

**Children's Church Grades 1- 3
Year 2 Curriculum – March / April**

Theme: Solomon

Lesson 1 Called by God to be King

Lesson 2 His Request for Wisdom

Lesson 3 The Construction and Dedication of the Temple

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: Called by God to be King

God's Covenant

Lead Me, Lord

Take My Life

Trust and Obey (verse 1)

Lesson 2: His Request for Wisdom

Abba, Father

Lord, Be Glorified

Seek Ye First

Lesson 3: The Construction and Dedication of the Temple

Follow Jesus

He Has Made Me Glad

The Lord is My Shepherd

Walk Like Jesus

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 2 Curriculum – March or April

Lesson 1

Title: Solomon – Call by God to be King

Text: 1 Kings 1:1-2:12

Theme: God chooses His leaders and requires obedience of them.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to tell why Adonijah would not have been a good king.
2. Acknowledge God's right to choose leaders in fulfilling His plan.
3. Recognize the importance of obedience in carrying out God's plan and experiencing His blessing.
4. Commit to a life of obedience and service to God, no matter what that means.

Memory Verse: *1 Kings 2:3 ... observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we will be looking at a few significant moments in the life of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel. As we look at these events we must be mindful of the context in which they occur. During the reign of David, Israel had entered its Golden Age, the age to which all others looked back and compared. During this reign, God entered into covenant with David, promising him that His throne would be established forever. All the history that follows in some way relates to this covenant and its working out. As you share with the children about the life of Solomon be sure to keep this background in mind.

In this lesson we shall look at the transfer of the kingdom from David to Solomon. This is the first fulfillment of God's covenant with David, which promised that one from his loins would sit on his throne. In this account we will see God's sovereign choice in working out this promise, and we will see the importance of obedience in experiencing the blessing of those promises.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson ask the children how they would feel in the following situations:

A. You and your younger brother are on the baseball team, but your younger brother gets chosen to be the captain. B. You and your younger sister are on the cheerleading squad, but your younger sister gets chosen to be the team captain. After gaining input from the children, acknowledge that many of us would feel jealous. We would think that being the oldest we should get this honor. Bring out the point, however, that those who chose your younger sibling had every right to do so, and that jealousy is not a good response. Tell the children that in today's story the older brother becomes jealous.

Encourage them to listen and learn why.

3. Bible Story

As you share today's Bible story try to emphasize the following points.

A. Background to Solomon's Coronation – David was a man after God's own heart. Though he failed God, God still chose Him to be ruler in Israel. In fact, God entered into covenant with David (2 Samuel 7) promising him that from his body would come a king whose throne would be established forever. David was thrilled about this. Later in David's life it became evident who the next king would be. According to 1 Chronicles 22:9-10 and 28:4-7 the next successor to the throne would be Solomon. This was God's choice and it was David's choice as well.

B. Adonijah's attempt to usurp the throne – As David grew older he also became weak in exercising his authority. Adonijah, the eldest son of David, thought this to be a perfect opportunity to ascend to the throne. After all he was the oldest son. Should he not be given the throne? So Adonijah organized some important men around him and in a ceremonious manner had himself declared king. Now it must be noted that he did this fully aware that God's choice and David's choice for king was Solomon. This was no secret, but Adonijah wanted his own way. So he rebelled, not being content with the position to which God had called him.

C. Solomon crowned king and exhorted to obedience – Though men may try to thwart God's plan, in the end it will be accomplished. God used Nathan, the prophet, and Bathsheba to insure that His choice for king would indeed be installed. After all, the author of the covenant has every right to choose those through whom He will work out His plan.

After transferring the throne to Solomon, David exhorted his son to obey the Lord. David knew that any blessing Solomon would experience from his covenant relationship with God, would be contingent on his obedience. God would see that His promises were fulfilled, but Solomon's enjoyment of the blessings associated with those promises required obedience.

4. Application

God is working out His plan. As He does He chooses people to fulfill different roles within that plan. He also requires those in assigned roles to be obedient. Adonijah had failed in both respects. He was not satisfied with the role God had chosen for him and his heart was full of rebellion. The lesson for all of us is to be content with the role God chooses for us to fulfill, and to seek, with God's help, to walk in all of His ways.

5. Review Questions

What did God promise in a covenant to David? (He promised that from David's body would come a son who would sit on his throne forever.)

Who was chosen by God and David to be the next king after David? (Solomon)

How do you think Adonijah felt about Solomon being selected as the next king? How do you know? (We assume he was jealous for he tried to usurp the throne when His father was in a weakened condition.)

How should Adonijah have responded to God's choice of Solomon as king? (He, like all of us, needed to be content with the position God had given.)

How did God make sure his choice for king was enthroned? (He spurred Nathan and Bathsheba to arouse David to action.)

What was going to be the key to Solomon's success as king? (His obedience to God. He could only experience the blessings associated with the covenant if he remained obedient to the Lord.)

Crown Magnet

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example before class to use as a model for students.
- If you use glitter, have a tub of some kind on each table to shake excess glitter into. Glitter will be less messy and can be recycled in this way.
- Glue can be poured on paper plates and applied with Q-tips.

Materials

- Crown black line master run on card stock
- Sequins, jewels and/or glitter
- Magnetic tape cut in 3" strips
- Scissors
- Glue

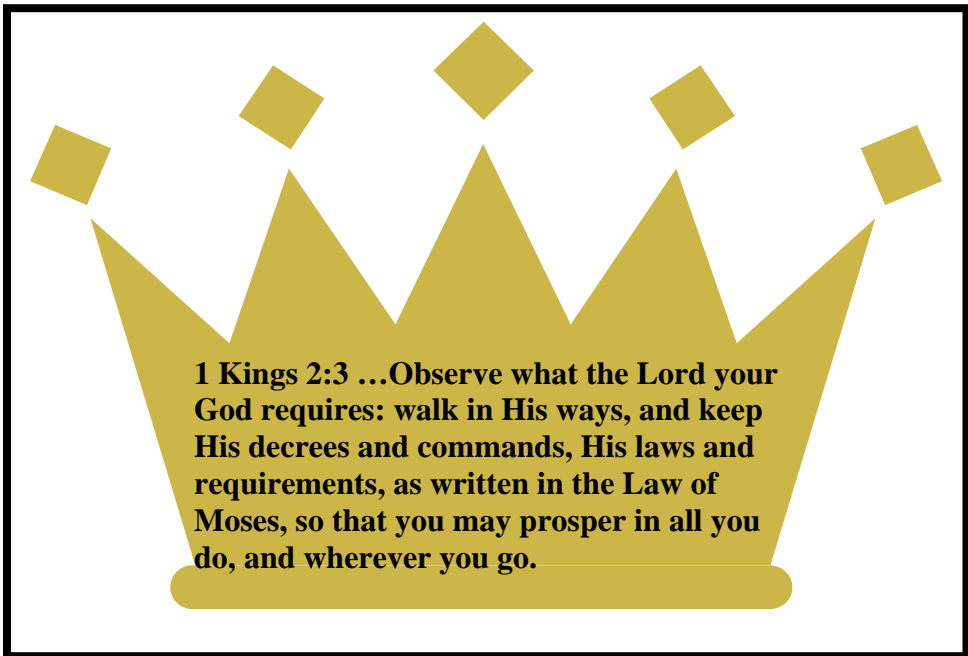
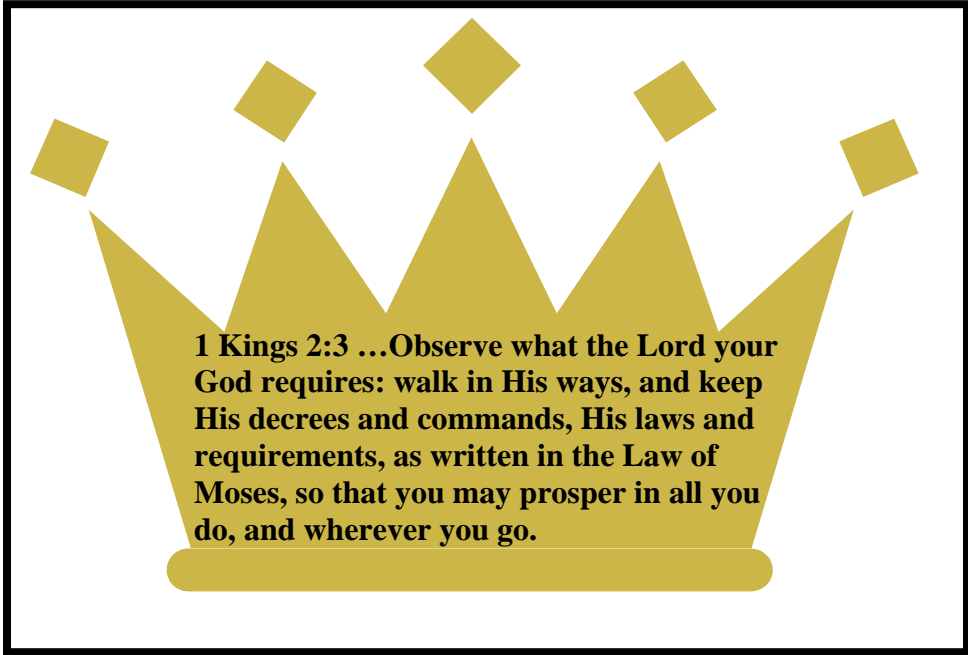
Instructions

1. Give each child a crown pattern. You may cut them out in advance or have children cut out crowns during class.
2. Before decorating crowns have children write their names on the back and apply magnets.
3. Turn crowns over and decorate. Encourage the use of small amounts of glue.

