years) for God to fulfill His promise of sending them a son of their own (Isaac).

Abraham was so obedient to God. He left his own land not to follow God's path.

God tested Abraham's faith and obedience by commanding him to sacrifice his only and much-loved son Isaac. Abraham's faith in God was so great that he passed this test and obeyed even to the point of raising his knife to complete God's command.

The servant may narrate the story of Abraham and Isaac, as follows (adopted from the fraction of Covenant Thursday):

And it came to pass, in the days when God wanted to test Abraham and know his heart and his love for Him, He said to him, "Abraham, Abraham, take your beloved son Isaac, and offer him to Me a burnt offering, upon one of the mountains which I tell you of."

And Abraham rose up in the morning, saddled his donkey, took two servants and Isaac his son, he took a knife and fire, walked on the earth, and saw from afar the place of which the Lord told him. And he said to his servants, "stay here with the donkey, the lad and I will go (...) worship and we will come back to you." And Abraham took the firewood for the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac, his son, and took fire in his hand, and the knife. And Isaac spoke to his father, saying, "My father, behold the fire and the wood, but where is



the lamb which we shall offer as a burnt offering?" And Abraham said to him, "God, who commanded us to offer Him a sacrifice, will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And Abraham took stones and built an altar, and took the firewood and laid it upon the altar, and took Isaac, his son, bound him and laid him on the altar, and took the knife to slay him.

The servant may comment on the difficulty to perform the act of sacrificing his only son, the one he had waited for years for: "Abraham went through the severest temptation that could happen to an old man, that is offering his beloved only begotten son, as a burnt offering, by his own hands."¹⁹

Everything was set: Abraham came to the place of which God had told him, the altar was built, the wood carried by Isaac was placed in order, Isaac was bound by his father's hands, and laid on the altar upon the wood, and Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. In the moment with all the quiet, as Abraham stretched his hand to slay his son, the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said: "Abraham, Abraham!... Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me" (Genesis 22:11-12).²⁰

"In two things then was Abraham victorious: that he killed his son although he did not kill him and that he believed that after Isaac died he would be raised up again and would go back down with him. For Abraham was firmly convinced that he who said to him, "through Isaac shall your descendants be named," was not lying."

- St. Ephrem the Syrian

Consider emphasizing the fact that Abraham was successful through his obedience to God; he knew that God would be faithful to him and not go back on His promises about Isaac. Consider reviewing the quote by St. Ephrem the Syrian when preparing for the lesson.²¹

God who has seen the love and obedience of Abraham blessed him both for his faith and obedience.

The stories of the Tower of Babel and Sodom and Gomorrah show us what happens when we disobey God and do what we think is right or what we want to do. In both stories, this disobedience led to destruction. Abraham's obedience teaches us that even when we feel like God wants us to do something that we do not agree with, we must be obedient and trust in God. Obedience leads to victory as with Abraham, while disobedience leads to destruction.

Supplementary

¹⁹ Malaty, T. (2004). A Patristic Commentary: The Book of GENESIS [PDF] (1st ed.)

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Sheridan, M. (2002). *The ancient Christian commentary on Scripture*. Downers Grove, ILL: InterVarsity Press.



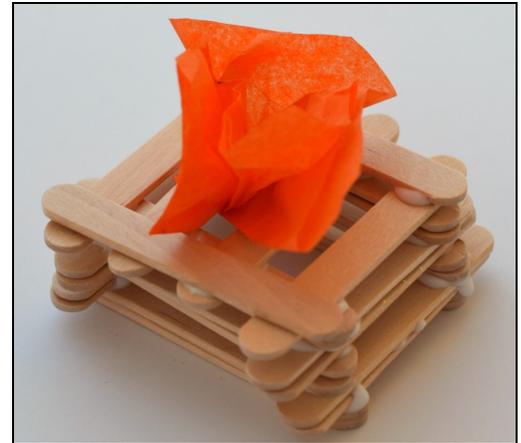
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Abraham and Isaac Worksheet²²:

1. Print out one [worksheet](#) per child.
2. Have children complete the worksheet.
3. Check answers using the [answer key](#).

Altar Craft²³:

1. Pre-cut tissue paper into squares.
2. Double up sets of mini popsicle sticks and glue them into a square, alternating between horizontal and vertical.
3. Allow the sticks to dry for 3-5 minutes.
4. Scrunch up a piece of tissue paper to look like a flame.
5. Create another square alternating between horizontal and vertical and then glue two sticks in the middle.
6. Glue the sticks on the popsicle stick tower.
7. Stick the scrunched tissue paper in the small space between the middle sticks.



SONG:

[ThroughtheWaters: Father Abraham](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Engage the children in a game of 'Ping Pong Review.' Divide the children into two teams. As they work in a team to answer a review question, then when they answer correctly, they get a chance to bounce a ball into one of three plastic cups to get a prize for their team.²⁴

Questions:

- How do you think Abraham felt about this command? (Confused, sad, etc.)

²² Abraham and Isaac Worship on the Mountain. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/abraham-isaac-worship.php>

²³ M. (2016, February 01). ALTAR CRAFT NUMBER TWO. Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://ithappensinablink.com/altar-craft-number-two/>

²⁴ Fun Review Activities and Classroom Games to Do Now. (2020, May 14). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.teachhub.com/classroom-activities/2019/10/fun-review-activities-and-classroom-games-to-do-now/>



- Was it difficult for Abraham to sacrifice his child? (Yes! Isaac was his only son and Abraham loved him very much but he still obeyed God.)
- How do you think God felt when Abraham obeyed him? (God was happy that Abraham obeyed Him because He knows that He can trust Abraham.)
- Did Abraham end up sacrificing Isaac? (No, he sacrificed a ram instead of Isaac.)
- How would you feel if you were in Isaac's place? (Answers may include; I would be scared, I would cry, etc.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Just as Abraham was obedient to God in his willingness to sacrifice his only son, we too should seek to obey God in all that we do.
- We should obey God's commandments to love one another, to honor our parents, and to give with a happy heart.
- We should choose to obey Him and follow Him also just like Isaac listened to his father, even when he was on the wood.
- Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, who he loved so much, to please God. What are you willing to sacrifice to please God? (Answers may include; I can sacrifice my time watching TV to spend time with Jesus, or something similar.)



Lesson 1.8 - Disrespecting & Dishonoring God: 10 Plagues of Egypt

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Ten paper bags, fake blood in a container (e.g. red nailpolish, food coloring, etc.), plastic/plush frogs (or picture), plastic/plush lice (or picture), container of sand, plastic/plush flies, farm animal toys, red circular sticker, cotton balls, white ping-pong balls, plastic/plush grasshopper, sunglasses, plastic skeletons.

Scripture References: Exodus 7-10

Craft: Printer, coloring supplies (markers, pencil crayons, and crayons), pushpins, wirecutters, and tape.

Video: [Sharefaithkids - 10 Plagues of Egypt \(6:13\)](#)

Song: [Silvaninka: 10 Plagues \(3:23\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that the purpose for the Ten Plagues was to demonstrate that God is the only God and to ensure the freedom of His children the Israelites.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



Let My people go, that they may serve Me,



Exodus 9:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may have ten brown paper bags prepared and labeled with plagues 1-10. Each bag will contain something that represents the plague in it to be opened when the Ten Plagues are discussed.



Bagged Plagues²⁵: Allow a different child to come up and open the bag for a particular plague. After you show them the contents, allow them to guess which plague the items in the bag represent.

Plague #:

1. Use fake blood in a container, red nail polish, or red food coloring mixed with water in a plastic water bottle.
2. Use plastic or plush frogs.
3. Use a plastic lice toy or a printed picture.
4. Use house fly plushies or plastic toys.
5. Use cow, sheep, pig, goat, or chicken plastic toys or plushies that have a small piece of cloth to cover the animal slightly.
6. Use a red circular sticker and in the center are cotton balls so the “boils” look 3D or use squishy eyeballs with tape and then stick them on random children.
7. Use white Ping-Pong balls for hail.
8. Use fake grasshoppers (rubber/plastic).
9. Use lots of sunglasses.
10. Use tiny plastic skeletons.

Have you ever seen God’s power on display? Maybe through a thunderstorm or the crashing waves of the ocean? (*Allow time for responses.*)

In our story today, we will hear about many ways that God put His own power on display to show that He is the one true God, and He alone is in control!



LESSON BODY:

The servant should discuss the ten plagues, conveying the orthodox understanding of God’s intention behind them: the salvation of men. As Exodus 7:5 says, “And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” In other words, God’s intention was not to bring terror to the Egyptians, but to be a cause of salvation (to bring them to know Him).

Moses went with his brother Aaron to meet Pharaoh according to the command of the Lord. They said to him, “The Lord said, let my people go out to the wilderness to worship me”. Pharaoh responded, “...I will not let the people go”. The Lord brought upon the Egyptians with ten plagues and after every plague Pharaoh would refuse to let Moses and the people get out of Egypt. So, God would send another plague but Pharaoh was very stubborn and did not let Moses and the people go until the tenth plague. Pharaoh would not let them out because they were working as slaves and were helping them in all their fields and homes. Only after the tenth plague did he let Moses’ people out of His land Egypt.

The servant should show the children the plagues in pictures while they are being described:

²⁵ Resource suggestions for families. Retrieved August 07, 2020, from https://dohio.org/EpiscopalDioceseOfOhio/media/EpiscopalDioceseOfOhioMedia/Our%20Diocese/Resources/Documents/_info-ideas-for-parents-of-kids.pdf



- 1. Turning the Water into Blood:** The Lord told Moses that Pharaoh's heart is hard, and he is refusing to let the people go. God told Moses to go in the morning to Pharaoh, and stand by the river's bank and since Pharaoh did not hear the words of God, He will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in his hand, and they will be turned to blood. And the fish that are in the river will die, the river will stink, and the Egyptians will hate to drink the water of the river (Exodus 7: 17-18). Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not let God's people go. Turning the water of the Nile into unclean blood, brought confusion to the Egyptians, as they saw their gods become unclean. It is clear then, that the plague had the intention to bring the Egyptians back to God. *The servant here may clarify that the Egyptians were not the people of God - they had the people of God as their slaves. But, the Egyptians themselves were worshipping foreign gods and idols.*
- 2. Frogs Fill the Land:** Then the Lord told Moses to tell Aaron, "Stretch your arms out wide with the rod in your hands over the rivers and streams, and all the bodies of water. When you do this, frogs will leap out of the water and fill the land!" So Moses listened and told Aaron, and Aaron followed the commands of the Lord. When he would stretch his hands with the rod over a body of water, frogs flooded out of the water in a way that shocked all who witnessed it. Frogs had filled all the houses and food storages of the Egyptians. They even were even taking over their bedrooms, jumping around their beds under the covers! Can you imagine trying to sleep in a bed full of frogs?! Do you think Pharaoh will let God's people go now? Even after witnessing this crazy sight, Pharaoh's heart was still hardened, and he refused to let God's people go (Exodus 8:5).
- 3. Sand into Lice:** Then, the Lord told Moses to let Aaron stretch out his rod, and hit the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt (Exodus 8:16). **When the magicians could not recreate what Moses had done, then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." (Exodus 8:19). It is clear that since the magicians have declared this plague as an act of God, that is, the plagues are meeting their purpose of leading people to God. The plagues are pointing towards God, and giving man the ability to choose to follow God or not.**
- 4. Flies Fill the Houses:** Then, the Lord told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him that if he does not let God's people go, behold, He will send swarms of flies. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, but not in the land where God's people live. God will make a difference between My people and your people. Even after this, Pharaoh still refused to let the people of God go (Exodus 8:21-23). The Egyptians used to worship some gods who were supposed to protect them from flies. So, God intended to uncover the helplessness of these gods and as a result, drive the Egyptians to Him.
- 5. Diseased Livestock:** Then Moses went to Pharaoh and told him once again to let God's people go so that they may serve Him. Moses warned Pharaoh saying, "If you do not let us go, the Lord God will bring a disease upon all of your livestock, and all of them will die." This was a very big deal for Pharaoh and all of Egypt, since livestock used to be the way that they would get work done, and it was their source of food. It would be like all cars, trucks, and construction equipment being destroyed nowadays. This would leave a city helpless and it would be a very big issue for them. Not only did they need the livestock, the Egyptians used to believe that certain animals are holy. So by that plague, they would realize their beliefs are wrong, and return to God. Even after this, Pharaoh still refused to let the people of God go (Exodus 9:1-4).
- 6. Ashes to Boils:** Then, the Lord told Moses and Aaron to take ashes from a furnace, and let Moses throw it toward the air, while Pharaoh is watching. And it will become fine dust that will cause boils that break out in sores on man in all the land of Egypt. Even after this, Pharaoh still refused to let the people of God go (Exodus 9:8-9).

7. **Thunder, hail and fire on Egypt:** Then the Lord told Moses to stretch out his rod toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire to the ground. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, and it was very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt. The hail was really bad that it hit both man, animal and plants. Even after this, Pharaoh still refused to let the people of God go (Exodus 9:23-25).
8. **Hungry Locusts:** So Moses and Aaron came back to Pharaoh and told him, *“Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth’”*. (Exodus 10:3-5) So Pharaoh refused to listen, and the land was filled with locusts, and they ate all the remaining crops belonging to the Egyptians. The locusts destroyed the crops and caused famine, so that plague was meant to show the weakness of the Egyptian gods to keep them even physically. As a result, this would lead them to the true God. Even after this, Pharaoh still refused to let the people of God go. (Exodus 10:3-6)
9. **Three Days of Darkness:** So the Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt. So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days (Exodus 10:21-23). Yet, even after all this, Pharaoh still refused to let the people of God go. The Egyptians used to worship the god of the sun. It is as though this plague was against that god, to lead the Egyptians to the creator of all things.
10. **The Death of the Firstborn:** Finally, the Lord said, *“At midnight all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, whether it is the firstborn of Pharaoh, or even the firstborn of the animals.”* This plague was the final one, after which, Pharaoh let the people of God leave (Exodus 11:4-7).

After the tenth and final plague, Pharaoh finally decided to let Moses and the people of God leave from the land of Egypt. When he saw the death of his son, Pharaoh rose up in the middle of the night and called for Moses and Aaron. He told them to leave with all their belongings, and to bless him. Pharaoh had finally given in to God’s power and authority.

We should also remember that the whole time that these plagues were being brought upon the land of Egypt, the Lord God always protected his people. He wanted to show the Egyptians that only He was the One true God, that they might return to Him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Spin the Plagues:

1. Print out [this template](#) below on strong paper and cut them out.
2. Give to the children to color the two templates.
3. Poke a hole to the center of both with the pushpin to allow it to spin.
4. Bend the back of the pushpin that is poking through with wire cutters and take it down with a couple of layers of tape to prevent injuries.





Video of the craft being made: <https://youtu.be/8IAWlhneROs>



VIDEO:

[Sharefaithkids - 10 Plagues of Egypt \(6:13\)](#)

Questions:

- Who came with Moses to deliver God's message to Pharaoh? (Aaron, Moses' brother.)
- Why did Pharaoh refuse to let God's people go? (Pharaoh had a hard heart.)
- How many plagues did God send? (Ten).



SONG:

[Silvaninka: 10 Plagues \(3:23\)](#)

Lyrics:

*First God sent plague number one
Turn the Nile into blood
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number two
Jumping frogs all over you
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent, plague number three
Swarms of gnats from head to knee
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number four
filthy flies, need we say more?
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number five
All the live stock up and died
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number six
boils and sore to make you sick
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low*



They told pharaoh let them go!

*Then God sent plague number seven
Hail and lightning down from heaven
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number eight
Locusts came and they sure ate
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number 9
Total darkness all the time
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
They told pharaoh let them go!*

*Then God sent plague number ten
Pharaoh's son died so he gave in
All the people in Egypt were feeling pretty low
Finally pharaoh let them go!*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What is a plague? (A disaster that affects many people.)
- How many plagues were there? (Ten).
- Who were the people afflicted with these plagues? (The Egyptian non-believers.)
- How did the Lord show His care to the people? (He helped them get out of Egypt.)
- Why do you think Pharaoh let the people go after this plague when he didn't after the first nine plagues? (It affected him personally, he was very sad when his son died.)
- Is having a fear of the Lord a good thing or a bad thing? (It is a good thing, because when we fear the Lord, we become obedient to His word and receive His blessings.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:



What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- We should return to God, and serve Him.
- Let us learn to pay attention to God's message in our life. Just as with Pharaoh and the Egyptians, God wanted them to return to Him. Daily, when we forget our life with God, God sends us words through the Bible, the priests, servants or our parents, similar to how he sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh. When we listen to God's messengers, we are respecting and honoring Him.
- How can we serve God? (We can serve God by serving our neighbor, serve Him by giving a smile to someone who needs it, by talking to someone who does not have anyone to talk to, etc.)



Lesson 1.9 - The Ten Commandments: Respect & Honor and Judging & Envy

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Two large posters, pictures, printed explanations, and velcro tape.

Scripture References: Exodus 19:20 - 20:1-17

Craft: Ten Commandments Craft Printout ([colored](#) or [uncolored](#)), scissors, gluesticks, and pencil crayons.

Video: [PursueGOD Kids: The Ten Commandments | Q4L4 \(3:01\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn that the Ten Commandments require us to respect and honor God and will understand ways they can obey the commandments in their own lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honor and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.



Exodus 20:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider asking the children if they know what the ten commandments are. Begin the lesson by introducing the story of how Moses received the ten commandments from God.

It had been three months since the Israelites left Egypt, and they set up camp at the foot of Mt. Sinai. God called to Moses from the mountain, and Moses went up to Him. God reminded Moses of how He freed the

Israelites from Pharaoh, and how the devastation in Egypt demonstrated His power and might. Then God told Moses that if the people obey His covenants, their nation would be great and holy in His sight. Then He told Moses to have the people cleanse themselves and be ready, because in three days the Lord will come down on the mountain. The people should not attempt to go up or even touch the mountain.

So on the third day, there was thunder and lightning with a loud trumpet blast. The mountain was covered with a thick cloud of smoke, because the Lord came onto it with fire. The whole mountain trembled and all the people were afraid. No one was allowed to go to the mountain except Moses. This was the time that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.



LESSON BODY:

Read Exodus 19:20 - 20:1-17 (The Ten Commandments).

Consider using the following tables as a visual aid for the lesson. Print out the following tables on poster paper and consider attaching the images as each commandment is described using velcro tape.

	NO GODS BEFORE ME	NO IMAGES TO WORSHIP	DO NOT TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN	REMEMBER THE LORD'S DAY	HONOR YOUR PARENTS
	 Praying	 Reading your Bible	Thank God!	 Going to Church	 Loving your parents
	 Loving your toys and not sharing	 Only watching TV	OMG!	 Sleeping all day	 Not doing what your parents ask you to do.

	DO NOT MURDER	DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY	DO NOT STEAL	DO NOT LIE	DO NOT COVET
	<p>Being kind and loving</p>	<p>Being modest</p>	<p>Sharing</p>	<p>Being Honest</p>	<p>Being Thankful</p>
	<p>Bullying others</p>	<p>Breaking the promises of marriage</p>	<p>Stealing toys</p>	<p>Lying about other children</p>	<p>Being Jealous</p>

You shall have no other gods before Me. What does it mean to have a god? Treating something like a god means you love it more than anything else. Different gods take many forms like a friend, a toy, or a game. These are all gods, worshipping anything other than God is called Idolatry.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image to worship. This is another type of idolatry. It could be play stations, the internet, iPhones, iPads, laptops, if these things take God's time and importance.

The servant may consider this quote by St. Augustine of Hippo when preparing for the lesson to further understand the following commandment.²⁶

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Swearing, using the name of the Lord. This is also cursing.

Remember the Lord's day, to keep it holy. For us this is Sunday. We should be waking up and going to church on time every week out of respect for the Lord's day.

²⁶ Lienhard, J. T. (2001). *The ancient Christian commentary on Scripture*. Downers Grove (Ill.): InterVarsity Press.

Honor your father and mother. When our parents tell us to do something it is because they have more experience and so much love for us. We should respect this and be obedient to them. By doing this we show them how much we love them.

You shall not murder. Murder means killing other people but in our lives we can hurt people in many ways (gossiping, making up lies about others, saying mean things to others, etc.)

You shall not commit adultery. This is when people do not keep the promises they made when they get married and do not respect themselves (e.g dressing modestly.)

You shall not steal. Do not take anything that does not belong to you!

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Do not make up lies about others.

You shall not covet. When you want what your friend has when you do not need it (jealousy).

“The second commandment: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for whoever takes the name of the Lord his God in vain will not be purified.” The name of the Lord our God Jesus Christ is Truth: he himself said, “I am the truth.” So truth purifies; futility defiles. And because whoever speaks the truth speaks from what is God’s—for “whoever speaks falsehood speaks from what is his own”— to speak the truth is to speak reasonably, whereas to speak futility is to make a noise rather than to speak. Rightly, because the second commandment means love of the truth, the opposite of that is love of futility. ”

- St. Augustine of Hippo

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Ten Commandments Craft²⁷:

1. Before the lesson print ten commandments craft for each child to make.
2. This craft will be used to help the children remember the 10 commandments.
 - a. There are two sheets on the ten commandments craft. For the sheet with the numbers the children are to cut out the doors, they must cut the solid lines around the number.
 - b. On the sheet with the 10 commandments, if the uncolored version is printed, the children will colored them in.
 - c. When they are finished, the children will turn over the numbered sheet and glue the areas that are not the doors. The teacher can advise the children to open all the



²⁷ Joy, A. (n.d.). DL Ten Commandments Craft. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://paththroughthenarrowgate.com/dl-ten-commandments-craft/>



numbered doors to prevent putting glue on them. The children will carefully put the sheet with the commandments (with the words facing the glue) directly on top, such that the sheets nicely overlap each other.

Keep the Sabbath Day Holy Freeze Tag²⁸:

1. Play a game of Freeze Tag.
2. Designate one, two, or three children to be "IT."
3. When the game starts, the children who are "IT" chase the other players to tag them and say, "Remember the Sabbath Day." The tagged player must FREEZE in place and respond by saying, "Keep it Holy."
4. The other players may UNFREEZE FROZEN players by tagging them and saying, "Remember the Sabbath Day," with players responding again by saying, "Keep it holy."
5. During the game the servant slowly shouts a count to seven--six days to work, the seventh day to rest. At the count of seven, the servant yells, "Remember the Sabbath Day, with all the kids responding, "Keep it holy."



VIDEO:

[PursueGOD Kids: The Ten Commandments | Q4L4 \(3:01\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider reviewing the lesson by removing all the images from the posters, and have the children reorganize the behaviours to identify which commandment they belong to, and whether the behaviour demonstrates obeying or disobeying the commandment.

Questions:

- Why do you think, "You shall have no other gods before me" is the first commandment? (God wants us to put Him above all things. We need to put God before all the things we love like our toys, TV, etc.)
- What does "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord" mean? (The Lord is holy. It is not good to use His name in vain.)
- What is an idol? (Anything that keeps you from spending time with God.)
- Why is it important for us to "Honor your father and Mother" (It is important for us to honor our parents because they know what is best for us and they love us very much.)
- What does covet mean? (It is having a strong desire to have what belongs to someone else.)

²⁸ Sunday School Network. (n.d.). Free Ten Commandments Bible Games. Retrieved August 11, 2020, from <https://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/games-ten-commands.html>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can you apply the commandments to your daily life? (By not speaking badly about others, not taking things that are not ours, obeying our parents, etc.)
- Follow all the commandments, not just the ones we want to follow.



Lesson 1.10 - Samson Abused His Gift: Respecting God's Gifts

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Bowling ball, weights, and/or heavy boxes (any heavy items really).

Scripture References: Judges 13-16

Craft: Paper lunch bags, [strong arm patterns](#), white paper or tan paper to match the paper bag, yarn, scissors, markers or crayons, glue or double-sided tape, and googly eyes.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn about the story of Samson in order to understand the importance of obeying God's commandments and respecting the gifts they have been given.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:

“
O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once...
 ”

Judges 16:28

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Bring several heavy objects such as a bowling ball, weights, heavy boxes, etc. and have the items displayed in front of the children. Call them up and ask them to try to lift the objects.

Consider asking the children if it was heavy for them to lift the items. The servant may then introduce the story of Samson.

People often use heavy weights such as these to build up their strength. God gave a man named Samson amazing strength, today we are going to learn about how he became the strongest man on earth.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may prepare by reading Judges 13-16

Long ago, in the land of Israel, there was a man named Manoah. He and his wife had no children. One day, an angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon give birth to a son and his hair must never be cut for he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the moment of his birth until the day of his death." When her son was born, she named him Samson and the Lord blessed him as he grew up. He became one of the strongest men in the world.

He was once attacked by a lion. He was filled with the power of God and killed the lion with his bare hands.

The Philistines wanted revenge because he destroyed their crops when his father-in-law gave his wife to another man. They attacked the town of Lehi looking for Samson. An army of Israelite men went in search of Samson and when they found him, they tied him up and took him to the Philistines. When they saw him coming, the Philistines ran toward Samson swinging their swords in the air.

Suddenly, the power of God came upon Samson and he broke free from the rope. There was a jawbone of a donkey lying in the dirt. Samson took the jawbone and killed a thousand Philistines!

Consider asking the children if they recall what the angel told Samson's mother. Emphasize that the key to Samson's strength was his hair and that he must never cut it.

Even though Samson was blessed with great strength, he also had one weakness.

Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. She was a Philistine. The five rulers of the Philistine nation got together and created a plan to go to Delilah and persuade her to find out the secret of Samson's strength and tell them what it was. Each of them promised her a thousand pieces of silver if she would do it.

So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong?" Samson tricked Deliah, and told her a fake secret to his strength. Each night, Delilah tried to get Samson to tell her the reason for his strength, but each time Samson tricked her.

Delilah pouted and said to Samson, "How can you say, 'I love you' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies." (Judges 15:16). Delilah claimed that Samson was making fun of her and that he would tell her the truth if he truly loved her.

Finally, Samson weakened and told Delilah the true secret to his strength.

Consider asking the children if they think Delilah really loved Samson. Remind them that love means caring for one another and doing God's will, not being selfish like Delilah was.

Consider emphasizing that by telling the children that Samson disrespected God's gift by disobeying His commandments. By telling Delilah the secret, Samson showed that Delilah was more important to Him than keeping God's will.

Delilah told the secret to the Philistine rulers and they came and cut Samson's hair while he was sleeping. They were then able to capture Samson because his strength had left him.

The Philistine Kings grabbed him and did a terrible thing. They poked out his eyes, tied him with chains, and dragged him away. They put him to work turning a great stone wheel. Day after day, Samson turned the heavy wheel. But then his hair began to grow back!

One day, the Philistine leaders were having a great victory celebration when they decided to bring Samson in so that they could have some fun laughing at him. They made Samson stand by the huge columns of the temple where they were celebrating. No one noticed that Samson's hair had grown back. As they were laughing and making fun of Samson and his God, Samson was quietly praying, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes." (Judges 16:28).

Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" (Judges 16:30). Then he pushed with all his might and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. God gave him the strength to kill more enemies when he died than while he lived.

"Now that splendor which was restored in Samson and was covered at his death I think fits every servant of Christ. If someone is overtaken by some sin and in a salutary manner has recourse to the remedies of repentance, with the restoration of grace there returns the face of a good conscience, like the hair which grew again."

- Caesarius of Arles

Consider concluding the lesson by comparing Samson's final victory to the victory we feel when we confess our sins. Consider reviewing the above quote by Caesarius of Arles prior to giving the lesson.²⁹

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Samson Paper Bag Craft³⁰

1. Before class print out the [strong arm patterns](#) and make copies. If necessary, cut out the arms before the class
2. In class have your children color the arm patterns and glue them to the side of the bag.
3. Wind yarn around a book about five times and then pull it off and tie it together in the center. Cut the ends. Have your children glue or tape the hair to the puppet.
4. To finish, have them draw on clothes and googly eyes.



Review

²⁹ Caesarius, S., & Mueller, S. M. (1973). Saint Caesarius of Arles: Sermons. Washington, D.C. 20017, DC: The Catholic University of America Press.

³⁰ Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Samson Crafts and Bible Lesson. Retrieved August 11, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-samson.html>



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who appeared to Manoah's wife? (The Angel of the Lord.)
- Where was Samson's source of strength? (His hair.)
- Who tricked into revealing his source of strength? (Delilah).
- What was His message? (She would have a son who would be a Nazarite from her womb to death and God would begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.)
- From our lesson give examples of Samson's faith in the Lord. (Asked for strength one last time.)
- What does God want for us to do? (To be obedient and listen to His commands.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- God gives us the strength to carry His word and His will for us.
- It was easy for Samson to become deceived by Delilah because she was not a good person, we should surround ourselves with good people who will influence us to be better people.
- Samson did not listen to God and ended up in a very bad situation. We should always obey God because He knows what is best for us.
- How can we use the strength God gives us? (We can use our strength by helping others, spreading the word of God, etc.)
- How can we obey God? (We can obey God by reading our Bible, going to church, listening to our parents, teachers, Abounas, etc.)



Lesson 1.11 - Honoring our Authorities: Nehemiah Respects the King

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Dominoes, masking tape, and sharpie/markers.

Scripture References: Nehemiah 2:1-8

Craft: Bag of mini marshmallows, toothpicks, wet wipes, and [printed "Jerusalem in the Days of Nehemiah" sheet on Cardstock](#).

Activity: Printable Roll and Respond sheet and premade paper dice.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about Nehemiah in order to understand the importance of respecting authority figures and looking to God when we are afraid. By turning to Him, the children will also understand the importance of prayer in their lives, recognizing its power and impact.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Prayerfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Then the king said to me, ‘what do you request?’ So, I prayed to the God of heaven.

”

Nehemiah 2:4

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

“Build a Wall With Dominoes” Lesson Opening Activity³¹:

³¹ Digital by Design. (n.d.). Build a Wall with Dominoes. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/nehemiah-bible-crafts-lesson.html>



Children will be able to practice memorizing the memory verse for the week while building a wall, which ties into the story of Nehemiah.

The servant should take 1-2 sets of dominos (ideally a set for 7-8 children or less) and put masking tape on some of the dominos. On those dominos that have tape on them the teacher should write a word from the memory verse. Each word from the memory verse should be on a domino in the set.

1. Tell the children that they will be building a wall of dominoes and that some of the dominoes will have words of this week's memory verse on them. The children must build a domino wall that shows the memory verse in it!

"Then the king said to me, 'what do you request?' So, I prayed to the God of heaven."

2. Once the children have finished building their walls, tell them that there once was a time when many walls were built to keep cities safe from danger, including one wall in a bible story they are about to learn!



LESSON BODY:

Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 and summarize with the children.

After he captured Babylon, the king of Persia allowed many of the Jews to go home. They began work on the temple in Jerusalem that had been destroyed by the Babylonians, but the work was stopped by their enemy neighbors and nothing was done for 15 years. Many years later, Nehemiah wanted to return and help rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was a Jewish man still living in Susa working for the king. Nehemiah was a man who loved God and the Jewish people. He was the king's cup bearer. A cupbearer is a person who is trustworthy. The cup bearer drinks the king's wine before he does to make sure he is not going to be poisoned.

Consider emphasizing to the children that Nehemiah shows us that we are all placed in the exact places God wants us to be. Nehemiah was a cupbearer and God would use his position to enable him to help rebuild Jerusalem. Believers are God's workmanship created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).

The class you are in, the family you are in, is exactly where God has placed you for you to be able to serve Him and do the work He has created you for.

Read Nehemiah 2:1-3.

One day when Nehemiah went to give the king his wine, the king could tell Nehemiah was very sad about something and asked him what it was.

Nehemiah became afraid. Nehemiah couldn't hide how broken his heart was for the condition of God's holy city Jerusalem. Even though he was afraid, he knew he could look to God, so Nehemiah prayed for God to guide what he would say before the king.³²

*Consider asking the children what they can learn from the fact that Nehemiah prayed while talking to the king. Remind them that the fact that Nehemiah remembered to pray indicates that we should always feel God's presence wherever we are.*³³

God answered Nehemiah's prayer and enabled him to know exactly what to ask the king for. Nehemiah asked the king:

- To return to Jerusalem, which he called the city of his fathers' tombs, to rebuild it. (2:5)
- For letters to give to the governors of the regions he passed through to ensure that he would be safe as he travelled to Jerusalem. (2:7)
- A letter for Asaph asking for wood from the king's forest to build the walls and gates and for a place for him to stay while doing the work. (2:8)

Nehemiah always treated the King with respect and the King trusted him. Nehemiah was not only faithful in his relationship with God, but also in his relationship with the king. As a result of this respectful and faithful relationship, the king trusted Nehemiah enough to be his cupbearer, and allowed Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem.³⁴

Because Nehemiah looked to God for wisdom instead of himself, not only did the king allow him to have letters for the governors throughout the land who would protect him as he traveled, the king sent captains of the army along with him.

*Consider emphasizing with the children the importance of Nehemiah's faithful relationship with God. Remind them that because Nehemiah's heart was always focussed on God, we remembered to pray to Him for guidance when he was afraid before the king.*³⁵

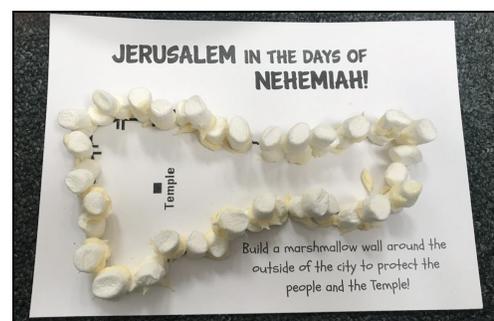
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Marshmallow Wall Craft³⁶

1. Tell the children that Nehemiah encouraged many people to help him build the wall around the city of Jerusalem. Everyone worked together to build a wall that surrounded the city, preventing enemies from attacking the city and destroying the Temple!



³² Fr. Tadros Malaty. (2013). A COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH. Retrieved from https://ukmidcopts.org/kotob/Fr%20Tadros%20Malaty/016_Nehemiah.pdf

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

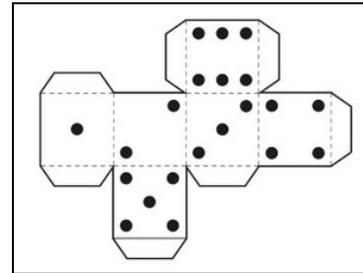
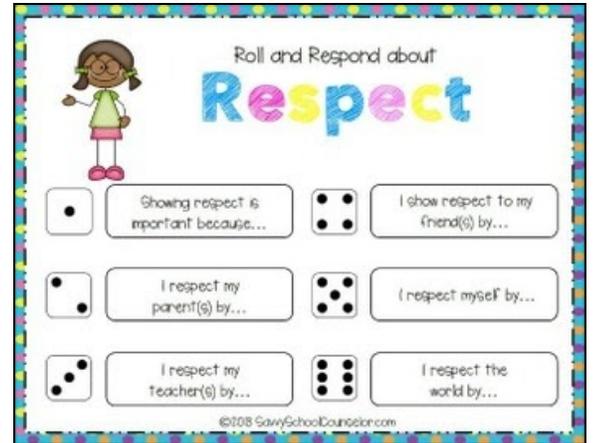
³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ 'Jerusalem in the Days of Nehemiah' Activity Printable. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://ministryark.com/printable/jerusalem-in-the-days-of-nehemiah-activity-printable/>

2. Divide the children into groups of 3 and state that they will be building a wall of Marshmallows to protect the city of Jerusalem!
3. Handout the [printable sheet](#), bags of mini marshmallows, and toothpicks to each group. Instruct the groups to glue the bottom of the marshmallows so that they will stick to the paper. Walk around and observe the groups while they build their walls.

Respect! Roll & Respond Game³⁷:

1. Remind children of the story of Nehemiah and how he had shown respect to the King. Tell the children that they will be playing a game about respect!
2. Divide the children into groups of 3 or 4 and pass out the printable sheets and the paper dice.
3. Children will take turns rolling the dice and will respond to the sentence beside the number that they rolled! (May need to model the game first so that visual learners can understand.)
4. The servant can circulate the room and listen to the children's responses about respect.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did Nehemiah pray for? (He asked God to help him.)
- What does he want to do in Jerusalem? (He wants to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.)
- Why did the King help him? (The king helped him because Nehemiah was always kind and respectful.)
- What did the king do? (He let Nehemiah go help rebuild the wall, he gave him letters to give to the other governors to let him pass through, and he gave him building supplies.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

³⁷ Roll and Respond. (n.d.). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/FREE-Roll-and-Respond-Savvy-School-Counselor-947500>



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- God will always help His children because He loves us very much. But, we must pray and ask Him to help us and guide us in our times of need.
- When we are afraid we should pray and ask God to give us strength and to help guide us.
- How could we respect our authorities? (We could respect our authorities by listening to our parents, being kind to our teachers, paying attention to our Sunday School servants, etc.)
- Why is it important that we respect our authorities? (It is important that we respect our authorities because they help us and pave the way for our growth and development.)
- Nehemiah was always focussed on God and he knew to pray to Him when he was afraid. How can we become more focussed on God? (We can read our Bible everyday, we can pray in our Agpeya each day, we can thank God for everything we receive, and we can pray that God keeps our minds focussed on Him.)



Lesson 1.12 - Respecting our Friends: David and Jonathan

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: 1 Samuel 18-19 and Genesis 1:26-27.

Craft: White cardstock cloud cutouts, strips of cardstock in rainbow colors, markers, and glue sticks.

Activity: Chart paper, markers, strips of paper, pencils, and a cardboard box.

Video: [God's People: David and Jonathan \(1:32\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, children should know the importance of true and loyal friendships using the story of David and Jonathan.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Friendship



MEMORY VERSE:



Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.



1 Samuel 18:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Open the lesson by discussing what friendship means to the children, ask them who their friends are and what makes someone a good friend. Today we will learn about two very good friends named Jonathan and David; we can find the story of their friendship in 1 Samuel.



Consider asking the children which part of the Bible 1 Samuel is in? (The Old Testament).

What book of the Old Testament is 1 Samuel? (The ninth book.)

The servant may also review the list of the bible books with a bible song prior to the latter questions.



