

Growing in Goodness

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 25

Bible Truth: My goodness can grow.

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 25

Bible Verse: “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.” (Luke 6:27, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Goodness=God”

Preparation

Make a sign that reads: “Goodness=God.”

Write these Bible verses on two separate pieces of paper: Psalm 100:5 and Mark 10:18. Give the papers to two children who arrive early. Ask them to be ready to read the verses during the class.

Materials

paper
pens or pencils
candle
matches

Presentation

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to write names of the people they think are good. When all the children are finished, ask them to share the names they have written and the reasons they think those people are good.

Say: **Each person that was mentioned seems to be good in some way, but let’s see what the Bible says about being good.** Ask a child to read Psalm 100:5. **This verse says that the Lord is good.**

Let’s study the Bible some more to see if there’s someone else who is good. Ask one of the children to read Mark 10:18. **This verse says that only God is good.**

Show children the candle. Say: **Each one of us is like this candle. Is it good for anything before it’s lit?** Allow children to answer. **No, it isn’t. In the same way, none of us is good. But we can be full of God’s goodness.** Light the candle. **After the match lights the candle, it is full of light and useful. We don’t become Christians by doing good deeds. Instead, when we accept Jesus as our Savior and allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives, then the fruit of goodness starts to grow in us. Our lives start to shine with good deeds because a good God lives in us.**

Refer to the children's lists of "good" people. Choose a few people you know are Christians. Say: **The reason these people seem good is because they have accepted Jesus as their Savior, and they are letting the fruit of goodness grow in them.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Luke 6:27

Preparation

Write Luke 6:27 on poster board.

Divide the Bible verse into three phrases and write each phrase on a separate piece of paper.



Explanation

Read the verses with the children. Ask them the following questions:

Who was Jesus talking to? (anyone who hears Him or reads this verse)

What does He tell us to do? (love our enemies and do good to those who hate us)

How can we show love and do good to our enemies?

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into three teams. Give each team a piece of paper with one phrase from the Bible verse written on it. Ask each team to memorize their phrase. Then, read the verse as a class, asking teams to say their phrase at the correct time. Repeat this several times, and then say, "Trade." Each team should trade their phrase with another team. Repeat the activity until children have had the opportunity to learn the entire verse.

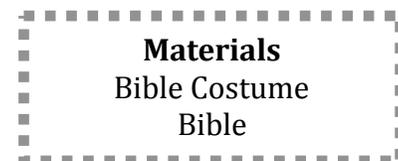
INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Abigail Helps David," I Samuel 25

Preparation

Read and study I Samuel 25.

Ask an adult or teenager to play the part of Abigail. Give her a Bible costume if one is available.



Practice the skit together before class.

Presentation

Teacher: **I have invited a special woman from the Bible to tell us the amazing story of something good that she did. She stopped a huge fight with this good deed. Let me introduce Abigail to you.**

Abigail: It is so nice to be here today.

Teacher: **Abigail, can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your family.**

Abigail: Well, during the time of this story I was living in Canaan with my husband Nabal. He was very rich, but He was not a nice man. He was cruel to people and often cheated them in business deals.

Teacher: **I understand that one day your husband had a special visitor.**

Abigail: Yes, David, the newly anointed king of Israel, was running from King Saul. David and his men were hungry and in need of supplies. Since David had once helped my husband's shepherds, he asked Nabal to help him.

Teacher: **Did your husband send David the food and supplies he needed?**

Abigail: Oh, no! I told you Nabal was not a nice man. He refused to help and said some mean things about David. His words and refusal made David very angry. Someone brought me a message that David and his men were planning to attack our home because of my husband's actions.

Teacher: **That sounds awful. Were you scared?**

Abigail: I was frightened, but I tried to think of a way that I could help the situation. I quickly gathered food and supplies and traveled with some of my servants to meet David. I gave him the supplies and apologized for Nabal's behavior.

Teacher: **Did David still attack?**

Abigail: Thankfully, no. David told me that because of this good deed, he would not attack our home.

Teacher: **Wow! I am so glad you let God's goodness shine through you to help in this situation. You did something good for an enemy of your husband and God blessed you because of it.**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "Doing Good to Others"

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **It is easy to do good things for our friends and family, but the Bible tells us that God wants us to do good to our enemies and people who are unkind to us. It is hard to do good to mean people, but we know that God's goodness is growing in us when we are able to fulfill this command.**

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to draw a picture of themselves doing something good for someone who has not been nice to them. Encourage children not to mention names as they draw their pictures.

Materials
paper
markers or crayons

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Place the small basket (from Lesson 2) at the bottom of the "Christian" tree poster.

Presentation

Say: **If we are going to do the good things we drew on our papers, we are going to need God's help. Let's put our papers in this basket and ask God to help us.** Allow children to place their papers in the basket. Say a prayer asking God to give them the strength and courage to do good to everyone.

Say: **As you do good, even to your enemies, God will make the fruit of goodness grow inside of you.** Take any fruit-shaped papers with the word "goodness" written on them (located at the bottom of the poster from Lesson 1) and move them from the bottom of the poster into the tree.

Materials
small basket (from Lesson 2)
"Christian" tree poster (from Lesson 1)
drawings from the application activity