Faith Connections

1 Kings 2:3 ...observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.

Discuss with children how obeying God will always result in good. God wants us to be content in the role he gives us. If we are obedient God will use us to his glory.



Lesson 2

Title: Solomon – His request for wisdom

Text: 1 Kings 3

Theme: God is looking to bless servants who will seek His kingdom and glory first.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to state several ways Solomon showed his love for God.
2. Be able to tell why God was pleased with what Solomon asked for.
3. Be able to tell what it means to seek God's kingdom and glory first.
4. Begin seeking God's kingdom and glory as a first priority.

Memory Verse: *(Same as last week)* **1 Kings 2:3** ... observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, **OR Matthew 6:33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we are looking at several events from the life of Solomon. As we suggested in the last lesson, we must understand the larger picture of what God is doing with the people of Israel to better enable us to interpret each event. In the first lesson we saw the transfer of the throne from David to his son, Solomon. This was the first fulfillment of the Davidic covenant, which promised David that someone from his lineage would be seated on the throne forever. This serves as the context for all of the events we are looking at.

In this lesson we shall examine one of Solomon's first interactions with God since being crowned king. When asked what he would desire of God, Solomon asks for wisdom to rule God's people. He does not make selfish requests; his desire is to faithfully fulfill God's role for his life as it pertains to the outworking of God's plan. Solomon serves as a wonderful example of one who lives seeking first God and His purposes.

2. Introduction

Begin by asking children what they would request if someone granted them one wish, which was certain to be fulfilled. Would they request lots of money, popularity, a big house, lots of electronic devices, or what? Allow children to share their ideas. Then tell children that in today's story someone will be given a chance to ask for whatever they want. Encourage the children to listen well to find out what this person asks for and why he requested what he did

3. Bible Story

As you share this story from Solomon's life try to share the points that follow.

A. Solomon's love for God – This story takes place after Solomon ascended to the throne and was firmly established (2:46). Solomon had been chosen by his father, David, and by God, to be next in a line of kings that God promised would go on forever. The text tells us that Solomon loved God. He showed this love by walking in the statutes of David (which would have been the commands of God as laid out in the covenant), by sacrificing an abundance of animals to God, by expressing a grateful heart to God, and by seeking God's kingdom and purposes before his own.

B. Solomon's request – When asked by God to request anything that he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom to judge God's special people. He asked not for things that would satisfy his own lusts. His concern was not his own self, but this great people that God had chosen. Solomon knew that he was only a youth (he was probably 20 years old) and that God had chosen him for a very special purpose. He wanted most of all to fulfill the role God had for him. This is the essence of seeking God's kingdom first.

C. God's response to Solomon's request – God was quite pleased with Solomon's request. Because he sought God's kingdom and purposes first, not only would Solomon receive what he requested, but he would also receive things he had not requested: riches, honor, and protection from his enemies. God is pleased to bless those who seek His kingdom first and who trust God for all that they might need to fulfill His purposes.

D. God glorified by Solomon – Equipped with the wisdom of God, Solomon is confronted with a major challenge. Two women claim the same baby is theirs. In resolving the problem Solomon shows his great God-given wisdom. The text says that the people saw that the wisdom of God was in him. In other words they acknowledged God's hand in Solomon's wise dealings.

4. Application

Solomon's request of God showed God's grace already working in him. Instead of asking for something that would gratify his lusts, Solomon asked for God's wisdom to rule wisely. He clearly saw God at work in His world and wanted to be used of God to further that work. In like manner, we must seek God's kingdom and purposes first in our life and trust God for all else. Far better to be a vital part of what God is doing in our world than living in a way that shows we only care for ourselves and our desires.

5. Review Questions

What did Solomon ask of the Lord when given the chance to ask for anything? (He asked for wisdom to rule God's people.)

Why did Solomon ask for this instead of asking for riches, honor and fame? (He was very aware of God's work in the world. He knew as well that God had placed him as King and wanted to fulfill this responsibility with care.)

Was God pleased with Solomon's request? Explain your answer. (Yes, God not only made him the wisest man ever, but He gave riches, honor, and protection as well.)

What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first? (Instead of living for self – riches, honor, and fame – we are to live for God. We live to see God's purposes fulfilled.)

Wisdom Diploma

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example before class to serve as a model.

Materials

- Diploma Black line master
- Gold seals—these can be obtained at most office supply stores
- Glitter
- Glue

Instructions

1. Have children fill in their name at the bottom of the wisdom certificate.
2. Have children get four signatures on the lines provided at the bottom of the page.
3. Have children affix the gold seal in the space between the four printed lines.

Faith Connections

1Kings 2:3...observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.

While completing the craft discuss with the children how important it is for us to seek God's wisdom. How can we wisely live for God in our world?

Solomon Institute of Higher Wisdom

Since you have asked for wisdom and not long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for — both riches and honor — so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.

(1 Kings 3:11-14)

Presented to

Lesson 3

Title: Solomon – The construction and dedication of the temple

Text: 1 Kings 8 (background – 1 Kings 6-7, 2 Samuel 7)

Theme: A God infused obedience is necessary to enjoy the blessings of God's presence among us.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to state ways God was faithful to His promises to Israel and King David.
2. Be able to tell why obedience is important to experiencing the blessings of God's presence.
3. Understand the importance of God's presence and grace in our lives.
4. Be loyal in heart to the Lord and keep all His ways.

Memory Verse: (Same as Week 1 & 2) 1 Kings 2:3 ... observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,

Teacher Direction:

1. In 2 Samuel 7 God promised David that from his seed one would come who would build a house for the Lord, and that his throne would be established forever. This promise humbled and thrilled David at the same time. He was humbled that the great God had chosen to bestow such a blessing upon him, but thrilled that God had such wonderful plans for his people. David only lived to see his son, Solomon on the throne, but was confident that God would bring to pass what He had promised.

In this lesson we shall look at a further fulfillment of God's promise to David. Four years after Solomon took the throne he began building a temple. Within 7 more years the temple was built just as the Lord has said. Confronted with this marvelous manifestation of God's faithfulness, but also a history of unfaithfulness among the people, Solomon uses this grand event to spur on the people to faithful obedience. Only through such obedience could the people experience the blessings of God's presence and avoid national disaster (which was also promised in the Davidic covenant).

1. Introduction

Take time to review the basic ideas found in the first two lessons. Remind the children that God had chosen Solomon to be the next king to follow David. God had the right to choose whom He wanted and Solomon was His choice. Once crowned Solomon was exhorted by David to walk in the ways of the Lord. This exhortation seems to have had effect, for Solomon showed that God's kingdom and glory were his first priority when he chose to ask God for wisdom when given the opportunity to ask for anything.

To introduce this lesson ask children what the electrical outlets around the room suggest is present and available in the room. Hopefully they will know that the outlets show that electricity is present in the room and available to do its work. Next, ask the children how they can take advantage of the electricity that is present in the room. Help the children to see that they must be plugged into the outlet for the electricity to do any good.

Tell the children that in today's story that people would be reminded of God's presence among them. Ask them to listen to find out how they knew God was present, and then to find out how the people could benefit from having God present. In what way could they be plugged into God so that His presence could do its work among them?

3. Bible Story

As you share the story of the building and later the dedicating of the temple be sure to emphasize the following points.