LESSON BODY:

Read 1 Peter 2:17 together as a class, “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

Consider the following quote from St. Polycarp of Smyrna for a better understanding about 1 Peter 2:17, in your preparation for the lesson.³⁸

After reading the verse, ask the children the following questions:

- To whom does this verse say we should show respect? (Everyone, we need to show respect to people we like and those who we do not.)
- How should we show our respect?
 - Luke 6:31 says, "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise."
- Why does God say we should show our respect to others? (Because God says to do so is good.)

“Stand fast, therefore, in these things, and follow the example of the Lord, being firm and unchangeable in the faith, loving the brotherhood.”

- St. Polycarp of Smyrna

Read Genesis 1:26-27 with the children. In Genesis, it says, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ... So, God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.’”

From this we learn that each person should be respected for who they are. We are all made in the likeness of God; both boys and girls are made in the image of God. Image is a word we use for likeness. An image can be a picture of something; it is not that thing, just a picture of it.

Let’s turn in our Bibles to 1 Samuel 18 and learn about an example of true friendship between Jonathan and David. *Have a few volunteers read 1 Samuel 18:1-4*

When Jonathan made a covenant with David what did he give him? (His robe, sword, bow, and belt).

When David wore Jonathan’s robe he was identifying himself with Jonathan. David took off his shepherd’s clothes and put on a prince’s robe.

When Jonathan gave David his weapons it was symbolic of the covenant they made with each other; by giving David his sword, Jonathan was telling the people around him that he would protect and defend David, no matter what.

Jonathan’s choice to be David’s friend revealed Godly character traits. Jonathan was a prince and was going to be the next king after his father, Saul. He selflessly became friends with David, who was anointed as the new king.

³⁸ St. Polycarp of Smyrna. (AD 155). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5735dfccec4bd7c9723baa3c>



Read 1 Samuel 18:5.

One day when the soldiers were returning home after David killed Goliath, the women had gathered in the streets singing and dancing. They sang, “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”

Read 1 Samuel 18:8-9 to see Saul’s response.

Discuss with the children how Saul felt when he heard the song. (Angry, jealous)

The next day, David was playing his harp for Saul. Saul tried twice to pin David to the wall with his spear, but David escaped both times. Saul was afraid of David because he knew God’s Spirit had left him and He was with David.

(1 Samuel 19) Saul continued to grow wicked. His jealousy toward David had grown so much that he told Jonathan and his men to kill David. Jonathan was loyal to his friend David and warned him about his father’s plan to kill him.

Jonathan went to his father and convinced him not to kill David by reminding him about what David did for Israel when he killed Goliath. Saul listened to his son and promised that he would not kill David.

Saul was not a man of his word and did not keep his promises. The next time David was playing his harp before him, Saul tried to kill him again. Once again, David escaped.

In 1 Samuel 20 David was hiding; let’s read 20:1-3.

David came up with an idea to see if Saul was still trying to kill him. He planned not to eat at Saul’s New Moon feast. If Saul asked Jonathan where David was and was not angry that he went to his family’s feast instead, then David would know his life was not in danger. If Saul became angry, then his life was in danger.

Jonathan and David came up with a secret signal to let David know how Saul reacted.

Read 1 Samuel 20:19-23; have each child read a verse.

Jonathan learned that Saul was still angry and wanted David put to death. When Jonathan tried to reason with his father, he was so angry with Jonathan for being friends with David, and Saul threw his spear at Jonathan.

Jonathan was very sad because his father wanted to kill his friend. He went to the place that he and David agreed upon. He shot the arrows which signaled to David that his life was still endangered.

Let’s read verse 42.

Jonathan and David had a true friendship that was bound by their faith in God. No matter what happened they would always be friends. God had given David a true friend in Jonathan.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

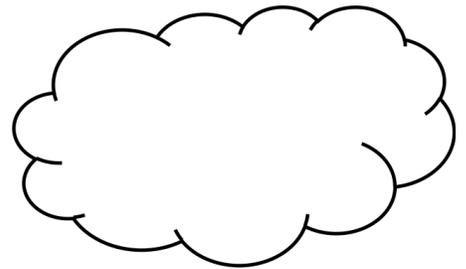
Good Friends Vs Bad Friends Charades:

1. Brainstorm with the children a list of what good friends do and what bad friends do and write these behaviours on chart paper. That way the children will learn practically what behaviors they need to show with their friends. They can use the example from the Bible story of some of the things that David and Jonathan did to show that they are friends; the children will learn from the bible lesson what friendship is. Examples are provided below:
 - a. Good Friends
 - i. Share
 - ii. Say nice things
 - iii. Give compliments
 - iv. Tell cheerful jokes
 - v. Encourage each other
 - b. Bad Friends
 - i. Say mean things
 - ii. Won't let you join the group they are playing with
 - iii. Are very bossy
 - iv. Are angry when they don't get their way
2. Once you have brainstormed as many things as you can on the two lists above, have the children each take a slip of paper and assign children each to write specific items from the list on a paper slip.
3. Mix all of the paper slips up in a box and have the children draw one each. On their turn, the children come up to the front and without talking or making noise, they act out what is on their slip. Their classmates are to guess what they are acting out. After the action has been guessed correctly, the children put their thumb up or down to show whether it is something a good friend does or something a bad friend does.



Friendship Rainbow Cloud Craft³⁹:

1. Pre-cut cloud shape for each child from cardstock.
2. Pre-cut cardstock colored strip.
3. Have the children write down the name of a friend on the cloud using markers.
4. Have the children write down qualities of their friend they like on the colored strips.
5. Assist the children in glueing the colored strips to the cloud.



³⁹ Beth, M. (1970, January 01). Rainbow of Friendship. Retrieved August 12, 2020, from <http://elementarycounseling.blogspot.com/2012/04/rainbow-of-friendship.html>



VIDEO:

[God's People: David and Jonathan \(1:32\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who became David's friend? (Jonathan)
- What did Jonathan give David when he made a covenant with him? (Jonathan gave David his robe, sword, bow, and belt)
- Why was Saul angry with David? (He was jealous of David because the Lord was with him.)
- How did Jonathan protect David from being killed by his father? (He went and found out if his father was still angry and came back and gave David the signal that it was not safe for him to return)
- Was Jonathan a good friend to David? Are you a good friend to your friends? (Yes!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Respect and love your friends.
- What can we do to be a good friend? (Being there when they need you, helping them through hard times, etc.)
- Should we choose our friends wisely? (Yes, bad company corrupts good habits.)



Lesson 1.13 - How To Honour Our Family Members

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Scarves or fabric strips long enough for tying legs together (one for each pair of children), and two skipping ropes (used as starting line and finish line markers).

Craft: Cut out house shapes (construction paper), hot glue gun, string/yarn or wire, and markers.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will demonstrate an understanding about the love and respect we should show to our family members.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect, Obedience and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord God is giving you



Exodus 20:12

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Introduce the lesson by doing the following activity with the children.

1. Pair up the children with a partner. Have each pair stand next to each other side by side. Each should tie their inside legs (the right leg of the partner on the left and the left leg of the partner on the right) together. Together the pair has three legs instead of four.
2. At the servant's signal, the pairs of children will try to walk or run as fast as they can to the finish line.



3. After the race, ask the children, "How was walking as a team three legged (children answers will vary. Some may say it is easy, others hard, etc.)?"
4. Explain that in a three legged race, it takes teamwork and cooperation. You can not do a three-legged race with just two legs and ignore your partner's legs, especially the leg tied to your leg. You and your partner need to work together to walk and make two different legs tied together, work together. You needed to support each other.
5. Ask the children what it means to support each other. By supporting our family members, our siblings, and our parents, we create a supportive and loving home.



LESSON BODY:

Consider having the class share a bit about each of their families. How many siblings do they have? are they the oldest, youngest child? etc.

Our families are a gift given to us from God. How do we treat these gifts given to us? How do we treat our siblings, parents, grandparents, or loved ones?

What does the bible tell us to do?

- "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land" (Exodus 20:12)
- "My son, hear the instruction of your father and do not forsake the law of your mother." Proverbs 1:8) By obeying our parents, we are showing them how much we truly love them.
- "Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20)
- Jesus is the primary example of obedience. He always honoured Saint Mary and was an obedient son till the end of His life. Even on the cross, when He was breathing His last breath He made sure to show Saint Mary one last gesture of love and asked Saint John to look out for her.

Honoring and respecting our parents is a commandment, but how do we partially do this? Obedience is shown through our attitude, our willingness to do the things when we are asked, to do things out of our love for our families and not for our own benefit etc.

Why should we obey our parents?

- You will never find anyone on this earth who loves you unconditionally like your parents. Regardless of the mistakes we make they never turn their back on you and will continually support you. Friends come and go when we make mistakes or betray their trust but our parents remain by our side.
- They are the only people who wish you to be successful in all aspects of your life (Spiritually, financially, educationally, emotionally, physically.)
- There is a reason why this was one of the ten commandments. These commandments were made for a purpose and lay the foundations for how we should live our lives. Who are we to argue with the commandments God created for us to follow? surely these commandments only serve to positively benefit our lives.

How should we treat our siblings? *Discuss with the class how they currently act with their siblings. Do you fight constantly? Do you help each other out?*

The bible has hundreds of verses about love. Loving our enemies (Luke 6:27), loving those who persecute you (Romans 12:14). How much more then should we love those who love us! How can you show your siblings your love for them?

Brainstorm with the class the various practical ways in which they can show honor and respect to their siblings. Being helpful, providing support when they are down, doing them without being asked, checking on their wellbeing (spiritually and physically) etc.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Loving Home Ornament⁴⁰

1. Have precut house shapes (construction paper) and distribute them to the class
2. Have each child draw their family
3. Have each child write the memory verse under their family
4. Each child can decorate and design their 'loving home'
5. With the help of an adult, hot glue gun a piece of string at the top of the 'home' so they can hang it up in their rooms
6. Ensure that the children draw a cross at the top of their house to reflect that Christ is at the centre of each of our homes, and that is why it is filled with love.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How can we show our parents how much we love them? (obedience)
- What is one way you can show your love for your sibling? (Doing things for them without being asked, checking up on them, helping them with homework or any difficulties etc.)
- Why should we obey our parents? (it is a commandment, their love for us is unconditional, and they want what is best for us etc.)

⁴⁰ Mom & Dad Sign Craft Kit - Discontinued: Dad crafts, Discount crafts, Crafts. (n.d.). Retrieved September 09, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/61713457370830941/>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Obey God's commandments by honouring our father and mothers
- Realizing that through our obedience we reflect our love
- Doing things in our day to show our love for our siblings and parents (helping them with homework, making them something to eat, listening to their problems, helping our parents without them asking etc.)



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Matthew 5:43-44

Craft: Construction paper, scissors, pencils, markers, crayons, and glue sticks.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that within God's family, there is no room for bullying, they must love one another and be ready to forgive each other at all times.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:



But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,



Matthew 5:44

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider opening the lesson with a short skit about bullying. Have at least three servants to act. One servant will be the bully, another will be the victim (Bill), and another will be a friend (Bob).

Bully: Hey Bob, want to come over to my house after school. It is going to be a lot of fun, there will be cookies, soda, and pizza.

Bob: That sounds fun, I will be there!

Bill: Can I come too?

Bully: Why would you come? I do not like you, you are boring. You always bring weird food with you because your mom makes you.

Bob: Do not be mean to him, he is just doing what his mom tells him too!



Bully: Sounds like you are going to be weird too Bob. Neither of you can come. I only hang out with cool people.

(The bully walks away, leaving Bob and Bill to walk away alone).

Consider asking the children if they think the Bully was being very loving to Bill. What about Bob's reaction, was Bob mean to the Bully? Emphasize that even as Bob was critiquing the Bully, he was being kind and defending Bill instead of hurting the Bully.

It is not always easy for us to be like Bob. Sometimes when people are mean to us we want to hurt them back. Jesus told us that we cannot just be nice to people who love us, we have to be like Bob and show kindness to everyone, even those who hurt others.



LESSON BODY:

Consider asking the children if they know what the word bullying means. (It is when someone intentionally hurts someone using physical and/or verbal ways.)

It can be hitting, shoving, name-calling, etc.

Some kids bully by excluding others and spreading rumors about them. Others use social media or text messages to hurt others' feelings.

Consider asking the children if any of this sounds familiar to them, if any of this is happening to them, if they are doing any of this to someone else.

Jesus was bullied too, people ridiculed Him and called Him names, but He was still kind to everyone. He even prayed for His bullies! He asked His Father in heaven to forgive His bullies for what they had done, He did this while He was hanging on the cross!

When people were intentionally trying to trick Him into saying the wrong thing so they could get Him thrown in jail or killed, Jesus always remained calm, He allowed the spirit of God to guide His thoughts, and responded in love.

What did Jesus do when He was betrayed by one of His closest friends (Judas Isacriot)? He allowed Himself to be arrested and did not fight back.

Jesus was perfect, and we are trying to be more and more like Jesus everyday. We may never respond exactly like He did in every situation, but we can try to!

Bullying is wrong and needs to be stopped!

You really need to talk to an adult about what is going on. It might be scary, but we cannot hide the fact that we are being hurt. Even though Jesus told us to love our enemies, He did not tell us to allow ourselves to be hurt.

After you tell an adult that you are being bullied...and they take the necessary action against the person who is bullying you, where do you go from there?



More than likely you will have feelings about the person who was bullying you, so what's next?

Respecting our Differences

Each one of us is unique. *Consider having the children compare the palm of their hands and fingers. They are all unique, nobody has the same hand.* God took his time planning every detail of your face, your body, your brain etc. God loves each of us the same and created us with so many differences! We come in all shapes, sizes, heights, and skin colours. We are all given talents and we all have things that we struggle with. *Consider discussing with the class some things they find difficult. Examples: reading, writing, math, some of us have a hard time focusing, an illness, etc.* Each one of us carries these difficulties with us everyday. Many of us are born with disabilities. Some of us may not be able to walk, talk, learn, hear etc. We should support and love one another to get through these challenges rather than point out the flaws in our brothers and sisters. We should never make fun of anyone because they may look, sound, or act differently than us. When we were created God said "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). He sees us as His perfect creation, we should reflect His image in all of our actions. If we were made in the likeness of God then we must act like it! Before making a comment about someone, stop and think to yourself: Is this something Jesus would have said? Jesus never pointed out anyone's physical differences and He never made fun of anyone for any reason whatsoever. Jesus actually went out of his way to show His love for people who were considered "different" He sat with the tax collectors, He made it a point to touch those with leprosy (very contagious) just to show them how much He loves them and views them the same as everyone else. "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the blind." (Luke 14:13) The verse does not say "invite your friends, the people you like to play with and your family" but rather it tells us to include everyone. Especially those who may not necessarily look, sound or act like you!

Forgive and Love

Consider discussing with the class what kinds of feelings they hold for people who bully them? What does the bible tell us to do with those who hurt us?

Jesus taught us to love others and to forgive those who hurt us.

Read Matthew 5:43-44:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."

Jesus told us clearly that we cannot hate the people who hurt us. So what do we do?

Jesus taught us to forgive, every time you see the person who hurt you, you should pray for them and ask God for their forgiveness.

Even though bullying happens a lot, that does not mean it is right. We just need to be people of God and understand that within that group of people we all are the same. There are no differences before God, just our hearts.

Being God's people means standing up for those who are hurt, loving the people who hurt us, and always offering forgiveness, just as God always forgives us!

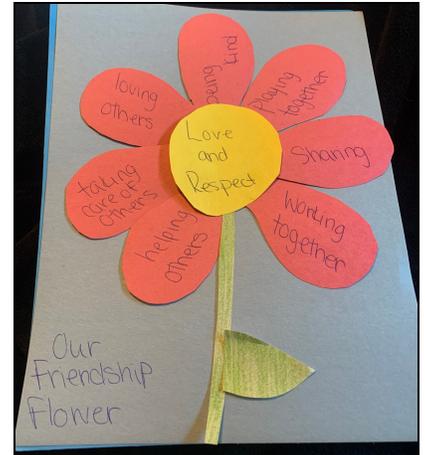
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Friendship Flower Craft:

1. Get children to pick which color construction paper they'd like to use. They need 4 different colors (stem of the flower, flower petals, head of the flower, and the background).
2. Starting with the stem of the flower, help children cut out a strip of green construction paper. This can be any length depending on how large the child wants their flower to be (the stem can not be too large though or else the rest of the flower will not fit on the background paper).
3. Help children cut a circle out of yellow construction paper. This will be the head of your flower.
4. Help children cut petals out of whichever color they choose to use as the petals. The petals will be oval-shaped. About 7 or 8 of them. Make sure they're big enough to write on.
5. After you have all your pieces to your flower, get children to glue them on their background paper (the background color can be the child's choice).
6. In the head of the flower get children to write "Love and Respect"
7. On each of the petals have children write out things they do to show their friends they love and respect them (i.e. being kind, sharing, working together, playing together, helping others, taking care of others, loving others.)
8. On the bottom of their page help them write "Our Friendship Flower"
9. Now they have a friendship flower that they can bring home with them to remind them to always love and respect others.



Behaviors Opposites Game:

1. In this game, the servants will act out a certain negative behavior related to bullying.
2. The children will be divided up into pairs or groups of three. They will first have to guess what it is the servants are doing.
3. The children must then, in their groups, try to act out the opposite behaviour. For example:
 - a. Hitting their brother → Hug their brother
 - b. Yelling at their friend → Laughing with their friend
 - c. Insulting someone → Complimenting them
 - d. Taking someone's toy → Sharing your toys.
4. Conclude the activity by reminding the children that whenever they feel hate building in their heart and want to do a negative behaviour, they should stop, and think about what Jesus would want them to do, and do the opposite of the negative behaviour.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What is bullying? (Bullying is when someone intentionally hurts someone by being physical or using hurtful words.)
- Why is it hard to love someone that is bullying you? (It is hard to love someone who is bullying because they hurt us.)
- What should we do to our bullies? (We should be kind to them and pray for their forgiveness.)
- Why is it important to forgive and love your enemies? (It is important to forgive and love our enemies because Jesus has loved and forgave us and He did the same on the cross for His enemies.)
- What did Jesus do while He was on the cross? (He prayed for His enemies.)



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can you defend a person being bullied? (We can stand up to bullies and tell them to stop, while still being kind and loving.)
- We should love all because Jesus loves all.
- How should we feel about the people who bully us? (We should forgive and love our enemies, even when they are mean to us. Jesus has taught us to love and be kind to all.)



Lesson 1.15 - Steadfast in Honoring God: St. Reweis, the Underestimated

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Stuffed toy camel.

Craft: Construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, pencils/pens, glue, tape, religious stickers (crosses), and pictures of St. Reweis.

Video: [Christian Youth Channel: St. Reweis \(4:00\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding on what it means to be a true disciple of Christ using St. Reweis' story.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Seeking God



MEMORY VERSE:



But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.



Matthew 6:33

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider asking the children to name different saints and martyrs of the church. The servant may help prompt their answers by reminding them of the icons in the church, the people in the Bible, or stories they have heard about saints.

The Church is rich with many saints from different groups; old and young; rich and poor, males and females, highly educated and illiterate. We think very highly of them and venerate them as our role models and advocates before God.

This week is the story of a poor and not well known Christian, St Reweis.



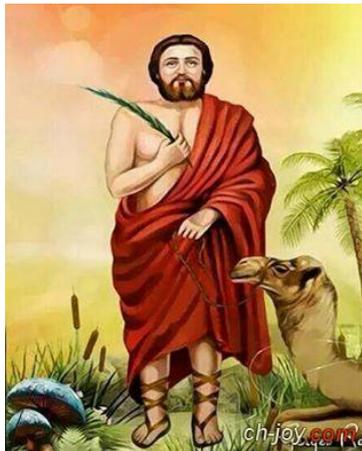
LESSON BODY:

The story is told by his camel: The servant can use a stuffed camel to connect to children:

St. Freig, commonly known as St. Reweis, was born in a small village called Meniyet Yameen, Gharbia Province, in the Egyptian Delta region. His parents, Isaac and Sarah, were poor farmers. They were pious (religious) people who brought him up in the fear of God.

Consider asking the children this question:

→ What does it mean to fear God? (To highly respect God and to submit to His will.)



At an early age, St. Freig had to work selling salt. He transported the salt on the back of me, his camel. He called me Reweis (which means small head). I loved him and listened to him as my best friend and master. I used to bow down my head whenever I heard my name called.

St. Freig lived a simple Christian life growing in the love of the Lord and the Church. When he was 20 years old, a very strong persecution of Christians suddenly flared up. Many Christians, weakened and under pressure, renounced (left or denied) their faith, among those was St. Freig's father, this grieved him very much; having faith in the Lord, he kept praying for his father with tears until he repented. *Consider encouraging the children to pray for our friends and family just like St. Freig did for his father, even if their faith is not strong. We can pray for them in church, or at home.*

After this bitter experience and seeing what was happening to the Christians around the country, St. Freig left his village and set off to Cairo to encourage and strengthen the faithful. On his way, he felt tired and slept under a tree. In his sleep, he saw a vision: two radiant men appeared before him and said, "You are weary and hungry, come partake of the heavenly food." They carried him to a celestial church where he received the Holy Communion; then they took him back to where he was.

St. Freig continued his journey to Cairo and from there to Upper Egypt, moving from town to town having no place to lay his head. On this journey, he took for himself my name, 'Reweis', out of sheer humility. As he journeyed, he preached words of comfort, having one aim: to strengthen the faith of the persecuted Christians. During this time, he worked for a living and spent his nights watching and praying. He moved



constantly from one place to another to keep away from glory; for many people became aware of his righteousness.

St. Reweis abstained from every comfort of life. He used to spend long periods in deserted places while praying and fasting. He ate very little food and used to fast, not eating any food for two or three days at a time. It is said that he succeeded in remaining without eating for 26 days. He walked almost naked; like St. John the Baptist.

The only covering on his body was a girdle about his loins, he was bareheaded and bare-footed enduring blazing heat and severe cold. At some point in his life, he lived in a hut made of palm leaves. In his humility, he called himself Tiji which means crazy. This led many people to mock him, curse him, spit on him and even throw rocks at him. He endured all these insults with patience and without complaints.

Consider asking the children this question:

→ *Who do you think St. Reweis valued? Did he value God? Did he value other people's opinions? (St. Reweis valued God, even when people bullied him for it. He stayed faithful to God)*

Through his prayers and humility, St. Reweis reached a high level of spirituality and the Lord gave him the gifts of spiritual vision, uncovering secrets and performing miracles, which he used only for the glory of God. This caused many people to gather around him and become his disciples following him wherever he went.

St. Reweis used to partake of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday with great fear and hesitation. He taught his disciples to prepare their hearts that they may be worthy of this great Mystery. When asked about the cause of his hesitation when partaking of this Holy Mystery, he replied that no one is worthy of receiving the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ except those whose inside is as pure as St. Mary's womb where she was made worthy to carry Him.

St. Reweis had great self-control. He practiced how to control his tongue and observe in silence; he succeeded in remaining without uttering a word for months on end. Knowing this, some wicked men went to him during a period of silence and tried to rouse him to speak. When they failed, they threw a live coal at him, but despite the burns, he maintained his silence.

Consider discussing with the children that even through pain he did not abandon his faith. He did not harm anyone back or take revenge upon those who hurt him.

St. Reweis is also titled, Theophanieus, which means 'he who beholds God's revelations', for the Lord appeared to him several times. He had the blessing of seeing the Glory of God filling the Sanctuary and watching His light over the head of those partaking of the Holy Eucharist. Once persecutors stoned him, but despite his sufferings, he did not open his mouth. After they had left him, some of his disciples carried him to a nearby store, where they took care of his wounds. As he sat talking with them, they suddenly saw a fire in the corner opposite them. The disciples were frightened, but he assured them saying, "Fear not, this is no fire, but the Light of Christ, appearing to confirm His promise that He will strengthen us upon the bed of languish." The Lord appeared to St. Reweis on other occasions, during one, He spoke with him.

During the last nine years of his life, St. Reweis was very ill. He spent those years in silence, enduring the pains of his ailment. People continued to visit him seeking his blessing and healing prayers. He prayed for everyone and did not turn anyone away. St. Reweis greatly honored St. Mary; so, he implored her to cause him to depart from this world on one of her commemoration days. When he knew his end was near, he called his

disciples, blessed them and told them that his departure from this world was to take place on the following morning. On the 21st day of Paope he departed in peace after having been granted his wish; for the 21st day of each Coptic month is dedicated to the commemoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the hour of his departure, no one was beside him. However, a believer living nearby attested that he had seen a woman whose radiance outshone the sun come down from heaven, receive his pure spirit and carry it up to heaven.

Consider the following quote from St. Augustine of Hippo for a better understanding about what it means to seek God's kingdom, in your preparation for the lesson.⁴¹

"But because we serve as soldiers in this life, in order that we may be able to reach that kingdom, and because our life cannot be spent without these necessities, These things shall be added unto you, says He; but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

- St. Augustine of Hippo

Our Coptic Church commemorates this saint not only on his feast day, but also in the Divine Liturgy when we mention Abba Tiji in the commemoration of the Saints. Many churches are built after his name. Icons of St. Reweis are common in our churches, depicting him wearing his simple clothing and his camel by his side

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

St. Reweis Craft⁴²:

Materials: Construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, pencils/pens, glue, tape, religious stickers (crosses) and pictures of St. Reweis.

1. Print out pictures of St. Reweis, cut the edges of it so only the picture is left.
 - a. [Image of St. Reweis](#)
 - b. [Another image of St. Reweis](#)
2. Cut out a couple of circles of either colored or back construction paper as well as a few ovals of white construction paper
3. Take a full page of any colored construction paper and glue the photo of St. Reweis a bit above the center of the page
4. Glue the previously cut circles around the picture in a circle formation
5. Then glue the white ovals cut previously on top of the circles
6. In the white ovals, write one word per oval of the quote of today's lesson "for you are all one with Christ Jesus".
7. Decorate however the children like and add the cross.



⁴¹ Augustine, 2016. *St. Augustine Collected Works*. Hastings, East Sussex: Delphi Publishing Ltd., p.308.

⁴² Jeanniesophia. (1970, January 01). St. Gregory Palamas. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <http://www.creativehandscreativeminds.com/2014/03/st-gregory-palamas.html>



VIDEO:

[Christian Youth Channel: St. Rewis \(4:00\)](#)

Questions:

- Who were Reweis' parents? (Isaac and Sarah.)
- What was the donkey's name? (Reweis.)
- Where did he go after the persecution? (Egypt.)
- What did Reweis do before he died? (He blessed all his disciples.)
- What day did St. Reweis want to depart from his life? (On one of the days commemorating St. Mary.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who was St Reweis? (A poor man, a child of farmers who was very humble etc.)
- What is the meaning of Reweis? And why is he called by this name? ("small head" is the name that the saint gave to his camel and out of humility took to himself.)
- How did he live? (He was homeless and spent all his time in prayer, fasting and silence.)
- How did people receive him? (Some loved him as a saint, some disrespected him, and some evil people hurt him.)
- What other names did he have? (His birth name was Freig, and later in his life he called himself "Tiji" which means crazy.)
- Why did he call himself that? (To avoid people thinking highly of him.)
- What do we learn from his life story? (That God does not look down on people because of their education or popularity.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

What can we do for others if their faith is weak? (Pray to God.)

We should value God's opinions over others even if they make fun of us.



Just like St. Reweis was humble, we should also practice being humble.



Lesson 1.16 - Obedience of Jacob, Rachel & Leah

Building Block I
Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Genesis 29

Craft: Speaker or phone, [key template](#), cardstock, colored construction paper, pencils, markers, crayons, pipe cleaner, hole punch, scissors, and glue.

Video: [Bible Animated Stories - Laban Tricks Jacob \(5:53\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn the blessings of obedience through the story of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Honor.



MEMORY VERSE:



So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.



Genesis 29:20

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Invite the children to think of one thing they love and really want, for example: playstation, bike, basketball, soccer ball, clothes, book, friend, family member, etc. Once the children think of the one thing they really love and want, ask the children how many of them would work for seven years in order to get this one thing.

Based on their answers, introduce the story of Jacob.

Today we are going to learn about Jacob and how he worked seven years so he could be with someone he loved.



LESSON BODY:

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if they remember who Jacob is from the Bible. Remind them that he is the son of Isaac and Rebekah, and the grandson of Abraham.

As Jacob went on his journey, he saw a well covered with a large stone in a field with three flocks of sheep lying by it. Jacob asked the shepherds by the sheep where they were from. They answered and told him they were from Haran. When Jacob heard where they were from he asked them if they knew Laban, the son of Nahor; the shepherds knew him.

At that moment, a young woman named Rachel came with her father's sheep as she was a shepherdess. Jacob rolled away the stone for Rachel so that her sheep could drink. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and Rachel ran back home and told her father, who was named Laban. When Laban heard, he went to meet Jacob and welcomed Jacob back to his house.

Jacob asked to serve Laban in his home. But Laban told Jacob that he could not serve him for nothing, and asked what his wage would be. *Prompt the children to notice how God is continually helping Jacob on his journey. Someone who is helped from God is never left alone.* Jacob told him that he wanted to marry Rachel. He said he would serve him for seven years to be able to marry Rachel and Laban agreed.

After seven years of serving, Jacob asked Laban to marry Rachel. Laban put together a feast for the wedding but at the wedding he brought Leah, his older daughter, to marry Jacob. Laban tricked Jacob! Why do you think he did this?

Allow the children to discuss their thoughts.

Consider the following quote from St. John Chrysostom for a better understanding about Laban seeing Jacob's virtue, in your preparation for the lesson.⁴³

Laban told Jacob it was custom to marry the oldest daughter first. Leah was older than Rachel, so Laban wanted Leah to be married first. It seems like a trick, but Church Fathers like St. John Chrysostom suggested to us that it was out of love. Laban asked Jacob to work for him for another seven years in order to marry Rachel. What do you think you would have done if you were Jacob? Would you obey Laban and work for another seven years, making that 14 years in total? That's a lot!

Allow the children to discuss their thoughts.

Jacob agreed and worked for another seven years out of his obedience and love for Rachel and Laban. After those seven years, he married Rachel who he loved and wanted from the beginning and had many children

"[First], there is Jacob's simplicity in being deceived through his own ignorance of any wickedness; [...]. It is possible, however, to learn from this incident Laban's affection for Jacob. You see, his purpose in devising this scheme was to keep the good man with him longer. I mean, he realized that Jacob was madly in love with one daughter and that, had he attained the object of his desire, he would then not have chosen to undergo servitude for the sake of Leah or reside with Laban. Hence, seeing Jacob's virtue and realizing that he would not otherwise get the better of him or persuade him, he had recourse to this deception and gave him Leah with her maidservant Zilpa."

- St. John Chrysostom

⁴³ Sheridan, M., & Oden, T. C. (2002). *Genesis 12-50: Ancient Christian commentary on Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL, Illinois: InterVarsity Press.

with Leah and Rachel. Once again, because of Jacob's patience and honor before God, the Lord protected and guided Jacob throughout his life.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Obey Dance Activity⁴⁴:

1. Tell the children to get in a circle as you will be explaining an activity to them.
2. Turn on the music and select a child to come to the center of the circle. This child will perform a movement/action that everyone in the circle has to follow. This will be for about 10 seconds. Once the 10 seconds are up, the child returns to their place in the outer circle and the child to their left goes to the center of the circle and performs a different movement/action that the rest of the children have to follow. This process repeats until all of the children have performed a movement/action!
3. Once the activity is complete, state how hard it is to obey commands sometimes. Point out how long Jacob had to wait to marry Rachel. That would take a lot of obedience! However, if we are close to God, we can become more obedient, just like Jacob!

Keys to Obedience Craft⁴⁵:

Before class, [print out copies of the key template](#) for the children on cardstock paper.

1. Tell the children that they will be making a key chain which will teach them the 4 keys to obedience! Point out how Jacob was obedient to Rachel and Leah's father in the story.
2. Instruct the children to cut out their key template as it will be used as a tracer.
3. Once children have cut out their key templates, tell them to put their tracer on top of a colored piece of construction paper and trace around the key. They will repeat this 4 times (children can use different colored pieces of paper for each key if they wish).
4. After children have traced their keys onto their colored pieces of construction paper, instruct them to cut out the keys.
5. Once children have cut out their keys, tell them to write "Immediately" on the 1st key using a marker. Explain that we should respond immediately when told to do something, such as cleaning our rooms!
6. Next, tell the children to write "Cheerfully" on the 2nd key. If we are happy about doing our chores, it will make the chore more enjoyable to do!



⁴⁴ Follow the leader. (n.d.). Retrieved August 07, 2020, from

<https://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/obedience/hands-options/follow-leader>

⁴⁵ Keys to Obedience (Tutorial). (2011, October 23). Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://www.thebettermom.com/blog/2011/10/23/keys-to-obedience-tutorial>



7. Next, tell the children to write “Completely” on their 3rd key. We must do our chore completely! If we do not clean the dishes to the best of our ability, we are not being truly obedient! Lastly, tell the children to write “Without Complaining” on the 4th key. We must be respectful of our parents when they tell us to do something and should obey what they say without arguing.
8. children can further decorate their keys as they see fit.
9. Give children an index card or similar sized piece of paper and instruct them to write this week’s memory verse on the card, which shows Jacob’s obedience.
10. Once children have written on and decorated their keys, ask them to hole punch the ends of the keys & index cards.
11. Give a pipe cleaner to each child. Instruct the children to slide the pipe cleaner through the hole and tie off.



VIDEO:

[Bible Animated Stories - Laban Tricks Jacob \(5:53\)](#)

Questions:

- Where did Jacob meet Rachel? (At the well.)
- Did Jaacob want to Marry Rachel or Leah? (He wanted to marry Rachel.)
- How many years did Jacob work to marry rachel? (14 years.)



SONG:

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have children line up side by side. Tell them you will say a statement. If the child agrees they would do what the statement says, they will take a step forward.

- I will share with others.
- I will pray daily.
- I will help my parents out around the house when they ask me.
- I will try my best when completing my homework.

Hopefully the children would take a step forward to each of these statements. Conclude by telling the children just like Jacob put his best foot forward and obeyed, we should always put our best foot forward in all things we do.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Sometimes in life, we are told to do things that do not seem to make much sense. This is what happened to Jacob in the story we learned today. Jacob had to work a total of fourteen years to be with Rachel. He was willing to do this for her because he loved her so much. Likewise, if we love God so much, what are we willing to do to be with him?
- Allow the children to discuss. Remind the children of the practical examples of this they agreed to live by in the review section of the lesson.
- If we love God, we will obey His commands and respect those around us, even if it is sometimes difficult for us.



Building Block 2: God Wants Us to Share and Be Grateful

Lesson 2.IS - (SPECIAL for THE NATIVITY FAST): God's Gift: Himself

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Bibles.

Scripture References: Luke 2: 1-20

Craft: Christmas hamper boxes (one per child), cardstock paper, markers, stickers, glitter, canvas grocery bags, string, scissors, sweaters, jackets, large spoons, combs/hair brushes, soap, plastic plates, cups, purses, wallets, toy carpentry tools (for Joseph the Carpenter), sleeping bags, etc.

Song: [Away In A Manger](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will revisit the story of Nativity and understand the importance of God's greatest gift to us, Himself.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratitude and Generosity.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

”

Luke 2:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Christmas time is an exciting time to celebrate, but as Christians, we celebrate for a very specific reason. The birth of Jesus!



Is Christmas just about Jesus' birthday? A day where Jesus gets gifts and blows out candles? No! That is how we celebrate our birthday; however, Jesus' birth is not about that. The birth of our Lord means so much more to us.

Nativity is the time where we celebrate God's greatest gift to us - Himself. God became man to save our souls through the glorious feast of Nativity. We are so lucky! Everything He has done through this is for our salvation.

If the servant would like more content and information on this idea, consider watching this video: [Coptic Orthodox Answers \(Q&A\) E19: Is the feast of Nativity simply Christ's birthday?](#)



LESSON BODY:

Split the children up in even groups of three. Have each group read the bible passage and answer a few questions. Each group will have two factual questions and one higher order question with a church father commentary to help guide the discussion. Teams can present their learning to others.

Consider the following quote from St. John Chrysostom for a better understanding about Jesus coming down to die for our salvation, in your preparation for the lesson.⁴⁶

Luke 2: 1-7

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Questions:

- Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem? (Caesar Augustus ordered people to go back to their own city in order to be registered.)
- Where was Jesus born? (A manger.)
- Why is the birth of our Lord such a joyful feast? Why does it carry such significance to us? (Allow the children to discuss and emphasize that God's greatest gift is Himself.) *This question is more*

"A feast day is about to arrive, and it is the most holy and awesome of all feasts. It would be no mistake to call it the chief and mother of all holy days. What feast is that? It is the day of Christ's birth in the flesh. It is from this day that the feasts of the theophany, the sacred Pasch [Passover], the ascension and Pentecost had their source and foundation. Had Christ not been born in the flesh, he would not have been baptized, which is the theophany or manifestation. Nor would he have been crucified, which is the Pasch. Nor would he have sent down the Spirit, which is Pentecost. Therefore, just as different rivers arise from a single source, these other feasts have their beginnings in the birth of Christ."

- St. John Chrysostom

⁴⁶ Just, A. A. (2003). *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: New Testament: Luke*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



open-ended, but the servant should conclude by paraphrasing from an interpretation from a church father. For example, St. John Chrysostom (see quote above) emphasizes that Nativity is the “most holy and awesome of all feasts” because all other feasts central to our faith and salvation come from this.

