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A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 1

Bible Lesson: God's Way is the Right Way

Awesome Things God Has Done

Ask kids to act out one thing God has done and have the group guess which one they are thinking of. (*Creation, Noah's ark, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments, David & Goliath, Jesus healing the sick, etc.*)

Explain: God has done many awesome and incredible things because He is a wonderful and awesome God. In other words, God is mighty, holy, powerful, wise, and loving. Because He is so awesome, we must have the greatest respect for Him.

Introduce Steps to Truth

Step 1: Consider the Choice
Step 2: Compare to God
Step 3: Commit to God's Way
Step 4: Count on God's Loving Motivation to Protect and Provide.

Hand Motions:

Step 1: Both hand out front, palm up. Motion up and down like a scale.
Step 2: Fold hands and close eyes like praying. Then point one finger up to God.
Step 3: Show a two-thumbs-up sign.
Step 4: Make a roof over your head with both hands and arms.

Game: "What is God Like?" Name Tags

Before the session, prepare name tags with these descriptions of God: *God is love, pure, true, just, mercy, the highest authority, or in control.* Leave room at the top for the child's name. Attach the name tag on their back. Instruct the children to guess the

characteristic of God on their tag by asking others questions. Questions can only be answered "yes" or "no". Once a child has discovered the characteristic of God on her name tag, she may move her tag to the front and help others until all are finished.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name seven truths about God.

A: God is love, pure, just, mercy, the highest authority, and in control.

Q: What are the four steps to truth?

A: Consider the Choice, Compare to God, Commit to God's way, and Count on God's loving motivation to protect and provide.

MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 6:18, "Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight."



**Submit to God
as Lord of our
lives.**



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 2

Bible Lesson: Choosing What God Says

Introduction

Review all four **Steps of Truth** from lesson 1. Say, "During the next seven weeks, we will be learning how to make right choices. This new way of making right choices will help you for the rest of your life."

Step 1: Consider the Choice

Explain: Imagine you are in the situation of the kid in our drama today. You know if you cheat, you will get a better grade. If you do not cheat, you will get a lower grade. Your parents will give you five dollars if you get an "A". You really want the money. How do you choose

what is right?

(Leader: The more you emphasize the choice conflict of truth versus a better grade, the more they will understand why they always need to turn from their selfish ways to make right, moral choices.)

Choice Conflict

When we stop and consider a choice, it creates a conflict. It goes like this: If I choose right, I may suffer some now, but if I choose wrong I may enjoy some immediate 'benefits'. Will I do what is in my selfish, short-term interest, or what God says is right long-term?

Drama: "To Cheat or Not to Cheat"

A Test Case

Kids are taking a spelling test at school. One kid does not know how to spell one of the words. The teacher steps out of the room. One boy always makes 100% on spelling tests. The first kid looks on the smart boy's pa-

per. *(Consider "freezing the action, rewinding, and doing again a different way)*

Leader: After the drama, ask for the children's input. Maybe let them "write their own ending". Get them involved in the thought process!

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name seven truths about God.

A: God is love, pure, just, mercy, the highest authority, and in control.

Q: What are the four steps to truth?

A: Consider the Choice, Compare to God, Commit to God's way, and Count on God's loving motivation to protect and provide.

MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 6:18, "Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight."



When faced with a choice, I will stop and consider what is right or wrong about it.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 3

Bible Lesson: God's Character & Nature

Step 2: Compare it to God

When faced with a choice in life, you must compare your action to God to know what is right. God is the original standard for what is right.

Fear the Lord

Read the memory verse for the day, Proverbs 1:7. **Explain:** fear does not mean being afraid of God because He is bad; but respecting Him because He is good. **Say:** In this lesson we are learning how fearing God will help us make right choices.

Teach the kids that:

- God is perfect, holy and right-

eous.

- God's standard is perfect.
- We must compare our attitudes and actions to His perfect standard.

Ask the kids to tell you the name of a person they respect. Then ask them why they respect them.

Reasons to Respect God

1. He is God. (Psalm 46:10)
2. He is the giver of all things. (James 1:17)
3. He is the judge of good and evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:14)
4. It is for our own good. (Jeremiah 32:39)

Video: "Why Should I?"