A. The Faithfulness of the Lord – One of the major ideas that come out of this story is the faithfulness of God. When He called the people out of Israel, He had promised to make them His people, to be their God, and to dwell among them. Throughout the sorted history that followed God was true to His promise. When David became King, God confirmed His desire to bless this people. He told David that he would have a son who would sit on the throne and who would build a temple to the Lord. This story shows the exciting fulfillment of that promise. Solomon, son of David, sat on the throne and now was building a house for God.

B. The Need for God's forgiveness and grace – Part of God's covenant with David was a promise that included punishment for disobedience. If David's sons were disobedient they would be punished. Solomon was very aware of this and he knew as well how God had not hesitated to chasten His people in the past. Faced with this promise and the history of Israel's waywardness, Solomon prays to ask God for His forgiveness (he knew they were prone to sin) and for His grace (that they might have a heart to follow all the ways of God). This is a prayer that God's people in all ages need to master.

C. The Necessity of Obedience to benefit from the blessing of God – It was a great event when the temple was finished, the ark placed in the Holy of Holies, and the glory of the Lord returned in a cloud. This was a visible sign that God indeed dwelt among His people to do good unto them. But how would the people be able to benefit from the presence of God among them? Solomon called them to "let your heart be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandment." For them to benefit from God's presence they needed to be "plugged in" with their obedience. Note: This obedience they could not manufacture on their own. It must be a work of God in their midst. This was reflected in Solomon's prayer.

4. Application

As God was present among His people (dwelling in His temple) during the time of Solomon, so He is present among His people today (dwelling in us through His Spirit). To benefit from that presence God's people have always had to walk in the ways of their Lord. This can only come about when God inclines the heart to obey Him. When God comes among His people in this way, the result is that those around learn that the Lord is indeed God. This lesson calls on us all to obediently serve our Lord to His glory.

5. Review Questions

What promises of God to David were fulfilled in this story? (Solomon sat on the throne and built a house for the Lord.)

How did God show His presence among His people during the time of Solomon? (A cloud filled the temple. The cloud shrouded the glory of the Lord that came with this manifestation of God's presence.)

What things did Solomon pray for? (He thanked God for His faithfulness. Then he asked God to forgive the people and to give them a heart to fear Him.)

What exhortation did Solomon give to the people? (He urged them to walk in the ways of the Lord.)

How is God present among His people today? (He is present through the Spirit who lives inside believers.)

How can believers benefit from the presence of God today? (Through their obedience, which in itself is a gift from God. Note: We first cry out for a new heart. Once in possession of a new heart we still must trust in God to help us live by its influence.)

Obedience Scroll

Tips for Teachers

- Prepare a sample before class to be used as a model.

Materials

- Black line master
- Crayons or markers

Instructions

1. Give each child a copy of the black line master.
2. Help children fill in the missing words. Note: you may want to write a word bank on the board. A word bank is a list of all the missing words. Children then choose which words to put in each blank.
3. Optional: Have the children draw a picture on the backside of the page to illustrate a way that they can be obedient and bring glory to God.

Faith Connections

1Kings 2:3... observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.

This verse should be very familiar to the children by this week. Ask some of the children to share their pictures and ideas of how they can be obedient to God.

1 Kings 2:3

... _____ what the
_____ your _____
requires: walk in His
_____, and keep His
_____ and _____,
His _____ and
_____ as written in
the _____ of _____,
so that you may _____
in all you _____ and
wherever you _____.

Word Bank

commands	law	prosper	observe
Lord	laws	do	Moses
God	ways	decrees	go
requirements			

**Children's Church Grades 1- 3
Year 2 Curriculum - March / April**

Theme: Easter

- Lesson 1 The Life and Death of God's Servant**
- Lesson 2 God's Servant is Lord**
- Lesson 3 God's Servant Calls His Followers to Service**

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: The Life and Death of God's Servant

*Great Is The Lord
For God So Loved The World
Lamb of God, verses 1 & 2
Make Me a Servant
Servant of All
When I Survey The Wondrous Cross, verse 1
You Are The King of Glory*

Lesson 2: God's Servant is Lord

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Hallelujah, Christ is Risen
He Is Lord
He's The Lord of All
Jesus Christ is Risen Today
You Shall Love the Lord*

Lesson 3: God's Servant Calls His Followers to Service

*Don't You Know
Follow Jesus
King of Kings
This is How We Know
Walk Like Jesus
We Will Glorify*

Also choose assorted general worship songs.

Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 2 Curriculum - March or April

Lesson 1

Title: Easter – the life and death of God's servant

Text: John 13:1-17, John 19:17-37

Theme: In life and in death, Christ gave an example of true servanthood.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to recount the greatness of Christ as shown in this story.
2. Be able to tell how Christ served His disciples in life.
3. Be able to tell how Christ served His disciples and us in death.
4. In the spirit of Christ, seek to serve God and his fellow man.

Memory Verse: *Mark 10:45* For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we shall look at the passion of Christ, according to John, focusing especially on Christ as the Servant of God. In this first lesson we shall look at two powerful examples of Christ's servanthood. One example, the foot washing, shows Christ's service in life to His disciples. The other, the crucifixion, shows His service in death, to His disciples and to all who would believe. Both models point to the true way of life for followers of Christ. This way is the way of service to our God expressed in service to man.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson ask children to offer characterization for the following people. Ask the children what things stand out in the lives of each of these people.

- ◆ A famous sports figure (i.e.: Cal Ripken – steadfastness, Dennis Rodman – self focus,...)
- ◆ The Senior Pastor of the church
- ◆ Mother Theresa
- ◆ Solomon in the Bible

Next, ask the children what they think characterized the life of Jesus. After discussing this tell children that this month we shall focus on the servanthood of Jesus. Tell the children to listen well to the stories that follow to see how Jesus showed He was the ultimate servant and how His example should affect the way His followers live.

3. Bible Story

As you share the texts for this lesson be sure to place emphasis on the ideas that follow.

A. The greatness of Christ – To fully appreciate what Christ did in John 13 we must remember who He was. John gives us a number of hints in the text that all point to His greatness and uniqueness as the Sent One of God. John says that Jesus knew His hour had come (showing His full awareness of the purposes of the Father for His life). John says that He knew God had given all things into His hands (showing His great authority), that He had come from God (showing His divine origin), and that He was going back to God (showing His divine destiny). John also shows Jesus freely receiving the revered titles of Teacher and Lord, for that was indeed what He was. Note: Help the children see the greatness of Jesus so that the acts that follow will be seen for their significant contrast.

B. Jesus' service in life – Perhaps as a surprising revelation of His greatness, we see Jesus stooping to wash the disciples' feet. This act must have caused revolt within the disciples for they knew that only the lowest servant performed this act. How could their Teacher and Lord stoop to do such a thing? It did not seem right to the disciples, especially to Peter who verbalized his lack of approval. Yet Jesus purposefully performed this service to teach a vital lesson of what it means to be a godly follower of Christ. Perhaps He also did this to prepare His disciples for an even greater manifestation of servanthood still to come.

C. Jesus' service in death – The ultimate expression of service to His Father and to mankind came when Jesus laid down His life. He subjected Himself to the greatest cruelties devised by men (scourging, beaten with rods, hands and feet pierced, death by suffocation, ridicule and rejection,...) and then to the wrath of God poured out on the sins of man (which had been placed on Christ). This was the One with all authority, having a divine origin and destiny, yet He became the servant of all and gladly bore the stroke that was due the enemies of God.

4. Application

Jesus clearly stated that there was a lesson in all this. If the Teacher and Lord took the place of a servant, certainly His followers must do no less. And they must not fool themselves by merely assenting to the truth of this ideal. They must practice servanthood and make it a major characteristic of their life.

5. Review Questions

What did John say about Jesus that showed His greatness? (Jesus knew the purposes of God, had been given all authority, had divine origins and destiny, and received respectful titles.)

Why was it shocking for the disciples to have Jesus wash their feet? (He was the Son of God. The lowest servants traditionally did Foot washing.)

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? (To teach them a lesson about the way of life of Jesus' followers, and to prepare them for His greatest act of service.)

What was Jesus' ultimate act of servanthood? (He submitted Himself to the cross)

How did Jesus serve us by allowing Himself to be crucified? (We deserved all that He received. He served us by taking on Himself the stroke due to us because of our sins. He suffered that we might have life.)

How can Christians live as servants in this world? (First, by living completely for God and His purposes. Serve God as a first priority. Then, by God's grace, set aside our own selfish desires to serve the needs of those around us.)

