

KIDS Community Group Lesson

1.18.15

Everything I do is for Jesus

Leader's Guide

Engaging one another: Do your parents, teachers or leaders tell you to do your best? Is it easier to do your best when you are doing your favorite activity? Let each child tell about their favorite activities.

Engaging God:

- Through Worship

John 15:13 NLT *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Give the children an opportunity to thank God for what He has done for them this week. If some of them can't think of anything, remind them of all that God does each day.

- Through Prayer

1 John 5:14-1 NIV *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

Give each of the children an opportunity to pray. Talk to the children about prayer; that when they pray they are talking to a friend. It's just that this friend created the universe and that's why it's important to show respect to Him. Talk with them about how they would feel as a friend if someone only talked to them when they needed something. Remind them that although God loves to hear from us about our needs, it's also important to Praise God for who He is, ask God to help others, and thank God for hearing our prayer.

Try a popcorn style prayer. Tell the children that you will open and close the prayer and give time in between for them to say something to God. Explain that it doesn't have to be anything special or big. They can just share something they're worried about or just thank God for something good in their lives.

-Through the Word

God's Word: Read the Bible verse Colossians 3:23 first and tell the children to look for examples of Nehemiah doing his very best for God. Retell the story of Nehemiah and the building of the wall, or read from a children's Bible. Ask them to stop you when they hear of something showing Nehemiah doing his best.

Discussion: Discuss the steps Nehemiah had to take to do what he believed God wanted him to do. What happened that could have discouraged him or made him want to give up? Do you think Nehemiah did his best anyway? God might not ask us to rebuild a wall but He does ask us to love others and share what Jesus has done for us and He will always give us all we need to do our best.

Activities:

- Build a wall with Legos and act out the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the wall.
- Make a wall out of Graham Crackers and hold it together with Nutella or Peanut Butter.
- Make a list of ways each member of your group can do their best in whatever they do. Tell them to be ready to share their stories the next time you get together.

-Scripture Meditation

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men. Colossians 3:23

Start a challenge with a reward system for memory verses in your group. Find out how most of the children learn verses best. Some do well with hand motions or sign language, through songs or beats or art/drawing.

Here are some ideas:

<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/1243/teaching-aids/assorted-ideas-for-memorizing-verses-part-1.php>

Explain the context of the verse so that the children understand how important it is to know God's word.

Supplies: Crayons/Paper

Activity: Have the children write out the verse on a sheet of paper. Pray with them asking that the Holy Spirit reveal the truth of this verse.

Give the children 5-10 minutes to draw pictures and/or write words about what God is sharing with them. After they have time to color/draw/write, have the children explain what God has shared with them.

***If children explain the pictures in ways that are not Biblical (lovingly), help them understand what the verse means.**

Engaging the World:

Isaiah 58:7 NLT *Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.*

What's your next step? Baptism? Serving? Inviting a friend? Using your gifts? Think about it. Pray about it. Next week, share with the group what your next step will be.

Pray for someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus. Draw them a picture, or write them a letter letting them know that God loves them.