

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.

Materials
Bible
small box
scissors
markers
2 small coins

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?

Giving My Tithes

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 14:1-20

Bible Truth: I will give my tithe to God.

Bible Story: Genesis 14:1-20

Bible Verse: “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and offerings.” (Malachi 3:8, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Use My Money Wisely”

Preparation

Use the items from the materials list to help tell the story.

Presentation

Say: **One day, a little boy helped his neighbor pick up the apples that had fallen out of his tree. The boy worked diligently and carefully to separate the good apples from the rotten apples. When he finished, the man gave him ten coins.**

The boy was very excited when he received the ten coins and ran to the market. He saw a bag of candy and used four of his coins to buy himself the candy. He also used the other six coins to buy himself a soft drink. Do you think this boy used his money wisely? Why or why not?
Allow children to answer.

This boy wasn’t very wise in the way he used his money because forgot to give God His part.

Show 10 coins. **The wisest way to use any amount of money that we earn or are given is by giving God His part, before anything else. The Bible tells us we should give God a tenth of everything we receive. This is called a tithe. A tenth just means that if you divide your money into ten parts, one part belongs to God. Since this little boy earned 10 coins, 1 coin belonged to God. Put 1 coin in a tithe envelope or offering plate. Remember, all that we have, earn, or receive comes from God. He gives us the opportunity to decide how to spend most of the money. The only thing He requires is that we return a small part, 10 percent, to Him. You give your tithe to your church. It is used to help your church tell others about Jesus. When you give the tithe of your money to God, you are helping to carry out the work of God.**

Materials

10 coins from your local
currency
tithe envelope or offering
bucket

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Malachi 3:8

Preparation

Write Malachi 3:8 on a poster board or the whiteboard.

On a poster board, write out the “thief” and “Bible” lines for children for the memorization activity.

Materials
poster board
markers

Explanation

Ask a child to let you borrow something that they brought to class. (purse, wallet, toy, etc.) Say: **I told** (insert child’s name) **that I was just going to borrow this item. If I decided not to give it back, what would I be doing?** (stealing). **I won’t keep this item because I’m not a thief. I don’t steal from others.** Return the item to the child. **I don’t think any of us would steal from others, but would we steal from God?** Allow children to respond. **Let’s read Malachi 3:8. As we read, try to discover if there are ways we sometimes steal from God.** Read the scripture with children.

Choose a child to underline the words in the verse that show ways in which we can steal from God. Say: **Yes, we can steal from Him when we don’t pay our tithes. Even though we don’t steal from others, are we tempted at times to steal from God by keeping all of our money?** Allow children to respond.

Memorization Activity

Allow each child to choose a partner. One of them will be the thief. The other one will represent the Bible. Have children face each other and repeat the lines written on the poster board.

Bible: Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

Thief: How are we robbing you?

Bible: In tithes and offerings.

After saying the verse several times, allow the children to change their roles and to repeat the verse again.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: “Abraham Paid His Tithes,” Genesis 14:1-20

Preparation

Read and study Genesis 14:1-20.

Materials
10 pictures or objects
of cows, sheep, food,
jewelry, fabric, or tents
Bible

Presentation

Tell the Bible story using the items you have collected.

"Abram, Abram," said the unknown person as he ran through Abram's tents. "The enemy has defeated the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Your nephew Lot and all his family have been taken captive."

Abram called all his servants that were with him. There were 318 men with him that were able to fight. They followed the army and attacked them the next night. In the morning, Abram and his men had recovered all that had been stolen, including Lot, his family, and possessions.

When Abram and his men were returning from the battle, the King of Salem went to meet him with supplies for his tired men. Abram knew that this king was a minister for God. He wanted to thank God for giving him the victory over all his enemies, so he gave the king a tenth part of everything he had captured. Use the items you have gathered and give a "tenth" away. This tenth part was called a tithe.

God wants us to do the same thing Abram did so many centuries ago. We pay tithes for everything that God gives us. Why? It is God's command, (Read Malachi 3:8 and 10) and because we want to give honor to God.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Problems and Solutions, "How Much Do I Owe God?"

Preparation

Place several different amounts of money in three different envelopes. This money should be easy to divide up into a tithe. For example, 10 coins in one envelope, 20 in a second envelope, and 30 in a third envelope.