Jesus and Me Picture Frame

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example to use as a model before class.

Materials

- Black line master run on card stock—if card stock is not available, children may glue master onto construction paper to make it sturdy
- Crayons or markers
- Glue

Instructions

1. Each child will need a piece of construction paper and a copy of the master. (If you ran the master on card stock construction paper is not necessary.)
2. Have the children color the picture of Jesus on one side of the frame then draw a picture of themselves on the other side of the frame. **Note:** Be sure children color before gluing. Glue under the paper makes it hard to color and marker run.
3. If you are using construction paper, glue the master to the paper.
4. Fold the paper in half to make a stand up frame.
5. Have the children write the words: "I Want to Be Like Jesus" on the front of the frame.

Faith Connections

Mark 10:45 ...for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

While children are completing their craft discuss how we can serve others as Jesus did. Allow children to share their ideas. You may want to make a list on the board or chart paper.

Jesus



Me

Jesus



Me

Lesson 2

Title: Easter – God’s Servant is Lord

Text: John 20:1-10, 19-31

Theme: The crucified Servant was resurrected proving He is Lord.

Teaching Objectives: By God’s grace, each child will

1. Be able to relate how the resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord.
2. Be able to share what different responses people had to the resurrection of Jesus.
3. Respond in belief to Jesus as Lord.
4. Begin to understand and experience the life that Jesus came to give.

Memory Verse: *John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In our last lesson we looked at the servant nature of Jesus Christ. He who had been commissioned by His Father, who had all authority, who had a divine origin and destination, and who deserved revered titles gave His life for others. He washed His disciples’ feet showing them the way of all followers of Christ. And if this were not enough, He then gave Himself up to the cruelties of the cross. Truly Christ lived an exemplary life.

If the story ended with Christ’s death, however, it would have been an incomplete story. While Christ walked the earth He made great claims, which His exemplary life supported, but did not prove. Something more was needed. Today’s account from John provides that something more, for God’s servant did not remain on a cross or in a tomb. He indeed rose from the dead proving that He was all that He said He was. This Servant of God was, in truth, the Son of God, the Lord, the Master.

2. Introduction

To begin ask the children if they know what a POW – MIA (prisoner of war, missing in action) is. Tell the children that during wars the opposing army, at times, captures soldiers and keeps them in prison. Sometimes the soldiers who are captured lose all contact with their fellow soldiers. In fact, they are prisoners whose whereabouts are unknown except by the enemy. At times, even after the war these prisoners remain in prison because no one knows where they have been locked up or if they are even alive. Next, ask the children how they would feel if one of their family members was a POW – MIA. Also ask them how they would feel if months, even years passed without any contact with their loved one. Mostly likely they would begin to believe that the person was dead or they would lose hope of ever seeing him again.

Finally, ask the children how they would feel if after many years they heard a report that their family member had been found and was alive. Help the children to see that at first they might not believe the report. However, when the report was found to be true and they were reunited with their loved one, they would have great joy.

As you transition into the Bible story now, tell children that Jesus’ followers felt some of the same emotions that you have just talked about. When they saw Him die and then be placed in a tomb, they were most certainly sad, even confused. Encourage children to listen well as you tell them how their sadness was turned to joy and confidence.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story found in John 20 be sure to emphasize the following points.

A. The initial response to the resurrection – The followers of Jesus had just seen their Lord abused by His enemies through crucifixion and then laid in a tomb. How sad and confused they must have felt! They also feared their life for they knew the Jews were not fond of Jesus or His followers. Then they heard (and some saw evidence) that

Jesus had risen from the dead. Their initial reaction was unbelief. Thomas seemed to be most vocal concerning this, but the others (as evidenced in the other gospels) did not know the Scripture that Jesus must rise again. Besides, a resurrection was somewhat out of the normal range of events.

B. The lesson of the resurrection – Surely Jesus' death on a cross makes for an incredible ending to an incredible life. However, it leaves in question many of the bold statements Jesus made concerning Himself. When, however, Jesus' tomb is found empty with the burial clothes intact, when He enters a locked room without being allowed in through the door, when He shows the evidence of His wounds, there is only one conclusion that can be drawn. Thomas said it well. He said, "My Lord and my God." Truly the lesson of the resurrection is that Jesus is all that He said He was. He is Lord.

C. The necessary response to the resurrection – Though the initial response of most of the disciples was unbelief, in time Jesus' appearances restored their faith. Seeing Jesus in His resurrected body brought them to acknowledge that He truly has the power of death and life and is the Son of God, the Lord. And if He is indeed the Lord, His will must be followed. His mission must be embraced. Thus the disciples came to belief in Christ as Lord, and to obedience in fulfilling the mission of the One sending them out.

D. The life that comes from the resurrection – According to John, Jesus came and performed signs (especially the resurrection) so that others would come to believe and have life in His name. This life includes the forgiveness of sin, power over the bondage of sin, fellowship in the presence of God, and participation in the body of Christ. All of this awaits those who will acknowledge Christ as Lord and place their life in His hands.

4. Application

Jesus was the Servant of God who came to give His life for sinners. His life did not end, however, in a grave, because by the power of God, Jesus rose from the dead proving that He is Lord. Our response to this must be to trust and obey. Believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior, and accept as ours His purposes for our life.

5. Review Questions

How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus was crucified and then laid in a tomb? (They felt sad and confused. They also feared the Jews who had put Jesus to death.)

How did the disciples respond when they heard that Jesus had risen from the dead? Why? (Initially they did not believe because they did not understand that the Scriptures said that Jesus must die and then rise again.)

What did the resurrection prove about Jesus? (It proved that He had power over life and death and that He was truly the Son of God, the Lord.)

How did Thomas respond when he saw Jesus in His resurrection body? (He said, "My Lord and my God. He believed.)

How should we respond to Jesus who is our Savior and Lord? (We should respond in faith and obedience.)

What is the reward of faith in Christ, our Lord? (We have life in His name.)

What is the life like that Jesus came to give us? (It includes the forgiveness of sins, power over the bondage of sin, and fellowship with God's people in the presence of God.)

P.O.S. Bracelet

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example before class to use as an example.
- See faith connection for explanation of craft title.

Materials

- Black line master
- Brads—one per student
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers (optional)
- Construction paper(optional)

Instructions

1. Give each child a POS Bracelet strip.
2. Allow children to decorate their strip using crayons, markers, and stickers if you wish.
3. When children finish, attach bracelet using brads. This will allow the bracelet to be removed and reused if the children wish.
4. Note: If you wish to make the bracelets sturdier they can be glued to construction paper strips or run on card stock.

Faith Connections

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Refer back to the Introduction of the lesson and explain to the children that people would wear POW bracelets to remember missing soldiers. We are making a **Power Over Sin** bracelet to remind us that we have power over sin through Christ's resurrection from the dead .

P.O.S.

Power over sin

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P.O.S.

Power over sin

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P.O.S.

Power over sin

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P.O.S.

Power over sin

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in His name.

P.O.S.

Power over sin

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in his name

Lesson 3

Title: Easter – God’s Servant calls His followers to service

Text: John 21

Theme: God’s Servant, the risen Lord, calls His followers to a life of service to God and their fellow man.

Teaching Objectives: By God’s grace, each child will

1. Be able to recount some of the ways Jesus showed His Lordship in this story.
2. Be able to tell to what Jesus calls His followers.
3. Give thanks that Jesus forgives his waywardness and calls him into His service.
4. Commit his life to the service of God and his fellow man to the glory of God.

Memory Verse: *Mark 10:43-44* 43 ... *whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.*

Teacher Direction:

1. We have been looking at God’s Servant, Jesus Christ, through His passion. In the first lesson we saw Jesus express His servanthood both through His life as well as through His death on a cross. He who was God in every way was sent by God to take the form of a servant. But this crucified One was more than a servant; He was also Lord. As we saw in the second lesson Jesus’ resurrection from the dead proved that He was who He said He was – the Son of God, the Lord.

In the final lesson of this unit, we shall look at Jesus, Servant of God and Lord, in one of His post-resurrection appearances. We will look at the call He made, as Lord, on the life of Peter to follow His example of servanthood. That call is a call He makes to all who would seek to be His followers.