Luke 2: 8-14

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Consider the following quote from St. Cyril of Alexandria for a better understanding about Jesus’ Humility and Humanity, in your preparation for the lesson.⁴⁷

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Questions:

- Why did the angel tell the shepherds not to be afraid? (The news of the birth of Jesus is a great joy to all people because He is our Savior.)
- What was the sign the shepherds were told to look for? (A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger.)
- Why do you think it’s significant that Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born in a manger? (Allow the children to discuss their thoughts and emphasize that Jesus’ birth in a manger represents His humble incarnation to us on earth to save us.) *This question is more open-ended, but the servant should conclude by paraphrasing from an interpretation from a church father. For example, St. Cyril of Alexandria (see quote above) states that Jesus’ birth in a manger represents His coming down for us as the body of life, in the same way beasts receive nourishment from mangers. servants can guide the discussion using the [commentary by St. Cyril of Alexandria](#) above.*

“He found humanity reduced to the level of the beasts. Therefore he is placed like feed in a manger, that we, having left behind our carnal desires, might rise up to that degree of intelligence which befits human nature. Whereas we were brutish in soul, by now approaching the manger, yes, his table, we find no longer feed, but the bread from heaven, which is the body of life.”

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

Luke 2: 15-20

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. **17** Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told to them concerning this Child. **18** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all

⁴⁷ Just, A. A. (2003). *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: New Testament: Luke*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Questions:

- What did the shepherds see when they went to the place the angel told them of? (They found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.)
- What did the shepherds tell the people? (They made it widely known the saying which was told to them concerning this Child.)
- Why do you think the shepherds returned with such joy wanting to share the news of what they saw with everyone? (Allow the children to discuss their thoughts and emphasize that there was such joy over this because this birth represents a heavenly union of man and God through Christ.) *This question is more open-ended, but the servant should conclude by paraphrasing from an interpretation from a church father. For example, St. Cyril of Alexandria (see quote above) explains that the peace announced by the angel represents our reconciliation with Christ.*

“This peace has been made through Christ, for He has reconciled us by Himself to God and our Father, having taken away our guilt, which was the ground of offense also. He has united two nations in one man, and has joined the heavenly and the earthly in one flock.”

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

We have learned about the story of the birth of our Lord. God’s greatest gift to us is Himself.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Christmas Hamper and Christmas Card:

Christmas Hamper

The servant will need to determine an organization it will partner with prior to the lesson. Suggested organizations can be: local food bank, Operation Christmas Child, Pack a Shoebox, Salvation Army, etc. Christmas hampers can also be given to congregation members in need.

1. Give each child a Christmas hamper box.
2. Tell the children this week they will fill this box with essentials for those that are less fortunate
3. Provide each child with a list of items that can be added to the box (Servant can obtain this list by determining which organization the hampers will be delivered to).



Christmas Card:

1. Give each child a cardstock paper.
2. Have the children fold the paper in half evenly (the servant should guide the children by showing them).

3. Explain to the children that they will make a Christmas card to someone less fortunate. These cards will be added to the hampers the children make over the week.
4. Provide children with markers, stickers, glue, any other decorative material.
5. Have each child write the memory verse in the center of the card.
6. Allow children to decorate and draw their cards as they like.

“Saddle Up!” Activity⁴⁸:

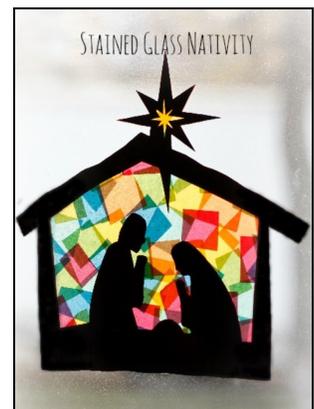
Before class, find items that could be used in the activity (in the church, from home, or borrowed from people) and place them in various places in the room.

1. Divide the children into 2 teams
2. Inform the children that they, like Mary and Joseph, must travel to Bethlehem to fulfill the census required by Caesar, but first they will need to pack some items on their journey!
3. Give each team a list of items that they will need to find and have them race against each other to assemble their items.
4. While the children are searching for their travel supplies, appoint an adult to act as each team’s donkey (by going down on their hands and knees). When the children have all of their items assembled, inform them that the race isn’t over yet. They have to pack all of their items on their “donkey”!
5. Provide 2 canvas grocery bags per “donkey” plus string and scissors and have the children race to invent some saddlebags for the donkey. The team that has packed all of the items on their donkey wins!
6. Remind children of the Nativity Story and how Mary and Joseph had to pack up their belongings and make the long trip by Donkey to Bethlehem. But their effort was worth it as Mary gave birth to the Son of God! We should all be grateful for Mary and Joseph’s obedience to God as well as Jesus who came to the earth to forgive us of our sins!

“Stained Glass Nativity Ornament” Craft⁴⁹:

Before class, [Print out the Nativity template](#) and cut out square pieces of the colored tissue paper (put all of these pieces in little plastic containers with the lid on).

1. Tell the children that they will be making an ornament that reminds them of the Nativity Story!
2. Hand out a template to each child and instruct them to use their scissors to cut out the Nativity Story scene on their templates (Servants may need to help in cutting the interior of the Nativity scene)
3. Now that the children have cut out their Nativity Silhouettes, they can place the silhouette on top of a black piece of construction paper and trace around and inside of it.
4. Once the silhouette has been traced onto the black construction paper, children can cut out the new silhouette which will look like the silhouette in the picture



⁴⁸ Wilson, C. (n.d.). Biblically themed Christmas games for children. Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/biblically-themed-christmas-games-for-children>

⁴⁹ Stained Glass Nativity. (2012, December 05). Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <http://www.housingaforest.com/stained-glass-nativity/>



5. Once the children have cut out their Nativity Scene, instruct them to lay out their contact paper sticky side up and center the nativity silhouette on top of the contact paper.
6. The children can place squares of the tissue paper inside of the nativity silhouette to create the look of stained glass.
7. Once children have filled their Nativity scenes with tissue paper, lay a second sheet of contact paper on top of the craft. Be careful not to trap air bubbles. Trim the excess contact paper with scissors.
8. The Ornament can either be taped to a window or can be hole punched so that the children can put a string/ribbon through it and use it as an ornament!



SONG:

AWAY IN A MANGER

AWAY IN A MANGER,

NO CRIB FOR HIS BED

THE LITTLE LORD JESUS

LAI D DOWN HIS SWEET HEAD

THE STARS IN THE BRIGHT SKY

LOOKED DOWN WHERE HE LAY

THE LITTLE LORD JESUS

ASLEEP ON THE HAY

THE CATTLE ARE LOWING

THE POOR BABY WAKES

BUT LITTLE LORD JESUS

NO CRYING HE MAKES

I LOVE THEE, LORD JESUS

LOOK DOWN FROM THE SKY

AND STAY BY MY SIDE,

'TIL MORNING IS NIGH.

BE NEAR ME, LORD JESUS,

I ASK THEE TO STAY

CLOSE BY ME FOREVER

AND LOVE ME I PRAY

BLESS ALL THE DEAR CHILDREN

IN THY TENDER CARE

AND TAKE US TO HEAVEN

TO LIVE WITH THEE THERE

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the children's understanding of the lesson by using a sharing circle. Have the children sit in a circle and one by one, they can share one of the following:

- One thing they learned about Nativity
- One thing they will work on or change about themselves after learning about the Nativity
- Something they still do not fully understand
- A concept they want to learn more about



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

With the feast of nativity how are we going to show gratitude and joyfulness in our everyday lives?

- Be cheerful! Do not complain about small injustices. This is a time we should carry our cross joyfully.
- Be forgiving! Jesus was born in flesh in order to save us and gave us forgiveness of our sins. We need to forgive anyone who may have upset us.
- Use our time wisely! During this feast we can use our time to give back.

If the servant would like more content and information on these application ideas, consider reading this blogpost: Fr. Moses Samaan - [Beginning the Nativity Fast: More than a Diet](#)



Lesson 2.2 - Gift Offering of Forgiveness: Cain and Abel

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Genesis 4:1-16

Craft: Pencils/pens, paper, bowl or hat, lamb template, black construction paper, cotton balls, glue, and scissors.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of the importance of generosity and giving the best things they have.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity



MEMORY VERSE:



Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.



Proverbs 3:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Ask the children if they were to bring a gift for their Sunday school teacher, what would it be?

Have the children each talk about what they would bring and why. Don't do any teaching yet; just observe. During the sharing time, did any of the children indicate that their gifts were more meaningful than others? Did any of the children try to be especially generous?



Just like we did today in this little game, today we're going to talk about two people who brought gifts, not to their Sunday school teacher but to God!



LESSON BODY:

The Bible tells us in Genesis 4 that God gave Adam and Eve two sons:

1. The first born was called Cain and he became a farmer.
2. The second born was called Abel and he was a shepherd.

One day each one of them brought a sacrifice to the Lord, Cain brought some of his harvest, and Abel was very generous and brought the firstborn of his flock, the fattest and choicest of his lambs. Abel gave the best he had to God and put God as a priority but Cain did not offer the best he had. God saw the heart behind each offering, and God was happy with Abel's offering because he was generous and gave God the best he had but not with Cain's.

Consider the following quotations from St. John Chrysostom for a better understanding about God's deep love for Cain, in your preparation for the lesson.⁵⁰

Cain saw what happened and he became jealous of his brother and became angry.

God asked him, "Why are you angry? If you do well, you will be accepted too?" God still wanted to give him another chance, He spoke to him with love. Unfortunately, instead of saying sorry and trying to do better next time, he just kept being angry. Because God knows that this anger is not right, he told Cain that his jealousy and anger were dangerous. But again, Cain didn't listen to God. He was still angry. So, one day, when he was in the field with Abel, Cain let his jealousy and anger rule, and he made a horrible mistake, he killed his brother!

Sin can't be hidden from God because He knows all things. When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain pretended not to know but God already knew that Cain killed Abel. Cain said to God, "I do not know where my brother is, am I my brother's keeper?"

When God saw Cain's sin, He was sad, God still loves Cain no matter what, but God does not like sin. So Cain was sent away and lived in a different land called the land of Nod, he was no longer a farmer but wandered around in the land. He did not enjoy the life that he previously had being close to God.

"Since Abel made his offering with a proper attitude and pure intention, "God took notice," the text says that is, he accepted, he was satisfied, he approved of them; but it called the offerings gifts, by this means dignifying the attitude of the offerer. "And whereas to Cain and his offerings he paid no heed." Notice the precision of Sacred Scripture: by the phrase "he paid no heed""

- St. John Chrysostom

"After all, our Lord is loving, and when we err he does not turn away from us because of our error as if we continued in the error on the contrary, he keeps no record of it. In order that you may learn this with precision and see the indescribable magnitude of the loving kindness, consider in these present events the exceeding degree of his goodness and the extent of his longsuffering. "

- St. John Chrysostom

⁵⁰ Chrysostom, J., & Hill, R. C. (1990). *Fathers of the Church: Homilies on Genesis, 18-45* (pp. 15-16). Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press.

Even with all that, God is still so kind and merciful. He did not abandon Cain and prevented anyone from killing him or taking revenge on him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Charades of Selfishness:

Check for the children' understanding of the story and the depth to which they have reflected on how it relates to their lives with a game of charades.

Have the children write down one act of selfishness and jealousy (like Cain) to be placed in a hat or bowl. Work closely with the children to make sure they are writing down things we do that truly are similar to Cain's selfish offering and jealous reaction in the story.

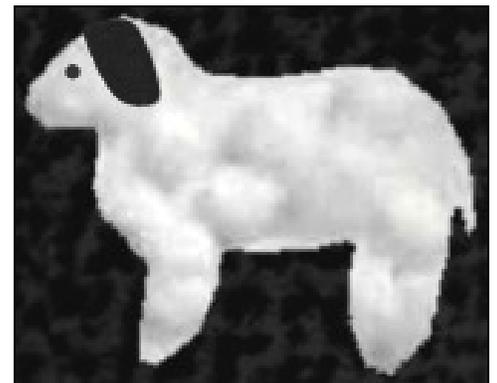
Then have the children each pick a paper to act out in front of the class. Breaking the children up into groups of 4 or 6 will work best in larger classes. You could even break them up into teams if you have enough children.

Remember, though, that the assessment is meant to show how well children are able to reflect on the ways they have been or can be jealous like Cain or generous like Abel. That means you need to make sure the jealous acts they write down really do connect with the story.

When the children finish a few rounds of Cain Charades, have them repeat the process by writing down generous acts like Abel and acting them out in front of groups.

Lamb Craft⁵¹:

1. Put dabs of glue on the lamb and add the cotton balls.
2. Help children cut out the lamb shape.
3. Glue it to a piece of construction paper (any color the child prefers).
4. Help the children cut out a small oval shape from black construction paper and glue it on like an ear.
5. Help children cut out a tiny circle and glue it on as an eye.



VIDEO:

[Genesis 4 - Cain and Abel Bible Story \(3:24\)](#)

Questions:

- Cain and Abel were the son of who? (Eve.)

⁵¹ DLTK's Crafts for Kids Lamb Paper Craft. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mlamb.htm>



- What did Cain like as he grew up and what did Abel like as he grew up? (Abel became a shepherd and Cain became a farmer.)
- What did Cain offer God? What did Abel offer God? (Cain offered fruit from the ground. Abel offered the best of his sheep.)
- What does Cain do to his brother? (He killed his brother Abel.)
- What did God do with Cain after he killed his brother? (God sent him to another land where he was not a farmer and became a wanderer.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did Cain and Abel offer to God? (Cain offered fruit from the ground. Abel offered the best of his sheep).
- What does Genesis say about Abel's offering? (It was the fatty portion, the firstling of his flock).
- Why didn't God accept Cain's offering? (because he was generous and gave God the best he had).
- What warning and advice does God give to Cain about being angry? (Why are you angry? If you do well, you will be accepted to. God advised Cain that anger and jealousy are dangerous).
- What does Cain do despite God's warning? (He killed his brother Abel).
- How does God deal with Cain? (He sent Cain to another land named Nod where he cannot be a farmer and he has to be a wanderer).
- Does God completely abandon Cain? (No, he doesn't abandon anyone because God is merciful).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

In the story we saw how God accepted the offering of Abel but not of Cain because Abel was very generous and gave God the best he had.

Today we should do the same, we should give God generously and also the best of what we have. How do we do that?

- Give away some of our best toys to those less fortunate.
- Give God the best of our time in prayer and reading the Bible.



→ Before we start anything, like playing or doing homework, we can stand up and pray. We are giving God our best time.

Invite the children to implement one of the ideas this week in their routines.



Lesson 2.3 - Forgiveness that Shares: Joseph and His Brothers

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Paper and pencils.

Scripture References: Genesis 37:1-30, 39:1-23, 41: 37-57, 42:1-38, 43:1-34, 45:1-28, 46:1-34.

Craft: Bags filled with heavy items (canned food, books etc.), clear plastic cups, water, sharpies, balloons, straws, clear empty water bottles, three different colors of food coloring, scissors, tape and/or sticky tack.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: The Story of Joseph - Genesis 37-50 \(4:42\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Just as Joseph shared and forgave his brothers, the children will learn to share and forgive everyone, not just those they love.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness



MEMORY VERSE:

“

But as for you, you meant evil against me: but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

”

Genesis 50:20



Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Casting Stones⁵²:

Arrange for a child or servant from a different class to come and “steal” the crayon box and run away.

The servant or another assistant apprehends and brings them back (just walk out of the room and get them). Ask the children what the criminal’s punishment should be.

Explain to the children that in ancient times, some criminals were stoned. Pass out paper and pencils/pens. Ask them to wad the paper into a ball and if they think the criminal should be punished, they can throw their paper ball at them. BUT before they can cast their “stone,” they must first write something wrong that they have done.

Consider asking the children their feelings now about casting the “stones” and discuss what Jesus would say about this ‘criminal’.

This activity links to how Joseph forgave his brothers even though they wronged him. We need to always forgive because even we sin sometimes too.

Consider asking the children these questions:

- *When we share, who do we share with? (Friends, family, siblings etc.)*
- *Would you share with someone you do not like? (Let the children discuss with their peers.)*
- *Can you forgive someone if they did something really mean to you? (Let the children discuss)*

Today’s lesson is about someone named Joseph. We will see how he would respond in a similar situation of sharing with his brothers.



LESSON BODY:

Joseph is the son of Jacob and they used to live in the land of Canaan along with his 11 brothers. Unfortunately these brothers did not treat him well and were jealous of him because their father loved him and he gave him a nice colorful coat.

Consider reminding the children about the story of Cain and how he was jealous of his brother. Consider asking them what they would do if they were jealous of their siblings or friends (Allow them time to discuss.)

⁵² Watson, M. (2020, July 14). Games on Forgiveness for Children. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://www.ehow.co.uk/info_8201386_garden-judas-betrayal-activities-kids.html



Joseph's brothers were jealous of him so they treated him really badly. In the end, they sold him as a slave to some people passing by who took him to Egypt and told their father that Joseph was killed. Imagine how Joseph would have felt at that time! But Joseph was a good man and trusted God, he worked really hard when he was in Egypt and the Pharaoh saw that God was with Joseph in everything he did so he made him the second man of Egypt!

A while later there was a famine everywhere and Joseph was in charge of the food supply in Egypt. His family were still in the land of Canaan and they had no food so they went to Egypt to get food from there. They were going to get a huge surprise!

When they went to the Governor of Egypt, they did not recognize that this was their brother! Who would have imagined that their own brother, who they sold as a slave, would be the governor of the whole land of Egypt? When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them though!

Consider discussing that Joseph had gone through a very hard time because of what his brothers did to him. What do you think Joseph should do? Should he share the food with them or leave them to starve? (Give time for the children to share their thoughts.)

Joseph was a good man who loved God so much.

Consider asking the children what would God want us to do in this situation? (To do the right thing!)

He decided to do what's right and help his brothers even after all the things they did to him. However, first, he wanted to test them to see if they meant any harm and also to teach them a lesson!

Joseph asked them "Why are you here" and the brothers told Joseph that they wanted to buy food. Joseph said "No, you are spies." They denied it and said they came to buy food and that their little brother, Benjamin, was still in the land of Canaan. They realized they were in trouble and started to question themselves and started to feel bad for what they had done to their younger brother Joseph and how they sold him as a slave.

Joseph had his brother's sacks filled with grain and put their money back into their sack without them knowing. Joseph also gave them more things for their journey! See how kind Joseph was to his brothers?

Consider discussing with the children the difficulties of forgiving others when they have done something mean, but God wants us to give, just as Joseph will forgive his brothers.

When they went back, they opened their sacks to find the grain as well as their money!! He actually gave them all the food for free! They were so scared, maybe the governor would think that they did not pay for all the food they took.

When the food ran out again, the brothers worried about returning to Egypt for more food. But Egypt was the only country with food to sell. They told Jacob that the governor told them not to return unless they brought their youngest brother.

The brothers returned to Egypt and told Joseph's servant that they had returned with the money that was in their sacks last time and enough money to buy more food.

They bowed at his feet and Joseph asked how they were and if their father was still alive. They told Joseph that their father was well and then Joseph looked up and saw his young brother, Benjamin.



Joseph started to cry. He sent all of his servants out and with only his brothers left, Joseph told them that he was Joseph, their brother!

Consider the following quote from St. John Chrysostom for a better understanding about Joseph's willingness to forgive despite their wrong doings, in your preparation for the lesson.⁵³

They asked themselves, what would their brother do to them after all they did to him? He told them not to be upset, because it was God's plan for him to be in Egypt during this famine. Joseph hugged Benjamin and told them to bring their families to Egypt to live because there was still 5 years of famine and he did not want them to die.

"Don't be hard on yourselves; don't think," Joseph says, "that you did these things to me out of your intent. It was not so much from your malice in my regard as from God's wisdom and ineffable love that I should come here and now be in a favorable position to provide nourishment to you and the whole country."

- St. John Chrysostom

Joseph's father, Jacob, and all his brothers then moved to the land of Egypt and Joseph put them in the best of the land, in the land of Ramses. He provided them with food and they all stayed in the land of Egypt with him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Bearing Burdens⁵⁴:

1. Prepare several bags with heavy items (canned foods, books etc.). These bags will represent burdens.
2. Line two teams up at one end.
3. Give each child a burden bag, This will represent the burden of carrying grudges.
4. If you do not have enough station helpers at the goal line to return bags back to the waiting children during the race.
5. Another helper will stand at the finish line representing God.
6. Each child carries his/her burden bag to the opposite goal and asks for God's forgiveness.
7. Helper representing God, will remove the burden to allow the child to race back burden-free,
8. The first team to get rid of all their burden bags wins.

When we ask for God's forgiveness or when we grant forgiveness to others it is like a burden being taken away, just like in the relay race.

⁵³ Chrysostom, J., & Hill, R. C. (1992). *Homilies on Genesis 46-67*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press.

⁵⁴ Watson, M. (2020, July 14). Games on Forgiveness for Children. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://www.ehow.co.uk/info_8201386_garden-judas-betrayal-activities-kids.html



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: The Story of Joseph - Genesis 37-50 \(4:42\)](#)

Questions:

- Why did Joseph's brothers push him in the pit? (They were jealous that he was the most loved, and they were upset at the special dreams he was having.)
- Who was Joseph sold as a slave to? (An Egyptian man called Potiphar.)
- How did Joseph end up in jail? (Potiphar's wife lied about him.)
- Did Joseph abandon God when he was in jail? (No, despite all of the things that were done to him, he stayed true to God.)
- What did Joseph interpret from the Pharaoh's dream? (A famine was coming and the kingdom had to stock up food to prepare.)
- How did Joseph respond when his own brothers came to him for food and help during the famine? (He forgave them and brought his whole family to live with him in Egypt.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How many brothers did Joseph have? (11 brothers).
- How did they treat him? (Bad, they were jealous of him.)
- When Joseph was a slave, how did he behave? (He worked so hard and was faithful.)
- What made his brothers come to Egypt? (because there was a famine in the land of Canaan, they went to buy food from Egypt.)
- Which brother was not with them when they went the first time? (Benjamin).
- Did Joseph reveal himself to his brothers the first time they came? Why? (No, he wanted to test them and also teach them a lesson.)
- Did Joseph leave his brothers to starve? (No, he gave them food and also gave them all their money back.)
- After Joseph told them that he was their brother, what did he do? (He cried).
- What did Joseph do to his family in the end? (Joseph provided them with food and they all stayed in the land of Egypt with him)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:



What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Just as Joseph showed kindness and forgiveness to his brothers, we should also forgive and be kind to those who have been mean to us.
- We should also practice sharing things with others, not just with the people we love, but with those who we may not like.
- If we have difficulty sharing or giving forgiveness, we can pray to God to help us carry the burden and help us.
- This week, how can we show forgiveness? (Not being angry at a sibling after they apologize, etc.)



Lesson 2.4 - The Dishonest Givers: Ananias and Sapphira

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: One full sized candy bar, a bag full of smaller chocolates (one per child).

Scripture References: Acts 5:1-11

Craft: Toonie, Giving Box template, cardstock (or other hardy printing paper), colored pencil crayons, markers, stickers, glitter pens, scissors, and tape or glue.

Song: [CYC: Just Like the Bird \(3:49\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn that when we give to others, we are really giving to God. Through the story of Ananias and Sapphira, they will learn that we must give for the right reason, not just to show off to others.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity, Honesty, and Integrity.



MEMORY VERSE:



But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.



Hebrews 13:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Ask for a volunteer and give them one full-sized chocolate bar. Then ask them the following questions:

- If you had to share this candy bar, how many people would you want to share it with? Would you be willing to share it with the whole class?



- What happens to the size of the pieces that you will share when there are more people to share with? (The pieces get smaller.). *You may wish to demonstrate this by splitting up the pieces of the chocolate bar for the children in the class.*
- What happens to your piece when you share with others? (It gets smaller and smaller.).
- Does that make you want to share it with the whole class or just a few people? *If they still want to share it with the whole class, ask everyone if they agree. Ask if anyone would prefer to keep the whole chocolate bar for themselves.*

Show the bag of smaller chocolates for each child to the class. Would knowing that I have this supply of candy to distribute to all of you affect how generous you would be with your candy bar? (Yes, because they would have known they have plenty and can give more.).

Hand the bag of chocolates to your volunteer and tell them to take the bag and share it with the class—and, by the way, that they get to keep the big candy bar!

Today we are going to read about two people who did not have faith and lied to the apostles because they did not want to be generous.



LESSON BODY:

The book of Acts tells us about some important things that the first Christians learned. This story is about a very serious lesson they learned about telling the truth and being an honest and generous giver.

The church in Jerusalem grew bigger and bigger every day. People heard about Jesus and then told other people. Soon hundreds and hundreds and even thousands of people decided to follow Jesus and were baptized.

There were many different kinds of people in the church, some were poor and some were rich. But everyone shared what they had so that no one would be hungry or homeless. One good man, named Joseph, owned a piece of land and had a good idea. He sold the field and took all the money he earned to the apostles. The apostles shared the money with those who needed it. Everyone was happy to share what they had.

Everyone, that is, except a man, Ananias, and his wife, Sapphira. They wanted people to “*think*” they were really generous like Joseph but, in their hearts, they did not want to share as much as Joseph did. So, people *thought* Ananias and Sapphira were sharing, but God knew what Ananias and Sapphira were thinking in their hearts, they just wanted to show off.

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children: Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira wanted people to think they were generous? Why do you think this behavior is wrong?

In the Bible, we read that Ananias and Sapphira owned some property just like Joseph did.

They decided to sell it and give the money to the apostles like Joseph had done. The apostles could share the money with those in need and everyone would see how generous they were. But Ananias and Sapphira did not want to give all of the money to the apostles. They wanted to keep some for themselves.



So Ananias made a plan. They would tell everyone that they were giving all the money to the apostles but, really, they would secretly keep some for themselves. They thought they could tell this lie and no one would ever find out.

So Ananias hid some of the money and took the rest to the apostles. He told them, “My wife and I sold our property and here is all the money. You can give to people who need it.”

The apostles were wise men and, with God’s help, figured out the lie. The apostle Peter said, “Ananias, you could have kept that money and no one would have thought you were bad. But you decided to tell a lie about it in front of all of these people. But you have not just lied to all these people. You have lied to God. You have lied to the Holy Spirit.” Right after Peter said this everyone was shocked to see Ananias fall down and die. This was very serious!

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children: Why did the apostles and God take this lie so seriously? (You may wish to introduce the term ‘integrity’ here and begin to suggest that this behavior is wrong because that which we give is to God.)

About three hours later Sapphira came to the same place. No one had told her about Ananias so she did not know what had happened earlier. Peter asked Sapphira, “Your husband gave us the money from the property you both sold. He said that this is all the money. Is that the truth? Is this all the money?” Sapphira thought everyone still believed the lie so she said, “Yes the amount Ananias said is correct. It is all the money.”

Peter said, “Sapphira, you have lied to God and to the Holy Spirit just like your husband did. It is a very serious thing to lie to God!”

Consider the following quote from St. John Chrysostom for a better understanding about Sapphira’s wickedness that she committed, in your preparation for the lesson.⁵⁵

And everyone was shocked again when Sapphira fell down and died just like her husband did. Sapphira was taken out and buried by the same people who buried her husband.

“First he makes her learn the sin, and then shows that she will justly suffer the same punishment with her husband, since she has committed the same wickedness:”

- St. John Chrysostom

The news spread to everyone. The Christians had learned an important lesson. They knew that lying was very serious to God and that they should always tell the truth. More specifically, they learned that God wanted them to be generous and give in honest ways, not to lie and have people think more highly of them.

If Ananias and Sapphira had believed that God owned everything, they would be generous with those who themselves are generous, and if they believed that God’s riches were infinite, they would have been more willing to give and less willing to lie.

⁵⁵ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57ec81edb0d44ee10cfac8da>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Honesty Game⁵⁶: Through this game, children will understand why honesty is the best policy, and that if everyone always told the truth, we would not have to worry about who was being dishonest. Being honest in all things will build trust with others and trust from God!

1. Have children sit in a circle and close their eyes.
2. Once all eyes are closed, choose one child (give them the Toonie) to walk around the circle for a bit and have them tap a child on the shoulder to let them know to open their eyes. Once the other child has opened their eyes, the child with the Toonie will place the Toonie into the seated child's hand.
3. The child who placed the Toonie in their classmate's hand will now turn around and count to fifteen.
4. In that time, the child with the Toonie has the option of walking around the circle and choosing a new child to give the Toonie to or keeping it to themselves.
5. After fifteen seconds, have the original child stand in the center of the circle and ask each child, "Toonie, Toonie who's got the Toonie?"
6. Each child will have to say no, they don't have the Toonie.
7. If the liar is correctly guessed, then the standing child wins. If not, then the rest of the class wins.
8. The game may be repeated (time permitting).
9. At the end of the game, ask the children how they felt. Did they perhaps feel distrust? State the importance of telling the truth and that being dishonest can come with consequences (bring up the story of Ananias and Sapphira in which God punished them for their dishonesty).

The Giving Box Craft⁵⁷: The children will develop the healthy habit of giving to others and will understand that God is pleased when we give to others with an honest heart!

1. Prep: Print out the "Giving Box" [templates](#) and cut out slits in the box templates before class.
2. Hand out the "Giving Box" Templates to the children.
3. Tell the children to write the memory verse on one of the sides of the box/template (not top or bottom). "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God well pleased."
4. The children can now color and decorate the sides of the box template using the materials provided.
5. Once children have finished decorating their box templates, Instruct the children to cut around the lines of the template.
6. Tell the children to make folds along all of the dotted lines.



in

is

⁵⁶ Kate, M. (2015, September 17). Lying and an Honesty Game: "Button, Button". Retrieved August 04, 2020, from <https://www.christianitycove.com/lying-and-an-honesty-game/6979/>

⁵⁷ DIY Money Box for Kids. (2018, May 04). Retrieved August 04, 2020, from <https://craftulate.com/diy-money-box-for-kids>



7. Glue the end tab first so that the box is open at both ends (see image above).
8. Glue the base tabs in place. The lid can be glued as well but it is best to leave it open so that the children can empty their coins quickly.

Remind the children that it is important to give honestly to others as if we are giving to God. Point out to the children that Ananias and Sapphira did not give honestly but rather gave so that they could show off. God does not want us to do things for our Glory, we do things (such as giving to others) for His Glory!



SONG:

[CYC: Just Like the Bird \(3:49\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who were the husband and wife in the Book of Acts who lied about the money they gave? (Ananias and Sapphira.)
- Who were Ananias and Sapphira trying to imitate? (Joseph).
- Why did Ananias and Sapphira lie? (They wanted to seem like they were sharing to appear generous in front of others.)
- Who did Ananias and Sapphira lie to? (St. Peter - but more importantly, God Himself).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?



- We learned from our story that we have to share happily and honestly, because whatever we give, it is as if we are giving it to God. Ananias and Sapphira shared only to show off, not because they really wanted to.
- Next time when you send some of your toys to be donated or put money in the moneybox in Sunday School, you should not do it because you want your friends in Sunday school to see that you are putting money in, or because everyone else is putting in money, you should just do the same, but rather you should do it because you love God! You should put your money in quietly, without anyone seeing how much you are putting in. You should be very happy doing it because you are giving this to God Himself.
- This week do not forget to always share with others, especially when you do not want to do it!



Lesson 2.5 - Offering Your Talents: Building the Tabernacle

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Tabernacle picture.

Scripture References: Exodus 25

Craft: Cardboard, construction paper, [tabernacle template](#), glue, scissors,tape, sticky notes, and markers; [puzzle pictures](#) and small boxes/baskets.

Song: [Tasbeha Sunday Theotokia - 14th & 15th part](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop the understanding that offerings are not only made with physical items but our time, efforts, and talents too.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Sharing



MEMORY VERSE:



All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded.



Exodus 35:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

- How do we give to God? (Giving money in the collection bags on a Sunday morning, helping to clean the church building, bringing food for the needy, etc.)
- Can we give to God in our works? If we volunteer, for the church, are we giving back to God? Yes!



We see this in the Old Testament in the book of Exodus.



LESSON BODY:

Before starting the lesson it is suggested to have a picture of the tabernacle at hand to show the children. This can be placed on the wall during the lesson or a printed or electronic version that can be passed around for children to see. [Here](#) is a link for pictures of the tabernacle and the people bringing in their offerings.

God had asked Moses to build the tabernacle. What is a tabernacle? (Allow the children to answer). It's a place for everyone to pray and worship God like the church that we have today.

So, how do they do that? How do they get all the things needed to build it? A lot of things were needed to build the tabernacle! Fabric, jewels, gold, special wood, animal skins, and all sorts of rich items would be needed. People with special talents would have to work very hard to build the tabernacle.

Consider the following quote from St. Athanasius the Apostle for a better understanding about how God created us in His image like the Tabernacle, in your preparation for the lesson.
58

Moses gathered all the people and told them what God had asked them to do: to give offerings willingly—from the heart—to make the tabernacle. Where would the material come from? God's people were in a desert area far away from any shops or people with whom to trade. There was no place where they could buy these supplies. They only had what they had been able to pack hurriedly when they left Egypt. They did have some clothing and articles of silver and gold that the Egyptians had given them just before they left.

Not only that, but to those who God had given special talents, they also help with doing the work. You can give items (like gold or silver or clothing) but you can also give by using the talents that God has given you. God did not give us talents just to be popular and use it to make ourselves popular but to use it to serve God and others.

Remember that the Israelites had never seen, let alone built, a tabernacle before. God had to go step by step with them so that they would get it right. That way, also, they knew that God was in charge and not them!

As the Israelites remembered what God had done for them, they wanted to show their gratitude. One by one they began bringing their offerings to the Lord. As the materials arrived, Moses instructed the workers to begin. All kinds of craftsmen were needed: those who could work with wood and metal, those who could design and work with gems, those who could sew, weave, and embroider, and those who could spin and make cloth. Lots of people volunteered to help.

"I shall not produce things which are liable to be explained away as agreeable to the assumption of human nature; but shall offer such passages as all will allow to be decisive in proof of His divine nature. In Genesis we find God saying, "Let Us make man in Our own Image." By this plural number shewing, that there was some other person to whom He spoke. Had He been one, He would have been said to have made Him in His own Image, but there is another; and He is said to have made man in the Image of that other. "

- St. Athanasius the Apostolic

⁵⁸ AQUINAS, S. T. (2016). *Catena Aurea - Commentary on Mathew's Gospel*.: LULU COM.

Then something unusual happened! The people brought more and more things. The people were bringing so many offerings that they had to be asked to stop! The Israelites were very kind and generous, they loved God from all their hearts and wanted to serve Him in whatever way they could.

The workmen had all they needed to finish the job God had given them. They had followed God's instructions and a beautiful tabernacle was ready for worship.

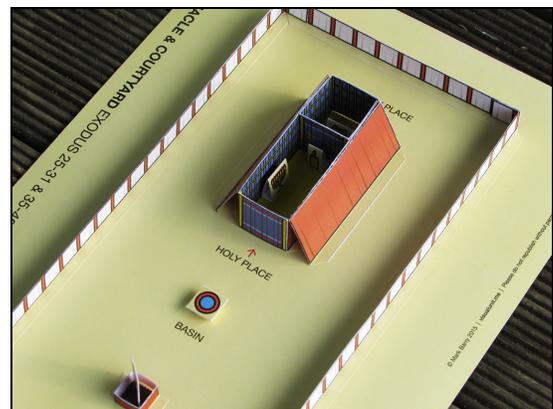
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Mini Tabernacle⁵⁹:

1. Print out the template.
2. Have the children work in groups (too many pieces to cut) or individually.
3. Put and glue the floor template on top of the cardboard to make sure it is sturdy
4. Fold and glue the areas shown to make a 3D model.
5. If they worked on it individually and didn't have time to finish it they can take it home and complete it and show their parents.



Find and Puzzle:

1. Print these pictures below and cut them into medium-large pieces.
2. Each picture/all pieces can be put into a small box with a number on it and then hide around the classroom.
3. The children can be placed into groups, which would be given a number, and each group has to go and look for the box with their team number on it.
4. When they find their box they have to work together to do the puzzle
5. The team that finishes first is the winner, however, the rest of the teams continue until all the puzzles are complete.



SONG:

⁵⁹ Puzzle Activities. (2020, March 08). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://missionbibleclass.org/teaching-ideas/visual-aids/puzzle-activities/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What was God's special tent called? (The tabernacle)
- What did they do in the tabernacle? (They prayed and worshipped God.)
- What are examples of some of the things they needed to build it? (gold, silver, fabric, wood, animal skins)
- Moses gathered all the people, what did he ask them to do? (To give their offerings to help build the tabernacle.)
- Other than the physical things, how else can they give an offering to God and help build the temple? (By their talents, if they were able to sew or make things out of metal or wood.)
- God gave the Israelites certain talents, should they use it on themselves? (No, to serve God and serve others.)
- Were the offerings a must? (No, it was up to each person, according to what is in their heart.)
- What kinds of craftsmen were needed? (Those who can work with wood and metal, design, sew and weave, spin to make cloth.)
- What unusual thing happened as they were collecting all these offerings? (They brought so much that they had to ask them to stop bringing more.)
- How can we describe those people that offered their things or their skills (They were generous, they loved God, they wanted to serve from all their heart.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Today we learned that God is the one who gives each one of us gifts and talents and how the Israelites used these talents to serve God and to do things for Him. Some women knew how to sew, so they sewed clothes, some had a talent of making things out of wood and metal, they did that. They all did it happily and all for free.
- God gives each one of us talents so that we can share it with others and do things to serve Him. We can serve Him by serving others, by using them, maybe in building the church or in doing any of the services in the church.



- Today, we should thank God for the talents He has given each one of us. You should each discover what your talents are. God gave each one of us a gift, we should discover what it is and then use it like the Israelites did.
- What can you offer and sacrifice to God this week? How about making someone in your family happy? Maybe if you struggle sharing games with your brother or sister, offer them the game this week without them asking



Lesson 2.6 - The Parable of the Rich Fool: Greed vs. Generosity

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Small or medium sized box, pencils, water bottles, stuffed toys, balls, jars or cups, and any other materials that can fit in the box (box must be full or overflowing).

Scripture References: Luke 12:16-21

Craft: Balloons, slips of paper (small enough to be rolled and put into the balloon), pins (to pop the balloon), pencils, fake coins, a bag or box to hold the coins, and chocolate dollars (optional but recommended.)

Song: [Shady Junny: Thanksgiving prayer with lyrics \(3:45\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding that we should put God first in our lives and avoid greed by being grateful for the blessings He has already provided.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity and Gratefulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



Luke 12:34

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



“Will it fit?”

Before the class, scatter the different items around the room. Write the materials that the children will need to find on the board (or print a sheet of materials for them).