Materials
various amounts of
money in your local
currency
three envelopes

Presentation

Show children the different amounts of money. Work together to separate God's part (tenth) from my part. (You might also want to share with children that it is good to give more than just our tithe to God. When we give more than the tenth, it is called an offering.)

Once children have an understanding of what a "tenth" means, share with them this story:

Maria had been saving her money to buy a new dress at the store. It cost \$10. (Feel free to change the amount to match a reasonable amount for clothing in your culture.) She had been saving her money, and she finally had enough to buy the dress. Maria's

mom took her to the store to purchase the dress. As they were waiting to pay, Maria remembered her Sunday school teacher telling her about tithes. Maria looked at the \$10 in her hand. She REALLY wanted the dress, but she knew she would be paying for part of it with money that belonged to God. What should Maria do?

Allow children to discuss the situation. Help them realize that Maria should pay her tithes and then continue saving her money until she has enough to buy the dress.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Give each child a tithe envelope, either one provided by your church or a plain envelope with "Tithe" written across the front. Ask the children to take the envelope home this week. If they receive any money, they should put their tithe in the envelope and bring it back to church. Pray with the children.

Materials
tithe envelope for each
child

Giving My All, Big or Small

Lesson Scripture: John 6:5-15

Bible Truth: I will give what I have.

Bible Story: John 6:5-15

Bible Verse: “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee.” (Deuteronomy 16:17, KJV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Small Things Make a Big Difference”

Preparation

Place supplies on a table where you can easily access them.

Presentation

Say: **Sometimes we think that bigger things are better than smaller things. Would you rather have a small cookie or a big cookie?** Show cookies and allow children to respond. **Would you rather have a small amount of money or a big amount of money?** Show money and allow children to respond. **Most of you would rather have the bigger cookie or the big amount of money. Even though we often want the biggest item or the largest amount, God isn't worried about the amount when He asks you to give to Him. God just wants you to give whatever you have.**

Show the container. Say: **In this container, I am going to pour a large amount of liquid.** Pour 1 cup or 240 ml vinegar into the container. **Now I am going to take this little spoon and get out a small amount of baking soda. (1 tsp or 5ml) Even though there is just a little bit, watch what happens when I add it to the liquid.** Add a small amount of baking soda to the vinegar and watch the “big” reaction. **Even though I only added a small amount of baking soda, something “big” happened. When we give God what we have, even if it is just a small amount, God can use it to do great things.**

Materials

baking soda
vinegar
measuring cup
measuring spoon
large container, clear if possible
2 cookies, one large and one small
2 amounts of money, one small and one larger

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Deuteronomy 16:17

Preparation

Write Deuteronomy 16:17 on poster board.

Give each child a different amount of a small item. You might use small rocks, small candies, etc.

Materials
small items to pass out to
children such as rocks or candy
2 cups

Explanation

Say: I **have given you some rocks** (or name the item you gave children). **I would like each of you to place one of your rocks in my cup.** Allow children to place them in the cup. Continue asking children to place rocks in your cup. Several children will run out of rocks and won't be able to put any more in the cup.

Say: **Why did some of you stop putting rocks in the cup?** Allow children to answer. **You could only give what you had. Some of you had several rocks and some of you only had a few. Our Bible verse tells us that God wants us to give from what we have. Whether we have a lot of money or just a small amount, we can all give something to God.**

Memorization Activity

Play a game similar to "hot potato." Ask children to stand in a circle. Give one child a cup to hold. Explain that when you start the music, they are to pass the cup around the circle until the music stops. When the music stops, the child holding the cup will repeat Deuteronomy 16:17. Continue the game until each child has had the opportunity to repeat the Scripture verse or until the children are tired of the game.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "A Boy Willing to Share," John 6:5-15, Matthew 14:13-21

Preparation

Read and study John 6:5-15 and Matthew 14:13-21.

Fill a lunch bag with five pieces of bread and two fish. You can use pictures if bread and fish are not available.

Materials
Bible
lunch bag
five pieces of bread
2 fish

Presentation

Before sharing the Bible story, ask one child to hold the lunch bag and sit away from the group.