2. Introduction

To introduce this lesson ask children to pretend that they are a pitcher on a baseball team. Tell them that their team has made it all the way to the championship game. It is now in the final inning, their team is winning but the other team is catching up. Just now the coach comes to you and tells you that he wants you to pitch and get the team a victory. You are feeling the pressure. Everybody is counting on you. Your performance will affect the whole team. Then a player hits one of your pitches out of the ballpark and your team loses. How would you be feeling right now? Help the children see that they would feel like a failure; that they had let everybody down. They might even wonder if the coach would ever trust them to pitch again.

Then suggest to the children that during the off-season they heard from the coach. He was asking them to come back and pitch for the team. How would they feel at this point? Help children see how excited and joyful they would feel. Help them see how they would feel this was a new day for them.

Tell the children that in today’s story one of the main characters was feeling like a failure. Tell them to listen well and find out how he became joyful again.

3. Bible Story

Note the following points as you tell the account of this resurrection appearance of Christ.

A. Background – In order for children to grasp the impact of this account, it is vital that they be reminded of several events that preceded, especially as they relate to Peter. Remind the children of Peter’s bold statement that even if all the other disciples deserted Jesus, he would not. In fact, Peter claimed that he would follow Jesus even to death. Then remind the children how Peter later ate those words. During the trial of Jesus, Peter denied Christ three times. When the cock crowed and Peter’s eyes met Jesus’, Peter knew he had failed and he felt miserable. Later Jesus was taken and

crucified. All of this must have pierced Peter's soul. But then word got out that Jesus had arisen and when this was found to be true, it must have brought great joy to Peter. Peter also, however, must have felt confusion. He must have also wondered if Jesus would have anything to do with one who had failed him so miserably. He must have wondered if there was a place for him in Jesus' kingdom work. All of this serves as background for today's story. Help the children enter into Peter's feelings.

B. Jesus affirms His Lordship – After Jesus rose from the dead He had to face the unbelief of His disciples. He had to reaffirm in their minds that He indeed was the Lord. Through each post-resurrection appearance Jesus sought to do this. In this account Jesus comes to the disciples as they fish. Frustrated with their inability to catch anything, they are ready to “call it a day”. Jesus uses this opportunity to remind them of His Lordship. As He had done once before (Luke 5) Jesus produces a great catch of fish. (This must have brought to their hearts and minds again the wonder of that first event.) John immediately recognizes that only the Lord could do this, so the man on the shore must be the Lord. Upon evaluation the other disciples came to the same conclusion. Later Jesus serves these men bread and fish, reminiscent of the two times He fed the multitudes and showed His glory. The resurrected One, now standing before them, was indeed the Lord.

C. Jesus commissions Peter – Peter needed to be reinstated. He sat there before the Lord with shame, wondering what was in store for him. Then the Lord singled him out. Three times He asked Peter if he loved Him. Three times Peter said that he did. Three times Jesus commissioned Peter to feed or shepherd His sheep. The man who had denied the Lord three times was now given his commission three times. It was as if Jesus was saying that Peter was forgiven and was now to give his life to God's service. In fact, Jesus called Peter to follow Him and assured him that his own cross awaited him. Peter must have left this encounter with a light heart, recognizing that God had forgiven him and that he now had a purpose for living. That purpose was to serve the Lord who had just served him in such a dramatic way.

4. Application

Jesus Christ was the perfect Servant. He gave His life so that we might have life. Jesus Christ is also the Lord. As our Lord, He commissions us to give our lives to serve God by serving others. He wants us to live for God's purposes and God's kingdom. We must all, by God's grace, commit our lives to service of God and man to the glory of God, for that is the reason why He has saved us and made us His own.

5. Review Questions

Why would Peter have felt ashamed after the resurrection of Christ? (He had boldly proclaimed that he would not forsake Christ. In fact, he said he would die for Christ. But when the hour of Christ's death came, Peter had denied His Lord.)

How did Jesus show his disciples that He was Lord? (He took advantage of their failure at fishing to produce a huge catch of fish. This brought to their remembrance an earlier demonstration of His Lordship and confirmed their confidence in Christ.)

What commission (job) did Jesus give to Peter? (He commissioned him feed His sheep, that is, to care for the souls who would be followers of Christ.)

In following Christ, what would Peter have to look forward to? (He would suffer and die for his faith in Christ.)

Did Christ die on the cross for us so that we could go on living for ourselves? If not, for what purpose did He die for us? (He died for us that we might no longer live for ourselves, but to live for Him and His Kingdom.)

Fish in Net

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example before class to be used as a model.

Materials

- Black line masters of fish and net
- Scissors
- Glue

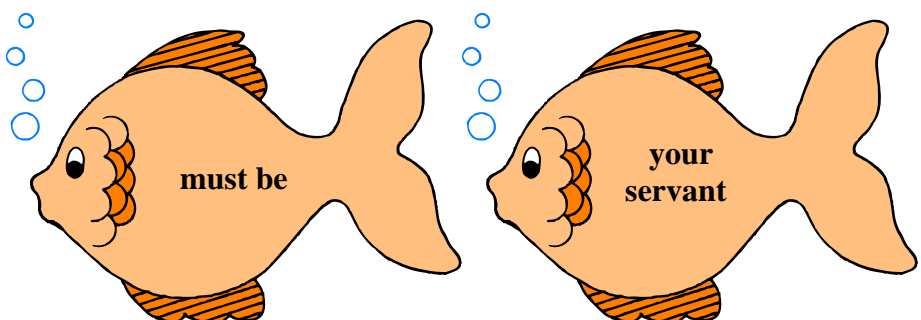
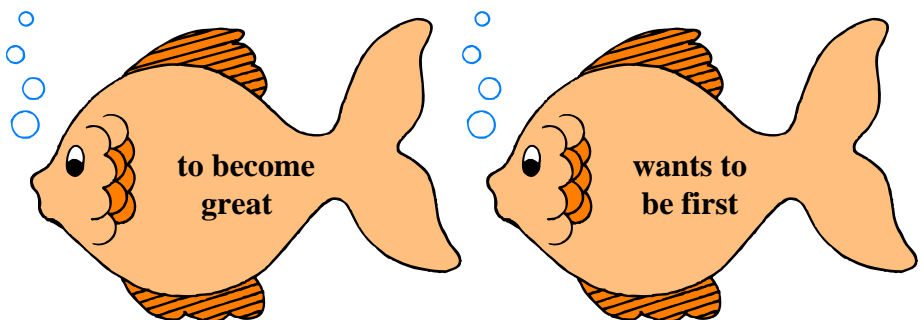
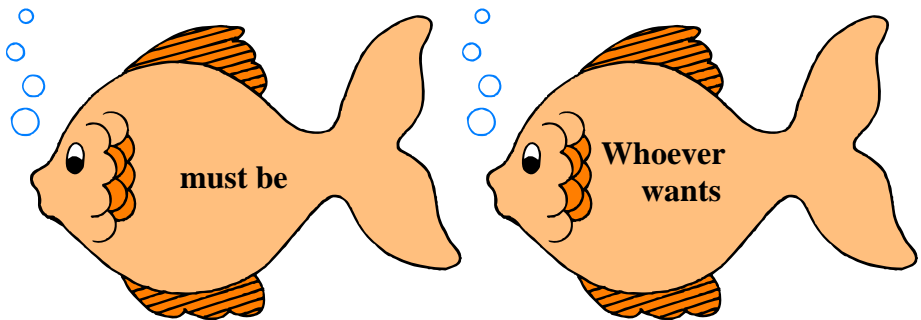
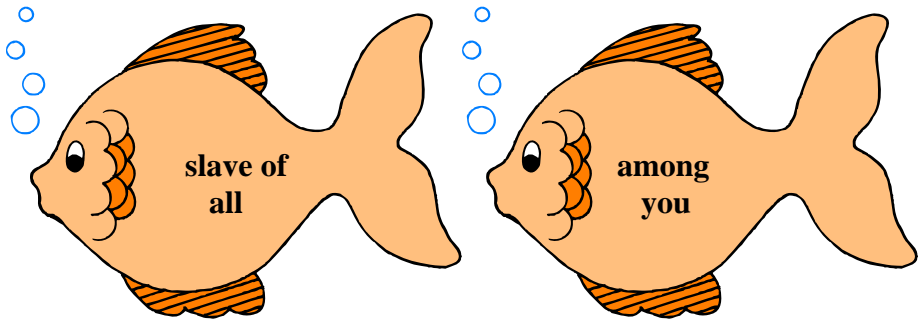
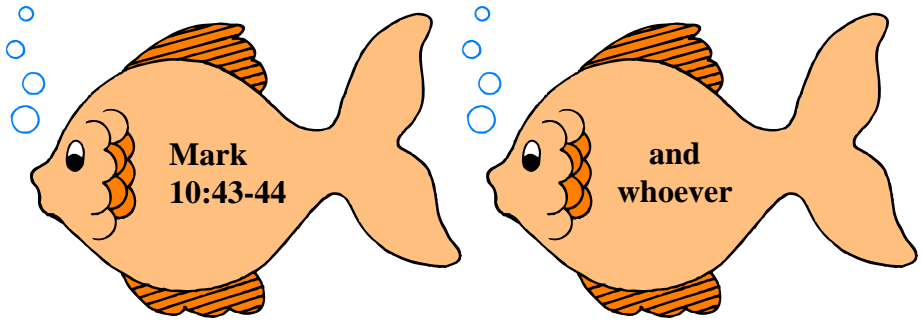
Instructions