Split the children into teams. Provide each team with a small or medium box or bag. Explain to the children that they will scavenge hunt around the room to pick up the items mentioned on the board as quickly as possible. They are also to stuff the items they find into their box or bag.

At the end of the "Will It Fit" scavenger hunt, ask the children, "Was it hard to fit more items into the box?" (Allow the children to share their thoughts with their peers).

Today's story will feature a man who thought he could be happy if he had a lot of things. Jesus reminded him of what should be the most important priorities. We should also remember what's key in our lives, and always put God first.



LESSON BODY:

Read Luke 2:16-21 and summarize with the children.

One day Jesus was telling the people a parable.

Consider asking the children if they know what a parable is. (A story to help people understand.)

A parable is a story to help people understand something difficult or to give them a certain message.

Someone was trying to get Jesus to settle an argument - he and his brother had money and they were supposed to divide it amongst each other.

Consider the following quote from St. Cyril of Alexandria for a better understanding about the importance of not holding on to materialistic things, in your preparation for the lesson.
⁶⁰

They were wanting to make sure they got a share of money, and felt angry that they were not receiving it. This person asked Jesus to force the money on him. But Jesus gave an interesting answer. He wanted to make sure people did not prioritize material things, and told a story about that.

Consider asking the children this question:

“It is true that a person’s life is not from one’s possessions or because of having an overabundance. He who is rich toward God is very blessed and has glorious hope. Who is he? Evidently, one who does not love wealth but rather loves virtue, and to whom few things are sufficient. It is one whose hand is open to the needs of the poor, comforting the sorrows of those in poverty according to his means and the utmost of his power.”

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

⁶⁰ St. Cyril of Alexandria. (AD 444). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/585b6d619ac03ecd4b8e74de>



→ Are there objects you really love or consider treasure? Toys? Games? (Allow the children to share their

The man had so many things that he had to build a bigger barn. He thought he could relax and enjoy life, but before the day was done, his life was over! We can not take anything with us when we die. None of our material things will last forever. Jesus knew this and wanted to remind His listeners of how important it was. Our lives cannot rely on our stuff, but on the maker of all things, on God. Jesus reminded His people that God handles everything we need. We might not always have every little thing we think we want, but we will have what we NEED. God promises this! (Luke 12:22-34.)

Consider asking the children this question:

→ How can we build up treasures in Heaven? (Give the children time to discuss.)

For one thing, we recognize that this world is not our home. There is no problem with having nice things. It is only an issue when we make those things the most important part of our lives. We want to recall all that God has blessed us with. We want to put Him first and foremost. We need to place priority on God and His people. And we can use our money to further that, too. We need a certain amount of money, but it is all mobile and flexible. It will pass away. Heaven and the Kingdom of God will last forever!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Balloon Popping⁶¹:

Preparation: Before the start of the class write several different ideas that can be classified as "selfish" and "unselfish" on small slips of paper (write at least as many as the number of children). Put each slip of paper into a balloon and inflate the balloons.

1. At the start of the activity, write on the board on one side, "selfish" with a sad face and on the other side, "Unselfish" with a happy face. Each child gets a balloon (it can be given to them in an orderly fashion or the balloons could be thrown in the air and each child must grab one). The children must break the balloons and read their slips and sort it accordingly. They can tape their slips on the board under whichever category it belongs to.
2. Alternatively, if balloons are not ideal (as some children can get scared from the popping sounds), the slips of paper can be scrunched into a ball. The children will have to unravel and read their slip of paper and sort it out.
3. Ideas for the slips of paper: stealing, taking cookies to a neighbor, standing in front of the tv when someone is watching it, taking all the credit on a school project, avoiding responsibility, giving a friend the first choice on which cookie to take, volunteering to walk your neighbor's dog, etc.

⁶¹ The Parable of the Rich Fool Group Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/parable_of_the_rich_fool_group_activities.htm

The Parable of the Rich Fool Craft⁶²:

1. Hand out light brown paper. This is the roof. Cut the edges off two short sides of the paper to resemble a roof (pentagon).
2. Hand out red paper. This is the barn.
3. Glue the bottom edge (longer side) of the roof and place it on the top edge of the red paper (longer side).
4. Hand out the larger (4.5"x 8") dark brown paper. Fold it in half like a book and cut along the folded line. These two dark brown squares are the doors to the barn. Fold in a little over a quarter of an inch (about a centimeter) in on one edge for both of the squares.
5. Place the squares side by side in the center of the barn with the folded smaller edge close to the edge of the barn. Glue the smaller folded edge of the dark brown squares and place it on the barn so the doors should open.
6. Cut the smaller(3"x 3") dark brown construction paper. Fold it in half like a book and cut along the folded line. These two rectangles are the hayloft doors. Fold in a small bit on one edge for both of the rectangles. Place the rectangles side by side in the center of the roof (with the folded smaller edge towards the edge of the barn. Glue the smaller folded edge and place it on the roof so the hayloft doors open.
7. Then on the top of the roof write "The Rich Fool" and "Luke 12:16-21".
8. Open the barn doors and write inside on the red barn "The rich fool said, 'I will build greater barns...I will eat, drink, and be merry.' and under this sentence write "BUT..."
9. Then open the hayloft doors and write "...he forgot God."
10. Decorate the craft to resemble a barn.



SONG:

[Shady Junny: Thanksgiving prayer with lyrics \(3:45\)](http://www.childrenoflightcurriculum.com/2015/01/lesson-parable-of-rich-fool.html)

⁶² Wooten, R. (2015, January 13). Parable Of The Rich Fool. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <http://childrensbiblelessons.blogspot.com/2015/01/lesson-parable-of-rich-fool.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did the man want when he went to Jesus? (He wanted to settle an argument about money.)
- Why did the man in the parable build a bar? (So that he had a place to put all his possessions.)
- What happened to the man? (He died before he could relax.)
- Where is our true treasure? (In Heaven).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Instead of wanting more we should be grateful for what has been given to us because He knows what we need.
- We should not fight or argue about worldly possessions because our true treasure is in Heaven.



Lesson 2.7 - King Ahab and Jezebel: The Dangers of Greed and Jealousy

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Balloons.

Scripture References: 1 Kings 21, Exodus 20:17, Matthew 12:34-35, Luke 6:45.

Craft: Green, purple and brown construction paper, markers/pencil crayons, glue, and sheets of paper (one per child).

Song: [ABS-CBN Star Music: Give Thanks - Janella Salvador \(Lyrics\) \(4:06\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of how greed and jealousy lead to larger sins through the story of King Ahab and Jezebel.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratitude



MEMORY VERSE:

“

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

”

1 Timothy 6:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Head, Shoulders, Knees, Grape⁶³:

1. Pair the children up and have them face their partners.
2. Place a balloon on the floor between each pair.
3. Tell the children that you will shout either “head,” “shoulders,” “knees” or “grape.” Whenever you shout a body part (e.g. shoulders), they should touch the appropriate body part. When you shout out the word “grape,” they should try to grab the balloon (“grape”) before their partner does.
4. Call out a series of the three body parts, such as: “Head, knees, shoulders, knees, head, shoulders, head, knees, head, GRAPE!”
5. The children who do not grab the grape in time will sit down.
6. The children who grabbed the grape will pair up with someone else who is still standing and play again.
7. Continue playing until one child is left standing.
8. If you have time, start all over again.

That game was so fun! It makes me think there just might be something about grapes in our Bible story today.



LESSON BODY:

Let’s open our Bibles to 1 Kings 21. *Choose volunteers to read 1 and 2.*

What does Ahab want? (Naboth’s vineyard.) Why? (It was close to his palace and he wanted to make it into a vegetable garden) How was King Ahab going to pay for the vineyard? (He was going to give him a better vineyard or pay whatever Naboth asked.)

Let’s read Naboth’s answer to King Ahab’s question in verse 3. *Choose a volunteer to read verse 3.*

Naboth’s response was out of respect and obedience to God’s commands. He was not being selfish in keeping his property so King Ahab could not have it. He had a God-given right to keep his land and not sell it. King Ahab did not respect God’s laws and had proven himself rebellious to God’s commands. His disobedience darkened his perspective of how he should be living his life. He was being greedy and wanted something that was not his.

Choose a volunteer to read verse 4.

What was Ahab’s attitude about Naboth’s response? ‘Sullen’ means showing irritation by a gloomy silence or reserve, similar to being grumpy when you do not get your way. How many of you have ever been sullen because you did not get your way? Ahab was acting like a little child by pouting because he couldn’t have Naboth’s vineyard. All of this stemmed from his greed.

Because Ahab added sin upon sin in his life, all stemming from his greed, his heart was blind to the truth of God’s word. He was not able to recognize the main sin that was causing this childish attitude. The main sin

⁶³ Kids Town Life Group Agenda - October 2018. (2018, October 25). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from https://www.celebrationchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Kids-Slot_King-Ahab-and-Naboth%E2%80%99s-Vineyard_Oct-21-28.pdf



that Ahab was committing against God is covetousness (Exodus 20:17). Does anyone know what “coveting” means?

Consider the following quote from St. Augustine of Hippo for a better understanding about what covet means, in your preparation for the lesson.⁶⁴

Allow the children to discuss before explaining that coveting means greediness for the belongings of others.

The sin of covetousness was like a seed that was planted in Ahab’s heart. He did not repent of that sin and turn away from it. As a result, the sin grew like a tree and brought forth fruit which were his words and his actions.

Jesus warned us that when sins like greed are allowed to grow in our hearts, it will come out in our words and actions (Matthew 12:34-35, Luke 6:45). Let’s see what happens next in the story.

Read verses 7-16.

When Jezebel finds out why Ahab is in a bad mood she takes matters into her own hands. She has Naboth (an innocent man) put to death. Her husband can now own the vineyard he wanted. So, greediness started in Ahab’s heart, and then ended with this very evil action at the end of the story.

Supplementary

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s property.” Don’t covet; don’t go up and down in front of that country house belonging to someone else and sigh because it’s such a fine one. Do not covet your neighbor’s property. “The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness.” What haven’t you acquired, if you have got hold of God? ”

- St. Augustine of Hippo



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Sweet and Sour Grapes Craft:

1. Have the children make two bunches of grapes by cutting circles from purple and green paper and pasting them on a sheet of paper. Make the circles big enough to write on.
2. Add a brown piece as the branches.
3. On the sweet purple bunch, name things we do that God likes: share, pray, love, be nice, etc.
4. On the sour green bunch, name things that God dislikes, especially as demonstrated in the story: jealousy, envy, murder, lying, coveting, cheating, etc.

Balloon Popping Activity⁶⁵:

1. Prep: Fill balloons with air and a slip of paper that has greedy, jealous or content scenarios written on the paper. On the white board or poster board draw a line in the middle and draw a happy face on one side and an unhappy face on the other side.
2. Have the children take turns breaking a balloon and reading their slip of paper.

⁶⁴ Oden, T. C. (Ed.). (2001). *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*. Madison, Wisconsin: InterVarsity Press.

⁶⁵ Deal Or No Deal Group Group Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/deal_or_no_deal_group_activities.htm



3. The children can then tape their slip of paper to the side that has a HAPPY FACE (for being content) or an UNHAPPY FACE (for being greedy or jealous).
4. If they get a greedy or jealous scenario have them explain how they can change it to be content.



SONG:

[ABS-CBN Star Music: Give Thanks - Janella Salvador \(Lyrics\) \(4:06\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

You may also wish to use the Balloon Popping Activity as a transition game from the review to the practical application. The children can be invited to describe practical scenarios where they are jealous or greedy and discuss how to fix and change this to prevent the growth of sin in their lives.

Review the lesson using the following questions:

- Who was Naboth? (The innocent vineyard owner.)
- What did Ahab covet? (Naboth's vineyard.)
- How did Ahab feel when Naboth said no? (Sullen, grumpy, pouty.)
- Why did Naboth not want to sell his vineyard? (The land was his inheritance and he was under no obligation to sell it.)
- What did Jezebel do? Why? (She got the men in the court to lie about Naboth to get Ahab's way.)

You may also wish to play true/false with the children. Have them sit if the answer is false and stand if the answer is true.

- Ahab was happy with all God had given him. (False).
- Naboth was an innocent man. (True).
- Jezebel discouraged Ahab from sinning. (False).
- Jezebel encouraged the men of the city to sin. (True).
- Greed is only a small problem that does not lead to other sins. (False).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Today, we saw how dangerous greed and covetousness can be in our lives. What are some examples of things we might covet? (Other kid's toys, friends, clothes, etc.). Ahab did something we all do - he



wanted something that was not his. But what this story taught us is that this sin, greed, can cause many other sins to emerge in our actions and words. Greed begins in the heart and creates other problems.

- What kinds of sins can greed and jealousy lead to? (Speaking badly about others, envy, ungratefulness to God, stealing, lying etc.).

What are some things we can do this week to stop greed from growing in our hearts?

- Focus on what I do have rather than what I do not have.
- Pray for those I am jealous of to grow a love for them in my heart.
- Give thanks to God in my prayers to remember His many blessings to me.



Lesson 2.8 - God Provides What we Need

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Candy, pictures or props (water, bike, food, shelter, candy, etc.).

Scripture References: Exodus 16

Craft: Magazines, scissors, paper, glue, markers; [quail cut out](#), feathers, blank paper, and glue; construction paper, heart cutout, and pencil crayons/markers; white/brown/black/tan playdough.

Song: [Bryan Sirchio: The Manna Song \(2:57\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The purpose of this lesson is to teach the children that sometimes we have to be patient and be satisfied with less than what we might want, but we can trust and know that God will take care of all our true needs.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Patience and Gratitude.



MEMORY VERSE:



And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.



Philippians 4:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

If food is not an option, you can use a [video](#) of this activity and show the children.

Give each child a candy and place it right in front of them. Tell them they are not allowed to eat it until you say so.

The servant can leave the room for a few minutes to really test the children's ability.



How does it feel having to wait for something? (Hard, frustrating, tempting, etc.). Today we are going to learn about how the Israelites had to wait and what happened when they became impatient and could not wait anymore.



LESSON BODY:

Begin by setting the stage for the story.

After God’s people, the Israelites, ran away from the wicked Pharaoh in Egypt, they had a hard time trusting that God was truly going to take care of their needs. God was upset and told them they would have to wait in the desert for forty years before they were able to enter the Promised Land. This was not happy news. Imagine waiting for something you want. What are some things we wait for?

Pause and allow the children to discuss.

The Israelites had to wait, and wait and wait...they grew impatient and did not want to wait anymore. Let us see what they did in Exodus 16.

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. In the desert, the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” They were growing very impatient. Do you sometimes get impatient?

Pause and allow the children to discuss.

Consider the following quote from St. Caesarius of Arles for a better understanding about what manna means and how it is likened to the word of God, in your preparation for the lesson.⁶⁶

“Manna is interpreted as “What is this?” See whether the very power of the name does not provoke you to learn it, so that when you hear the law of God read in church you may always ask and say to the teachers: What is this? This it is that the manna indicates. Therefore if you want to eat the manna, that is, if you desire to receive the word of God, know that it is small and very fine like the seed of the coriander”

- St. Caesarius of Arles

They started to whine about how bored and hungry they were. Then one morning, there appeared on the ground some special food! The people did not know exactly what it was, so they called it “Manna,” which means “what is it.” So God provided what they needed! Did God provide for them because they were whining? No! He did because He loves His children and will always provide what they need.

They ate the Manna, but then they got a little tired of that and asked God for more. So, God let some yummy chicken nuggets fall from the sky! Well, actually they were quail birds, but it was like chicken.

⁶⁶ Oden, T. C. (Ed.). (2001). *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*. Madison, Wisconsin: InterVarsity Press.

Between the quail and the Manna you would think everyone was satisfied, but they were worried it would run out, but God gave them just what they needed for each day. It was not too much and it was not too little, but it was exactly what they needed.

God always gives us what we need. What is the difference between something you might like and something you really have to have to survive?

Pause and allow the children to discuss.

Go through pictures or props (water, bike, food, shelter, candy, etc.) and discuss the difference between wants and needs. Remind the children that God does not always grant us all that we might want. But He will give us all we need. He will get us through each day, one at a time.

Sometimes, we complain and grumble like the Israelites did, even though God is providing for us. What if the Israelites spent the entire time in the desert whining for a steak and ice cream? They would not get to appreciate and be filled by the good Manna God was providing them. Likewise, we should always give thanks for what we have, because God will never let our needs go unmet. Instead of getting distracted by all of the things we want, we should thank God for always providing us with what we need.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Playdough Manna:

1. Give each child a piece of white or tan playdough for the manna.
2. Give each child a piece of black or dark brown playdough for a plate.
3. Have the children pretend they are making Manna by adding yeast, water and salt.

Want vs. Need Craft:

1. Provide children with magazines to browse through, and have them snip pictures of things that interest them.
2. Instruct the children to create a paper with columns of “want” or “need.” children can paste their pictures in either column according to whether they decide it is what they need for survival or just something they might want.



Make a Quail:

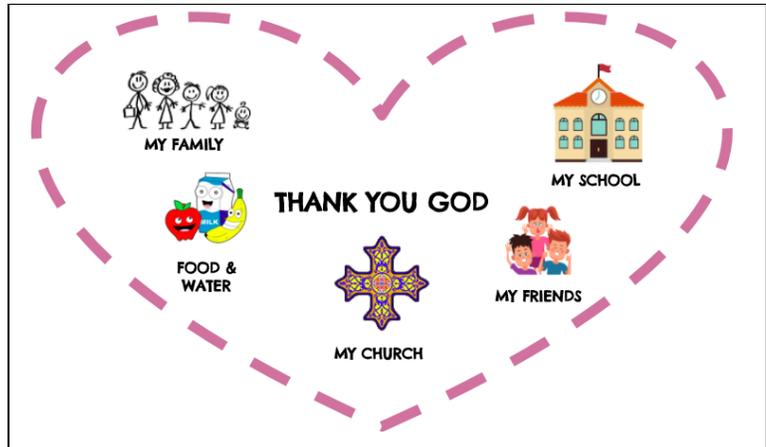
1. Give each child a cutout of a quail.
2. Have the children glue it on a blank piece of paper.



3. Provide children with markers, feathers, glue.
4. Have children color and decorate their quail.
5. Children can write the memory verse under their quail on the blank paper.

Thankful heart:

1. Give each child a cutout of a heart
2. Ask them to write and draw everything they are thankful that God has given them.
3. Servants may need to help and guide them to think of things such as: water, shelter, shoes, family, friends, the church, siblings, etc.
4. Have children cut their heart out and glue it on a blank page or cardboard paper.
5. Optional: Have children write the memory verse somewhere on the paper.



SONG:

[Bryan Sirchio: The Manna Song \(2:57\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON

Hot Potato Review:

1. Have the children sit in a circle. You need an object that can be passed around as the potato. This can be an actual potato, a small ball, rock, etc. You will pick a child to ask a question to.
2. The child beside them will have the object that will be passed around the circle. After you ask the question the children will start passing the hot potato around the circle.
3. The child that was asked the question needs to answer before the hot potato comes to them. If they were unable to answer before, they will sit in the middle of the circle.
4. Ask the next child a question and the object will be passed around. If that child does not answer in time or answers incorrectly, ask the child in the middle of the circle. If they answer correctly they get to join the circle again and the child that answered incorrectly will go into the middle.
5. Repeat until you finish review questions.
 - a. Review questions:
 - Who had a hard time trusting in God? (Israelites).
 - Where did the Israelites flee from? (Egypt).
 - What was the special food that appeared one morning? (Manna).



- What does Manna mean? (“what is it.”)
- What did God send them after the Manna? (Quail birds).
- Does God give us everything we want? (No! He gives us what we need.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Today we learned about patience and the difference between a want and a need. What are we going to do the next time we might not get exactly what we want?

- Ask ourselves, is this a want or a need?
- Pray to God to grant us the patience when we have to wait for something.
- Thank God that we have our needs met like food, shelter, clothes, family, friends, etc.



Lesson 2.9 - Be Grateful: Jehoshaphat Gives Thanks Under Pressure

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: 2 Chronicles 20

Craft: Balloons, construction paper, printer paper, markers/crayons, stapler, scissors, and pencils.

Song: [The Second Hoos](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will learn about thankfulness using the story of Jehoshaphat, this will aid them in increasing their biblical strategies in order to deal with problems in their lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratitude



MEMORY VERSE:



...Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever.



2 Chronicles 20:21

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Ask the children the following questions:

- Have you ever had a problem that seemed bigger than you?
- Have you felt helpless, like you could not fix it, no matter how hard you tried? Sometimes life is not always easy.

Sometimes family members get sick, people we love go to war, bullies at school make fun of you, and moms and dads lose their jobs.



Today we are going to learn about a man named Jehoshaphat who faced these kinds of big problems. In fact, an entire army was coming to destroy him and his people.

It seemed like Jehoshaphat had nowhere to turn, but he chose to run to God. At one point, he cried to God, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.” (2 Chronicles 20:12) When we do not know what to do, let us learn how we can turn to God with our problems, like Jehoshaphat in our lesson today.



LESSON BODY:

Read 2 Chronicles 20.

Jehoshaphat was a king of Judah who learned that there were three large armies ready to invade his land. He was terrified because his army was tiny in comparison, but Jehoshaphat believed in the power of prayer and asked God for help.

So how does God answer Jehoshaphat?

Build up anticipation for the conclusion. Raise your hand if you think Jehoshaphat, with God on his side, will win? Raise your hand if you think the enemy will win? Take some guesses. How in the world is Jehoshaphat going to win without fighting? How is God going to fight for His people?

Jehoshaphat’s people woke up early for the battle. In a loud voice, Jehoshaphat said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper” (2 Chronicles 20:20). Then Jehoshaphat chose men to sing to God and praise Him ahead of the army.

You will never believe what happened! Remember how God said that Jehoshaphat and his people would not have to fight? They did not! God tricked the enemy into turning on each other! At the end of the day, no one was left alive! Not one enemy escaped, not one person from Jehoshaphat’s side had to fight, no one got killed or even injured for that matter! And if all that was not great enough, Jehoshaphat’s people spent three days finding equipment, clothing, and expensive stuff. They found so much stuff that they could not take it all with them!

We have the best shield against all our problems and that is God. Like Jehoshaphat, we should turn to God with all our worries.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Let your troubles go:

1. Give each child a deflated balloon.
2. Instruct the children to take turns calling out things they’re grateful for. Each time someone names something, they add a puff of air to their balloon.



3. After everyone has had a turn, call out something unpleasant such as, “Getting sick” or “My car broke down.”
4. Let the children know that the full balloons are similar to when good things happen we’re all full of praise but when bad things happen, it’s more like a deflated balloon.
5. Have the children release their balloons, letting them fly everywhere and land, deflated.
6. It’s easy to thank God for good things. But we can remember to thank God for hard things because he often uses those bad things for good. Let’s fill up our balloons so they’re nice and full of our praises—for the good stuff and even the not-so-good stuff.
7. Let the children inflate and tie off their balloons. Help the children tie their balloons as needed.

My Prayer Journal:

1. Take a piece of construction paper and put a piece of white paper on top of it (this will serve as the page to write on the inside of the journal).
2. Fold the construction paper in half widthwise (with white paper inside). Have each child line up their thumb with the folded front side of paper, with other fingers together (see image below) and trace their hand.
3. Cut out the handprint, but not along the fold. Then, staple along the fold. You have created a mini journal!
4. Open up the journal and have the children write down the things and people they are grateful for of people and write a thank you prayer and even specific needs they are praying about.
5. Have them decorate the outside of the journal and write the title, “My Prayer Journal”.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaithkids: Jehoshaphat's Battle: Thanksgiving Bible Story for Kids | 2 Chronicles 20 | Sharefaithkids.com \(6:43\)](#)

SONG:

[The Second Hoos](#) (pick one or two stanzas to memorize and sing)

Review

REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who was the good king of Judah who taught the people how to worship? (Jehoshaphat.)



- What did Jehoshaphat do when he found out enemies were going to attack Judah? (He led the people in fasting and prayer.)
- Who did King Jehoshaphat put in front of the army when they went into battle? (Men who sang praises to God.)
- What did Jehoshaphat and the army find when they arrived for the battle? (The enemy armies had killed each other.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Today we learned how Jehoshaphat turned to God when he knew he was in trouble. In life we will always have troubles and we cannot avoid it. The important thing is how we choose to deal with our troubles. We should learn from the story of Jehoshaphat.
- Next time you have any troubles, small or big, what will you do? (Turn to God, asking God for help, rely on God.)
- How can we show our gratitude to God this week? (Thanking God for our family, making sure that His house, the Church clean, etc.)



Lesson 2.10 - The Grateful Sinner

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Luke 7:36-50

Craft: Mason jars, printer labels (to fit on a jar), scrap paper, markers, ribbon, thank you Jesus for ____ strips, glitter, pom poms, and glue and/or hot glue.

Song: [Thank You God](#) (tune [here](#))



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn that believers who understand how much Jesus loves and provides for them are more motivated to show love for Him and others in their lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratitude and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.



Luke 7:47

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

If you have ever been invited to a party, raise your hand. That's just what I thought! Every one of you has been invited to a party! Perhaps you got an invitation in the mail, or maybe you received an invitation by telephone. Sometimes a friend may come up to you and say, "I am having a party at my house this Saturday, would you like to come?" It is nice to be invited to a party, isn't it?



Have you ever heard of anyone who heard about a party and went to the party, even though they were not invited? Usually, we do not go to a party unless we are invited, but our Bible lesson today tells about a woman who did exactly that. It is a story of a truly thankful woman.

We may be surprised to learn what Jesus said about her.



LESSON BODY:

A man named Simon invited Jesus to have dinner at his house. Simon was a member of a very strict religious group called the Pharisees. He invited Jesus into his home because he had heard about all of the miraculous things that He had been doing and that many people thought that He was a prophet.

As they began to eat dinner, a woman with a very bad reputation in the town came into the house. She had heard that Jesus had been invited to eat there and she wanted to see Him and be near Him. She stood behind Jesus, and because she loved Him so much, she began to cry. Her tears fell on the feet of Jesus and, since she had nothing with which to dry his feet, the woman knelt down and began to dry the feet of Jesus with her hair. Then she took some expensive perfume and began to rub it on his feet.

"A woman of corrupt life, but testifying her faithful affection, comes to Christ, as having power to release her from every fault, and to grant her pardon for the crimes she had committed. For it follows, And behold a woman in the city which was a sinner brought an alabaster box of ointment."

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

Consider the following quote from St. Cyril of Alexandria for a better understanding about the reason why this sinful woman came to wash Jesus' feet with perfume, in your preparation for the lesson.⁶⁷

Simon was upset by what he saw and said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him and would have nothing to do with her. She is a sinner!"

Consider pausing here and asking the children: How do you think Jesus responded to this? Was Simon right?

Jesus could see that Simon was upset, but his response to Simon was quite surprising. He said to him, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." ⁴⁸Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:44-48).

Which person in this story are we most like? Are we like the Pharisee who thought he was too good to associate with sinners, or are we like the uninvited guest who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears of love and anointed him with her best perfume?

⁶⁷ Aquinas, S., & Newman, J. H. (1841). *Catena Aurea: Commentary on the Four Gospels Collected Out of the Works of the Fathers by S. Thomas Aquinas*. Oxford: John Henry Parker.

How do you think you would respond or feel if you were the sinful woman? Very grateful! Jesus accepted and loved her even though she was sinful and unaccepted by the Pharisees. What do you think the rest of this sinful woman's life was like after this encounter?

Allow the children time to brainstorm and discuss.

Since the woman received such kindness from Jesus, she would have changed her sinful ways and stopped doing the things that made her sinful to begin with. She also would have given the love she experienced to others in her life as well, so that they could also taste and experience the love of Christ that she did. These are the two ways she could have expressed her gratitude to Christ for His love for her.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Gratitude, Thank you, and Blessing Jars:

1. Explain to the children, just like the woman in the story was thankful to God for the blessings in her life and thankful for the forgiveness she received. We should be thankful for the blessings in our lives and the forgiveness we receive.
2. Have children make a label for their jar. They should use the white paper to practice and then should make their good copy on the printer label
3. Stick the label to their jar in the middle of it somewhere.
4. Decorate the jar by putting ribbons around the neck of it or adding stickers. The servant may even choose to give the children another label to do a picture on to add to their jar.
5. Children may also decorate their jar with stickers and glitter glue; with the help of a servant may hot glue pom poms or other objects onto their jar.
6. Give each child a page of the thankfulness strips to cut apart.
7. Brainstorm things we are thankful for that we have been blessed with.
8. Cut out the strips. Write the things we are thankful for on the strips and place it in the jar. Take the rest of the strips home to write on as you think of blessings.



Grateful Reverse Scattergories:

1. Give each child a paper and pen.
2. The servants should pick a letter, for example "h"
3. Children have two minutes to write down everything they are thankful that God has blessed them with or that they are thankful God has done for them starting with that letter.
4. Children get one point for everything on their list.
5. Children then take turns reading out their lists. If they have an item that someone else reads out then they can circle it- children get two points for those items because it is good to be grateful.



6. The child with the most points gets to pick the letter for the next round. If they have the most points again the child with the second most points gets to pick the letter for the following round, (if there is a tie in points have the children either decide on a letter together or play one round of rock, paper, scissors to decide who gets to pick the letter.
7. This game reminds us we have a lot to be thankful for.

Rock, Paper, Scissors, Thankful:

Children play rock, paper, scissors like normal. The rules are:

1. Children make a fist and move it up and down while saying 'rock, paper, scissors'.
2. After scissors, children either make the sign for rock (closed fist), paper (outstretched hand flat) or scissors (two fingers held apart like scissors).
3. Paper covers rock, scissors cuts paper, rock smashes scissors.
4. In order to win their round however the person who was successful must say a new thing they are grateful God has blessed them with or that they are grateful God has done for them. If the person repeats something they have already said they do not win that round.
5. This game is to encourage us to be thankful in all circumstances and realize all of the things we can be thankful for.



VIDEO:

[Leading Children to Heaven: God is Love \(1 John 4:8\) \(3:31\)](#)



SONG:

[Thank You God](#) (tune [here](#))

Thank You God

Thank you God for making me

Eyes and nose, hands and feet

Ears to hear And Lips to sing

And a heart that beats for you!

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Jesus went to visit the house of Simon (True).
- The sinful woman was invited to the party at Simon's house. (False).



- The sinful woman was overcome by her sadness and began crying at Jesus' feet. (True).
- The lady poured cheap perfume on Jesus, to save money. (False).
- The Pharisee was happy the lady loved Jesus so much. (False).
- Jesus said the woman was forgiven. (True).
- This lady thought Jesus would make her rich. (False).
- Jesus wants us to love Him with true faith, like the woman. (True).
- I can show my gratitude for Jesus' loving forgiveness by loving others and not sinning. (True).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Here are some challenges for the week to help us apply this lesson:

- Give thanks to God in your prayers for forgiving you for your sins, just like He did for the sinful woman.
- When you ask God to forgive you for doing something wrong, you should do your best to stop doing the sin.
- You should love and forgive others the way God loved and forgave the sinful woman (and you!). You should make sure that all your encounters with others are an opportunity for your friends and family to experience Christ through you.



Lesson 2.11 - The Thanksgiving Prayer

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: [Thankful Tree printout](#), pencils, markers, and pencil crayons.

Song: [Give Thanks \(with a Grateful Heart\) \(4:00\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will learn about the Thanksgiving Prayer and the importance of thanking God each time we talk with Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Thanksgiving



MEMORY VERSE:



*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.*



Psalm 107:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider beginning the lesson by playing a game of tag called "Givers and Takers".

Givers and Takers:

1. Have five children volunteer or be assigned to be "it". These children will be the "Takers". The rest of the class will be "Givers".
2. As the Givers are tagged, they must either sit back in their seats or be sent to a corner of the class.
3. Complete the game after around five minutes.

After the game, ask the "Givers" how they felt when they were tagged and had to leave the game. Compare being tagged to always being asked for something, without anyone thanking them.



When a friend gives you a gift and you do not thank them, how do you think that makes them feel? They probably feel sad or unappreciated.

Everyday God is giving us many gifts. Each new day, each meal, each friend we have is a gift from God! Sometimes we forget to thank God for these things. How do you think that makes God feel? He probably feels like a friend that no one thanks for giving gifts.

That is why it is so important that we thank God each time we pray! How can we do that? Our Agpeya contains something called the Thanksgiving Prayer. This prayer helps us thank God each time we talk to Him!



LESSON BODY:

Consider reviewing the Thanksgiving Prayer⁶⁸ with the children and pausing at various points to explain the meaning of parts of the prayer.

Consider the following quote from H.H. Pope Shenouda III for a better understanding about the Thanksgiving prayer, in your preparation for the lesson.⁶⁹

“Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us unto Him, spared us, supported us, and brought us to this hour. Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, the Almighty, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.”

We thank God for having “brought us to this hour” because, “your life is a gift from God; He can keep it or end it at any time. He is renewing it for you day by day and hour by hour. You thank Him for this day you are living and this opportunity He has given to you so you can improve your spiritual level and do something good. Thank Him because, with this life, He gave you a chance for repentance...”

- H.H. Pope Shenouda III

- We should see all the wonderful things that God Has given us in our lives, this shows the virtue of humility. Someone who is filled with pride will believe all the good things in their lives are from their own doings, and will not attribute these blessing with God who gave it to them
- “Covered us” we all have hidden secrets, things we are working on, our sins. God shields others from seeing these attributes. He covers us just as he covered Adam and Eve when they sinned.
- “Helped us” - God gives us the strength to stand against sin and temptation. He is our helping hand that guides us through every aspect of life
- “Guarded us” - He is our good shepherd protecting us from all kinds of danger, always putting us first, and having endless love for us.
- “Spared us” God’s love is incomprehensible, it knows no boundaries. God loved us to the point that he gave us His only begotten son to save us from death and gave us a new life in heaven.
- “Supported us” - God supports us regardless of how many times we turn our back on him, or fall into the same sin time and time again. He loves us regardless of our flaws, His love is endless.

⁶⁸ Abdou, N. (n.d). The Prayer of Thanksgiving. Retrieved on August 4, 2020, from <https://suscopts.org/resources/literature/1044/the-prayer-of-thanksgiving/>

⁶⁹ H.H. Pope Shenouda III. (1993). The Life of Thanksgiving. Sydney, AUS: Coptic Orthodox Publication and Translation. Retrieved from <https://www.tewahedo.dk/litt/Shenouda-III/The-life-of-Thanksgiving.pdf>

→ “Brought us to this hour”

“O Master, Lord, God the Almighty, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, we thank You for every condition, concerning every condition, and in every condition”

→ We thank God for everything he has given us, every situation we are in, even any sickness he has allowed for us to have. We thank Him as he knows what is best for us, he knows the full plan of our lives and we trust in His unconditional love.

“Therefore, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, to grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear. All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men, and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, take them away from us, and from all Your people, and from this holy place that is Yours.”

→ After thanking God, we ask Him to continue to guide us as He always has, and to protect us from all evil.

“But those things which are good and profitable do provide for us; for it is You Who have given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy.”

→ We ask God to provide us with what he sees fit. He has given us the power to tread over serpents and scorpions and has given us the tools to overcome trials.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is of one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.”

→ As we ask God for His protection and guidance, we praise Him also. We recognize His mercy and praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our one true God. Our prayers should never be limited to simply asking God for things, we must praise Him and thank Him for the many gifts He gives us.

Consider opening up the discussion with the class and ask them why they think they should pray the thanksgiving prayer. Why should they pray at all, if God already knows what is in their hearts and minds.

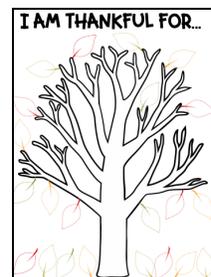
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Thankful Tree⁷⁰:

1. Give each child a copy of the [Thankful Tree Handout](#).
2. Provide the children with pencils and have them identify and write down at least five things that they are thanking God for.
3. Have the children write the memory verse at the bottom of the page.



⁷⁰ Thayer, A. (2018, November 08). Thankful Tree Printable. Retrieved August 04, 2020, from <https://teachingmama.org/thankful-tree-printable/>



4. Provide the children with markers and pencil crayons to color.



SONG:

[Give Thanks \(with a Grateful Heart\) \(4:00\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why is it important to give thanks to God? (He has provided us with many blessings, we must always remember to be thankful for everything in our lives whether we view it as good or bad.)
- Should we only pray when we need something from God (No! how would you feel if a friend only came to you when they needed something from you and never said thank you or asked how you were? This is how we make God feel when we only talk to Him when we need something from Him.)
- Why should we pray the thanksgiving prayers? Doesn't God already know what is in my mind? (When we pray we are talking to God, He wants you to talk to Him! to ask Him everything, to tell him what is on your mind. It is a relationship that needs communication from both sides!)
- Do you think you will get everything you want as long as you pray for it? (No, not necessarily. God sees what is fit for us and what is not the best for us. Do not lose hope if your prayer is not answered right away, prayer is not a vending machine.) *(Consider referring to other saints who prayed for long periods of time, eg. St. Monica prayed for 9 years).*



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we learned today?

- When should we pray? (We should always pray, we should be talking to God all the time and not only when we need something.)
- How can we strengthen our relationship with God? (Any relationship is strengthened through communication. Talk to God! tell Him about your day, your worries, your problems, and always remember to thank Him for your many blessings.)



Lesson 2.12S* - (SPECIAL for GREAT FAST): The Spirituality of Fasting

Building Block 2: God Wants Us to Share and be Grateful

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Great Fast season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Isaiah 58

Craft: Two plastic cups per child, ten pre-cut strips of paper per child, and pencils.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that the purpose of fasting is not to avoid certain foods but to be able to control their bodies and their souls to avoid sin and grow closer to God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Self-Control



MEMORY VERSE:



So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.



Ezra 8:23

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Open the lesson by having the children sit in a circle. Ask them the following questions and have them respond.

What does it mean for us to be part of God's family? Do we need to come from a specific country, or look a certain way?



God tells us in Isaiah 56 that all those who avoid sin do His will are His children and part of His family, no matter where we come from.