Say: **Today I am going to share with you a story from the Bible, but I will need some help. Every time I say "Jesus" I would like for you to point toward heaven. When I say "hungry," rub your stomach.**

One day a large group of people followed Jesus to a mountainside. They wanted to hear Jesus teach and see Him heal people. After a long day, Jesus realized the people were hungry. They were really hungry! He asked the disciples to feed the people. The disciples looked at Jesus in amazement because it was impossible for them to feed all of these people. There are over 5,000 men and even more women and children. Even if they had enough money to buy food for all of the people, there was no where to buy food. They were on a mountain.

One of the disciples, Andrew, approached Jesus with a little boy. (Have the child holding the lunch you prepared come forward.) Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two fish. But how far will they go among so many people?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and began to break the bread and fish into small pieces. He had the disciples start passing it out. The entire time the disciples were passing out food, the bread and fish never ran out! When all of the people had eaten as much as they wanted, Jesus asked the disciples to collect the left over food. They disciples filled 12 baskets with the left overs. The people were no longer hungry. Jesus took the small lunch the little boy gave him and turned it into lunch for over 5,000 people.

Say: **The little boy was willing to share his small lunch with Jesus, even though it didn't seem like much. Jesus was able to take the boy's small gift and make it something great! Jesus will do the same thing when you give your money, time, or possessions to Him. Even if you only have something small to give to Jesus, He can do big things with your gift!**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art Activity, "A Gift for Jesus"

Preparation

Draw a large present on a piece of paper for each child. Be sure to leave the picture of the present empty.

Materials

one piece of paper with a present drawn on it for each child

Presentation

Say: **We all have something we can give to Jesus. Can you think of something a child could give to Jesus?** Allow children to respond. They should mention things such as their money, their time, a talent such as drawing or singing, and even some of their toys. **How do you think Jesus could use your gift?** Discuss with the children how each gift they mentioned could be used by/for God.

Give each child a prepared piece of paper. Ask them to draw something inside the present that they want to give to Jesus. They can draw more than one thing.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Materials
none

Presentation

Ask children to hold the pictures that they drew during the art activity. Pray with the children as they talk to Jesus about giving this gift to Him. Encourage them to finish the activity during the week by actually giving Jesus the item they drew on the paper as an offering. Talk with parents as they pick up the children and explain the lesson. The parents may need to help children as they follow through with their commitment.

Giving to Help Others

Lesson Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-24

Bible Truth: I will give to help others.

Bible Story: 1 Kings 17:8-24

Bible Verse: “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:42, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “I’m Thirsty!”

Preparation

Write Matthew 5:42 on a poster board or whiteboard.

Before the lesson, ask one child to help you with the presentation. He or she will need to beg you continuously for something to drink.

Materials
poster board
markers
pitcher of water
cup for teacher and each child

Presentation

Say: **I’m very thirsty. My throat is so dry. I can hardly speak. I need a drink of cold water.** Pour yourself a cup of water and take a quick drink. **Now that I feel better, I can read today’s Scripture.** Read Matthew 5:42. When you finish reading, drink the rest of the water and fill the cup again. Drink the water slowly. The child whom you asked to help should start asking for something to drink: “Can I drink some? I’m thirsty!”

Say (to the child): **Not now.** (Again speaking to audience): **Let’s hear what the Bible verse says. It’s very important. It talks about people asking us to help with their needs. Jesus said in this verse that we shouldn’t turn them away.** Continue drinking your water. The child asks for a drink again.

Ignore the child and say: **When we don’t help others, we aren’t doing what Jesus asked us to do.** Keep drinking your water. The child keeps asking for a drink, and you keep ignoring him. **If someone is hungry or thirsty, we need to give them something to eat or drink. If they ask us to borrow something, we need to let them borrow it.** Drink water again. The child keeps asking.

Pretend to suddenly notice the child. Say: **What did you say?** The child will reply, "I asked for water." **Oh, I guess I should do what Jesus told me to do.** Give the child some water to drink. **When we hear others asking for help, the Bible tells us that we need to respond and give them what they need.** Offer all of the children a glass of water.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Matthew 5:42

Preparation

None

Materials
scripture verse poster from the
FOCUS activity

Explanation

Say: **When somebody asks us for help we have two options.**

These options are found in the verse. Can you find them? Ask

one of the children to go to the front to underline the two options. Say: **Yes, we can give them what they need or we can turn away from them. What does Jesus want us to do?** Allow children to respond.