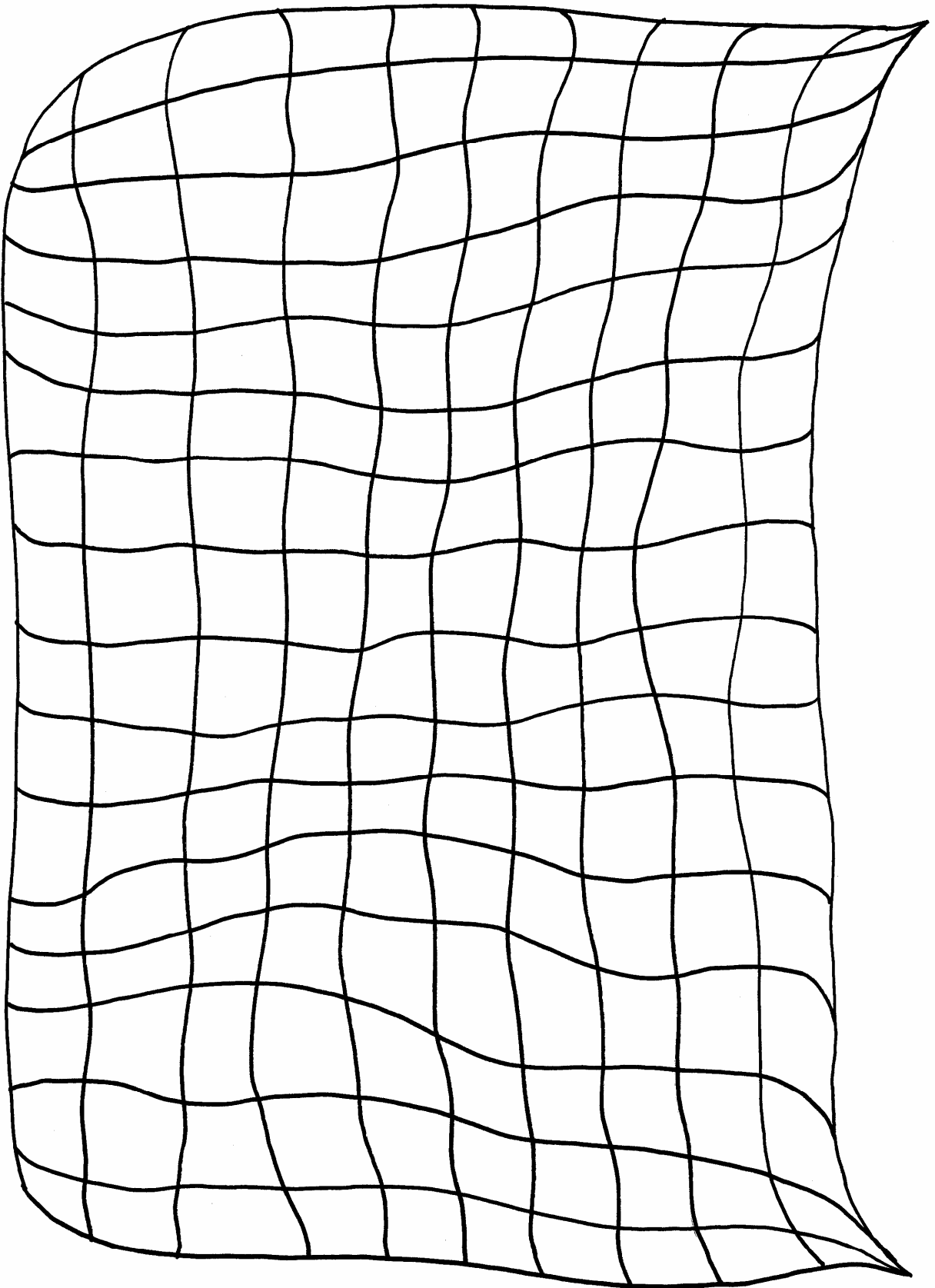
1. Have children cut out verse fish and arrange them in order on the net master to form the verse. Note: it is good to check the order for individual students before children start gluing.
2. When children have the fish arranged have them glue them to the net.

Faith Connections

Mark 10:43-44 ...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

Discuss ways that we can serve others while completing the craft. How did Jesus show that he was a servant? How can we show others that we have a servant's heart as well?





Apr., Lesson 3

**Children's Church Grades 1- 3
Year 2 Curriculum - May**

Theme: Prayer

Lesson 1 Praise and Thanks

Lesson 2 Confession

Lesson 3 Intercession

Suggested songs related to the theme:

Lesson 1: Praise and Thanks

*Awesome God
He Is Exalted
How Majestic Is Your Name
King of Kings
Mighty is Our God
Sing to the Father
We Bow Down
You Are the King of Glory*

Lesson 2: Confession

*Abba Father
Amazing Grace
I Will Sing of the Mercies
Lamb of God
Lord, Be Glorified
Thy Lovingkindness*

Lesson 3: Intercession

*Beloved (let us love one another)
Lead Me Lord
This is My Commandment
You Shall Love The Lord*

Children's Church Grades 1-3
Year 2 Curriculum - May

Lesson 1

Title: Prayer – Praise and thanks

Text: 1 Chronicles 28-29

Theme: Praise and thanks flow from the hearts of those who have seen God at work.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Share reasons David was moved to give praise and thanks to God.
2. Be able to share what things David saw about God that were worthy of praise.
3. Share reasons he should give praise and thanks to God.
4. Participate in a time dedicated to giving praise and thanks to God.

Memory Verse: *1 Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.*

Teacher Direction:

1. The focus of this unit is prayer. We shall look at three different forms of prayer: praise and thanks, confession, and intercession. As we study, it is our desire to bring this subject out of the theoretical or academic and bring it into the practice and experience of the community. We say community here because prayer is too often looked at as an individual exercise. Yet as one looks at the Lord's Prayer and other prayers in Scripture, it is very evident that there is a very essential corporate element.

In this lesson we shall look at prayers of praise and thanks. To do this we will use the joyous event in the lives of the people of Israel when they were able to give generously toward the building of the temple, the place of God's presence. As King David and the people gave of their possessions they were overwhelmed by the greatness and graciousness of their God and were moved to praise and thanks. As you read the passage note how much of David's prayer is in the first person plural (we). The corporate nature of his prayer is very evident.

2. Introduction

To introduce this lesson, ask the children how they would feel in the following situation: *You have not had a very good year. Your grades in school have plummeted, you got in trouble a couple of times with your teacher, and recently, three days before your birthday, you have broken a special vase of your mother which is irreplaceable. Finally, your birthday arrives, and to your surprise your mother has purchased for you a very expensive game that you really wanted.* Allow for discussion, trying to bring out the point that each child would probably want to praise and thank his mother. He might say something like, "Oh, Mom, you are the best. How can I ever thank you! I really don't deserve such a gift, but you were so good to give it to me,..." Tell the children that in today's story the people are going to be moved to praise and thanks. Encourage them to listen to see why. Note: Be sure the children understand what it means to give praise and thanks.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story from 1 Chronicles 28-29 be sure to emphasize the following points.

A. Background – King David had been chosen by God. Taken from the care of sheep, He was made King of Israel. If that were not enough, God had also entered into covenant with David promising him that his sons would reign on the throne forever. In gratitude David desired to build a house for God, but was forbidden to do so. Now at the end of his life, David gathers the leaders of the people and his son to make final preparations for the construction of the house of God, which his son would accomplish.