While still in the circle, ask the children to come up with ways they can avoid sin. They may mention things like prayer, reading the Bible, or going to confession.

Today we will talk about one way we grow spiritually and avoid sinning; fasting!



LESSON BODY:

Consider asking the children where they think fasting comes from. Remind them that Jesus is the one who taught us how to fast, and showed us the strength that we can gain when we fast.

After fasting for forty days in the desert, the devil came and tried to tempt Jesus. The devil tried to convince Jesus to turn a stone into bread in order to overcome His hunger. Jesus rejected this, and showed us that it is not just our bodies that need to be nourished with food, but our souls must be nourished by, “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4).

Therefore, Jesus showed us the power of fasting and its ability to strengthen our souls more than food could ever strengthen our bodies. Jesus showed us that fasting is a gift that helps us overcome temptation.

Fasting is a Gift:

When we fast, we do not focus on what our bodies need, but what our souls need. As a result, fasting brings us closer to God. By fasting, we deny ourselves food in order to align our will with God’s, as we fast we live for God. The first gift of fasting is that it helps our relationship with God grow.

As we fast, we humble our bodies by being hungry. By humbling our bodies, we humble our souls as well. This makes us aware of our own sinfulness, helping us focus on overcoming the sins we struggle with, like anger or jealousy. Therefore, the second gift of fasting is self control, which allows us to avoid bad thoughts and deeds.

True fasting means that we focus so much on our love for God and doing His will that we forget about what we should eat or drink, and only focus on our spiritual needs. As Pope Shenouda III wrote, “our aim should always be to fast out of love for God”⁷¹. By focussing on our spiritual needs, we can determine what we need God’s guidance with. This helps us guide our prayers to help us avoid our sins. Therefore, a third gift of fasting is that it helps us focus on our spiritual needs and growth.

Our fasts should lead us to repentance. We should not spend our time when we fast wondering about what we should eat, or thinking about what food we crave. Fasting should be a period of self-reflection where we think about ways we have focused on what our bodies need instead of what God wants us to do. This reflection should lead to repentance and confession, allowing us to reunite with God through Holy Communion.

Supplementary

⁷¹ H.H. Pope Shenouda III. (1990). *The Spirituality of Fasting*. Cairo, EGY: Dar El Tebaa El Kawmia Press. Retrieved from <http://www.coptic-isneed.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/fasting.pdf>



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Give Up, Fill Up Craft⁷²:

Give each child two cups, one that has the words “Give up” written on it and one that says “Fill up.” After that, give each child several strands of paper that have the words “Give up” and “Fill up” written on them. The children will write things that they will give up during fasting on the other side of the “Give up” strand of paper and things that they will do more often that will fill them up spiritually on the “Fill up” strands.



“Give up” examples include: Fighting with my sibling, yelling, making fun of people, disrespecting the Church, etc.

“Fill up” examples include: Praying from the Agpeya, reading the Bible, attending Church, helping others, sharing, etc.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Is fasting just about what we eat? (No! fasting is equally about revising our actions and overcoming sins we struggle with.)
- What should be our focus when fasting? (Our love for God and our relationship with Him.)
- What should fasting lead to? (Repentance).

True/False Game: For this review game, one side of the class will be labeled “True” and the other “False”. After the servant reads each statement, the children will go to the appropriate side of the classroom.

- When we fast we should worry about what we are going to eat. (False).
- Fasting is about avoiding sin, more than the food we eat. (True).
- We should fast because we love God. (True).
- We should fast to try and lose weight. (False).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

⁷² Nelson, B. (n.d.). Give Up, Fill Up Fasting Activity for Kids. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://deeperkidmin.com/give-up-fill-up-fasting-activity-for-kids/>



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Fasting is a gift that brings us closer to God, it is a time that should lead us to repentance and a time when we should not be focused on what our bodies need but what our souls need.
- We should fast because Jesus also fasted and it teaches us self-control.
- What can we do next time we are fasting to bring us closer to God? (Pray, read our Bibles, humble ourselves, attend church, etc.)



Lesson 2.13S - (SPECIAL): The Annunciation Feast

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Colorful popsicle sticks

Scripture References: Luke 1:26-38

Craft: Light blue construction paper, dark blue construction paper, flesh toned construction paper, scissors, glue, markers, and glitter glue.

Video: [Brother Francis Online.com: Ep7 The Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary \(1:05\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep7TheAnnunciation)

Song: [Bassm: To Mary came Gabriel \(2:17\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bassm)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will understand what gratefulness means, using the Annunciation story.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratefulness



MEMORY VERSE:



*...Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women!*



Luke 1:27

Lesson



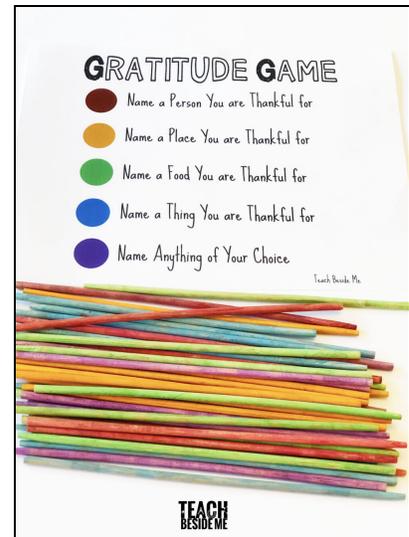
LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

To introduce this lesson, play the following game with the children:

Gratitude Stick Game⁷³:

Have the children all sit down in a circle on the ground, have a big piece of paper ready with a few different colors. Each color should represent something different that the children are grateful for; for example, red stands for a person the children are thankful for, yellow is a place they are thankful for, and so on.

In the middle of the circle have a pile of colored sticks, with each color corresponding to those on the piece of paper. Explain to the children that the goal is to pick up a stick without moving any of the other sticks; once a stick is picked, they will need to name the thing they are thankful for, from the big piece of paper.



LESSON BODY:

Archangel Gabriel was sent to the city of Galilee named Nazareth by God. There was a young virgin, named Mary, who was betrothed to a man named Joseph.

Consider asking the children what betrothed means. (It is similar to being engaged.)

When the Angel came to her, he said, *“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.”* (Luke 1:27) Mary was very troubled when she saw the angel Gabriel, but Gabriel told her not to be afraid because she found favor with God. Gabriel told her that she would conceive and bring forth a Son, and His name shall be Jesus. The angel told her that He would be the Son of the Highest, and reign over the house of Jacob forever. Mary was confused because she was not married yet.

Mary understood this great honor, and was very thankful to the Lord. Then the angel answered and said to her, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”* (Luke 1:35) Angel Gabriel also told Mary that with God nothing is impossible because even Elizabeth, in her old age, conceived a son.

Mary rejoiced gladly and said *“Let it be to me according to your word.”* (Luke 1:38)

We should look at St. Mary and learn from her response to this humongous news. God gave her a huge responsibility, the responsibility of giving birth to God and raising Him from childhood. Mary could have rejected God and said this is too big of a responsibility, but she understood that God would guide her and that she would be full of grace, so she accepted this honor with gratefulness. St. Paul teaches us saying, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which*

“When God gives good things I think we must thank Him, and not be angry with Him while He is controlling their distribution... For He always rules our lives better than we could choose for ourselves.”

- St. Basil the Great

⁷³ J. (2019, November 25). The Gratitude Game: Pick-Up Sticks. Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://teachbesideme.com/gratitude-game-pick-sticks/>

surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6) St. Mary did this, by not being anxious, but being thankful, and so, she was filled with the peace of God.

It is then our job to also be grateful for everything that comes our way, even if it is a huge responsibility. If our Lord Jesus allows for us to go through it, then that means it is for our good, and we should be thankful.

The servant should consider referencing the following quote by St. Basil the Great. He explains that we should always be thankful to God, trusting that he guides our lives better than we could.⁷⁴ This is the mentality that the Theotokos St. Mary had.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Annunciation Craft⁷⁵:

1. Fold the coffee filter into four to make the body of the angel and glue onto the blue construction paper.
2. Fold two cupcake liners to make wings and glue onto blue construction paper beside the coffee filter, as seen in the picture.
3. Glue mini cupcake liner as the face of the angel.
4. For St. Mary, cut out and glue a small rectangle to act as the arm and a triangle for the body.
5. Cut and glue a circle to act as the face and semi circle as the hand.
6. Add glitter glue as halos for both St. Mary and Archangel Gabriel.
7. You may want to use a marker to create faces on each figure.



VIDEO:

[Brother Francis Online.com: Ep7 The Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary \(1:05\)](https://www.brotherfrancis.com/ep7-the-annunciation-the-angel-gabriel-appears-to-mary-1:05)



SONG:

[Bassm: To Mary came Gabriel \(2:17\)](https://www.bassm.com/to-mary-came-gabriel-2:17)

Review

⁷⁴ Basil the Great, St. (n.d.). Letter 1. Retrieved August 28, 2020, from <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3202001.htm>

⁷⁵ M, H. (2020, March 25). CELEBRATE THE ANNUNCIATION. Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://thego-tolist.com/kid-crafts-activities/celebrate-annunciation/>



REVIEW LESSON:

- Which angel came to tell St. Mary the news? (Archangel Gabriel.)
- How did St. Mary feel when Archangel Gabriel appeared? (Confused, and scared.)
- What did the Angel tell her? (That she will conceive a Son and he will be called Jesus.)
- What else did the Angel say? (That Jesus is the Son of God.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

This week, let us focus especially on being thankful for every situation that we might be in. If our parents give us a very big task that overwhelms us, let us be obedient and thankful like St. Mary was. Let us also remember to always ask for her intercessions, so that we may be full of peace and grace like she was.



Lesson 2.14 - Do not be Greedy - Eulogius the Stone Cutter

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Plastic gold coin.

Synaxarion Reference: [Bashans 8](#)

Craft: Cans, construction paper, markers, glitter, glue/tape, stickers, and scissors.

Activity: 1 six sided dice, scrap paper, and writing pens for children.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the story of Eulogius to understand the harm that greed can cause their souls and the importance of sharing our gifts from God with those around us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity and Sharing.



MEMORY VERSE:

“
..If we have food and clothing with these we shall be content..
 ”

I Timothy 6:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider opening the lesson with the “Find the Coin Game”. This will allow the children to experience the joy of finding something special as Eulogius does in the story.

Find the Coin Game:

Have the class stand in a circle with one child standing in the middle with their eyes closed. Have the class pass around the gold coin behind their backs while the child in the centre has their eyes closed. Have the



centre child open their eyes and give them three guesses as to who has the coin. Allow several children to have a chance to stand in the center and guess where the coin is.

Consider asking the children how they felt when they found the coin. Were they excited? Would they have given it to someone else who wanted it?

Today we will learn about someone who found a big treasure, just like we did here, but chose to keep it for themselves and forgot about the needs of others.



LESSON BODY:

Bashans 8:

One day, a saint named Abba Daniel saw a person whose name was Eulogius, who worked as a stone cutter for a Karat of gold each day. With a very small portion of this he lived and with the remainder he fed the poor without saving anything.

Consider asking the children if they think what Eulogius was doing with his money was wise. Why should we help people when we have extra food or money? Jesus called us to give what we can to the poor as a way of serving Him.

When Abba Daniel saw his good fight and the excellence of his deeds, he asked God to give Eulogius more money to increase his deeds of mercy. Abba Daniel guaranteed that if Eulogius received more money, he would help even more people. God answered his prayer, and Eulogius found a treasure when he was cutting the stones, which he took and went to Constantinople. With the newly found money he became a minister to the Emperor, and forsake the deeds of mercy.

Consider asking the children why Eulogius stopped doing good deeds after receiving so much new money. Remind them that when people become greedy sometimes they can also become selfish and want to keep all of God's gifts to themselves instead of sharing them.

When St. Daniel heard about this, he went to Constantinople, and found what had become of Eulogius, and that he had abandoned his deeds of mercy. Then the Saint saw in a vision, as if the Lord Christ was sitting, judging among the people and ordered that St. Daniel be punished for allowing Eulogius to go astray, since St. Daniel had assured God that the extra money Eulogius would receive, would go to helping others, not helping himself.

Assure the children that while St. Daniel's intentions during his prayer were good, he should not have guaranteed that Eulogius would use the money mercifully. In our prayers, we can never make promises about the actions of others, only what we can do to help them.

Afterwards, the Emperor of Constantinople died and another reigned who dismissed Eulogius and took his money and wanted to kill him. He escaped in order to save his life and returned to his town to cut the stones as before.

Consider asking the children if they think this experience humbled Eulogius. Consider emphasizing how Eulogius lost all his worldly possessions and could only protect himself by returning to his simple life.

Anba Daniel met Eulogius and told him all what had happened to him because of him. Eulogius lived the rest of his life receiving only a karat of gold a day, just as he did before.

Consider discussing with the children how greed causes us to misuse the gifts that God has given us, and sometimes we can lose them too. The story of Eulogius reminds us that we must always be thankful for everything God gives us, and share those gifts with those around us.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“My Giving Pail” Craft⁷⁶:

1. Tell the children that they will be making “Giving Pails” which will help them to develop good giving habits!
2. Instruct the children to cut a piece of construction paper (which will go around the can) and write “My Giving Pail” on it as well as a segment of 2 Corinthians 9:7 “God loves a cheerful giver”.
3. Once children have written on the construction paper, they can decorate it with stickers, glitter, etc.
4. Once children have decorated the construction paper, it can be wrapped around and taped to the can.
5. Instruct the children to cut strips of paper and to write on the papers things that can be given to others that cannot be bought with money such as hugs, prayers etc. Tell the children to put their ideas in their can and then a few times a week take out a strip of paper and give these priceless gifts to someone who needs it.
6. Explain to children that their giving pails can be used to save money for church, missionaries, and to remind them of ways to give to others without money.



The Greedy Game⁷⁷:

Children will understand that greed can be harmful and can lead to us losing everything, as was the case with Eulogius the Stone Cutter.

1. Give a scrap piece of paper and a writing pen to each child and instruct them to sit in a circle.

⁷⁶ Jesus Taught About Giving Bible Craft - Children's Bible Activities: Sunday School Activities for Kids. (2018, November 28). Retrieved August 06, 2020, from

<https://sundayschoolzone.com/activity/jesus-taught-about-giving-bible-craft/>

⁷⁷ Math Game Monday. (2013, September 09). Retrieved August 06, 2020, from

<http://www.teachingmathswithmeaning.com/2013/09/math-game-monday.html>



2. Instruct the children to write the word “bank account” and underline the word on their scrap piece of paper.
3. Explain how the game works to the children:
 - The servant rolls the dice. Each game consists of one or more rolls of a dice, the servant keeps rolling and calling out the numbers until a 6 is rolled. When a 6 is rolled, the game is over. As the servant rolls the dice, the children keep track of the running total on their piece of paper, adding the numbers called out after each roll. After each roll, children take the risk, will they stay standing up or will they bank their amount and sit down? When a 6 is rolled, all those children still standing up get a score of 0, those sitting down get to keep their total. The winner is the child who had previously sat down with the highest total.
4. The game can be repeated multiple times (time permitting).
5. At the conclusion of the game, relate the game to the story of Eulogius and how he stopped being thankful for what God had given him. Instead, he wanted more and more gold which led to him losing all of his worldly possessions.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why did St. Daniel pray that the Lord would make Eulogius rich? (So he could give money to the poor.)
- How did Eulogius live? (A humble life. He only earned a karat of gold a day, and he would spend a small amount of it on things he needed to live, and he gave the rest of it to the poor.)
- How did he get all that money? (While cutting a stone he found a treasure.)
- Where did he go with his money? (He went to Constantinople and became a minister to the emperor.)
- What did he lose when he was in Constantinople? (His job and his money.)
- How did Eulogius go back to his first life? (He was fired by the new emperor, who took his money and wanted to kill him, so Eulogius went back to stone cutting.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Eulogius lost all the riches he gained when he became selfish and greedy. How can we be more generous with other people? (We can give whatever we do not need, like food or money, to those who are poor, we can offer our help to other people, and offer our time to helping others.)



→ How can you be generous this week? (Share our toys with others, share our food, help our friends and siblings.)



Lesson 2.15 - Sacrificing to Follow Christ: St. Anna Simon

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Whiteboard and markers.

Activity: White and pink poster board, brown and pink paper, paper glue, pink craft foam, and low temperature glue gun.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the story of St. Anna Simon to be inspired by her humility and strive to be glorified by God, not by people.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Humility



MEMORY VERSE:



Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.



James 4:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Children will make a list of people who they love and people who love others, before learning about St. Anna Simon, who demonstrated tremendous love for God by giving up her worldly possessions to pursue him!

1. Ask children, “Who do you love in your lives?” and “which saints do you know who love others?” and make a list together as a class.
2. The teacher can give each child a couple of sticky notes to write on them the people they love and saints who loved others.
3. They can write more than one sticky note, but only one name per sticky note.



4. Once children have shared some people they love as well as saints who love others, write St. Anna Simon on the list.
5. Children will most likely ask who she is which will be a lead-in to the story of St. Anna Simon.



LESSON BODY:

Consider introducing the story of St. Anna Simon by stating that her life reflected⁷⁸:

- Her love to study the Bible and the lives of the saints.
- Life of poverty and rejection of earthly wealth or comfort.
- Fear of glorification and toil for humility.

Saint Anna Simon was a Queen, a single child to her Christian parents. She loved her faith dearly since her childhood and studied the Bible, learned about the saints, the church and praises.

Although she was the daughter of the royal family, she was determined to live a simple, humble life. She rejected the earthly wealth and was full with spiritual wealth that is found in a life of poverty which Christ lived. She lived not like a daughter of a king but a poor man. She dressed in tattered clothes, ate dry bread and slept on the floor instead of her silk-covered bed.

Consider asking the children why she would live like someone who is poor when her family was very rich. Remind them that Jesus has always taught us that those who do not have many riches on Earth, will be rich in Heaven. St. Anna Simon was guided by this idea.

Her parents loved each other deeply and both departed around the same time when she was in her early teens. Anna Simon, the only child, was to become Queen over the seven provinces of the Kingdom. The people loved her and her father who ruled the Kingdom with compassion, love, wisdom, honesty, humility, and peace. She refused to be Queen as she desired the monastic life, but the people pressured her to become the queen because they loved her.

She ruled for a short time also with love, humility, and compassion. Under her ruling, the Kingdom was joyful and peaceful.

One night after ruling for a year, she prayed and thought about the broken nature of the world and on the lives of the Monk Fathers who preferred the wilderness, saying to herself, "If you, my soul, desire the Kingdom of Heaven, leave the Kingdom of the earth for no Kingdom in this world will stand forever."

In a moment, with a warm heart and filled with the spirit, she took off her royal apparel and stripped off her crown. She signed a letter appointing the patriarch of her father to rule the kingdom. She put on a veil to cover her face and left her Royal Palace. She kneeled before the Palace door, praying, "I have left the door of my palace open, my Lord and King. Do not reject me, for I am weak and poor and you are the helper of all who come to you". She walked into the wilderness where she hungered, thirsted and suffered cold and heat. She ate from the weeds and lived there on prayer and the word of God. When she prayed, the animals gathered around her and stood in perfect peace, as if listening to her prayer.

⁷⁸Godisloveworld. (2018, June 12). Saint Anna Simon. Retrieved on August 4, 2020 from, <https://godisloveworld.wordpress.com/2018/06/12/saint-anna-simon/>



Upon reaching the monastery, she wanted to hide her identity as she feared being treated with special respect because of her position as Queen of the Kingdom.

So she pretended to be dumb, mute and acted mentally ill with whirling movements, shouting, and behaving with antisocial manners.

She was given the name “Habila” which means “dumb” or “simple minded”.

The nuns took her in as they feared she would be harmed by the animals. Some feared she would harm them as she was mentally unwell, but the Head of the Convent explained she could not sin and send St. Anna Simon off alone into the wilderness as she would not survive.

She was given the difficult labor chores. She ate alone and slept on the floor. They assumed she was incapable of doing any skillful chores. When the Nuns were not attending to her, Anna Simon secretly got hold of books about the lives of the saints from the library shelves and read them when she was alone. When she was caught she was told off for playing with holy books. She prayed in secret when no one was looking – no one knew she knew how to pray, read, write and study the holy books.

Consider emphasizing that even though St. Anna Simon knew she was not unintelligent, she never corrected the nuns, or tried to make them respect her. She was humble enough to accept their judgement of her silently.

Her secret revealed

Anba Daniel was in charge of the monastic life at this time. He always prayed that the ranks of the saints be revealed to him. One night after praying, he heard a voice from heaven saying “among all the saints and fathers, no one has reached the rank of Queen Anna Simon, who left her Palace and Kingdom and now resides at the monastery”.

He traveled with one of his disciples to the monastery. When he sat with the nuns, he saw Anna Simon, sitting far in the corner, dressed in ripped clothes, behaving and moving in a very odd, antisocial manner to pretend she was mentally ill.

Anba Daniel told his disciple “look, my son, at this nun sitting in the corner with ripped clothes...she is a great saint pretending to be dumb in order to escape praise and false glorification”

When the Head Nun saw them talking about her she said to Anba Daniel “Father, excuse me, this girl is dumb. She came to us seeking help and I could not refuse her as I feared I would sin.”

One day, as St. Anna Simon prayed, the heavens opened. The Charge nun saw this and ran to call the other nuns. They all hid and watched from a distance. They saw the body of the saint turning bright and rising up towards heaven as she prayed and the sky opening.

Anna Simon sensed that someone might be watching her so she stopped praying to check. Every time she stopped her body would rest back on the ground and the sky would close. The nuns would cover themselves to make sure she didn’t see them. When she re-started, her body would rise again and the sky would open.

They marveled at the sight.

They asked what this was and the Head Mother explained this is a level of spirituality known to be attainable only by the top rank of the most honored saints of the Church.

Then the Head Mother beat her chest and cried out “Woe to me”.

At once, the saint became afraid someone was watching and instantly stopped praying and pretended to be sleeping.

The Nuns beat their chest saying “Woe to us, who have belittled this great saint naming her Habila (dumb) and with an unfair distribution of the more difficult laboring chores”.

Consider the following quote from St. Dorotheos of Gaza for a better understanding about the importance of humility, in your preparation for the lesson.⁷⁹

In the morning, Saint Anna Simon arose with sunrise and escaped the Monastery as she suspected she had been found out.

“In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saints who have labored much and been true servants of God.”

- St. Dorotheos of Gaza

She wrote: “My Mother and my sisters, the nuns, I have tolerated all humiliation from you with joy but I cannot tolerate glorification and praise. So blessed be the hour you named me “Habila”. You are all saints. You are all pure, without any blemish and among you there is not one mocker.”

Emphasize that even though St. Anna Simon had been judged by the other nuns, she did not hate them, even calling them saints. She humbled herself even when they knew the truth about who she was, praising their purity and ignoring her own. Emphasize St. Anna Simon’s immense love for God and the people around her, even those who made fun of her.

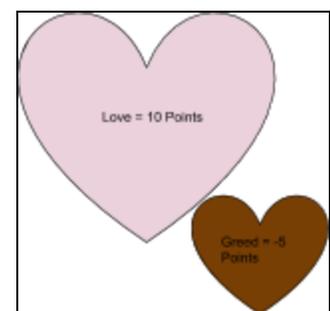
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Heart Toss Game⁸⁰:

1. Before class, cut out a large heart from a piece of the poster board and glue it to the center of the poster board.
2. The small hearts can be printed onto brown paper , cut out, and glued around the pink heart.



⁷⁹ Orthodox Church Quotes. (2014, May 02). St. Dorotheos of Gaza: In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility ... Retrieved August 11, 2020, from <https://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2014/05/02/st-dorotheos-of-gaza-in-the-mercy-of-god-the-little-thing-done-with-humility/>

⁸⁰ Bible Lessons, Crafts and Activities About Love. (n.d.). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-lessons-crafts-activities-love.html>



3. Write the word Love with the corresponding points (10 points) on the large pink heart.
4. Write the bad words on the little brown hearts (Hate, Greed, etc) along with their corresponding points (minus 5 points).
5. For the heart that will be tossed, cut two matching heart shapes from the pink craft foam and leave a 1 inch opening so that the heart can be stuffed with tissues or crinkled up paper. Glue the heart closed.
6. Tell the children that they will be playing a game about Love. Mention that St. Anna Simon loved God with all of her heart because her heart was pure and was not full of hate, greed, and other bad feelings.
7. Divide children into teams of 3 or 4 and have them take turns tossing the heart. If the heart lands on the large pink heart saying "Love", they get 10 points. If the heart lands on one of the smaller brown hearts which say "Hate", "Greed", etc they will lose 10 points. If the heart lands on one of the smaller brown hearts, ask the child to read the word and to give an example of how that word does not show love.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What kind of family did St. Anna Simon grow up in? (Her parents were the king and queen, and they were Christians.)
- Why did St. Anna Simon leave her kingdom? (She did not want the riches of the world, but to grow in the riches of Heaven!)
- Did Saint Anna Simon tell everyone that she used to be the Queen of her kingdom? (No, she acted like she was not smart and could not read, so no one would give her earthly glory.)
- Did Saint Anna Simon judge the people who thought she was dumb? (No, she even called them saints.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What is one value you learned from St. Anna Simon? (Examples include: Humility, love, understanding, self-control, etc.)
- How can we be more humble in our own lives? (Not try to take credit for every good thing we do, help others before helping ourselves, praying for those who hate us, etc.)



Lesson 2.16 - Jesus Wants us to be His Helpers: The Call of the Disciples

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Luke 5:1-11

Craft: Paper plates, colored pieces of construction paper, pre-cut fishes from construction paper, markers (including blue and black), and glue sticks.

Video: [St.Peter followed Jesus \(4:18\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about Jesus’ call to the disciples and the importance for them to share the Good News and serve others.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Service.



MEMORY VERSE:



Simon answered and said to Him, ‘Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.



Luke 5:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Fishers of Men Game:

This game is like Tag.

One person will be the fisherman, and everyone else will be the fish. Place a hula hoop in the middle of the play area. Whenever a fish is tagged they must go and stand in the net (hula hoop). The game is over



whenever everyone has been caught. Depending on how many children you have you may want to use more than one hula hoop or even a large blanket.

Say, *Has anyone ever been fishing before?* Allow children to respond. *What are some ways that we can catch fish?* Allow the class to respond. Tell them that people use fishing poles to catch fish, but that sometimes people also use nets. *Today we will learn about what happened to some fisherman one day when Jesus showed up on their boat.*



LESSON BODY:

Luke 5:1-11:

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret preaching to a crowd of people, he saw two boats on the seashore. He got into the boat, which belonged to Simon and taught the crowd of people from the sea shore.

When Jesus stopped teaching, he looked to Simon and said, “launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

Consider the following quote from St. Augustine of Hippo for a better understanding about the idea of what it means to be fishers of men, in your preparation for the lesson.⁸¹

At this time, Simon and all who were with him had been fishing all night, and believed that they would not catch anything else. Even though they were not sure of the idea, Simon was obedient and went out immediately and did as Jesus said.

Consider asking the children how they would feel if their parents came up to them and told them to clean their rooms again after cleaning their room all day. How would they feel? Would they be annoyed? Would they listen to their parents?

Emphasize to the children that even though Simon might have had doubts, he immediately did what Jesus asked him to do. They should think of Simon’s obedience the next time they do not want to listen to their parents or Abouna.

When Simon did this, the net became so full of fish that the net began to rip. He had to call a friend to help bring in the nets and the fish. Simon was amazed by all the fish they had caught and was embarrassed because he knew that he was a sinful man.

“So let me recall with you those two catches of fish made by the disciples at the command of the Lord Jesus Christ: one before his passion, the other after his resurrection. These two catches of fish stand for the whole church, both as it is now and as it will be at the resurrection of the dead. Now, as you can see, it contains countless numbers, both good and bad. After the resurrection it will contain only the good, and a definite number of them. So call to mind that first catch, where we may see the church as it is in this present time.”

- St. Augustine of Hippo

⁸¹ St. Augustine of Hippo. (AD 430). Retrieved from <https://catenable.com/com/585b6d619ac03ecd4b8e7376>

Consider asking the children how they would feel if they were with Simon when they caught all that fish after catching nothing all night. Would they be amazed? How would they respond to Jesus after that miracle?

He told Jesus to leave because he knew that he was sinful and didn't deserve all of the fish that they had caught. But Jesus told Simon and the other men that they would become fishers of men. When Simon and the other men heard this they brought their boats to land and left everything they had, following Jesus.⁸²

Simon felt like he did not deserve Jesus' miracle or to be in His presence. He saw that He was in the presence of the most pure, Jesus Christ, and wanted to distance himself from Him. Even though Simon was sinful, when Jesus asked him to become one of His followers, Simon and the men who were with him immediately left everything and followed Jesus, and began a new life in Him.

Consider emphasizing to the children that what matters to Jesus is not what we have done in the past, but how willing we are to follow Him and bring others to Him.

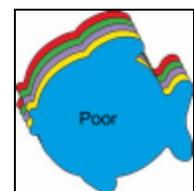
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Christians as Fishers of Men⁸³:

1. Get a paper plate for each child and give them 5 minutes to color the plate blue with different blue markers and coloring pencils so that it is like the sea.
2. Tell the children to put the colored plate aside to make an origami boat ([Video Tutorial](#)). Give each child a colored piece of paper to make their origami boat.
3. When they make the boat, they can write on it Captain (Enter first name).
4. After they wrote their name, they can now glue the bottom of the boat to the colored plate.
5. After they do so, give each child a black marker and a fish cutout prepared from construction paper.
6. With the sharpie, ask the children to write types of people who need help on the fish cutout, such as the poor, sick, hungry, etc. They will glue these on the blue plate as fish for the children to catch.



VIDEO:

[St. Peter followed Jesus \(4:18\)](#)

⁸² Cyril of Alexandria on Luke 5:11. (n.d.). Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://catenabile.com/com/585b6d619ac03ecd4b8e737b>

⁸³ Origami Boat. (n.d.). Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-boat.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did Jesus ask Simon to do? (To put the net down again.)
- Jesus didn't tell Simon that he would catch any more fish, but Simon still listened to Jesus and let the net down. What happened when Simon let the net down? (When the net was down Simon caught more fish than they could carry.)
- What did Jesus tell the men at the end of the story? (He told them that they would be fishers of men.)
- What does it mean to be a fisher of men? (It means that they will be the ones to tell everyone else about Jesus and convince them that Jesus is the only way to have life.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- God is always sending us messages through people like our parents and loved ones. We should learn to be obedient to God's will. How can we be more obedient? (By listening to our parents and Abouna, offering our help to others, no questioning people when they ask for us to do something.)
- How can we also be fishers of people like Simon and the disciples? (We should read the Bible to understand what Jesus wants us to do, and then pray to God for the strength to follow His will and share it with others.)



Lesson 2.17 - Giving Cheerfully: St. Nicholas

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Synaxarion Reference: [Kiahk 10](#)

Craft: Construction paper or cardstock, scrap paper, and markers.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will gain a better understanding of sharing and giving joyfully through the story of St. Nicholas.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity and Joyfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



God loves a cheerful giver.



2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Tell the children that we are going to play a Guessing Game: You are going to describe a person, by giving them one hint at a time, and you will see if they can guess who you are talking about. First hint, he loves to give people presents. (see who they are thinking of now) Second hint, he is a very happy man and you always see him laughing in pictures. (let them give more guesses) Third hint, he is a man and wears red clothes. The children should have guessed by now that it is Santa Claus. If not, tell them that he is always talked about around Christmas time.

Ask the kids if they think Santa Clause (or Papa Noel) is a real person. Then ask them if they know his story: if they know about him as a child, where he grew up, where he was from. Then ask the children, Would you like to know the true story of St. Nicholas? Who would like to know the true story of St. Nicholas?



LESSON BODY:

The servant may wish to consult [Kiahk 10](#) for additional information on St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas as a Boy:

There once was a young boy whose name was Nicholas. Nicholas was a very special boy. He loved our Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart and he wanted to be just like Him. Something that we should know about our Lord is that He was always giving. So Nicholas also loved to give. He would give to people anything and everything: He would give help, he helped people whenever they needed him.

Consider asking the children to think of things that people need help with sometimes. (Let the children suggest some simple, practical ways they can help their family).

For example, we can help by praying for people. Nicholas always used to pray for people when he saw anyone who was sick, or who looked sad. He would also give presents, or money.

God saw that St. Nicholas loved to give, so God gave him a lot of things too. God's gifts are very special and they always make people very joyful.

Consider asking the children whether the gifts they get from their friends or family stay perfect forever. They may identify that toys or other presents can break.

God's gifts never break, they never go away. They stay with you always. The Holy Spirit gave him joy inside his heart. He was always smiling, even if bad things happened. He brought joy to all those around him. Whatever money he had, he always gave to those around him.

One time there was a family who lived near St. Nicholas. This family was very poor. There were three sisters in this family, and they did not have enough money for any of them to get married, which made the family very sad. St. Nicholas heard about this family, and he went to their house when no one was looking. He had with him a lot of money that he wanted to give them, but he did not want them to know that it was from him. He wanted to give them this gift secretly. So he went to their house at night and waited outside, wondering how he would be able to put the money inside without anyone seeing, when he saw an open window. St. Nicholas then threw the money inside the window and left very quickly! The family found the money, and was so thankful for it! They thanked God, who did not forget about them. Now the family had enough money for one girl to get married, so the oldest sister got married. St. Nicholas came back another time, when he had gotten more money, and threw money inside the window again, enough for the second sister to get married. The family was so very joyful and thankful again, they almost could not believe it! The second sister got married. There was one more sister left. But this time, the father wanted to know where the money was coming from. He waited next to the window and watched. When St. Nicholas came back again, and threw more money inside the window, the father was waiting, and he ran outside and saw St. Nicholas. He thanked him from all his heart.

Consider asking the children if this story of giving gifts at night reminds them of anything. Emphasize that stories of St. Nicholas' generosity formed the basis for the idea of Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas gave many gifts in this way, secretly, so that no one would see him doing something good. And he made very many people joyful and safe, especially children. He always used to take care of children because he loved them very much.

God wanted St. Nicholas to be a bishop. He sent His angel to tell the church that St. Nicholas would be a bishop. They ordained St. Nicholas and he became the bishop of a city called Mora. The Holy Spirit now helped St. Nicholas even more than before. He was always joyful, even when bad things happened. He was put in prison just because he was Christian. The Holy Spirit stayed with him in prison, and whenever he felt lonely, or hungry, or scared, the Holy Spirit gave him even more joy. He loved our Lord Jesus Christ even more than he did before, and his heart felt very peaceful and content. He knew that God was taking care of him. Later, he was freed from the prison. St. Nicholas continued to be generous, showed love to the poor and the children, and cared for his people in every way possible.

Consider discussing with the children that just as St. Nicholas was generous with his gifts and money, God was generous with him, always bringing him comfort and peace when he was in a scary situation.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Encouragement Cards⁸⁴:

1. Tell children that one of the ways we can give like St. Nicholas did is to give encouragement and love to everyone we meet.
2. Have children think of two or three people they want to make an encouragement card for. Have them tell their neighbor.
3. Brainstorm with the class encouraging messages you could write in the cards. Record these where all children can see.
4. Children can fold their card however they wish. An example is provided in the picture.
5. While the teacher goes around to check the spelling of children messages they can work on the artwork for the front of the card. Encourage children to make sure the person's name is incorporated into the message on the front.
6. After the artwork on the front is done they can write their message into the inside of the card. Make sure the card says who it is to and who it is from.
7. Children can add more artwork to their card if they have time.



VIDEO:

⁸⁴ Doiel, T., Says, T., Jennifer, T., Says, S., Stella, Says, N., . . . Ann. (2018, October 18). Thoughtful Thursdays: Easy Encouraging Cards Kids Can Make. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://creativekkids.com/easy-encouraging-cards-kids-can-make/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did Nicholas like to do when he was a boy? (He loved to give: He helped people, he prayed for people, he gave them gifts and money (his allowance).)
- Did St. Nicholas show off when he gave gifts to people? (No, he used to give gifts secretly.)
- What gift did the Holy Spirit give St. Nicholas? (Joy)
- Who is the real Santa Claus? (Saint Nicholas)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Should we seek praise when we give to others? (No, we should give from the goodness of our heart without expecting anything in return, like St. Nicholas who would go to people at night so they would not know it was him who was giving them gifts.)
- How can we be more like St. Nicholas? (To be joyful despite things not going our way and giving to others as much as we can.)
- What are some other ways we can be cheerful givers? (Praying for the people who are in need, sharing what we have with others who need it, and comforting others who are in pain.)



Lesson 2.18 - St. Pachomius, the Father of Communal Monasticism

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Synaxarion Reference: [Bashans 14](#)

Craft: Colored paper, heart stencils , scissors, precut cloud, stickers, yarn, markers, and school glue/tape.

Activity: Candy bars or granola bars, wall-safe tape, and permanent markers.

Video: [St. Pachomius - kids stories](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the importance of acting like Christians through love by learning the story of St. Pachomius.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love



MEMORY VERSE:



And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good deeds.



Hebrews 10:24

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Begin the lesson with a game of charades. Have each child act out one behavior demonstrating what they think a Christian should act like. Remind the children that they cannot say anything during the game while the remainder of the children have to guess what the child is doing. Provide each child with a chance to act out a single behaviour.



Have a short discussion with the children about how difficult it can be to know if someone is Christian by their actions. Sometimes we depend on our words to tell people what we believe. Ask the children to think about whether someone who could not hear would be able to know that they were a Christian or not.

Remind the children that their actions are the most powerful way of bringing someone to Jesus. Introduce the story of St. Pachomius and show how he became a Christian simply by seeing other Christians acting in love towards their enemies.



LESSON BODY:

On the 14th of Bashans our church celebrates the Feast day of St. Pachomius, the Father of Communal Monasticism.

St. Pachomius was born in Upper Egypt from parents who worshipped idols. When St. Pachomius was about 20 years old, he became a soldier in the army of Emperor Constantine the great. He suffered a lot from the Roman leaders. One day his regiment was camping around a town called Esna in Upper Egypt in preparation of attacking the town to kill the Christians. The people of this town, however, went out carrying food and drinks for them.