Memorization Activity

Allow the children to act out this verse with a partner while they memorize it. One child extends hands out to their partner and says: "Give to the one who asks you." The other child turns away from the one asking and says: "and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Repeat this exercise several times and ask the children to switch roles.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "A Woman Willing to Give," 1 Kings 17:8-24

Preparation

Read and study 1 Kings 17:8-24.

The week before this lesson, ask a woman to learn the following monologue to present to the children. Provide her with a Bible costume and some wooden logs to carry.

Materials
Bible
Bible costume for a
woman
wooden logs

Presentation

Have the person presenting the monologue say: **My husband died some years ago. I was left alone with no one to help me take care of my child. Unfortunately, my country was in the middle of a drought. There was very little food or water. One day, I was at the city's gate picking up some wood when a stranger asked me, "Would you give me some water and a piece of bread?"**

I told him that it would be my pleasure to give him a cup of water but I didn't have bread. All I had left in the house was a little bit of flour and oil. I was thinking of preparing a loaf of bread for me and my son. I knew that after eating the bread we were going to die of hunger.

"Don't be afraid," said the man. "Go and prepare something for the three of us. The Lord will make sure that you have enough flour and oil until the day it starts to rain again and the harvest grows back."

I did as I was told. No matter how much oil or flour I used daily to prepare the bread, there was always enough left.

The name of the man was Elijah, and he was one of God's prophets in the land of Israel. He stayed with us for many days.

While he stayed in our house, my son became seriously ill and died. "Give me the boy," Elijah said. He carried my son in his arms and took him to his room, laid him in bed, and started to pray to God. He prayed over my son's body and asked God to give him life. Elijah did this three times. On the third time, my son was brought back to life. There's no doubt that Elijah is a man of God!

I'm so glad I gave water and bread to Elijah when he asked me for it. God multiplied my food because I gave it to someone in need. When my son died, God gave him back to me. God is good to me!

At the end of the monologue, discuss the following questions with the children:

Why was it difficult for the woman to share her bread with Elijah?

What great things happened to her because she shared?

If you were the woman, what would you have done when the stranger asked you for something to eat and drink?

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Communication, "What Would Happen If...?"

Preparation

Make several copies of the "What Would Happen If..." handout 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
copies of the "What
Would Happen If..."
handout

Presentation

Divide the children into groups. Give each group a copy of the "What Would Happen If..." handout. Ask them to decide how they would respond and what blessings they might receive if they chose to give. Have each group share their answers.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None



Presentation

Have a time of prayer with the children as they ask God to make them willing to help those that are in need. Encourage the children to find one person in need that they can help this week. Remember to give them an opportunity to share about how they helped in the next session.

What Would Happen If....

Directions: Read each of these situations and decide how you should respond.

1. What would happen if...someone at school asked you to borrow a pencil?
2. What would happen if...your brother or sister asked to borrow your bicycle?
3. What would happen if...a missionary visited your church and talked about the hungry children that are in his country?
4. What would happen if...your mom asked you to spend the afternoon cleaning the house?
5. What would happen if...your friend asked to borrow money for lunch?
6. What would happen if...you and your parents saw a homeless man as you walked out of a store?

Giving Cheerfully

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7

Bible Truth: I will give to God cheerfully.

Bible Story: Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7

Bible Verse: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Sharing the Treat”

Preparation

Ask two children to help you pass out a small treat to the other children. One of the children should be excited about sharing the treat and cheerfully pass it out. The other child should whine, complain, and ask if they can just keep it all for themselves.

Materials
a small treat for each child in the class

Presentation

Say: **Today, I have asked _____ and _____ (insert names of your helpers) to help me pass out a treat to you. Raise your hand if you would like one, and my helpers will bring it to you.**

Have the helpers pass out the treat. Be sure that your helpers over-emphasize their attitude about giving away the treats.

Once the treats have been passed out, say: **“Did you notice any difference in the way _____ and _____ gave you your treat?”** Allow children to answer. **Well, they were really just pretending. Both of them were happy to share with you. I asked (child who had a bad attitude) to complain about giving the treat away to help you understand today’s lesson. Your attitude about giving is just as important as what you give. When we give to God, He wants us to do it cheerfully and without complaining!**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Preparation

Write 2 Corinthians 9:7 on a poster board or whiteboard.