B. The Reason for David's praise – The scene that unfolds in this passage is overwhelming for David. He stands before his people as King, knowing how God had so blessed him with this honor though he deserved it not. He also stands before his son, who was soon to be sole ruler, and is reminded of God's gracious covenant. At this time he is able to give to his son the temple plan that God had given him. He is also able to charge his son and assure him of God's presence and enabling. Then, David first, followed by the people, gives a generous offering. They abundantly give what is necessary for the completion of the temple. This is a moment that affects David at the core of his being and moves him to praise and thanks.

C. The Content of David's praise – David begins with praise. He acknowledges God's fatherhood, his greatness, power, glory and majesty. He acknowledges God as head over all who owns all things in heaven and earth. He also acknowledges God as the One who has power to give riches and honor and might to others. Having praised God, David then enters into thanks for he realizes that God has done just this for the people of Israel. God has blessed David immensely and has blessed the people with abundant provision. David senses their unworthiness for all this provision and thanks God for all the people. When finished with his prayer, he encourages the congregation of Israel to bless the Lord as well. They praise and thank the Lord and then offer sacrifices and enjoy a feast before the Lord.

4. Application

When we consider what the Lord has done for us, we, too, must break forth in praise and thanks. We are unworthy of any of God's gifts, and yet God has blessed us greatly. He draws us to Himself, opens our eyes to see our sinfulness and His glory, brings us to repentance and faith, forgives our sins, and implants new life in us. Then He dwells in our midst with desires of blessing us, especially with the riches of Christ. When these truths capture our thoughts and hearts, we can do nothing but shout praise and thanks to God.

Note: At this time it would be very appropriate to have children identify reasons why they should praise and thank the Lord. After some discussion, spend a good time in prayers of praise and thanks. Try to encourage the children to prayer with the community in view, just as David did.

5. Review Questions

What does it mean to praise someone? (To praise someone means to glorify him or her by telling of his or her goodnesses.)

How had God blessed David? (He took David from the sheepfold to make him king. He entered into covenant with David promising that his sons would reign on the throne forever. He had blessed David with much wealth. He allowed David to see his son Solomon ascend to the throne.)

What moved David to praise and thank God? (He looked at all of God's blessings, which he knew he did not deserve, and could not help but give praise and thanks to God.)

What things did David mention about God in his praise? (He spoke of God's power, might, glory, majesty, and Fatherhood. He also acknowledged that God owned all things and was the One who gives to His creatures all that they have.)

For what other reasons should we praise God? (Answers vary but may include wisdom, love, grace, truth,...)

Did David just pray for himself? Why do you think this was so? (No, David prayed for his people. David considered the people of God his true identity. He thought of himself, not as an individual, but as a member of a community. He identified himself with the people of God.)

Prayers of Praise

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example to be used as a model.

Materials

- Black line master
- Markers or crayons

Instructions

1. Give each child a master.
2. In each of the four sections have children draw a picture that illustrates the attribute of God in each section.
3. You may want to discuss some ideas with the children before they start drawing.

Faith Connections

1 Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

Help children share attributes of God for which they are thankful. You may want to make a list of these on the board of chart paper.

Power and Might

Glory

**Praise God
for His...**

Majesty

Fatherhood

Lesson 2

Title: Prayer – Confession

Text: Daniel 9:1-19

Theme: Confession acknowledges wrong done to the glory of God, accepting the consequences of sin without excuse.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to share why Daniel needed to make a prayer of confession to God.
2. Be able to give a simple definition for confession.
3. Be able to share at least two characteristics of true confession.
4. Confess his sins before God.

Memory Verse: *Proverbs 28:13* *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we are looking at three expressions of prayer: praise and thanks, confession, and intercession. In our first lesson we looked at a prayer of praise and thanks offered to God by King David on behalf of the people. Confronted with the unworthiness of himself and his people, but also the manifold blessings of God, David led his people in a significant time of praise and thanks to God. He, with the people, acknowledged the gracious work of God on their behalf and was moved to praise, thanks, and sacrifice.

In this lesson we shall focus on a prayer of Daniel. He, too, was confronted with the unworthiness of himself and his people. They had been exiled to Babylon for their covenant breaking and rebellion. Yet, in his study of Scripture, he found a reason to hope. This moved him to confess the sins of his people. His prayer is a model of true confession, worthy of our examination.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson ask children what they think the word “confession” means. As the children give answers try to help them understand that confession is admitting our guilt to God; it is admitting that we have sinned and done wrong.

Next, ask the children if they have ever done something wrong (like break a window or a vase, said a “bad” word, stole something, disobeyed a rule of your parents,...) and then had to make a confession. Ask them when they made their confession if they made any excuses or tried to get out of the punishment. If any of the children have made excuses or tried to get out of the punishment, ask them if they think that is “true confession”.

Tell the children that in today's story Daniel prays a model prayer of confession.

Encourage the children to listen well to see what made Daniel's prayer so excellent.

3. Bible Story

As you share the story take into consideration the following ideas.

A. Background for the prayer – The nation of Israel was chosen by God to be His special people, His own possession. God entered into covenant with them, promising His presence among them and His blessing, if the people walked before Him in obedience. Sadly, the people broke covenant with God and went after foreign gods. When God sought to woo them back through the prophets, the people only rebelled more and killed God's messengers. As a result God punished the people. Foreign armies entered their land, destroyed their temple and exiled the people. Daniel and the people of Israel found themselves in Babylon, a disgrace before the other nations. It was while in Babylon in the midst of study that Daniel found a reason to hope. Through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, God had promised to restore a repentant Israel. He would use a man named Cyrus to accomplish this. In Daniel's day such a

man, Cyrus of Persia, had just invaded Mesopotamia and attacked Babylon. In study and prayer Daniel's heart was encouraged to pray that God would indeed restore His people.

B. Preparation for the prayer – Daniel personally felt the plight of his people. They were slaves in a foreign land away from the land God had promised. He knew, too, that they had no one to blame but themselves. Their sin had landed them in Babylon. So with utmost care, Daniel prepared himself to plead with God on behalf of the people. He put on sackcloth and ashes (the attire of one who seeks to humble himself before God), he fasted (what one always did in times of crisis) and began with prayers and petitions to plead with God. Note how Daniel identifies himself with his people and their sin. This is corporate prayer.

C. The content of the prayer (true confession) – Daniel's prayer contained the following:

1. A clear admission of sin – Daniel clearly states that they had sinned and done wrong. He calls their actions rebellion, wickedness, and unfaithfulness. He offers no excuses nor does he try to lessen the charge. Furthermore, he acknowledges that his or her sin is against none other than God. There is in this prayer a clear admission of guilt, calling sin exactly what it is. 2. An acceptance of the punishment – After admitting guilt, Daniel affirms God's right to punish His people. He does not suggest that God has been unjust, nor does he try in any way to get out of the punishment. His whole reason for praying was based on the hope God had given through the prophets that He would forgive and restore. 3. A concern for the glory of God, not his personal comfort – Daniel's primary concern seemed to be God's name. He realized Israel bore the name of their God. Being exiled with their temple and cities destroyed brought shame to the name of their God. Thus Daniel prays that God forgives and restores so that His name would again be honored among the nations. Daniel's primary concern was not the comfort of the people.

4. Application

We have all broken covenant with God. We have gone our own way and taken back from God control of our lives. As a result we must confess our sin to God. When we do we must approach God humbly, ready to admit our sin and receive our just punishment. Our greatest concern should be that we who bear the name of God do so well. Even in our dealings with our parents we must also consider these principles. When we have done wrong we must admit it, being ready to receive whatever punishment our parents deem appropriate. This is the essence of true confession.

5. Review Questions

Where was Daniel when he prayed his prayer of confession? (Babylon)

Why were David and the people of Israel in Babylon? (They had broken covenant with God and had not responded to God's reproofs through the prophets.)

What prompted Daniel to pray to God at this time? (Cyrus was making progress in his campaign against Babylon. This seemed to confirm the words of the prophets, which suggested that God had a future for Israel.)

How did Daniel prepare himself for this prayer? (He fasted and put on sackcloth and ashes. In other words he humbled himself before God.)

What makes for true confession? (We admit our sin against God with no excuses. We accept our punishment recognizing it as right and good. We care most for God's glory.)

Are you in need of approaching God with a prayer of confession?

Happy and Sad Faces

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example before class to use as a model.