St. Pachomius was surprised by their kind treatment and asked for the reason behind it. The other soldiers answered him saying that the people of this town were Christians and their Christianity teaches them to love not only their friends but also the enemies. These Christians were doing what Christ taught them to do. St. Pachomius said to himself, "if Christianity is so nice like that, if I go back safely, I will become a Christian". When St. Pachomius returned safely, he studied the Christian religion for three years and after that he was baptized. St. Pachomius refused to worship the idols. He went and became a disciple for a monk whose name was St. Plamoun. He stayed several years as a disciple for St. Plamoun until he learned all about monasticism.

After that an angel came to him and asked him to establish a Holy Communal Monastery where many monks could live together.

A large number of monks came to him and he helped them build several monasteries. He organized them so that they had time for work, time to eat, and time for reading and prayer. He was the father of all of them.

He used to go to all their monasteries and look after all their needs and guide them in their spiritual life. This is why he was called The Father of Communal Monasticism.

He told all the monks who followed him not to become priests. He wanted them to dedicate all their life to prayers and in this way they support the church and the priests by their prayers.

Remind the children that the Church requires both the prayers of its sheep and the preaching of its priests who shepherd it.

St. Athanasius called St. Pachomius and wanted to ordain him as a priest. St. Pachomius refused and wanted to stay only as a monk, the same as all his disciples. St. Athanasius said to St. Pachomius "Blessed are you and your disciples because you chose to have no glory and build your faith on the rock."

St. Pachomius continued to be the head of Communal Monasticism for forty years. When he was about to pass away, he called his disciples, strengthened them and wished them peace.

The most effective type of preaching is by setting up a good example. By dealing with everyone in love, the people who see you are drawn to Christ and Christianity. St. Pachomius started to think of becoming a Christian when he experienced the love of other Christians.

Consider the following quote from St. Antony of Egypt for a better understanding about what it truly means to be a monk, in your preparation for the lesson.⁸⁵

We must learn to live together in peace as all the monks who worked with St. Pachomius did. Unity is very important for the success of the family, the church and society as a whole. Even if we differ in opinion with other people, we should never lose love.

Supplementary

“A brother renounced the world and gave his goods to the poor, but he kept back a little for his personal expenses. He went to see Abba Anthony. When he told him this, the old man said to him, 'If you want to be a monk, go into the village, buy some meat, cover your naked body with it and come here like that.' The brother did so, and the dogs and birds tore at his flesh. When he came back the old man asked him whether he had followed his advice. He showed him his wounded body, and Saint Anthony said, 'Those who renounce the world but want to keep something for themselves are torn in this way by the demons who make war on them.’”

- St. Antony of Egypt



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Sharing our Love of God with Others - Love Rainbow” Craft⁸⁶:

1. Tell the children that they will be drawing ways that we share our love of God with others!
2. Children will pick a piece of colored construction paper and use a heart stencil to draw and cut out a paper heart.
3. Once the children have their paper heart cutouts, instruct them to draw an action that shows us sharing our love of God with others. It could be baking cookies for someone, holding the door open for a stranger, etc. The children can label the action as well.
4. Next, tell the children to decorate the pre-cut paper cloud however they would like with stickers and markers. Remind them to write the memory verse for the week (Hebrews 10:24) on the cloud. As the children are doing this, cut some yarn and glue or tape the child hearts onto the yarn.
5. Once children are finished decorating the cloud, tape the yarn strings with the hearts attached to the cloud and hang up in the class/somewhere in the church for all to see how we can share our love of God with others!

“Reaching for God” Game⁸⁷:

⁸⁵ PAINTNER, C. V. (2013). *DESERT FATHERS AND MOTHERS: Early Christian Wisdom Sayings - annotated & explained*. Woodstock, Vermont: Skylight Paths Publishing.

⁸⁶ Whipple, A. (2012, February 09). Love Rainbow Craft. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.thissimplehome.com/2012/02/love-rainbow-craft.html>

⁸⁷ Children's Ministry Magazine . (n.d.). 10 Active Indoor Sunday School Games That Help Kids Grow Their Faith. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://childrensministry.com/indoor-sunday-school-games/>



1. Before class, tape candy bars or granola bars onto the wall, high enough so that children cannot reach them without standing on chairs. Write “God’s Word” on the tape.
2. Tell the children that their actions can influence whether another person receives God’s Word or not, which was the case with St. Pachomius when he saw how kind the Christians were towards him, even though they were persecuted.
3. Tell the children the object of the game, which is to reach the candy bars (God’s Word) without the help of furniture or other people.
4. Let the children try to grab the candy bars.
5. Once the children have given up, divide children into groups of 3 and have them work together to reach the candy bars (2 children can lock their hands together and lift the third person high enough to reach the candy bar). The groups can share the candy bars once they have obtained them.
6. State that sometimes it can be hard for people to know about and Love God without the helpful actions of others! St. Pachomius may have never become a Christian if he did not encounter the Christians who showed kindness to him by sharing their food (loving their enemies).



VIDEO: [St. Pachomius - kids stories](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What influenced St. Pachomius to become a Christian? (By experiencing the kindness from Christians.)
- What are some of the qualities exhibited by him that you admire the most, or wish to emulate? (His humility, his kindness, his generosity, his love for the people of God, etc.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How do your actions show people what being a Christian means? (People are able to see Christ through your actions and words. By acting and speaking in a Christian manner, we can bring many people to Christ.)



→ Do you think you have a role to play in bringing others to Christ? (Yes! That is our primary responsibility as Christians. We are responsible for drawing people to Christ by acting like Him.)



Lesson 2.19 - Sharing God with the World: St. Philip and the Ethiopian Treasurer

Building Block 2
God Wants Us to Share
and Be Grateful



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Acts 8:26-40

Craft: Card stock paper or poster board, 1 rectangle (for handle), tape or hot glue, scissors, drawing pencil, and markers.

Video: [Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8 Sunday School Lesson Resource \(3:31\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the importance of hearing God’s voice and immediately obeying His directions in order to share His word.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Evangelism



MEMORY VERSE:



...I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.



Acts 8:37

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today, we will be learning about someone who immediately obeyed what God asked them to do. Let’s play a game first!

Follow the leader⁸⁸:

⁸⁸ Alison. (2019, July 14). 8 Crazy-fun Games that Teach Kids to Obey Quickly · Pint-sized Treasures. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from



Explain to the children that when they follow the leader, they must immediately do anything the leader does.

To begin with, the children will push all their chairs aside to create an open space. Next, the children must do exactly what the servant does. The servant can, for instance, clap, hop, snap or any other movement that keeps the children engaged.



LESSON BODY:

Provide each child with a Bible so that they can follow along with the following readings. The servant may wish to consider assigning verses to the children so that they can practice reading The Bible.

Our story today is from the Book of Acts. Let's read Acts 8:26-40 together: *"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.""*

Philip was a disciple of Christ. In this passage, God commanded him to go to a different location. The place Philip was in was deserted, so he went immediately as God had commanded him.

Emphasize Philip's immediate obedience to the Lord. He did not question Him, but did as he was told. The servant may wish to paraphrase the quote by St. John Chrysostom below to reiterate this point.⁸⁹ Philip did not ask questions, but got up and obeyed the Lord immediately.

When Philip arrived at the road the Lord told him to go to, he saw an Ethiopian man who was returning from Jerusalem. As this man was sitting in this chariot, he was reading the Book of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to this Chariot and talk to the man. Again, Philip obeyed.

*"And (Philip) did not ask, "Wherefore?" but arose and went."
- St. John Chrysostom*

"So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?""

The man was honest with Philip and told him that without someone to help him he could not understand what Isaiah had written. So Philip looked at the part of Isaiah which the man was reading, it was:

*"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;
And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.
In His humiliation His justice was taken away,
And who will declare His generation?
For His life is taken from the earth."*

The Ethiopian man then asked Philip whether Isaiah was talking about himself or someone else. So Isaiah began with this reading and started explaining who Jesus was and what He did for all human beings.

<https://pint-sized-treasures.com/8-crazy-fun-games-that-teach-kids-to-obey-quickly/>

⁸⁹ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57ec7ac7b0d44ee10cfac8a9>

Consider reminding the children of the importance of Philip's obedience, and that if Philip did not do as he was told, he would not have had the chance to bring the Ethiopian man to Jesus.

After Philip explained who Jesus was to the Ethiopian man, they came near some water and the man asked Philip if he could be baptized. Philip told him that if he truly believed in Jesus he could be baptized, and so the man confessed that he believed that Jesus Christ is the Only Son of God.

"So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

Consider emphasizing that because Philip was obedient, he had the chance to preach the Good News to the Ethiopian man, allowing him to be baptized and grow closer to Jesus and His salvation! Philip saved a soul by being obedient!

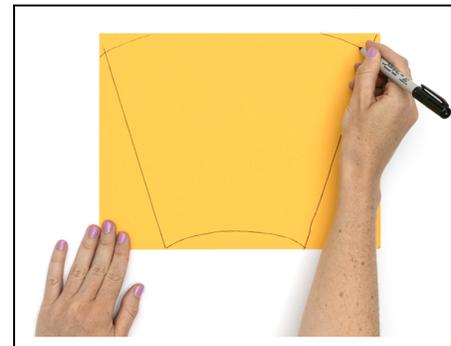
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Preacher of God Megaphone⁹⁰:

1. Have the children choose a large, square piece of construction paper or poster board in any color to create their megaphone. Lightly draw a fan shape on your paper (see image on the top right).
2. Have the children cut out the fan shape with scissors.
3. Have the children write out on their megaphone: "Good News" or "God's Word".
4. Have the children roll their megaphones into a cone shape to put it together. Use hot glue, sturdy tape, or a stapler to secure the overlapping side of their megaphones.
5. Take a small strip of card stock paper and fold the edges in. Glue or tape these edges to create a handle for your megaphone.



Remind the children that it is their responsibility to share the Good News and God's Word with everyone that they meet, just like Philip did.



VIDEO:

[Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8 Sunday School Lesson Resource \(3:31\)](#)

⁹⁰ How-To: Say It Loud! Megaphones. (n.d.). Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://cmany.org/blog/view/say-loud-megaphones/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who gave Philip a message to travel to Gaza? (An angel of the Lord).
- What did Philip see when he was traveling on the desert road? (An Ethiopian riding in a chariot reading the Book of Isaiah).
- Who told Philip to stay near the chariot? (The Holy Spirit).
- How did Philip help the Ethiopian man? (He explained the Bible to him and how Jesus is the Promised Savior that was written about in Isaiah.).
- Why did the Ethiopian want to be baptized? (He believed in the Lord Jesus.)
- Who took Philip away so the Ethiopian didn't see him anymore? (The Spirit).
- Why was it important for Philip to immediately obey the Lord's instructions? (The Ethiopian man may not have heard the Good News and been saved).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

This story teaches us the importance of obeying God like Philip did so that we can accomplish God's plan in our lives.

- How can we determine what God wants us to do? (Read the Bible, talk to Abouna and ask him questions, pray, etc.)
- How can we get better at obeying God's will like Philip? (We can pray for God to give us strength to do His will, we can ask Abouna for advice, we can fast to focus on doing God's will, etc.)
- How can we share the Good News with the people we meet everyday? (We can act like Jesus taught us and be kind and loving, we can tell people about what we know about Jesus, we can pray for others, etc.)



Building Block 3: Respecting Others Through the Grace of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 3.IS* - (SPECIAL for PENTECOST): God Sends the Holy Spirit

Building Block 3
Respecting Others Through the Grace
of the Holy Spirit

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Joyful 50 days season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Acts 2:1-39

Craft: A new pencil per child, 3-inch pipe cleaners, [paper pinwheel PDE](#), scissors, hole puncher, and glue sticks.

Video: [Teaching Kids about Jesus: The Holy Spirit Comes \(Day of Pentecost\) \(2:57\)](#)

Song: [Christian Youth Channel: Let us praise the Lord - Hymn for the Apostles' fast \(5:26\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will demonstrate an understanding of the story of Pentecost, how the Holy Spirit works in them, and understand the need to listen to the Holy Spirit that works in us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Thankfulness and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



Acts 2:4



Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Jesus was crucified and then rose from the dead on the third day. He appeared to His disciples and also to many others, He spent 40 days with them after He resurrected. The disciples witnessed Jesus in all His glory.

Consider asking the children if they know where Jesus is right now. (He is in heaven.)

Consider also asking them what happened after those 40 days He spent with His disciples. (Jesus went back to heaven and the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples and St. Mary.)



LESSON BODY:

Read Acts 2:1-7, 37-39 and summarize with the children:

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

Consider asking the children this question:

→ *What form did the Holy Spirit take during Pentecost? (Tongues of fire)*

So, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the disciples preached to thousands of people about who Jesus is and the salvation He gave us.

Consider asking the children this question:

→ *Do you think this same Holy Spirit dwells in you? (Yes we received this same Holy Spirit in us when we were baptized.)*

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

After the disciples completed their preaching and baptizing, three thousand people joined the Church. Just as the disciples listened to the Holy Spirit and led people to Jesus, we also have the responsibility to listen to the Holy Spirit and tell people about Jesus.

Consider discussing the following points with the class:

- Why do you think Pentecost is important? (Without the dwelling of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, we would not have known who Christ is. Our Church would not exist.)

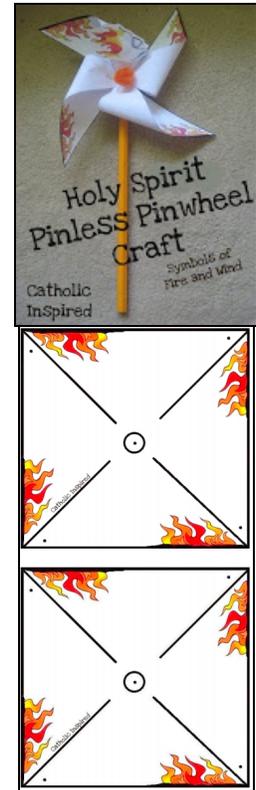
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Pentecost Pinwheel⁹¹:

1. Have the children cut out the paper pinwheel square. Cut the diagonal lines.
2. Glue the corners with the dots to the center, one on top of the other. Hold it in place until it's dry.
3. Create one hole through the center of the pinwheel using a hole punch after the glue has dried. Be careful not to crush the pinwheel.
4. Twist the pipe cleaner around the pencil top. Make sure it's tight.
5. Put the pipe cleaner through the pinwheel's center.
6. Wrap the end of the pipe cleaner around itself making a ball, but leave space to allow the pinwheel to spin.
7. Now give it a blow!



Listening to the Holy Spirit Game:

The servant will say several statements and the children will have to identify if the statement is something that they would hear from the Holy Spirit, or something that would mislead them.

Any time the children believe that a statement is something from the Holy Spirit, they should jump up and down. If they think a statement is something trying to tempt them to do something bad, they should crouch on the ground and cover their ears.

Examples can include:

- "You forgot to pray tonight, you should pray before you fall asleep." (Holy Spirit).
- "You're too tired for the mass, keep sleeping and maybe your parents won't wake you up." (Temptation).
- "It won't hurt if you ask your friend for an answer to only one question on the test." (Temptation).
- "Your mom looks tired, you should ask her if she needs any help." (Holy Spirit).
- "Your friend hurt your feelings, you should forgive them and pray for them." (Holy Spirit).
- "Your brother took your toy, you should break one of his toys to teach him a lesson." (Temptation).

⁹¹ Catholic Inspired. (2014). Pentecost Pin-less Pinwheel ~ Symbol of Fire and Wind. Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <http://www.catholicinspired.com/2011/06/pentecost-pin-less-pinwheel-symbol-of.html>



VIDEO:

[Teaching Kids about Jesus: The Holy Spirit Comes \(Day of Pentecost\) \(2:57\)](#)

Questions:

- What were the disciples able to do after the Holy Spirit came down? (They spoke different languages and performed miracles.)
- What was the fire that went above each of their heads? (It was the Holy Spirit.)
- How did the disciples use their new gift of speaking new languages? (They spread the word of God to many.)



SONG:

[Christian Youth Channel: Let us praise the Lord - Hymn for the Apostles' fast.](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

True or False: After reading each statement, have the children sit down if it is false, and stand up if it is true.

- The Holy Spirit came down on Pentecost. (True)
- Jesus was born on Pentecost. (False)
- St. Mary and the disciples were in Jerusalem. (True)
- Pentecost happened in Rome. (False)
- Tongues of fire appeared over the heads. (True)
- A great wind filled the room. (True)
- The disciples spoke in many languages. (True)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- We all have the Holy Spirit in us, we should listen to it to help guide us.
- The Holy Spirit works within us and guides us to be more like Jesus.
- We need to do our part to allow the Holy Spirit work in us.
- How can we let the Holy Spirit work fully in us? (The more we talk with and about our Lord Jesus the more you will want to continually share His word with others.)



- The Holy Spirit helped the disciples bring others to God and to the church, so we also have a responsibility to do the same.
- Through this Feast of the Pentecost, we should learn to be very thankful that God dwells in us, guiding and directing us constantly.



Lesson 3.2S* - (SPECIAL for PENTECOST): Sacrament of Chrismation: Receiving the Holy Spirit

Building Block 3
Respecting Others
Through the Grace of the
Holy Spirit

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Joyful 50 days season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Matthew 3:13-17

Craft: Green construction paper, brown construction paper, white construction paper, crayons, markers, and glue sticks.

Video: [Coptic Orthodox Church - Baptism Cartoon \(9:13-14:09\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

children should know that we join God’s church through baptism and we become His children and that they receive the Holy Spirit during Chrismation.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Holiness, Purity, and Thankfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.



Galatians 3:26-27

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson with the provided video.



Consider reviewing the story of the baptism of Jesus. Consider asking them where he was baptized, by who, who spoke and what appeared? (Jesus was baptized by St. John the baptist, in the Jordan River, a dove appeared, God the Father spoke and claimed Jesus as His Son, etc.)

Consider asking the children if Jesus needed to be baptized. Remind them that Jesus is God and did not need to be baptized, but set an example for us as to how we can become God’s children, just as the Father claimed the Son at Jesus’ baptism.

Today we are going to learn about the sacraments which make us one of God’s children; Baptism and Chrismation!



LESSON BODY:

Just like our Lord’s baptism was a very special day, our own baptism is also very special. On the day that each one of us was baptized, we became children of the most perfect Father – our Father in Heaven, God.

On the day of your baptism your mother made a promise to Christ for you, with you on her right arm. She says: “I confess to you O Christ my God and to all Your redeeming laws and life-giving service and works.”

What does this promise mean? It means that our mothers gave me to Christ for Him to be my king, my Lord and my savior. From that time on I do not live for myself but for Him and with Him.

Consider asking the children if they have seen a baptism? Who is present? What happens?

Baptism is when we all gave ourselves to Christ who loves us. Our Lord gave us the right to become the children of God in our Baptism so we can call His Father, our Father.

So being a child of God, we should always remember that our Father is God, in Heaven, and we need to thank Him for our lives and go to Him for our needs and we should do things that please Him and bring Him glory. Honoring and loving our parents is pleasing to God. We should also love the members of the church – all our brothers and sisters in Sunday school, the Sunday school servants and the abounas. These people are now also members of our family!

Consider emphasizing how baptism unites us with all the other members of the Church, making us one big family! As such we have the responsibility to help and respect each other.

On the day of our baptism Abouna anoints us with an oil called the Mayroun. This process is called Chrismation. Abouna anoints us all over our body focusing on anointing all of our senses so that they become blessed. We are anointed 36 times! The Mayroun is like a seal that shows that the Holy Spirit dwells within us. When Abouna anoints us with the Mayroun we become consecrated. Consecrated means purified, and blessed. When something is consecrated it becomes very special. In the Old Testament they consecrated all the prophets, kings, and even vessels in the tabernacle with oil. We also consecrate all the vessels at church with the Mayroun. The altar, icons, patton etc. When we are anointed with Mayroun we too are consecrated vessels. This means we are holy. Would you eat dinner in the paten (the plate that we put the body of Christ in during the liturgy) that we have communion in? No, because it is consecrated. We are the same. As Christians who have the Holy Spirit in us we too are Holy vessels. This means that not everything in this world is meant for us and we must keep ourselves pure as temples of the Holy Spirit.

“You are not only free, but also holy; not only holy, but also righteous; not

Consider concluding the lesson by reminding the children that baptism makes us part of the Church family, and Chrismation allows us to receive the Holy Spirit. The servant can examine the words from St. John Chrysostom provided on the right.⁹² These two sacraments help us live as Jesus taught us, and understand how to live a pure life. As Christians, we must listen to the Holy Spirit within us, in order to truly live as God's children.

Supplementary

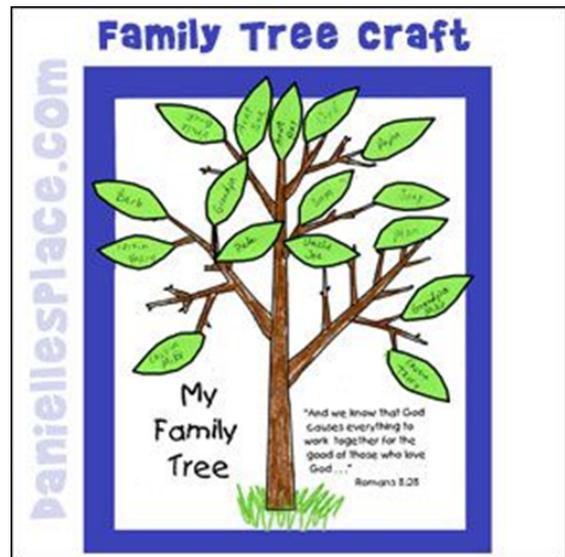


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Family Tree Craft⁹³:

Remind children that we are a part of God's family through baptism. God is my Father and we are His children. When we think about our baptism we can remember this. Today to remind us that we are a part of God's family we are going to make a family tree.

1. The children should cut out some long strips from their brown construction paper. The longest one can go in the centre as the trunk. Two or three others should be glued coming off of that as the main branches.
2. Cut any remaining strips into smaller and thinner pieces. Glue those so that they are twigs coming off your two or three main branches.
3. Cut leaves out of your green paper so that you have leave for almost every small twig on your tree.
4. Use a marker to write the name "God" on the trunk of the tree. Write it in letters that are as big as you can and use a marker that will show up on the brown tree trunk.
5. Write the names of your siblings and parents on leaves and glue them onto twigs that are all close together on your tree. You may just write mom and dad or if you choose you may write their names.
6. Have the children the names of some of the people they know from church, demonstrating that they are part of their Church family. They may write some of the names of their Sunday School classmates.
7. Have the children write bible verse from the next page onto the bottom of your tree.
8. The trees can be hung in the class for the remainder of the year.



VIDEO:

⁹² Ted, F. (2018, January 23). Chrysostom: The Many Blessings of Baptism. Retrieved August 07, 2020, from <https://frted.wordpress.com/2018/01/26/chrysostom-the-many-blessings-of-baptism/>

⁹³ Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Sunday School Crafts and Activities for Kids - Abraham. Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-themes-abraham.html#tree>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- When did we become children of God? (We became children of God when we got baptized.)
- How should we treat others as children of God? (We should be nice and love everyone.)
- What happens when we are anointed with Mayroun? (We became dwellings of the Holy Spirit and we became consecrated.)
- Where does Abouna anoint us with the Mayroun? (All over our body, especially all of our senses to bless them.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- When we were baptized, we became children of God.
- Our parents made a promise to God, on our baptism day, to make Him our God in our lives.
- The Mayroun is an oil that Abouna uses to consecrate us when we are being baptized.
- Since we are children of God, what should we do to reflect our Father? (We should honor our parents, love our brothers and sisters, love and help everyone around us.)



Lesson 3.3 - Fruit of the Spirit: What Does the Holy Spirit Do in our Lives?

Building Block 3
Respecting Others Through the
Grace of the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Pictures of a rotten and a fresh fruit and visuals for each virtue.

Scripture References: Galatians 5:22-23

Craft: Smooth rocks and colorful permanent markers.

Activity: Box and strips of paper with the virtues written on them.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children should be able to name the fruit of the Spirit, and discuss how this can be reflected in their own behavior with others.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.



MEMORY VERSE:



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.



Galatians 5:22-23

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Show the class two images of fruit. One rotten and one fresh. What differences do they notice? What attributes of fresh fruit do we enjoy (sweetness)? Why do we not enjoy rotten fruit? (smelly, dirty, color has changed etc.)



Today we will also be talking about fruit. But this is the fruit that lives in you! The fruit of the spirit. Does anyone know what this means? What are some examples of the fruit of the spirit?



LESSON BODY:

Allow the class to share what knowledge they have about the fruit of the spirit.

When we say fruit of the spirit, do we mean apples, oranges, and bananas? No, this fruit is the virtue of being Christ-like. What is a virtue? A virtue is a good quality. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are all virtues that we as Christians should have. When the Holy Spirit works in us He produces in us the fruit of Christ and all His wonderful virtues. Remember there is one fruit of the Holy Spirit because all the virtues are united as one and interconnected to one another.

Consider bringing visuals for each of these virtues and show the image while discussing each virtue. Example: for the virtue of kindness, show an image of someone helping someone in need.

At this age it is also important for the kids to move past the literal term “fruits” and gain a better understanding of what these virtues really mean.

Consider discussing each of the virtues (along with the visual aid) and their meanings with the class:

- **Love:** How do you show love towards your families, friends, and even strangers? (By showing respect or doing small things to show our appreciation and love for them.)
- **Joy:** What does joy mean? Is it the same as happiness? (Close, but Joy is not temporary like happiness. We are always joyful because we know that God is in control of every aspect of our lives.)
- **Peace:** As Christians we are always at peace because we know that our God is always looking over us. So why should we worry about anything?
- **Longsuffering:** These means that we are patient regardless of troubles, problems, or people bothering us
- **Kindness:** We all remember a time when someone was kind to us. When we go out of our way to help others, appreciate them, or support them when they need help, we are practicing the virtue of kindness.
- **Goodness:** Goodness means we are acting with good intent for the sake of the benefit of all. When we act out of true goodness of the heart, we are obedient to God's commandments and seek only to help others.
- **Faithfulness:** This means we are faithful to God, others, and remain faithful to the Bible and church's teachings without ever giving up.
- **Gentleness:** In order to be gentle, we must not view ourselves as better than anyone else. Rather than asserting superiority, someone who is gentle wants to help others, even when they have been wronged. Jesus was gentle with many people in the bible regardless of the sins they committed.⁹⁴
- **Self-Control:** We show self control when we fast, fight against sin, stand up for our faith, practice our faith regardless even when others judge us etc.

⁹⁴ Weekly Devotional: Fruit of the Spirit – Gentleness. (n.d.). Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <https://www.gcu.edu/blog/spiritual-life/weekly-devotional-fruit-spirit-gentleness>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Fruits of the Spirit Rocks⁹⁵:

1. Provide each child with a smooth rock and colorful permanent markers.
2. Have each child write one fruit of the spirit that they will work on or grow in this week: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.



Fruits of the Spirit Charades:

In a box, have each fruit of the spirit labelled on a strip of paper. As each child has a chance to be “it”, they will draw a paper from the box and act out the virtue labelled on the paper.

While the child is acting, the rest of the children will try to guess what virtue they are acting out.

For example; for the fruit of love, a child may be hugging themselves. For self-control, the child may sit down and put an “X” over themselves to show they are abstaining from certain things.

The servant may discuss each action after the children have guessed the virtue.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider playing the Fruits of the Spirit Charades game to review the lesson.

- When we say fruit of the spirit, are we referring to fruits like bananas and apples? (No, we are referring to virtues.)
- Name at least three virtues of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Includes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.)
- How many Fruit of the Spirit parts are there? (Nine).
- Can you give an example of showing goodness? (Helping people out of the goodness of your heart, even if they have wronged you.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

⁹⁵ Clubhouse Jr. (2020, May 21). Fruit of the Spirit Stones. Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/clubhouse-jr/crafts/fruit-of-the-spirit-stones/>



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- The fruit of the Spirit are virtues given to us from God.
- God gave us the fruit of the Spirit to help us grow closer to Him and to become more like Him.
- How can we use the fruit of the Spirit in our lives? (We can be kinder to others, we can have more self-control, we can be more peaceful with others, etc.)
- What is one way you can show more self-control in your life? (Share what we have with others, avoid eating too many sweets, avoiding bad shows or games, etc.)



Lesson 3.4 - The Holy Spirit: Our Helper, Counselor, Keeper and Comforter

Building Block 3
Respecting Others Through the Grace of the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A pitcher filled with water, an empty glass, a square piece of cardstock to fit over the glass, a large coin, and a fan.

Scripture References: John 14: 15-27

Craft: Paper plate, dove template (down below), yellow construction paper, fire template, string/ yarn, single hole puncher, tape, glue, scissors, markers, and colored pencils.

Video: [Leading Children to HEAVEN: Why do we need the Holy Spirit?? \(3:20\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand how the Holy Spirit helps us, and what Jesus had to say concerning our relationship with Him through His Holy Spirit.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Holiness and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...



John 16:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if they know who and what the Holy Spirit is. Allow them to brainstorm and discuss so you can determine how much they already know.



Place an empty glass and pitcher filled with water on a table in front of the children. When we are not filled with the Holy Spirit spirit, the devil can come and tempt us and we will fall.

Place a square piece of cardstock on the empty glass and place a large coin on the card. (The card should fall.) This is what happens when we are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

Fill the empty glass with water from the pitcher, then place the card on the now full glass and place the coin on the card. (The card should not fall.) This is what happens when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Although the devil may come and try to tempt us, we will not fall because we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

This demonstration is based on: [Leading Children to HEAVEN: Why do we need the Holy Spirit?? \(3:20\)](#). Consider showing the video to the children as well if time permits, or if the resources needed for the demonstration are unavailable.



LESSON BODY:

Consider bringing a fan to class and waving the fan at the children. Ask them what they feel and what they can see.

Just like the air, you can't see the wind but you can feel it and you can tell when it is windy based on how other things move as a result. The Holy Spirit is like this: you can't "see" the Holy Spirit but you know it is there as a result of its presence in your life and as you witness the results of the Holy Spirit at work. It is "seen" as it moves, transforms, and changes things and situations around us.

Consider asking the children if they have ever felt pushed to do something. Was it something that ended up being good for them? How did that make them feel? If it was something that was bad, how did they feel after that as well?

The Holy Spirit guides our path; sometimes it nudges and pushes us in directions we don't feel comfortable going but are ultimately for our benefit.

"Every divine action begins from the Father, proceeds through the Son, and is completed in the Holy Spirit."

- St. Basil the Great

Consider comparing this feeling to how embarrassed people can feel before going to confession. They may not want to tell about their mistakes, but ultimately they feel so much better after confessing because they have been forgiven! The servant may wish to emphasize this point by paraphrasing the quote from St. Basil the Great above.⁹⁶

Think about how it is easier to go with the wind when you are walking down the street than to go against it. When we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we will feel like we are walking with God's path, not against it. Life is best lived when we go the way God is leading us rather than against it.

Who is the Holy Spirit? How can we understand who He is if we cannot see Him?

⁹⁶ Reference unknown.

The Bible tells us a lot about the Holy Spirit and what He does for us. Let us look at some verses to see what it says.

- John 14: 26 (Helper) - *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever”*
 - Jesus told us that even after He ascended into Heaven, He would send someone to help us and guide us forever, this is the Holy Spirit!
- Acts 4: 31 (Gives us power) - *“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”*
 - Even when we are afraid, the Holy Spirit can give us the strength to tell people about Jesus and bring people to Him.
- John 16: 13 (Gives us guidance) - *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*
 - The Holy Spirit guides us in truth. He shows us what we should do in order to live according to God’s Will.
- Romans 8: 26 (Gives us words to say when we pray) - *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*
 - Even though we may not always know what to say when we pray, the Holy Spirit Guides us and intercedes for us before the Father, so that our prayers may be heard.
- Romans 5: 5 (Fills us with love) - *“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*
 - The Holy Spirit is what unites our Church. It gives us the love to help and support one another as Jesus commanded.

While the Holy Spirit may be invisible, the effects it has on us are very clear. The Holy Spirit helps us, strengthens us, guides us, guides our words, and fills us with love!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Promise of the Holy Spirit Craft:

Part 1:

1. Start with a regular, cheap paper plate.
2. In the middle section, draw the body (using the template) and 2 lines to make the wings
 - a. Draw the lines you need to cut on the back of the paper plate so the marker lines won’t show.
3. Cut on your lines, and then assemble like a dove with one of the big wings on each side.
4. Glue the wings on the back of the dove.
5. Draw on some simple feet, a beak, and 2 eyes with markers.





6. Punch a hole on the top of both wings. Tie the string through it so you can hang it up. Tape the string closest to the dove to the back .

Part 2:

1. Before class: print out 8 flames per sheet on yellow construction paper.
2. Hand each child a sheet with 8 flames on it.
3. Cut out the flames.
4. Have the children write the different things the Holy Spirit does for us and the verse in the flames (one per flame)
 - a. Helper (John 14: 26)
 - b. Gives us power (Acts 4: 31)
 - c. Guides us (John 16: 13)
 - d. Helps us pray (Romans 8: 26)
 - e. Comforter (Acts 9: 31)
 - f. Peace giver (Romans 15: 13)
 - g. Gives us Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12: 1- 11)
 - h. Fills us with love (Romans 5: 5)
5. Tape a string on the flames and then tape them to the wings of the dove.



VIDEO:

[Leading Children to HEAVEN: Why do we need the Holy Spirit?? \(3:20\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What is the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit is our helper, guide, the one who gives us love, comforter, strengthener, and supporter.)
- How does the Holy Spirit work in my life every day? (The Holy Spirit helps us obey God and be more like Him.)
- What is the Holy Spirit like? (The Holy Spirit is like wind, He pushes us to be better, even if we cannot see Him.)
- What do we need to do in order to feel the effects of the Holy Spirit? (We need to listen to the truth that the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us, and follow in the direction that He guides us in).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

The Holy Spirit guides us to be better people and to be more like God. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and our counselor, it teaches us to be like God.

How can we use the Holy Spirit in our lives to become more holy like Jesus?

- Give thanks in our prayers to God for giving us the Holy Spirit.
- Using the Holy Spirit as a guide to keep us from sinning (e.g. pay attention to the nudges and urges from the Holy Spirit when you are put in a situation you may sin, like lying for example).
- We can read our Bible to learn what God wants us to do so we can be more aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- We can be nicer to others, help others when they need, and spread the word of God to as many people as we can! This way, we are sharing the benefits of the Holy Spirit with others as well.



Lesson 3.5 - Respecting Oneself: Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit

Building Block 3
Respecting Others Through the
Grace of the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Small cards (1 inch by 1 inch), writing paper, and markers or crayons.

Scripture References: Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Kings 6

Craft: Printing Paper, [Solomon's Temple Template](#), markers, pencil crayons, glitter glue, and scissors.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding that the Holy Spirit lives in them and therefore, we have to protect and respect our bodies.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?



1 Corinthians 6:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Give each child a small card, 1 inch by 1 inch. Have them draw a church on it. Use pictures of different types of churches as examples.



We have bodies to house God’s spirit. Of course, we go to church and worship there together, but our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. So, we’re going to put the temple inside of us.

Have each child color a picture of him or herself that takes up the whole page. Using a glue stick, they should glue the temple in the center of their tummies. Title the picture as follows: “God lives inside of _____ (child’s name).”



LESSON BODY:

Does anyone know the story of Solomon? Solomon was a king, the son of David. In 1 Kings 6, the Bible tells us that Solomon built a beautiful temple for the Lord.

Solomon built an enormous temple in order to house the Ark of the Covenant. During the dedication ceremony, the priests brought the Ark into the temple where everyone offered sacrifices. In the Ark, there were only two tablets, and on these two tablets were The Ten Commandments. When the priests left the temple, the Spirit of God filled the temple as a glorious cloud.

The same thing happens to us when we are baptized. During our baptism, we are cleaned from all sins and rebuilt as a temple of God. That means that our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit! Solomon’s Temple was a great gift that God accepted; He is looking to abide within us. Our bodies are now considered to be temples for the Holy Spirit.

If the Holy Spirit lives in us, what kind of home would He want to have? Would He want a home full of sin? No! In Ephesians 4:30, it says that we can grieve the Holy Spirit. That means that we can make Him sad with our poor choices in life.

So, how should we take care of the home that the Holy Spirit lives in? Let’s brainstorm together!

Divide the children into small groups of three or four. Distribute paper and pencils. Have them write a Homeowner’s Manual for the Holy Spirit. Have them fold their paper into quadrants so that there are four blocks to write in. At the top of one block, have them write “MIND.” In the second block, have them write “BODY.” In the third, “HEART.” And in the fourth, “OTHERS.”

Have them think of ways they can take care of each of these components of their life. Here are some suggestions for reference:

MIND	BODY	HEART	OTHERS
Protect your mind from sin. Be careful what	Exercise	Ask for forgiveness of your sins.	Think first about God, then others.



you watch on TV or the Internet .			
Listen to music with good lyrics. Read books that would honor God.	Eat a balanced diet of foods.	Hide God's word in your heart.	Act with love; love is patient, love is kind.
Surround yourself with good friends; people who will encourage you to do the right thing.	Get good sleep.	Be humble and gentle.	Live peacefully with all. (Do not start fights!)
Study God's Word.	Have pure speech and actions.	Be thankful .	Forgive people when they have wronged you.

Give children time to brainstorm. After a few minutes, regroup and discuss their ideas, writing them on a big sheet of paper or blackboard/whiteboard.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Solomon’s Temple” Craft⁹⁷:

1. Prior to class, print out [Solomon's Temple Template](#) and assemble a model Temple for the children to look at, using the instructions below.
2. Pass out the Solomon’s Temple Template to each child and show a finished model to the children.
3. Instruct the children to color in/decorate their temples and write the memory verse from 1 Corinthians 6:19 on one of the walls: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you.”
4. Tell the children to cut out their temple walls using scissors.
5. Once all of the children have cut out their four walls, instruct them to put glue on their side tabs. Once the glue has been put on the side tabs, they can assemble their Temples.
6. Remind the children of how Solomon’s Temple used to house the Ark of the Covenant and that God dwelt in this holy place. Now, the same Holy Spirit lives inside of them. Their body is like a Temple!