Write each of these phrases on four of the large pieces of paper:

- Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give
- not reluctantly
- or under compulsion
- for God loves a cheerful giver

Materials
poster board
markers
8 large pieces of paper

Explanation

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 with the children.

Say: **What does the phrase “decide in their hearts” mean?** Allow children time to respond. **Yes, it means to decide how much to give. What phrases in this verse describe the attitude we should not have when giving to God?** Choose a child to underline those words or phrases.

What does it mean to give “reluctantly”? Allow the children to answer. **Yes, it means to give when you don’t really feel like doing so. What does it mean to “give under compulsion?”** Allow the children to answer. **Yes, it means to give because you were forced to give, not because you want to give.**

Can you tell me of a time when you gave “reluctantly” to someone? Allow the children to answer. **Can you tell me of a time when you gave “under compulsion”?** Allow the children to answer.

How does this verse say God wants us to give? Allow children to answer. **Yes, God wants us to give cheerfully! Can you tell me of a time when you gave cheerfully from your heart?** Allow the children to answer.

Memorization Activity

Divide the class into four groups. Give each group one of the phrases you wrote on a piece of paper and a blank piece of paper. Tell the group they have five minutes to illustrate their phrases on the blank piece of paper. When their time is up, allow each group to share their illustration. Place the illustrations and phrases on the wall, in the correct order. Ask the children to read the verse several times. Then take out the phrases. Choose different children to repeat the verse using only the illustrations.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Giving for the House of God," Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7

Preparation

Read and study Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7.

Presentation

Use the pictures or items from the materials list to tell the Bible story.

God told Moses that He wanted the people of Israel, His chosen people, to build a place for worship. They would bring their offerings and praises to God to that place of worship.

Since the people of Israel were camping in the desert, traveling from place to place, the place of worship was going to be similar to a tent. It was called a tabernacle. Each one of its parts was going to be made in such a way that it would be easy to take apart, pack, and take wherever they would be camping.

God gave Moses the instructions to build the tabernacle and all its interior furnishings. Then Moses told the people exactly what God wanted to use for the construction of the tabernacle and all the furnishings. Moses knew they were going to need a lot of costly materials—gold, silver, bronze, yarn, linen, goat skin, wood, oil, spices, and pretty stones. (Show these items or pictures of these items.) He didn't order the people to bring a certain amount of each one of these materials. Instead, he told the people to give according to what they felt they were able to give to build the house of God.

The people wanted to have a place where they could praise God. They all started to bring their gifts to the tabernacle. In a short amount of time they brought so much gold, silver, bronze, precious stones, and other materials that Moses had to ask them not to bring any more.

They not only gave materials for the building of the house of worship, but they also gave their time. Some of them built the tabernacle frame. Others knitted the curtains. Others molded the metals. Some others sewed the robes for the priests, while others carved wood and metal figures. There were also some people that embroidered beautiful designs in linen. For almost an entire year, the Israelites were busy building the tabernacle. When the tabernacle was completed and the last curtain was hung, the presence of the Lord filled the place. How happy the people must have been after giving all they had to build the house of God.

Show picture of the completed tabernacle.

Materials
(actual items or pictures of these items)
gold
silver
bronze
blue, purple, red yarn
linen
goat hair
animal skins
wood
olive oil
spices
precious stones or gems
picture of the completed tabernacle
Bible

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Role Play, "How's My Attitude?"

Preparation

None

Materials

none

Presentation

Say: We all have many opportunities to give to God. For example, you can give your tithes; you can give in the offering; and you can give to someone in need. You are going to work in groups to create a skit where a child has the opportunity to give away some money to God. I want you to first create a skit with someone giving cheerfully. Then show us the same skit with the person giving reluctantly, out of compulsion, or not at all.

Divide children into groups and give them time to prepare their skits. When everyone is ready, allow them to share with the class. After each skit, discuss the difference between the cheerful and not cheerful way of giving to God.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Materials

paper
pencils
crayons or markers

Presentation

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to fold their paper in half. On one side, they should draw a cheerful face. On the other side, they should draw a picture of something they can give to God (money, toys, a special talent, etc.) Once each child has prepared their paper, ask them to gather in a circle for prayer. Pray together that the children will always give to God with a cheerful attitude.