

Honoring God Through Giving

Lesson Scripture: Mark 12:41-44

Bible Truth: I will honor God with all that I have.

Bible Story: Mark 12:41-44

Bible Verse: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops." (Proverbs 3:9, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "What Is Honor?"

Preparation

Write the words "Honor" and "No Honor" on separate pieces of paper and display them on opposite sides of the teaching area.

Materials

paper
markers

Presentation

Show the word "honor" and say: **Does anyone know what this word means?** Allow children to respond. **Instead of telling you the meaning of "honor," I need a few volunteers to help me demonstrate it.** Ask for several volunteers to act out the following roles as you read the text.

Soldier: When an army soldier comes into a room what hand signal do people sometimes make? (allow for response) **Let's all stand and salute this soldier. This salute is a way to show honor and means that we know that soldiers are people who risk their lives to keep us safe.**

Teacher: What are you supposed to do in your classroom to answer a question your teacher asks? (allow for response) **Let's all raise our hands together like we have an answer for this teacher. When children raise their hands this shows honor for the teacher because he has an important job helping you to learn.**

Judge: What do people in a courtroom do when a judge walks into the room? (allow for response) **Let's all rise to show respect to this judge. This standing up lets everyone know that judges do important work helping the world to be a fairer place.**

School Friend: **What do you do with your hand when you see your friend across the park.** (allow for response) **Let's all wave to our friend together. When we wave our hand it shows that we're happy to see our friend. It means our friend is important because we like to be around them.**

Say: **Honor means acting like someone else is important. It starts with an attitude but it's also something that comes out in the way we behave around toward that person. When we honor God, we show with our attitude and actions that He is important to us!**

I am going to read you a few sentences about some children. If you think they are honoring God, I want you to go stand by the sign that says "Honor". If you think they are not honoring God, go stand by the sign that says "No Honor."

A boy plays with toys in church while the pastor is preaching.

Another boy listens carefully to the pastor's sermon.

A girl stands and sings during worship time in church.

Another girl wiggles and whines when her mom asks her to participate in the service.

Two children close their eyes during prayer.

Two other children look around the room when people are praying in church.

You give some of your birthday money in the offering at church.

You spend all of your birthday money on candy.

Say: **The last two sentences remind us we should even honor God with our money.**

*adapted from a lesson from the Ministry to Children website. <http://ministry-to-children.com/how-to-honor-your-father-lesson/>

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Proverbs 3:9

Preparation

Write Proverbs 3:9 on a poster board or whiteboard.

Explanation

Say: **Today's memorization verse contains a few words that are difficult to understand. Read the verse and tell me which words you do not understand.** Underline each word the children mention. Be sure to include "wealth" and "first firsts."

Materials
poster board
toys, books, clothes, money
one rotten fruit
one ripe fruit
small ball

We're already learned that honor is showing God that He is important to us with our attitude and actions. The verse tells us that we can honor or respect the Lord with our wealth.

What does the word "wealth" mean? Allow children to answer. **In this verse, the word "wealth" means the things that we possess. Children possess things like toys, clothes, books, and money.** Show these items as you talk. **How can we use these things to show our love and respect to God?** Allow children to answer. Some suggestions may be by taking good care of

them, sharing them with others, and giving them away to those who have much less than us. Say: **The second part of the verse tells you to honor the Lord with the “first fruits of all of your crops.” Does anyone know what “crops” means?** Allow children to answer. Direct them to the understanding that crops are an agricultural product grown by farmers. **In Bible times, one of the main ways people gained wealth was through growing crops. They would have plenty of food to feed their family and could sell any extra they had to make money. The people were commanded to take the “first fruits” of their crops and give them to God. “First fruits” simply means the best crops. I have two fruits—one is almost rotten and the other one is ripe and delicious. Which one of the two would be a good gift for someone? Yes, the one that is ripe and delicious. This would be the “first fruit.”**

So what does this have to do with you? I don’t see too many farmers in the audience. Well, this verse reminds us that to honor God with our wealth, we need to give him our best. For example, if you are asked to donate toys to a homeless shelter, would God want you to give your broken toys or would He want you to give a good toy, maybe one you still enjoy? Allow children to answer. **By donating good toys, you would be giving God your “first fruits.**

Memorization Activity

Ask the children to make a circle. Throw the ball to a child. He/she will say the first word of the verse and then throw the ball to another child. That child will say the next word and will throw the ball to another child. This will continue until the verse has been recited completely. Repeat the activity until most children can say the verse with confidence.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: “The Widow Gave All She Had,” Mark 12:41-44

Preparation

Read and study Mark 12:41-44.

Prepare an offering box and cut an opening on the top part of it.
Decorate the box and write the word “offering” on one side of the box.



Presentation

Invite the children to sit in a circle near the offering box. Choose one girl to be the poor woman. Give her two coins and ask her to stand away from the group. As you tell the story, instruct the girl to place her coins in the box.

Say: **When we give money to God, usually at church, it is called an offering. During Jesus’ days, there was a box in the temple where people would place their offerings.**

One day, Jesus and His disciples were sitting at the temple. Jesus was observing as people were placing money in the offering box. He noticed that rich people would place many coins in it. Then he saw a poor woman arrive at the temple. She walked to the box and placed two small coins in it. Jesus knew that this woman didn't have a husband to care for her and that she didn't have any more money besides those two coins. However, she gave all she had!

Jesus wanted his disciples to notice what the woman had given. "Look!" He said. "This woman has given much more than rich people. They have given many coins in offering because they have them. But this woman gave all she had."

Do you think this woman honored God with her money? Allow children to answer. Not only did she give God her best, the "first fruits," she gave Him all she had.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Communication, "How Can I Honor the Lord with My Wealth?"

Preparation

Make copies of the handout "How Can I Honor the Lord with My Wealth?" located at the end of this lesson. If you do not have access to a copy machine, copy the situations on poster board for the children to see.

Materials
pencils
"Honoring God with my Wealth" handout

Presentation

Divide the children into small groups of two to four people. Give each group a copy of the "How Can I Honor the Lord with my Wealth?" handout. Give them four minutes to read the situations and respond to each question. Challenge them to think about as many appropriate ideas as possible in those four minutes. When they are finished, allow each group to share with the entire class.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Materials
pencils
paper

Presentation

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to write down (or draw) one way that they are going to honor God with their possessions this week. It could be with money, a toy, or another object. Pray with the children, asking God to help them always honor Him with their wealth.

How Can I Honor the Lord with My Wealth?

*Note: These questions may not be appropriate for the children in your ministry. If not, develop questions that will help your children recognize ways they can honor God with their possessions.

Directions: Read each of these situations and decide how the child could honor God.

1. Andrew receives \$3.00 for his birthday. How can he use this money to honor God?
2. Every week, Cynthia takes her neighbor's trash can out and puts it back. The neighbor pays her \$1.00 weekly. How can she use this money to honor God?
3. Michael received a new bicycle for Christmas. Though his older bike is too small for him, it's still in very good condition. What can Michael do to honor God with his possession?
4. Rachel likes to read. She is collecting some good books. How can she use these books to honor God?