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Allow them to take a turn, one-by-one, sharing one thing from the Homeowner’s Manual for the Holy Spirit that they would like to focus on implementing this week. This review also includes the life application portion of the lesson below.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

⁹⁷ Solomon's Temple. (2014, May 7). Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/tag/ark-of-the-covenant/>



What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Today we learned that we should treat our bodies with respect because our bodies are temples that the Holy Spirit lives in. We have also discussed lots of practical ways that we can do this during the week using the Homeowner's Manual for the Holy Spirit that we created together. Remember the one thing you chose to focus on this week and we can share our experiences with this next week!



Lesson 3.6 - A Crippled Man Healed Through the Holy Spirit

Building Block 3
Respecting Others Through the
Grace of the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Sock puppet

Scripture References: Acts 3:1 - 11

Craft: Plastic spoons (1 per child), face template (pg. 5, pre-cut, 1 per child), crayons, tape, and pipe cleaners (2 per child).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn that the Holy Spirit gives power. St. Peter had power after receiving the Holy Spirit to heal sick people.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Glorification



MEMORY VERSE:



Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'



Acts 3:6

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Puppet Demonstration:

Lay a puppet on the floor and start talking to the puppet. Ask the puppet to do something, but the puppet stays lifeless on the floor. Ask the children why the puppet will not do anything. It is unable to do anything unless someone puts their hand inside its lifeless body to animate it. Without someone's help, the puppet is



lifeless on the floor. The same thing happens to us; we cannot live a life that pleases the Lord unless we have the Holy Spirit in us.



LESSON BODY:

This illustration helps us understand how when a person believes in Jesus Christ and is baptized, the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside the person and gives him/her power to do God's Work. Without the Holy Spirit living in and through a believer's life, he/she is powerless to live a life that pleases God.

Read Acts 3 and summarize with the children to see how St. Peter healed a crippled man with the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in him.

At this point, after reading the first verse, the servant may consider asking the children some of the following questions:

- *Who are the people mentioned in this verse? (Peter and John)*
- *Where are Peter and John going? (To the Temple) Why? (To pray) When (3 o'clock in the afternoon).*

After asking the children these questions, draw their focus back on the Bible and have them read the second verse together. Then, ask them the following review questions:

- *Who is in this verse? (Lame man, those who carried him)*
- *How long had this man been crippled for? (Since birth) Where was he carried? (Temple gate, called Beautiful)*
- *When was he put there? (Everyday) Why was he put there? (To beg from those going into the temple courts).*

Ask the children if they remember how the lesson began? (With a lifeless puppet)

The crippled man in the second verse is similar to the lifeless puppet. They cannot jump, walk around, or have a job.

Read verses three to five

As the crippled man was laying by the gate of the temple, he saw John and Peter entering, and so he asked them for money. When Peter saw him, he told the man to look at both him and John. The man looked up, expecting to be given money.

Consider asking the children if they think Peter and John gave the man money or not.

In our lives, sometimes what we think we need and what we really need are not the same, only God knows what our most important needs are. God knew that this man needed more than money. Peter, having the Holy Spirit inside of him was able to respond to the man's needs.

Read verses six to eight.

Peter told the man that he did not have any money, but "*what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk*" (Acts 3:6). As Peter took the man by his right hand, his feet and ankles received

their strength and he *“stood and walked and entered the temple with them - walking, leaping, and praising God”* (Acts 3:8).

Ask the children how they think Peter was able to perform the miracle? (The Holy Spirit enabled Peter to perform a miracle). Peter did not perform this miracle out of his own power, but through the power of God.

A miracle is not magic, it is something only God can do. This miracle happened because the man put his faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read verse ten. When the people saw that this was the same man who used to sit by the temple gate begging, they were filled with wonder and amazement.

Read verse 12. Peter did not take credit for this miracle. He told the people that it was through the power of Jesus Christ, whom they had delivered to be crucified, that the man was healed. Believers cannot do anything without the power of the Holy Spirit. *“Not by mighty power, nor by strength, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty”* (Zechariah 4:6) (LXX). When the Holy Spirit gives a believer power to do something it is so people will come to believe in the Lord Jesus. Peter takes full advantage of this opportunity to share the Good News. The Holy Spirit gave Peter power to speak to the people about Jesus.

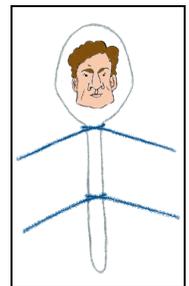
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Puppet of the Lame Man:

1. Give each child a plastic spoon and a Face template (page 5).
2. Give each child two pipe cleaners.
3. Have children color the face. Then have them tape the face onto the backside of the spoon.
4. Then have them take one pipe cleaner and wrap it around the spoon handle, just below the face to make arms.
5. Then have them take the other pipe cleaner and have them wrap around the lower middle part of the spoon handle to make legs.
6. Encourage the children to bend the pipe cleaners to make it look like their puppet is jumping up and down.
7. As the children work, remind them of the story of the lame man who was healed. He showed his thanks to God by jumping up and down and praising him.



PDF of the template on Pg.5 as well as more activities and crafts can be found [here](#).



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Re-enact the story⁹⁸:

1. Split the children into a few groups
2. Allow each group to get a turn to act out the scene while all the other groups are sitting and watching until their group gets their turn.
3. For each group, assign roles for the children to be St. Peter, John, the crippled man and those who carry him, and lastly, have children be bystanders around just like the ones found at the temple in the story.
4. Have the children act out the story from today's lesson of the crippled man who was healed
5. The best and most creative/ reenactment team/group wins.

Questions:

- Where were Peter and John going at 3 o'clock in the afternoon? (To the temple to pray).
- Who was placed at the Gate called Beautiful everyday? (A man crippled from birth).
- Why was he placed there every day? (To beg)
- What did Peter give the crippled man? (He shared the power of Jesus' Name with him and he was healed).
- How did the man respond to the power of God? (Walking, leaping and praising God).
- Who gave power to Peter to preach to the crowd? (Holy Spirit).
- What did the crowd need to do to have their sins forgiven? (Repent and turn to God).
- What new thing did you learn about God and His Word?



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Like the crippled man who had faith in God, we must always remember and have faith that God is here around us and is healing us.
- Peter glorified God by not taking credit for the miracle; he chose to use the power given to him by the Holy Spirit to tell and show others how amazing God is. Similarly, when we tell people about our faith, it is so that they glorify God. He increases as we decrease, and this portrays what it means to be a true child of God.

⁹⁸ Henderson, K., Becky, Kahler, J., Wilson-Barrett, C., & Chiwere, C. (2010, April 16). Peter Heals a Beggar - Children's Sunday School Lesson. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/peter-heals-beggar-lesson/>





Lesson 3.7 - Serving All: St. Barsoum the Naked

Building Block 3
Respecting Others Through the
Grace of the Holy Spirit



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [The Story of St. Barsoum el Erian](#), icon of St. Barsoum,

Craft: Green card stock (2 sheets per child), yellow card stock, scissors, stapler and staples, glue, googly eyes, and red balloons (one per child); [St. Barsoum the Naked coloring page](#).

Song: [Christian Youth Channel: To Whom Shall I Go \(3:47\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the power of the cross, and that anytime they are afraid they will recall that the power of God is always with them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Courage.



MEMORY VERSE:



The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.



Psalm 118:6

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Show the children a picture (can be an icon from the church or a picture from the internet) of St. Barsoum the Naked and ask the children if they know who the person in the picture is. Allow them to guess. Ask them if they know why there is a snake and a staff with a cross on the icon. Explain that they will learn about this snake and cross image in the lesson.

Today we will be talking about a great saint that relied on God and the power of the cross in any scary situation he faced.



LESSON BODY:

Today, we will learn about a saint who was victorious with the power of the cross. There was a saint called St. Barsoum the Naked. He was born in Cairo to very rich and pious parents. His parents brought him up in discipline and the instruction of the Lord. St. Barsoum devoted himself to prayer, reading scriptures, and receiving communion. When he was a young boy, his parents died and his uncle took all of their possessions and money.

Consider asking the children how they think St. Barsoum reacted to this.

St. Barsoum did not care for worldly possessions and trivial things so he did not fight with his uncle. Instead, St. Barsoum left the city and lived like a hermit.

He lived outside the city for five years, praying day and night, and fasting for long times. St. Barsoum did not wear any clothes except for a hairy sackcloth; this is why we call him St. Barsoum the Naked. Then, he shut himself in a cave inside the church of St. Mercurius Abu-Saifain for twenty years. However, there was a huge serpent in the cave that St. Barsoum went into, but he was not afraid; St. Barsoum knew that the Lord was with him.

You may wish to pause here and ask the children what they think St. Barsoum did when he saw the snake.

When St. Barsoum entered the cave, he cried out to God, prayed and said, "Now I look to you, O You Who was hanged on the Cross, so that you might grant me power to be able to overcome this beast." Then St. Barsoum did the sign of the cross over himself and went to the serpent and said, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Consider introducing the memory verse at this point.

Then St. Barsoum told the serpent "stand still in your place", and made the sign of the cross over it. He prayed to God and asked Him to remove the beastly nature from it. As he finished his prayer, the serpent changed and became tame. St. Barsoum told the serpent that it would not have any power or might on anyone, but that it shall be obedient to what he told it. St. Barsoum lived in the cave and the serpent kept to itself and did not harm the saint in any way. *Consider concluding by introducing and paraphrasing the quote by St. Cyril of Jerusalem above regarding the power of the cross in our Christian lives.*⁹⁹

"Let us not then be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Be the Cross our seal made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we rise up; when we are in the way, and when we are still. Great is that preservative; it is without price, for the sake of the poor; without toil, for the sick; since also its grace is from God. It is the Sign of the faithful, and the dread of devils: for He 'triumphed over them in it, having made a show of them openly' [Colossians 2:15]; for when they see the Cross they are reminded of the Crucified; they are afraid of Him, who bruised the heads of the dragon. Despise not the Seal, because of the freeness of the gift; but for this the rather honour your Benefactor."

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem

⁹⁹ St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 13.36, Catechetical Lectures. Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/tag/sign-of-cross/>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

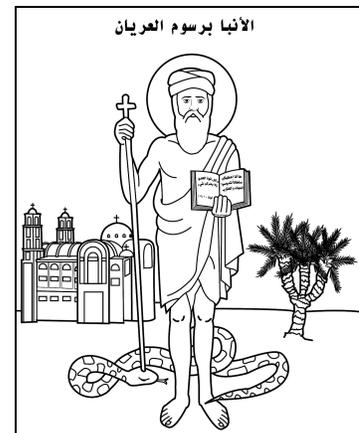
Snake Chain Craft¹⁰⁰:

1. Fold one sheet of the green card stock in eighths.
2. Repeat Step 1 using the yellow sheet of cardstock.
3. Cut on the lines of both the yellow and green pieces of cardstock so you have eight strips of paper for each color.
4. Fold a green strip of paper around and staple it. Loop a yellow strip through the green hoop and staple it. Repeat the process till all of the strips of paper have been used.
5. Cut one large and one small rounded triangle out of the other sheet of green card stock.
6. Glue the large triangle onto the end of the paper chain for the snake's head.
7. Glue the small triangle onto the other end of the paper chain for the snake's tail.
8. Glue the googly eyes onto the large triangle.
9. Glue the red balloon onto the large triangle for the snake's tongue.



St. Barsom the Naked Coloring Page:

1. Before class, print of [this coloring page](#) for the children.
2. Allow the children to color and decorate the page as they please.



SONG:

[Christian Youth Channel: To Whom Shall I Go \(3:47\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

¹⁰⁰ Says, N. The 50 Best Animal Crafts for Kids - Hobbycraft Blog says:. (2017, March 19). How To Make A Paper Chain Snake. Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://raisinglittlesuperheroes.com/paper-chain-snake/>



Questions:

- What is the saint's name that we learned about today? (St. Barsoum the Naked)
- Why is he referred to as Naked? (Because he only wore a hairy sackcloth.)
- What did St. Barsoum do when his uncle took his parents' possessions? (He went and lived as a hermit.)
- How many years was St. Barsoum in the desert for? (Five years.)
- What animal was in the cave St. Barsoum lived in? (A snake.)
- Was St. Barsoum scared? Why or why not? (No, because he knew that God was with him.)
- How did St. Barsoum defeat the snake? (He trusted in God, prayed, and did the sign of the cross.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

In this story, we learned that whenever we are faced with something scary like the snake, we need to be like St. Barsoum and not be afraid. What are some things we can do to not be afraid?

- Remember to do the sign of the cross. *You may wish to recall the quote above by St. Cyril of Jerusalem; encourage the children to do the sign of the cross before meals, before driving, before sleeping, before entering new places, etc.*
- Pray before doing something you are afraid of, during the situation, and after as well.
- Look for examples of courage and faithfulness in the Bible and in the lives of the saints to encourage you not to be afraid.



Building Block 4: Examples of Respect and Honor

Lesson 4.1 - The Wise Men: Our Gifts to God

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Matthew 2:1-12

Lesson: Image of God ruling our hearts.

Craft: An empty toilet paper roll for each wiseman (three per child), a printer, a piece of paper, crayons/paint/markers/pencil crayons, scissors, and glue.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Three Wise Men \(4:50\)](#)

Song: [Geethanjali Kids - Rhymes and Stories: We Three Kings Of Orient Are - With Lyrics - Christmas Carols \(2:43\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn that the best gift we can give Jesus is honor and obedience, and that God will protect and guide us always when we seek to obey and honor Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honor and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:



And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.



Jeremiah 29:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

It is not Christmas, but when Christmas comes how many of you get asked “What do you want for Christmas?” What will you tell those who will ask? *Allow children to respond.*



Let's think together, if we were to ask God what He wants for Christmas what do you think He would say?
Allow children to respond.

For those who are not in the Church, God would want those who do not believe in our Lord Jesus to start living a life with Him and in Him. For those who are in the Church and believe in Him, He wants to be King and Lord of our hearts. That is, we commit all our actions, our thoughts - our entire lives for the glory of His name.

Discuss what having God as the King of our heart means. You may wish to display a visual of a heart where there is a throne in the center on one side, and on the other side it can be crowded with pictures of things that keep us from having room in our hearts for Jesus to be the King.

In our story today, we will see people who wanted to have Jesus as King of their heart and those who did not. Let's get into our story today so we can find out who these people are.



LESSON BODY:

Today our story begins in the area where Babylon used to exist. In this land the people still had many wise men. These men were also called Magi, who were like priests to the king. The king would call for them when they needed to know something.

Consider pausing here and using Daniel as an example of a wise man from the Bible that the children may recognize. When Daniel lived in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had many men in his kingdom who were called wise men. Daniel, a Jewish young man, was the wisest of all in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. He was wise because he trusted and obeyed the one true God and did not worship idols. Hundreds of years have passed since Daniel lived in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.

Magi were wise in many things. One of the things these men studied was stars. These men knew a lot about the stars and their locations in the sky.

Read Matthew 2:1-12. *Before reading ask the children the following questions to help strengthen Biblical knowledge:*

- *Which part of the Bible is Matthew in? (The New Testament)*
- *Which book of the New Testament is Matthew? (The first one.)*

In the first verse, we are told that Jesus was born in a little town in a place called Judea, but the ruler of Judea, King Herod was not very nice. Then King Herod's wise men who lived in the east, saw something in the sky. Do you remember what it was? (A star).

Consider introducing the memory verse at this point and emphasizing that God supports those who seek Him out.

When Herod heard about the birth of Jesus Christ, he was very angry. King Herod was angry because there was a prophecy that Jesus would become the king of the Jews; the Jews lived in Judea, but Herod was the king of that region. He did not want anyone to take over his kingdom, but Herod did not understand that Jesus' kingdom was a heavenly one. God made sure that Herod would not find out where Jesus was born, so that he was not able to kill him.



As the star was moving, the wise men followed it until it stopped over the stable where Jesus was born. In Matthew 2:11, it says that the wise men brought baby Jesus gifts. they brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Does anyone know what these items are? *Consider presenting visuals of these three gifts for the children so that they can understand.* Does anyone know why the wise men gave these specific gifts?

They brought gold because Jesus was a king, the incense was because He was a high priest, and the myrrh was because Jesus was going to suffer. These gifts showed that the wise men respected and honored this new born baby, Jesus. *You may wish to introduce and paraphrase the quote on the right from St. Augustine of Hippo to the children to support this interpretation.*¹⁰¹

Consider stopping at this point to discuss what gifts we may give to honor Jesus like the wise men did. This is further detailed in the practical application section below.

**"Gold, as paid to a mighty King;
frankincense, as offered to God; myrrh,
as to one who is to die for the sins of all."**

- St. Augustine of Hippo

Herod's heart was so full of pride that he actually thought he could get rid of God's promised King. He commanded his soldiers to go throughout the land of Bethlehem and put to death all children who were two years old and younger. But God appeared to the Magi in a dream to make sure that they did not return to King Herod, and Jesus, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt. This teaches us that if we obey God we will see His protection.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Toilet Paper Wise Men:

1. Print the following to hand out to each child: [template for wise man 1](#), [template for wise man 2](#), [template for wise man 3](#).
2. Allow the children to color and cut out the template pieces.
3. For each of the wise man templates, the children are to:
 - a. Glue the rectangle around the toilet paper roll.
 - b. Glue the head at the top of the toilet paper roll.
 - c. Glue the crown to the top of the head.
 - d. Glue the belt around the middle of the toilet paper roll
 - e. Glue the arms to the sides of the toilet roll so the hands are at the front but leave enough room for the hand to hold the gift.
 - f. Glue the feet onto the bottom of the toilet paper roll. You can fold the tabs and glue them to the inside of the tp roll at the bottom so they stick out.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Three Wise Men \(4:50\)](#)

¹⁰¹ Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, A.D. 396 Catena Aurea: Volume 1: St. Matthew



SONG:

[Geethanjali Kids - Rhymes and Stories: We Three Kings Of Orient Are - With Lyrics - Christmas Carols \(2:43\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Follow the Star Review Quiz:

Turn off the lights, make sure the blinds and door are closed to make the room as dark as possible. Turn on the flash light, point it at some part of the room, and tell the children to follow the star. When all the children are gathered at that spot, tell them that the first one to be called on and answer the question correctly will get to point the flashlight for the next time.

Ask a question from the list below, then call on one child at a time either randomly or whoever has their hands raised until one gives the correct answer. That child may now take the flashlight and point it at ONE place in the room (don't let them swing it around). YOU ask the next question, and the correct answer-er of that question takes over the flashlight. Try to let everyone have a turn at the flashlight.

Questions:

- What town was Jesus born in? (Bethlehem).
- Who talked to the Magi secretly? (Herod).
- Where did the Magi go after seeing Jesus? (Home).
- Name one gift the Magi brought? ONE of: (Gold, (Frank-) incense, or Myrrh).
- What did Herod say he wanted to do to or for the baby? (Worship him).
- What was Herod's title? (King).
- What did the Magi follow? (Star).
- In what city did the Magi meet Herod? (Jerusalem).
- How did the Magi know where to go after they left Jesus? (A dream).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?



We learned today that the wise men presented Jesus with very special gifts to honor Him. How can we give gifts to God this week? Being obedient and honoring God! How?

- Next time you are in church, remember that we are in God's house and we should always honor it by keeping it clean and quiet.
- Fasting, praying, and reading the Bible with my family.
- Listening to my parents and teachers when they ask me to do something.
- Sharing with my friends and siblings.

Remember, God doesn't need your gifts. He is perfect and complete on His own. However, when we give Him these gifts, we are showing Him that we love Him and want to live life as His child. Obedience is an expression of love that we can give to God, for He loved us first.



Lesson 4.2 - Angels Honor God

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Paper, pencils, crayons and markers.

Craft: Paper plates, glitter glue, stapler, one paper clip/string, scissors, and hole puncher.

Activity: Small paper or plastic angel.

Video: [Christian Questions: What Did Angels do in the Bible? \(2:18\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of who the angels are and what they do.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honor and Praise.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Praise Him all His Angels; Praise Him all His hosts!

”

Psalms 148:2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Give each child a piece of paper and pencils/crayons. Ask them to draw an angel. *While they are drawing, consider asking them these questions:*

→ *What do angels look like?*

→ *Why were they created?*

→ *what do angels do?*



LESSON BODY:

In the beginning God created the angels, even before he created Adam and Eve. The angels worship God, carry his messages and follow His orders. The ranks of the heavenly hosts are divided into three groups:

1. In the first group, there is the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones.
2. In the second: Principalities, Authorities, and Powers.
3. In the third: Archangels and Angels.

Angels are also known as: Messengers, Hosts (Military), Sons of the Mighty, Sons of God, and Chariots.

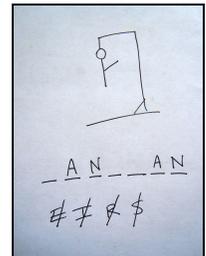
Although there are many different types of Angels, today's lesson will discuss four types: Angels, Archangels, Seraphim and Cherubim.

The Angels, Their Praises And Their Services To The People

Angels are spiritual beings who were created by God, and were created to live for eternity. Angels do not marry and they are too numerous to count. Angels were created to glorify and worship the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They help humans and have a will. Also, the angels seek on our behalf (or intercede on our behalf).

Archangels:

They are seven archangels. Their names are Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Suriel, Sedakiel, Sarathiel and Ananial. *The servant may consider playing hangman¹⁰² with the children so that they become more familiar with the names and are able to memorize them.* Each one has his host of angels and they do services as God deems fit. We remember archangels in our prayers and the raising of incense. Archangels are pure and nearer to God, so we ask for their intercessions on our behalf.



- **Archangel Michael:** Archangel Michael, the head of the heavenly powers, is the first Archangel. He serves in front of the Lord. God sends us His mercies with the intercession of Michael because he is near to God entreating on our behalf. He was the angel who announced the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:1-4), and the one who helped Joshua in his war (Joshua 5:3-15).
- **Archangel Gabriel:** He was the angel who came to Zacharias to tell him about the birth of John the Baptist. He was also the angel who came six months after the news to Zacharias and told St. Mary about the birth of the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰² (n.d.). Retrieved August 11, 2020, from https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f4/Hangman_game.jpg/1200px-Hangman_game.jpg

Seraphim:

Seraphim means “flaming creatures”. They praise the Lord continuously, saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Your holy glory.”

They have six wings, two to cover their face, two to cover their feet, and two for flying. Seraphim are the highest ranking angels, dedicated to praise the Lord.

Cherubim:

Cherubim means “full of knowledge”. They have many jobs, but the most important one is praising the Lord. They are full of eyes; which means full of knowledge. We have to remember that Satan was one of the Cherubim and fell down from his rank because of his own pride (e.g. thinking highly of himself and ignoring the power of the Lord).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Creating an Angel Craft¹⁰³:

*See [link](#) provided for step by step pictures

1. Draw a triangle on one paper plate as shown below.
2. Draw an oval shape on a second paper plate.
3. Cut out both shapes
4. Punch a hole in the largest piece as shown below
5. Staple the triangle body onto the wing shape.
6. Staple the head shape onto the body & wings shapes, overlapping the first staple slightly to hide it.
7. To make a hook for hanging, unfold a paper clip to look like shown below. Using string instead of a paper clip is another option.
8. Attach the hook to the back of the plate angel.
9. After this is done let the children decorate their plate angels however they want! Tell them to use the glitter glue to make the wings sparkle.



Angels in a Jar Game¹⁰⁴:

¹⁰³ Noreen, Says, J., Says, B., Says, P., Says, A., Says, G., . . . Says, K. (n.d.). About. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://crafturnal.com/sparkly-paper-plate-angel/>

¹⁰⁴ Angels Watching Over Me Group Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/angels_watching_group_activities.htm



The servant should have a small plastic angel or a paper angel made or purchased and have the children kneel on a chair and attempt to drop angels into a jar on the floor. After each child has had a turn, discuss angels watching over us.

In smaller groups, the children can try and get the angel in the jar multiple times but in larger groups, give them two to three tries.



VIDEO:

[Christian Questions: What Did Angels do in the Bible? \(2:18\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What are the Angel's ranks? (Seraphim is the highest rank.)
- What do Seraphim look like?(They have six wings, two to cover their face, two to cover their legs, and two for flying.)
- What is the meaning of Cherubim? (Cherubim means full of knowledge.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

In the same way that the angels serve and praise God, we too can learn to serve God through prayer and praise. We learn to praise during the midnight praise and when we attend liturgies.

This upcoming week, try to pray and praise God with all your heart, even if it is only for a few minutes. God is happy with anything we do, even if it is something small.



Lesson 4.3 - David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: 2 Samuel 6-9

Craft: Pipe cleaners, scissors, stapler.

Activity: [link](#), screen (phone, tv, tablet).

Video: [2 Fish Talks- Daily Bible Stories Kids Devotions: Children's Bible Story David and the Ark, May 11 #2FishTalks \(2:22\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand how David sets a good example because he let God take charge in his life. They will also understand that we should use whatever we have to glorify God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honor, Obedience, and Joy.



MEMORY VERSE:



The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.



Psalm 24:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Encourage the children to think about what the most important thing they have is, and have them think about where they got it from (with some prompting from the servant)

Read Psalm 24:1 to the children, and then ask:

→ *Who do you belong to, according to this verse?*



→ *If you belong to God, then who does your stuff belong to?*

This Psalm was written by David, and today's story reminds us that God is in charge of everything!



LESSON BODY:

Introductory information:

Before beginning, the servant may read this introductory paragraph to the children, to ensure that they are able to understand the main lesson.

God sent Samuel to anoint David as king when David was still very young. Saul was still king and he did not like David's success, so Saul tried to get rid of David, but David ran away. One day Saul died in battle, and David officially became the new king of Israel!

David was a good king but he knew that God was really in charge of Israel! David decided to bring the Ark of God's presence to Jerusalem. If God was the true ruler of Israel, then surely the Ark should *also* be in the capital city where the king reigns!

This story comes from 2 Samuel 6-9:

One of King David's first acts was to build a capital city in Jerusalem. The heathen Jebusites, who were on Mount Zion thought no one could capture it, but they did not know David's God, and with His help, David conquered them and built a strong fortress there.

David also built a beautiful palace in Jerusalem. His friend, King Hiram of Tyre, floated cedar logs down the coastline for David's house so it would be grand and beautiful. A house made of cedar wood was special in those days because most houses were made from mud bricks.

After several great battles, the Philistines were beaten too badly to bother God's people as they had in the past. Soon David made his plans to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Taking 3,000 of Israel's best men, he had the Ark set on a cart and brought it down from Abinadad's house, where it had been for twenty years. Abinadad's sons Uzzah and Ahio drove the oxen hitched to the cart. David and his men went joyfully before it, playing on their harps, symbols, and tambourines.

Suddenly they stopped, Abinadad's son, Uzzah, was dead! One of the oxen had stumbled, and without thinking, Uzzah reached his hand out to steady the Ark. God was so angry to see His command about moving the Ark disobeyed that He struck Uzzah dead on the spot.

At this point the servant may want to ask the children how they think David and his men felt.

Since it had been his idea to move the ark, David blamed himself. He was so upset that he left the Ark in the house of Obed, an Israelite who lived nearby, and sorrowfully took his company back to Jerusalem.

After three months, David decided to move the Ark again. This time, however, he was careful to follow the instructions God gave through Moses. He sent priests down to bring the ark back on their shoulders with poles, saying, *"...the first time the Lord our God broke out against us because we did not consult Him about the proper order."* To further show their desire to please the Lord, the people offered sacrifices along the way.

There was a great celebration when the Ark finally reached Jerusalem. David gave all the people gifts of bread, meat and raisin cakes. Then, priests were appointed so that sacrifices could be offered each morning and evening for the people, just as God had commanded in the law of Moses.

Now David decided to build a house for God. It did not seem right for him to have such a beautiful palace while the Ark was still in a tent. *“See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains,”* he told God’s prophet, Nathan. At first Nathan told David to go ahead with his plans. That night, however, God spoke to Nathan, saying, *“Go tell my servant David, ‘You shall build Me a house to dwell in.’”*

God said He would set up David’s kingdom to last forever and someone from his family would be its king. After David had died, one of his sons would build a house for the Lord. That was enough for David. With gladness in his heart, he went before the Lord to praise Him for all these wonderful promises.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Honoring God glasses¹⁰⁵:

1. To honor God, we need to always have God in front of us to remember that it is our duty to honor Him in everything we do.
2. The kids will be making “Honoring God” glasses out of pipe cleaners.
3. There is a video link below to an easy tutorial on making the pipe cleaner glasses (recommended that teacher view the tutorial ahead of time).
4. Remind the kids that when they are looking through these glasses, everything they see can honor God.
5. You may use [this video](#) as a tutorial



Honoring God with what we have Game:

1. Ask the children to stand in front of the screen in a semicircle.
2. Play the interactive song in the [link](#) below and ask the kids to sing and dance along.
3. This song is helpful to the lesson because it helps us cherish the things God made us able to do and honor Him with.
4. If there is no screen, the teacher can play the song on a phone and memorize the moves prior to the class and teach them to the children before the song.



VIDEO:

[2 Fish Talks- Daily Bible Stories Kids Devotions: Children's Bible Story David and the Ark, May 11 #2FishTalks \(2:22\)](#)

Review

¹⁰⁵ Sponge Kids. (2015, September 10). 80+ Cool Pipe Cleaner Crafts. Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://spongekids.com/cool-pipe-cleaner-crafts/>



REVIEW LESSON:

- What book is the lesson in? (2 Samuel 6-9)
- How many men did David take with him? (3000 of his best men).
- How did he feel when Uzzah died? (He blamed himself for the death, because it was his idea to move the ark.)
- After Uzzah's death, David decided to move the ark again, what were the instructions that he followed? (He followed the instructions that God gave through Moses).
- Who did God speak to in regards to David's inquiry to build the house of God? (Nathan).
- How did David glorify God? (He built a temple to put the Ark of the Covenant in.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Good intentions do not equal obedience. (David had good intentions in moving the Ark to Jerusalem, but God was so angry to see His command was disobeyed.)
- Just because an idea is a good one, this does not mean that God always has the same ideas as us. God might have other plans. (For David, He wanted him to build the Temple)
- Like the people glorifying God by offering their sacrifices as they were moving the Ark to Jerusalem, we as well offer time, money, and toys to others and the church so others can have it.
- When David decided not to build his house from the cedar wood (very nice and expensive wood), he used it to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant to honor and glorify God. We can learn to do the same, even if we are unable to build something for the Lord, we give up our time to play to go to church. It does not matter how small or big, anything we give up to spend more time with God, honors and glorifies Him.
- This week when you go home, try to do something that allows you to spend more time glorifying God. Even if you play for 30 minutes instead of an hour before bed to pray before you sleep, God will be happy.



Lesson 4.4 - Balaam and the Donkey: Obeying God's Direction

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Numbers 22

Craft: Paper bag, crayons/ colored pencils, glue, scissors, and template [1](#) & [2](#).

Activity: [Worksheet](#), and pencils.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Balaam's Donkey - Numbers 22: Sunday School Lesson and Bible Story for Kids | HD | Sharefaithkids.com\(4:50\)](#)

Song: [Lifetree Kids: God Will Guide Us | HLA Wilderness Escape VBS | Group Publishing \(2:50\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of the importance of obeying and honoring God by following his directions following God's direction.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Trust.



MEMORY VERSE:



Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, 'Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.' So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.



Numbers 22:35

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Open the lesson by showing the children a series of pictures and asking them if the object in the picture can speak or not. Use five pictures of people and five pictures of animals. Make a point to have a donkey in the very last picture and ask the children if the donkey can speak. Of course not!

Donkeys cannot speak, but today we are going to learn about a time when God used a donkey to give a message to a man named Balaam who tried to do things his own way.



LESSON BODY:

The story of Balaam and his talking donkey is in Numbers 22.

Read and paraphrase Numbers 22:21-41 with the children.

Balaam was a prophet of the Lord. Balak, a leader of the Moabites, asked Balaam to come and make the Israelites leave their land, but God wanted Balaam to go to the Israelites and give them a message from God.

Balaam prayed to God and asked for instruction about what he should do. Should he listen to Balak and go curse the armies of Israel? God responded to Balaam in his prayer and instructed him not to do this, because God blessed and chose the Israelites. Balaam obeyed and sent the messengers home.

But Balak was persistent! He sent more princes from his kingdom to convince Balaam to get the Israelites to leave. These princes were very distinguished and powerful. Do you think Balaam gave in?

Pause and allow the children to discuss.

Balaam knew that God did not want him to go. He persisted and said to the officials that even if Balak gave him a house of silver and gold, he would not disobey the Lord!

That night, Balaam prayed to God again for advice. God spoke to him again and said, *“If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only do the word which I speak to you - that you shall do.”* (Numbers 22:20). So Balaam rose the next morning, saddled his donkey, and followed the princes of Moab.

While he was on his way, God sent an angel to block Balaam’s path. Balaam did not see the angel in his way, so he kept trying to move forward with his donkey. But the donkey saw the angel and refused to walk forward! Balaam started to beat the donkey to get it to go back on the road, but the angel came again. This time, the donkey got so scared that it backed up into a wall, smashing Balaam’s foot. Balaam beat the donkey again, telling it to move forward. This time, the donkey lay down on the road, refusing to move forward. Then, God allowed the donkey to speak to Balaam! The donkey said, *“What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”* (Numbers 22:28).

Consider stopping here and discussing with the children. Why was Balaam’s treatment of the donkey wrong? What message was God trying to send to Balaam?

Balaam was amazed! The Lord then opened Balaam’s eyes and he saw the angel standing in the way. Balaam bowed his head and fell to the ground. The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, *“Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.”* (Numbers 22:32-33).

Balaam confessed that he had sinned and apologized. He said that he would not go forward with the princes of Balak anymore if it displeased God. But the angel of the Lord allowed Balaam to go forward, and reminded him that he should only speak the word that God instructed him to do. So Balaam went forward with the princes.

This story teaches us the importance of obeying God's directions. God spoke to Balaam through a donkey to communicate this to him. We should learn from this lesson by making sure we are also obeying God's directions in our lives.

Consider concluding by introducing and paraphrasing the quote on the right by St. Anthony the Great regarding the importance of obedience in our relationship with God to reiterate the objective of the lesson.¹⁰⁶

"The truly intelligent man pursues one sole objective: to obey and conform to the God of all. With this single aim in view, he disciplines his soul, and whatever he may encounter in the course of his life, he gives thanks to God for the compass and depth of His providential ordering of all things."

- St. Anthony the Great

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Donkey Paper Bag Craft¹⁰⁷:

1. Glue the small circle with the tongue underneath the flippy tab so you can see part of the circle sticking out from under the nose.
2. Glue the nose onto the HEAD. It should overlap the body a bit.
3. Glue the eyes onto the HEAD above the nose.
4. Glue the ears onto the HEAD.
5. Glue the hair tuft onto the HEAD.
6. Glue the arms into the side FLAP.
7. Glue the tail on the BACK (the smooth side).



Worksheet Activity:

1. Put the children in pairs to work together (the worksheet might be a bit hard on their own).
2. How to solve the worksheet:
 - a. Use the dial circle to figure out the blanks.
 - b. The first number under the blank tells you what circle to check and the second number tells you which letter to pick.
 - c. E.g. if the number is 2-3 you look in the second circle for the third letter.
3. Check their working using this [answer key](#).

¹⁰⁶ St. Anthony the Great, "On the Character of Men and on the Virtuous Life: One Hundred and Seventy Texts," Text 2, The Philokalia: The Complete Text (Vol. 1). Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/tag/medicine/>

¹⁰⁷ Guenther, L. (n.d.). DLTK's Crafts for Kids Paper Bag Donkey Craft. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mbagdonkey.htm>



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Balaam's Donkey - Numbers 22: Sunday School Lesson and Bible Story for Kids |HD| Sharefaithkids.com\(4:50\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/4:50)



SONG:

[Lifetree Kids: God Will Guide Us | HLA Wilderness Escape VBS | Group Publishing \(2:50\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by playing True or False with the children. Invite them to stand if the answer is true, and sit if the answer is false.

Questions:

- God told Balaam to listen to Balak and curse the Israelites. (False)
- Balaam prayed to God for guidance. (True)
- Balaam saw an angel when he rode his donkey to go to Balak. (False)
- The donkey told Balaam that he should go do what Balak commanded (False)
- Balaam struck his donkey three times. (True)
- The donkey stopped moving because it saw the angel of the Lord blocking the path of Balaam. (True)
- When Balaam understood that the donkey did not move forward because the angel of the Lord was there, he asked for forgiveness and obeyed the Lord (True)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

God allowed the donkey to speak to Balaam to prevent him from going against the word of God. This teaches us God wants us to obey His commands. We should obey Him because God always has our best interests in mind and understands things better than we can. How can we work on this during this coming week?

- Remember that even when things are not very clear to us, God has a plan for us. Even when we are unsure why certain things are happening to us, God wants to teach us something and if we do not



follow His direction we might get lost. We should give thanks to Him in prayer for this, and trust always that He will protect and guide us.

- Obey God's commands that we learn through the Bible.
- Be respectful and obedient to the people God put in our lives to guide us (e.g. parents, teachers, priests, Sunday school servants, etc.).



Lesson 4.5 - Tobias' Obedience



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Orthodox Study Bible Tobit 2-12

Craft: Paper plates, construction paper/tissue paper, googly eyes, glue, scissors, stickers, markers and crayons.

Video: [100 Bible Stories: Tobias and Archangel](#) | [100 Bible Stories \(1:25-12:43\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will understand what it means to be an obedient child of God and its importance.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God...



Philippians 2:14-15

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Play "Simon Says" with the children. If the servant says "Simon" before saying a particular action (eg. Simon says pat your head and rub your belly), then the children should do the action as fast as they can, but if the servant just says the action (eg. pat your head and rub your belly), the children should not do the action).

In the same way that the children were obedient, tell them that they will be learning the story about a son who was very obedient and did everything he was told without complaining or arguing, just as our memory verse tells us.