Materials

- Black line master
- Scissors
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks

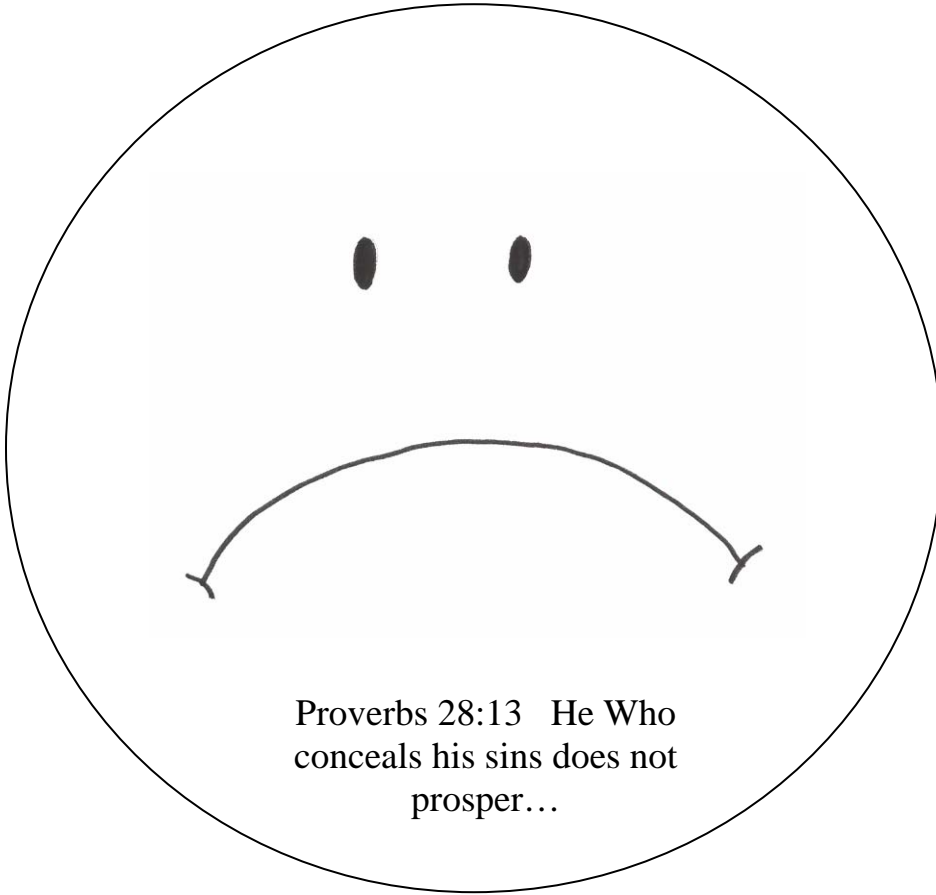
Instructions

1. Children may color happy and sad faces lightly so they do not obscure the verse.
2. Cut out faces.
3. Glue faces back to back with Popsicle stick in between.

Faith Connections

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Help children see the contrast between those who confess their sins and those who do not.



Proverbs 28:13 He Who
conceals his sins does not
prosper...



But whoever confesses
and renounces them
finds mercy.

Lesson 3

Title: Prayer – Intercession

Text: Exodus 32:1-32

Theme: In intercession, the prayer petitions God on behalf of others for their good and the glory of God.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will

1. Be able to give a simple definition of intercession.
2. Be able to tell why the people needed Moses' intercessory ministry.
3. Be able to share 1-2 elements of Moses' intercessory prayer.
4. Commit to a ministry of intercessory prayer.

Memory Verse: *1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—*

Teacher Direction:

1. In this unit we have been studying prayer. In lesson one we looked at the prayer of praise and thanks from the lips of David for God's goodness in allowing the people to generously provide for the building of the temple. In lesson two we looked at Daniel's prayer of confession. Having seen a glimmer of hope from the Scriptures, Daniel brought before the Lord the nation's sinfulness, hoping that a true repentance would lead to the restoration of the people to their land. With both of these lessons it was our hope that the children's understanding and practice of prayer would expand beyond prayers focused on self which is often the case at this age.

In this lesson we shall look at one final type of prayer: intercession. By intercession we mean prayers prayed by one who stands between God and others, and pleads with God on behalf of others. In our story Moses finds himself in that position. Confronted with the people's idolatry, God appears to be ready to destroy them, but Moses stands "in the gap" and pleads for God's mercy. Again, as we studied this prayer we will note the corporate nature of it, and will try to encourage the children to expand their understand and practice of prayer.

2. Introduction

As you begin this lesson it would be good to review the first two lessons. Talk with children about prayers of praise and thanks, and prayers of confession. Remind them what these types of prayer entail. Also remind them these are prayers that we not only do on an individual level, but also on a corporate level (as we saw in our lessons). Tell the children that today's lesson will focus on a third type of prayer called intercession. Next ask the children if they know what the word intercession means. After discussion try to help the students see that intercession is praying to God on behalf of others. To illustrate this try using the following example or a similar example that focuses on one person standing "in the gap" for another. (Illustration: When I was younger I used some bad language and my parents found out about it. In those days I knew the penalty for such behavior was having a bar of soap rubbed on my teeth. Yuk! My oldest sister, however, did not want me to go through such an experience, so she spoke with my parents. She pleaded with my parents to consider a different penalty - loss of T.V. viewing. With this action my sister was interceding for me.)

3. Bible Story

As you share the story of Moses' intercession try to incorporate the following ideas.

A. Background – God was continuing to fulfill His covenant promises. The people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt, but it was there that they had become a great nation. This had been promised to Abraham centuries earlier. The Lord then redeemed Israel from Egypt with an outstretched arm and a mighty hand. He then led the people to Mt

Sinai where He entered into covenant with the people. All the people affirmed that they wanted to follow the Lord. But it did not take long for the people to break covenant with the Lord. Because, from their perspective, Moses delayed too long on the mountain, they decided to take matters into their own hands. With Aaron's cooperation the people fashioned a golden calf and began to worship. God Almighty was aware of this, and as a result, told Moses that He was ready to wipe them out. It is interesting that God calls the people "**your** people which **you** led" showing that He had disowned them.

B. Moses' Intercession – Confronted with the possible destruction of his people because of their folly, Moses intercedes for them. On three grounds he asks the Lord to relent. 1. He reminds the Lord that these were **His** people. (He turned the tables on the Lord.) He had redeemed them from Egypt. He bought them and now they were His. 2. Secondly, Moses appeals to the Lord's name and honor. Should the Egyptians hear of God destroying His people, they will conclude that He redeemed them only to destroy them in the wilderness. In a way this would only be a victory for Egypt and her gods. 3. Finally, Moses appeals to God based on His integrity. God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, by His name, that He would multiply their descendants as the stars of heaven. He could not go back on His covenant.

C. God's response – In response to Moses' words, God relented. The people had not yet repented, nor were they forgiven, but God did stay His judgment. Moses then went down and rebuked the people. Three thousand even lost their lives. Then Moses returned again to intercede some more. So great is his love for this people that Moses offered to have his name blotted out of God's book (presumably of life). With this Moses may be offering his life in exchange for the people. At any rate, God does not accept Moses' offer, but He does promise to send His angel to lead them, though He in time would punish the offenders.

4. Application

Our prayers need to go beyond our own needs. Like Moses we must pray for others. If we see others not living for God we must pray for God's mercy. We must pray that God's name be honored. We must pray that God remembers His new covenant and grants them a fresh wind of His Spirit. Beyond those not living for God, we should look around our world and pray for any God puts on our hearts that may have special needs. This is a very important way we are called to love our neighbor.

5. Review Questions

What is intercession? (It is prayer before God for the sake of others.)

Why were the people of Israel in need of intercessory prayer? (They had broken covenant with God and God was ready to destroy them and start over with Moses.)

Why did Moses suggest God should not destroy the people? (They were His people. The Egyptians would see this as a victory for their gods. God had promised the forefathers that He would multiply their descendants.)

How did God respond to Moses' intercession? (He relented. Though He promised to punish them later, He said He would not destroy them.)

How did Moses show His great love for his people? (He said he was willing to have his name blotted out of God's book perhaps in exchange for God's mercy on the people.)

Are you showing your love for others by interceding for them? Who do you need to be interceding for today?

Prayer Journal

Tips for Teachers

- Make an example before class to be used as a model.

Materials

- Black line masters
- Crayons or markers
- Stapler or ribbon to tie books together

Instructions

1. Have booklets put together beforehand if you wish to save time.
2. Use crayons or markers to decorate and write name on front cover.
3. Help children write some prayer requests in their journal.
4. You may want to list request on board or chart paper for children to copy.

Faith Connections

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge you, then first of all, that request, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.

Discuss prayer request and how by praying for other we are making intercession for them.

My Prayer Journal



Name _____

■