LESSON BODY:

The name “Tobit” means “the Lord is good”. Tobias’ parents raised him in the fear of God with good virtues. On a certain day, Tobias’ father, Tobit, fell asleep in the courtyard with his face uncovered, and it just so happened that as he was sleeping, a sparrow let its droppings over his eye; this caused Tobit to become blind. He visited many physicians, but there was no cure.

Consider asking the children how they would feel if their sight was taken from them all of a sudden. (Allow the children to discuss their thoughts.)

Tobit became sad and disappointed, especially since he needed help with his daily life activities because of his blindness. One day, Tobit remembered that one of his relatives had a certain amount of money that his family was in need of, so he asked his son, Tobias, to find a companion, retrieve the money, and give some of it as alms. Tobit felt like he was going to die soon so he told Tobias to get married, and that God would give him many sons.

Consider asking the children if they think Tobias argued with his father or if he obeyed him immediately. (Tobias was obedient.)

Tobias obeyed his father, and quickly went to find someone who knew the way to the man’s house to bring back his father’s money. Then Tobias went to look for a man and found Raphael, who was an angel, but Tobias did not know it. Raphael introduced himself as Azarius. Both Tobias and his new found companion, Azarius returned back to Tobit who greeted them. After they both left the city, as Tobias was washing himself from the river, a large fish jumped out of the water and wanted to swallow the young man. The angel said to Tobias to take hold of the fish. So he did, and put it on the bank. The angel and Tobias ate the meat of the fish, but they saved the heart, the liver, and the gall.

Consider asking the children if they would still listen to someone even if they did not understand what they were told to do. (Allow the children to discuss their thoughts.)



The servant may show the icon of Archangel Raphael, and remind that similar to how the Archangel was sent by God to protect Tobias on his journey, each one of us also has a guardian angel.

The man told Tobias that the smoke that comes out of the heart and liver casts away any evil spirit, and the gallbladder can heal a blind person if it is wiped over the eyes. As nighttime approached, the angel told Tobias that they would spend the night with Raguel, one of Tobias’ relatives. The angel who was with Tobias told him that he would ask the father of the house to give Sarah, his daughter, as a wife for Tobias. Tobias told the angel that he had heard how Sarah had been married seven times and each time, the groom died because of the devil. Tobias was frightened because he was his parent’s only child and he needed to care for them, but the angel told him not to be afraid; he advised Tobias to pray to God and to burn the fish’s liver and heart so that he would not die after the wedding ceremony.

After they got married, many people were afraid that Tobias would die, but because he did as the angel commanded, he did not. When Tobias returned home, his mother and father went to meet him and his wife. Then, Tobias took the fish's gallbladder and squeezed it over his father's eyes; God returned his vision at once. Finally, when Tobias' father was made well, the man revealed himself to the family as Archangel Raphael. He said to them, "I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels, who report the prayers of the saints and who enter before the glory of the Holy One" (Tobit 12:15). Tobias and his family were all amazed with wonder and thanked God for His care.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Fish Craft¹⁰⁸:

1. Cut a wedge out of a paper plate and glue it on the opposite side creating a fish tail and mouth.
2. Cut out "scales" using construction paper or tissue paper.
3. Glue the construction paper on the plate.
4. Turn the plate and cut the excess construction paper.
5. Glue 1 googly eye on each plate.



The servant may then connect this craft to the fish through which the Angel Raphael, by God's will, permitted the healing of Tobit, and cast away the demon that was killing Sarah's husbands.



VIDEO:

[100 Bible Stories: Tobias and Archangel | 100 Bible Stories \(1:25-12:43\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How did Tobit become blind? (He was sleeping in the courtyard and a bird let its droppings into his eye.)
- What does the name Tobit mean? (The good or the kind.)
- What did Tobit ask Tobias to do? (He asked Tobias to go to his relative's house and get the money that they were owed.)

¹⁰⁸ Timeout, T. (2012, June 19). The Rainbow Fish Book Activities, Crafts, and Snack Ideas. Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <https://www.momontimeout.com/summer-reading-adventure-week-2-rainbow/>



- What did Azarius tell Tobias could cure his father's blindness? (The gallbladder of the fish they caught.)
- How was Tobias obedient throughout the story? (He listened to his father when he was told to get the money, he listened to the angel when he told him about the fish, even though he did not understand, etc.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- What is one thing we can learn from Tobias' obedience? (vary depending on what the children say)
- When someone asks you to do something, do it right away, just as Tobias did, even if you want to go do something else, like playing.
- During this upcoming week, try to obey and do at least one thing you are asked to do, without complaining, or arguing, just as Tobias did.



Lesson 4.6 - Washing of the Feet

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: John 13:1-20

Craft: Blue tissue paper with various hues, styrofoam bowls, [this template \(one for each child\)](#), scissors, markers, crayons, and pencil crayons.

Song: [littelleuce1000: Lay It Down \(3:25\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will understand what it means to be humble and to serve others using the example of Jesus washing His disciples' feet.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Humbleness and Service.



MEMORY VERSE:



...A servant is not greater than his master, nor is He who is sent greater than He who sent Him.



John 13:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider beginning the lesson by playing this game¹⁰⁹ with the children. Have the children take off their shoes and put one shoe in a row on the other side of the room. Have the children place the one shoe they have on the floor in front of them and sit down. Explain to the children that when you tap their head, they should stand up and those who are standing need to help another person in the class by finding their shoe for them.

¹⁰⁹ Preschool plan it. (n.d.). Jesus Washes Feet of the Disciples Preschool Theme John 13:1-17. Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://www.preschool-plan-it.com/jesus-washes-feeet.html>



Tell the child, who are standing, that they will need to take the shoe that the other child has, find its matching pair, and bring both back to the child. Have the seated child do the same for the child who just got their shoe.



LESSON BODY:

Before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour of departure was coming and that Judas Iscariote would betray Him, He rose from supper, laid aside His clothes and took a towel and wrapped it around His waist. Then, He poured water into a basin, started washing the disciples' feet, and wiped them with the towel He had around His waist.

The servant may want to ask the children what they think about this. Why would Jesus Christ, Our Savior, wash the feet of the disciples? (Allow the children to share their thoughts.)

When it was Peter's turn to get his feet washed, he asked the Lord why He was washing his feet. Jesus answered him and said, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter insisted that Jesus would never wash his feet, but Jesus said, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Later, Jesus explained to the disciples that even though He was their teacher and Lord, he still washed the disciples' feet. Just as he washed the disciples' feet, He told them that they should also wash one another's feet.

Jesus said "A servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." Jesus wanted to teach His disciples to be humble and ready to serve others. Finally, Jesus said to them "He who receives whomever I send, receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." Just as Jesus taught his disciples to be kind and humble, we must also be humble and kind to those around us.

At this point in the lesson, the servant may want to mention how Abouna washes the feet of the men during the Lakan prayer on Thursday during Holy Week. The servant may also want to emphasize that this is to remind us of what Jesus did for His disciples.¹¹⁰

Consider the following words of Father Tadros Malaty; draw on the fact that these events were before Jesus' betrayal, and are symbolic of his love and sacrifice for us. He was willing to live as a human like us and die for us, and again, he lowered Himself to wash the disciples feet, despite the fact that He is the Son of God.

"In Chapter 13, the Evangelist reports the 'washing of the feet' as a ministry of love and sacrifice."

- Father Tadros Malaty

Supplementary



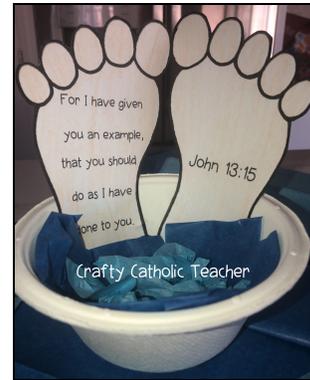
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Washing of the feet Craft¹¹¹:

¹¹⁰Fr. Tadros Malaty, (2003). *The Gospel According to St. John PART TWO* (1st ed., A Patristic Commentary). Alexandria: Church of St George, Sporting. Retrieved from <http://www.stminahamilton.ca/groups/servants/bible-commentary-books>

¹¹¹ Martin, H. (2019, February 03). Jesus Serves - Washing His Disciples Feet. Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://craftycatholicteacher.com/2019/02/jesus-serves-washing-his-disciples-feet/>

1. Prior to class, print out [this feet template](#)¹¹².
2. Allow the children to cut and color each of the feet.
3. Ask the children to write the memory verse on the printed feet.
4. Help the children glue the feet and the tissue paper like the picture.



SONG:

[littleluce1000: Lay It Down \(3:25\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did Jesus do after the supper? (Put aside his clothes, got a towel and began washing the disciples' feet.)
- Who refused to get his feet washed by Jesus? (Peter).
- Why did he refuse to get his feet washed? (Because Jesus was his Lord and teacher.)
- What did Jesus want to teach His disciples? (He wanted to teach the disciples to be humble and kind.)
- Are we any different from the disciples? (No, just as Jesus told the disciples to be kind to each other and humble, we must also do the same.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can we serve others like Jesus? (Cleaning the church, donating your toys to those who do not have as much as you, etc.)
- Humility means to put others first, so next time you see an older person struggling to do something like open the door, open the door for them!
- Next time you get a good mark in a test do not show off and brag about it to others; be humble and help those who may not have been able to get as good of a mark as you.

¹¹² Clipart. (n.d.). Clipart. Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <http://www.clipartsuggest.com/footsteps-of-jesus-cliparts/>



→ This upcoming week, remember to be humble and be kind to people you see, even if it is something small, we must do just as Jesus taught the disciples to do.



Lesson 4.7 - Responding to Insults: Ibrahim El-Gohari

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [The Story of Ibrahim El-Gohari](#)

Craft: [Coloring page](#), markers, and pencil crayons.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Through the story of Ibrahim El-Gohary, the children will learn that God calls us to love and pray for those who persecute us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Romans 12:21

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Linking up Activity¹¹³: The servant should stand in front of the room. Ask the children questions about forgiveness, such as:

- What is the meaning of forgiveness?
- Have you ever had to say sorry to your mom or dad?
- What does it mean when you say you are sorry?
- How did you feel when you forgave someone?

¹¹³ Flood, S. (2017, April 12). Children's Games That Demonstrate Forgiveness. Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://ourpastimes.com/childrens-games-demonstrate-forgiveness-5792147.html>



The first child that answers a question should come and link arms with the servant on the left side. After each child answers a question, have them come up and link arms with you and each other. Continue asking forgiveness questions until everyone is now linking arms and the circle of forgiveness is completed.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may wish to consult the following resource for more information on Ibrahim El-Gohary: [The Story of Ibrahim El-Gohari](#) or from [The Departure of the most honored Layman Ibrahim El-Gohari](#).

The following story is based on 'The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part 2' and 'The genius and famous Copts of the 19th Century.'

Today we are going to learn about a man who forgave and to whom great things happened after.

Ibrahim El-Gohary was born to poor parents, but despite this, they still taught him writing and arithmetic, and he excelled in both. He used to transcribe and bind books. In addition to this, he became the chief scribe of all of Egypt, a pretty big position.

Ibrahim El-Gohary loved the Lord and he always prayed and went to church. He was always kind and gave to the poor and forgave those who did wrong to him. Ibrahim had a brother named Girgis. There was a certain man who used to call Girgis bad names, annoy him, and throw stones at him whenever they saw each other. Girgis was sad about what was happening to him and told his brother about it; he asked him to send the man to prison. Ibrahim comforted his brother and promised that he would do something so that the man would leave Girgis alone. What do you think Ibrahim will do? What would you do?

Consider pausing here and allowing the children to discuss.

Ibrahim sent presents to the man who was rude to Girgis. He sent him butter, honey, cheese, clothes, etc. This is surprising! Why do you think he did this? How do you think the rude man responded?

Consider pausing here and allowing the children to discuss. You may wish to introduce and paraphrase the quote from St. Mark the Ascetic on the right as commentary to the memory verse to help explain how Ibrahim's love for his enemies is a command from God reflecting the love He has for us.¹¹⁴ You may also wish to introduce the memory verse at this point.

"The sign of sincere love is to forgive wrongs done to us. It was with such love that the Lord loved the world."

- St. Mark the Ascetic

The man was deeply affected and wept. When he met Girgis, he welcomed him, bowed down before him, and apologized to him. Girgis was surprised at that change in the man's behaviour. Later, he went straight to his brother's house and asked him what made the man change the way he acted toward him. Ibrahim told his brother, "I have overcome evil with good, so the man has respected you."

¹¹⁴ St. Mark the Ascetic, "On Those Who Think They are Made Righteous by Works: Two Hundred and Twenty-Six Texts" No. 48, The Philokalia: The Complete Text (Vol. 1). Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2014/01/22/st-mark-the-ascetic-the-forgiveness-of-insults-is-a-sign/>

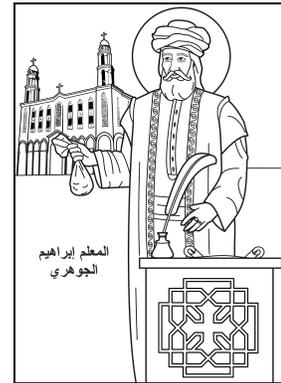
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Ibrahim El - Gohary Coloring Page¹¹⁵:

1. Prior to class, print [this coloring page](#).
2. Allow the children to color the coloring page, while doing so encourage them to retell you the story.



SONG:

[Mommie Tippy: Overcome Evil with Good - Steve Green \(Lyric Video\) \(2:01\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What was Ibrahim El-Gohary's job? (He was the top scribe of Egypt.)
- What else did he do aside from his job? (He used to transcribe and bind books.)
- What was his brother's name? (Girgis)
- What did the rude man used to do to Girgis? (Call him names, annoy him, and throw stones at him.)
- What did Ibrahim do to the man who was rude to Girgis? (Send him gifts like honey and butter.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

The story of Ibrahim El-Gohary teaches us that God calls us to love and pray for those who persecute us. What are some ways we can do this?

The servant may wish to have an open brainstorming session with the children to see how they feel that they can apply the story. The servant may choose to supplement this discussion by adding ideas from the

¹¹⁵ Coptic Saints – E to K. (2015, January 15). Retrieved August 05, 2020, from <https://bishoysblog.com/coptic-saints-e-to-k/>



church fathers. For example, St. John Chrysostom gives us nine steps for practically loving our enemies (see full quote below).¹¹⁶ Consider selecting only a few of these steps for the children to focus on so that they do not get overwhelmed.

1. Do not begin with injustice. You may wish to simplify this for the children by explaining that they can apply this by keeping the memory verse in mind.
2. Do not vindicate yourself by retaliating in kind. Consider simplifying this for the children by explaining that this means they should not try to take revenge on the wrongdoer.
3. Remain tranquil. You may wish to simplify this for the children by explaining that this means not getting angry at the wrongdoer.
4. Offer yourself to suffer wrongfully. Consider this for the children by explaining that this means not blaming the person or getting them in trouble. Consider clarifying that this does not mean they should not reach out to a trusted adult if they are being bullied, hurt, or are in danger.
5. Give up even more than the wrongdoer wishes to take. You may wish to simplify this for the children by explaining that this means not fighting back.
6. Refuse to hate those who wrong us.
7. Love.
8. Do good to the wrongdoer.
9. Entreat God on the enemy's behalf. You may wish to simplify this for the children by explaining that this means praying for the wrongdoer.

"For neither did Christ simply command to love but to pray. Do you see how many steps he has ascended and how he has set us on the very summit of virtue? Mark it, numbering from the beginning. A first step is not to begin with injustice. A second, after one has begun, is not to vindicate oneself by retaliating in kind. A third, to refuse to respond in kind to the one who is injuring us but to remain tranquil. A fourth, even to offer up one's self to suffer wrongfully. A fifth, to give up even more than the wrongdoer wishes to take. A sixth, to refuse to hate one who has wronged us. A seventh, even to love such a one. An eighth, even to do good to that one. A ninth, to entreat God himself on our enemy's behalf. Do you perceive how elevated is a Christian disposition? Hence its reward is also glorious."

- St. John Chrysostom

Lesson 4.8 - Respect and Appreciation for God's Creation and Gifts

Building Block 4
Examples of Respect and Honor

¹¹⁶ St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew, MATT. V. 38, 39, 40. p. 244-255, https://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/0345-0407, Iohannes_Chrysostomus, Homilies_on_The_Gospel_Of_Matthew, EN.pdf.



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [Animal cards \(from template\)](#), tape, and scissors.

Craft: Pre-cut crosses (Construction paper and colored markers).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for all of God's creation (nature, animals, and humans) and the abundant gifts that he has provided us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Thankfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created



Revelation 4:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider starting the lesson by playing with the children the following game:

Who am I Activity¹¹⁷:

1. Prior to class, [print and cut out the cards in the animal card template](#) and put folded tape onto the backside of the card so that the children can easily stick the cards on their foreheads during the game.
2. Instruct all of the children to sit in a circle.
3. Explain to the children that they will each be given one "Who Am I?" Animal card but they must not look at it.
4. Distribute 1 card (facing down) to each child.
5. Tell the children to put their card onto their forehead so that everyone else can see their card (the tape will already be on so they just have to stick the card on their forehead).
6. Explain the rules of the game to the children:

¹¹⁷ BibleGamesCentral. (2019, October 31). Animals Who Am I? Retrieved August 06, 2020, from <https://biblegamescentral.com/animals-who-am-i/>



- One player starts by asking the group a yes or no question. For example, “Do I have 4 legs?” or “Can I live in water?”
 - The group replies and the turn passes to the next player.
 - The game ends when everyone can identify their own animal.
7. The game can be repeated if there is enough time remaining.
 8. At the conclusion of the game, point out how different and amazing these animals are and that God created all of these animals. Since they are God’s creation, we should treat them with respect!



LESSON BODY:

Consider reminding the children about what they have previously learned about respecting others. (Respecting God and His word, respecting other people.)

Today’s lesson will be about all of God’s beautiful creation (animal kingdom, nature, humans) and our attitude towards them.

From the beginning, in the book of Genesis, we read how God “brought them [the animals] to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name” (Genesis 2:19). At that time, there was harmony between the animals and Adam. “The animals came to Adam as to a loving shepherd...They were neither of him nor were they afraid of each other.”

*Consider the following saying from St. Ephrem the Syrian to further emphasize the fact that humans are similar to animals, and therefore, we shall respect them.*¹¹⁸

“Moses said, “God brought them to Adam.” This happened in order that God might make known the wisdom of Adam and the harmony that existed between the animals and Adam before he transgressed the commandment. The animals came to Adam as to a loving shepherd. Without fear they passed before him in orderly fashion, by kinds and by species. They were neither afraid of him nor were they afraid of each other. A species of predatory animals would pass by with a species of animal that is preyed upon following safely right behind.”

- St. Ephrem the Syrian

Since animals are God’s creation, just like us, it is important for us to respect them. Not only do the animals provide food for us, but they also provide us with companionship and support; for example, St. Jerome helped an injured lion, and after that, the lion never left his side. Some monks have also had animals as companions or were very close with them. It is our sin, the sin of mankind that makes us lose our compassionate dominion over creatures and replace that with a want to control all things for our own personal gain and satisfaction.

Consider asking the children if they think it is okay to hurt or treat animals badly. We know that it is wrong to push or hurt other people because they are God’s creation, so we must also be careful in the way we treat animals because they, too, are God’s creatures.

We learned that we should respect and have mercy on other human beings because our Lord Jesus also respects and is merciful to others. Sometimes animals are for us helpers in time of need, or announcers of events. In the story of Saint Mena, the wonderworker, there was once a shepherd who was feeding sheep in

¹¹⁸ St. Basil the Great, (329-379 AD). Before the Creation of the World. Retrieved August 11, 2020, from <http://www.orth-transfiguration.org/st-basil-the-great-329-379/>



the area. One of his lambs became very sick and fell to its knees on the ground. As the lamb struggled to get up again, it suddenly became well. The story was spread quickly and the sick who came to this spot recovered from whatever illnesses that had just by laying on the ground. In this example, we see that through the lamb, God permitted the revelation of where the saints body was.

During the Divine Liturgy in the Coptic Orthodox Church, we offer prayers for all of God's creation: humans, animals, vegetation, the rivers, etc. When the priest prays the Litany of the Waters, the deacon recites the following response:

"Pray for the rising of the waters of the rivers this year, that Christ our God may bless them and raise them according to their measure, that He may give joy to the face of the earth, sustain us, the sons of men, save the cattle, and forgive us our sins."

An important point to understand in our compassion for animals is that it reflects a merciful heart. A hardened heart, a heart with no mercy or compassion for animals is a heart lacking love. *The servant may convey this concept based on the quote of Mar Issac the Syrian in Homily 81.*¹¹⁹

What gifts has God blessed us with?

Discuss with the class all the things they are blessed with in their day to day lives. Examples: The sun comes up in the morning, the moon at night, a beautiful sunset as the day comes to an end, diverse fruits and vegetables, water, all the food we eat. How do we thank God for all these gifts? Do we remember to take the time to appreciate that we are blessed with much more than what we need? Are we wasteful with food?

Emphasize to the class the importance of giving thanks for all the gifts we were given, a simple arrow prayer ("thank you God") everytime we eat a fruit we enjoy, etc. and discuss the importance of sharing these gifts with the less fortunate, and remaining wise with our gifts and not take them for granted by being wasteful.

Discuss with the class how we can show appreciation to nature.

God is an intelligent and creative designer. Not only did God create the various animals and creatures but all of nature was made specifically and perfectly. Can you think of any examples? the sky, the sunset, the mountains, volcanoes, flowers, trees, rivers, oceans etc.

Discuss with the class how we too are a unique aspect of God's creation.

Your heart beats all the time, can you feel your heart? *Have each child feel for their heart beat.* Our eyes, they are constantly taking in information, colors, shapes, do we even notice these processes? God also created man to be knowledgeable! think about all the things invented by humans. *Have the class list some inventions.*

"What is a merciful heart? a heart on fire for the whole of creation, humanity, the birds, for the animals...and for all that exists. By the recollection of them the eyes of a merciful person pour forth tears in abundance. By the strong and vehement mercy that grips such a person's heart, and by such great compassion, the heart is humbled and one cannot bear to hear or see any injury or slight sorrow in any of creation. For this reason, such a person offers up tearful prayer continually even for irrational beasts...that they be protected and receive mercy...because of the great compassion that burns without measure in a heart that is in...the likeness of God."

- Mar Issac the Syrian

¹¹⁹



Examples: the eiffel tower, bridges, buildings, cars, houses, malls etc. We should always remember to love and respect one another, as we too are part of God's creation.

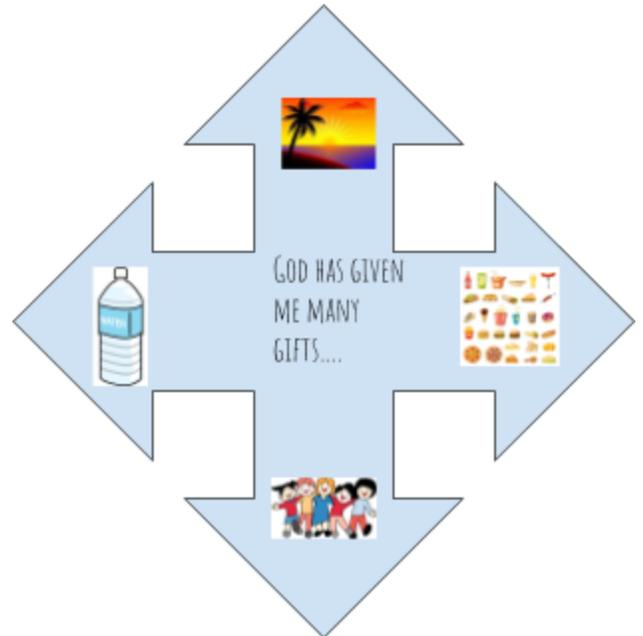
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

God Has Given Me Many Gifts Cross Craft

1. Have pre-cut crosses out of construction paper
2. Have them write “God has given me many gifts” at the centre of the cross
3. Give the children the freedom to draw/write all the gifts that God has given them and they enjoy in their own lives (sunsets, food, water, friends and family etc.)
4. Have the children share with the some of the things they drew/wrote about



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why do we need to remember to respect animals just like we respect other humans? (Because they are God's creation, just like us.)
- What kinds of gifts has God provided us with? (sun, moon, food, water, etc.)
- How should we treat these gifts? (we should take time to thank God for providing us with these gifts, we should share our gifts with those who are less fortunate than us, and we must remember to not be wasteful with food and all the gifts we are given.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Animals are also God's creation and so we must respect them like we should respect others.
- Taking time out of our day to thank God for all He has provided us (the sun, the sky, food, water, etc.)
- We should treat each other with love and respect, because we too are God's creation.



Spare Lessons

These lessons are spare and can be given in the event a lesson is given on the day of Palm Sunday or the feast of Resurrection.

SPARE.1 - St. Abanoub: Courageous with the Holy Spirit

SPARE



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: [Apple image template](#), markers, crayons, pencil crayons, tape, string, green construction paper, red construction paper, and brown construction paper.

Song: St. Abanoub Doxology



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in anyone old or young.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Courage



MEMORY VERSE:



Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...



Matthew 5:12

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Show the children a picture of St. Abanoub.

Consider asking the children if they know who the person in the picture is (St. Abanoub). Ask them if they can guess how old he is (12).



After discussing with the children, emphasize that St. Abanoub is one of the youngest martyrs of our church. He was only 12 years old when he was martyred. He was very courageous and through his sufferings he made many people believe in Christ



LESSON BODY:

St. Abanoub was the son of good Christian parents who died when he was a young child. At the age of 12, he heard the priest at the church asking people to remain faithful to God during persecution. St. Abanoub prayed to God to guide him to a place where he could preach about his faith in the Lord so he decided to walk to a city called Samanoud. On his way he saw Archangel Michael, St. Abanoub fell to the ground when he saw the Archangel but the angel raised him up and told him that he must suffer in Samanoud and other places because he is Christian.

Consider asking the children how they would feel if they were warned about suffering. Would they be scared or afraid? Would they turn away and go back home? (Allow the children to discuss their thoughts.)

In Samanoud, St. Abanoub went to the Roman ruler and told him that he loved Jesus Christ. The ruler became angry and ordered the soldiers to whip him. Archangel Michael appeared to St. Abanoub and healed his wounds. The ruler then took St. Abanoub on a boat to a city called Atrib and on the way the soldiers and their ruler started drinking and dancing and hitting St. Abanoub on the face. Then unexpectedly the soldiers became blind and the ruler was paralyzed. They cried to St Abanoub, asking him to pray to God to heal them. St. Abanoub replied that this will only happen in Atrib so that everyone there should know that there is no other God but Christ. When they arrived in Atrib, St Abanoub prayed for them and they were all healed and cried with joy, saying “We are Christians, we believe in the God of Abanoub.

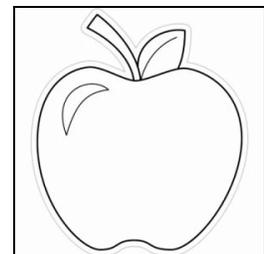
Then the ruler of Atrib got very angry and asked the best magicians of the country to help him defeat St. Abanoub. The magicians suggested putting St. Abanoub in a cell with poisonous snakes that could kill 200 or 300 men. So they put St. Abanoub in the cell with the snakes, but God closed their mouths and they did not harm him. In the morning everyone was surprised to see St. Abanoub coming out of the cell alive. Suddenly, one of the snakes crawled out of the cell and coiled itself around the ruler’s neck. The man started shaking and cried “In the name of Jesus your God, be merciful to me and don’t let the snake harm me.” St. Abanoub, who loved everyone, even his enemies, prayed for him and ordered the snake to come down and not hurt the ruler. On that day many people who were present, including the magicians, believed in Christ. However, one of the ruler’s advisers told him to behead the saint; so the ruler ordered his soldiers to kill St Abanoub by the sword.

Supplementary



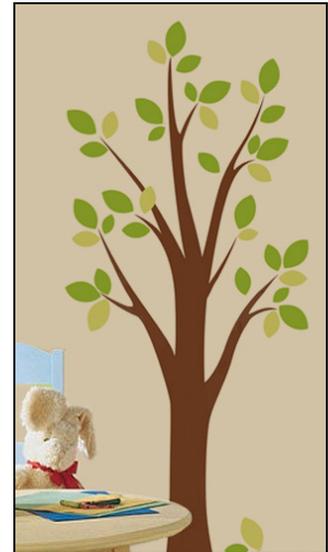
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Courage Tree Craft¹²⁰:



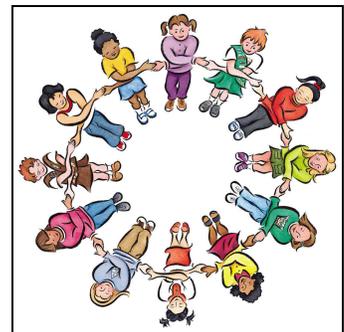
¹²⁰ By, W., Hughes, Z., & About the Author Based in Los Angeles. (1970, December 05). Courage Activities for Kids. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://howtoadult.com/courage-activities-for-kids-9644809.html>

1. The teacher can cut out green and brown construction paper to make a tree¹²¹ to stick on the wall.
2. After sticking it on the wall, give each child a red piece of construction paper.
3. The children can use the apple template¹²² to cut out apples or use it as a reference to try to draw and cut out their own apples.
4. Write on the tree: “Courage Tree”
5. Give each child a sharpie to write on the apple examples of courage. For example: standing for your faith, trying new things, expressing your opinion freely, loving someone who wronged you etc.
6. Give each child a 2-3 inch long piece of string and ask them to tape one end on the back of the apple.
7. Take each apple and staple the other end of the string on the tree so that the apples can move if blown onto or touched.



Courage and Trust Game¹²³:

1. Try and find a classroom with carpet or a soft floor (add mats).
2. The floor needs to be soft in case the children fall on the ground.
3. Tell the class to make one huge circle in the center of the room.
4. Ask them to hold hands with the person to their right and left.
5. The whole circle should be connected through their hands.
6. Then, ask the children to take one step into the circle.
7. Next, they have to start leaning backwards with trust and courage without falling.
8. See how long the class can lean back without falling.
9. This activity can be repeated or done with smaller groups instead of the whole class too.
10. This game strongly relates to courage and trust as it teaches the children that we need to trust others (just like St. Abanoub trusted God) and have courage and be strengthened through Christ.



SONG:

St. Abanoub Doxology¹²⁴
 You are a wise child,
 O Abanoub of Nehis,
 because you are chaste and pure,
 you are loved by the Master

¹²¹ Make-Handmade.com. (n.d.). Beautiful tree for house: DIY Tree Wall Decal-FREE Downloadable Template!! Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <http://make-handmade.com/2011/10/20/beautiful-tree-for-house-diy-tree-wall-decal-free-downloadable-template/>

¹²² Schoolgirl Style. (n.d.). Color My Classroom Apples. Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://schoolgirl-style.myshopify.com/products/color-my-classroom-apples>

¹²³ STATIC, S. (2013, January 31). Teaching children to Give Back. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://stnfrdstatic.wordpress.com/2013/01/30/teaching-children-to-give-back/>

¹²⁴ St. Abanoub of Nehis. (n.d.). Retrieved August 10, 2020, from https://tasbeha.org/hymn_library/view/2645



He abandoned the whole world,
in order to seek the heavens.
he carried his cross, a
nd he gained his soul

When he was hung by his feet,
his head was down on the ship's mast,
he did not move,
his heart was full of strength

He became a golden lampstand,
in the places of the faithful,
the strong saint Abanoub,
who received tortures

Many who saw his struggle,
and his firm faith,
confessed with a loud voice,
"Our God is Jesus the Blessed"

They took with him the unfading crown,
of martyrdom,
through their upright faith,
in our Lord Jesus Christ

Hail to you o martyr,
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
hail to the courageous hero,
Abanoub of Nehis

Pray to the Lord on our behalf,
O struggle mantled martyr,



Abanoub of Nehis,
that He may forgive us our sins.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- Who healed St. Abanoub's wounds? (Archangel Michael.)
- What did the magicians advise the ruler to do? (They told him to put St. Abanoub in a cell with poisonous snakes.)
- How did God save St. Abanoub from the snakes? (He closed their mouths.)
- How old was St. Abanoub when he was martyred? (12 years old.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Even when St. Abanoub was being tortured and threatened, he never lost faith in God! Remember next time you are faced with a hard task, always have faith that God will protect you from anything.
- St. Abanoub was very courageous at all times and was never scared, even though he was young and small he was able to do great things with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Remember St. Abanoub's courage whenever you are questioned about your faith and your beliefs!



SPARE.2 - The Resurrection Feast



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Plastic Easter eggs (10-20 per team), paper plates (2 per player), and buckets or boxes (two per team).

Scripture References: <>

Craft: Thick paper plate, gray cardstock, standard and jumbo popsicle stickers, gray paint, and [printed figures](#).

Video: [Sharefaith kids: Jesus Resurrection for Children | The Empty Tomb - John 20 | Easter Sunday School Lesson for Kids \(5:12\)](#)

Song: [CYC: Very Early Sunday Morning \(7:46\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will discover how the Easter season is filled with hope and joy because we celebrate Jesus' resurrection..



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith



MEMORY VERSE:

“

go to my brethren and say to them 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father

”

John 20:17

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

The objective of this game is to transfer Easter eggs from one bucket to another. The eggs are passed from one teammate to another using paper plates.

Place buckets containing Easter eggs at one end of the room. There should be one bucket for each team. Make sure there are equal numbers of Easter eggs in each bucket. Space out the buckets so that each team has enough space to stretch out their arms without knocking into each other.

Divide the children into teams of 5 or more. Have the first player from each team stand next to the bucket of Easter Eggs. He/she should stand such that the bucket of Easter Eggs is on his right. The next player stands roughly one arm-length away from the first player, facing the same direction as the first player, and so forth.

Place one empty bucket next to the last player of each team.

Give the first players of each team one paper plate to hold on his/her left hand. Give the last player one paper plate to hold on the right hand. Give all the other players two paper plates each, one for each hand.

On “go”, the first players pick up one Easter egg with his/her right hand, puts it on his/her plate, and transfers the egg to the plate on the second player’s right hand. The second player transfers the egg to the plate on his left hand, then to the plate on the third player’s right hand, and so forth. The last player puts the egg into the empty bucket with his left hand. Only after the last player places the egg in the bucket can be the first player to start with the next egg. If the Easter egg drops at any time, it must be returned to the starting bucket. The first team to finish transferring all the eggs wins.



Although Easter eggs are not mentioned in the Bible, they are used by Christians around the world to symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus. Every year on Easter Sunday, we remember and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.



LESSON BODY:

After our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, all the people who followed Him were very sad and scared. They did not know what was going to happen next. They did not know if they would ever see their Lord again. They did not know what to do or if they were in danger.

The 11 disciples spent the time together, hiding. They were trying to do what our Lord had told them and wait. The women, on the other hand, did not feel like they were in danger, and as soon as they could, they ran to the tomb of Christ to anoint His body with special spices and to be with Him. Mary Magdalene was one of the women and she arrived at the tomb first. She wanted to see her Lord, where they had laid Him in the tomb, and wanted to pray. It was Sunday, very early in the morning, while everyone else was still sleeping. *Have you ever been awake that early, before the sun?* When Mary Magdalene was on her way to the tomb, she was wondering if she could roll away the huge stone that was sealing the door of the tomb.

Can you imagine how she was feeling? Ask the children if they know what Mary Magdalene saw at the tomb. When she arrived at the tomb she saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

She didn’t know what to do. She ran and found St. Peter and St. John and told them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."



St. Peter and St. John ran to the tomb. When they arrived there, they looked inside. And what they saw told them that their Lord had risen from the dead. They saw the linen cloths that the Lord had been wrapped in and they saw the handkerchief that had been around His head was folded together in a place by itself. St. John, who had seen his Lord fold handkerchiefs before, realized that this was the special way the Lord folded handkerchiefs and that it could only have been Himself that did it. Our Lord had left St. John a special sign – what could it mean? That He was no longer dead – He was risen from the dead! He was alive!

St. Peter and St. John then went to their own homes but Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb. She stood outside, crying, and as she was crying, she stooped down to look inside the tomb, and saw two angels wearing white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. *[Draw a picture to illustrate this point].* Then the angels said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” and she responded, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you seeking?” St. Mary Magdalene, thinking that He was the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” She is asking the man where Jesus is and the one to whom she is speaking is Jesus!

Jesus then said to her, “Mary!” And she recognized Him! She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which means, “teacher”). And she ran to Him. Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

And St. Mary went to the disciples and told them that she had seen the Lord and told them what He had told her to say.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told St. Mary Magdalene that God was His Father and our Father. Our Lord was telling her that now, after His crucifixion and resurrection, God is now our Father – and the Father of everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gave Himself up for us on the cross, and when He resurrected, we were accepted to God the Father as His children.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the most honored of all because of what He did. God the Father honors Him and put Him above everyone and everything else in the entire creation and we also honor Him above all else in our lives because He gave us our life back and gave us the way to go back to God, our Father. And because He gave to us to be able to call God “Father.” No one else can do this, except for the one who belongs to Jesus Christ.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:





He is Risen Paper Plate Tomb Craft¹²⁵:

1. Paint the back and front of the paper plate gray. Allow time to dry.
2. While the paint is drying, have the children cut out and color the pictures of the angel and Jesus.
3. Once the paper plate is dry, cut in half and cut out an opening on one paper plate half. Glue the paper plate halves together.
4. Glue the paper Jesus and angel onto the paper plate tomb.
5. Glue the popsicle sticks into cross shapes and glue to the tomb.
6. Lightly spray the gray cardstock with water on both sides and form into a rock shape. Allow time for your craft to dry.



VIDEO:

Video: [Sharefaith kids: Jesus Resurrection for Children | The Empty Tomb - John 20 | Easter Sunday School Lesson for Kids \(5:12\)](#)



SONG:

Song: [CYC: Very Early Sunday Morning \(7:46\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- <>
- <>
- <>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

¹²⁵ He is Risen Paper Plate Tomb Craft. (n.d.). Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <http://www.freefuneeaster.com/easter-crafts/he-is-risen-paper-plate-tomb-craft/>