Show a segment of the video "Why Should I? All About Obedience" from Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World with Frank Peretti. There is a segment at the end which features Adam and Eve as they make the choice to obey or not.

Discuss with the kids how Adam and Eve disrespected God by disobeying his rule.

Alternate video: you could also use a segment of the McGee and Me video, "Do the Bright Thing"

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name seven truths about God.

A: God is love, pure, just, mercy, the highest authority, and in control.

Q: What are the four steps to truth?

A: Consider the Choice, Compare to God, Commit to God's way, and Count on God's loving motivation to protect and provide.

MEMORY VERSE:

**Proverbs 1:7,
"The fear of the
Lord is the be-
ginning of
knowledge."**



**Right and wrong
are defined by
God's character
and nature.**



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 4

Bible Lesson: God's Way is the Way of Truth

Step 3: Commit to God's Way

When I do this, I am submitting to God based on who He is. (*Point two thumbs up*)

Review all Four Steps

Review with the kids all four steps to truth with hand motions. (*See lesson 1*)

Choose God's Way

Review: Remember the skit from last week where a kid was tempted to cheat on a spelling test? (Allow for response.)

Say: God is true, and you love and fear God. Therefore, you must turn from the temptation to get a higher grade and do the right thing.

Remember that God's way is the way of truth. Absolute truth is that which is true for all people, for all times, for all places. Now if a father says his 13 year old daughter has to be home by 11:00 after a football game, she would be wrong to disobey him. However, is being home by 11:00 after every football game absolute truth for everyone? No.

This lesson may be the most important one of all. Committing to God's way means we turn from those attitudes and actions that are unlike God and we **SUBMIT** to Him as Lord.

Object Lesson: Soft Clay vs. Hard Pottery

You will need: some soft clay that is used to make pottery. You will also need a common pottery pot used for flowers.

Show the soft clay and the hard pot. **Explain** that a sculptor could still make something

out of the soft clay because it is still pliable. However, the shape of the pottery is set and can not be changed.

Apply: We can be either moldable or hard and stiff in God's hands.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name seven truths about God.

A: God is love, pure, just, mercy, the highest authority, and in control.

Q: What are the four steps to truth?

A: Consider the Choice, Compare to God, Commit to God's way, and Count on God's loving motivation to protect and provide.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 37:5,
"Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."



I will submit to
God as Lord of my
life and rely on His
power to live out
His way in me.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 5

Bible Lesson: God is Our Loving Protector

When Considering a Choice

1. First we **ASK** what our choices are and Who decides what is right and wrong.
2. Second, we **ADMIT** that God is Boss or Lord.
3. Next, we **SUBMIT** to His authority. Now we can see right and wrong more clearly.

(Make 3 posters with the words "ask," "admit," and "submit" on them. Or, write the words on the dry erase board.)

Step 4: Count on God (to Protect and Provide)

Have I thanked God for His loving Care?

In this fourth step*, we should thank God for His loving protection and provision.

Does this mean we will not suffer or have trials? No. In fact, Jesus says that we may suffer for righteousness sake. But such suffering has great rewards, such as:

- Freedom from guilt
- A clear conscience
- The joy of sharing Jesus
- The loving approval of God.

Umbrella

Show the kids an umbrella. Say, "Just as this umbrella protects you from the rain, God protects you when you make right choices. You can thank God for His protection.

**(See previous lessons.)*

Instant Skit: Ten Lepers

Have ten children act out the Bible story of the ten lepers as you read Luke 17:11-19. Have them act like they don't want the one Samaritan to be in their group. They make him walk alone. When you read that they call out, have all ten

say: "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" *(The reader can pretend to be Jesus and put out His hand to heal them)* Have all leave the stage, but then, have the one Samaritan return and bow to give thanks. Finish by reading verses 17-19.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name seven truths about God.

A: God is love, pure, just, mercy, the highest authority, and in control.

Q: What are the four steps to truth?

A: Consider the Choice, Compare to God, Commit to God's way, and Count on God's loving motivation to protect and provide.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 100:4, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."



**I will thank
God for His
protection.**



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 6

Bible Lesson: Honesty — God is True

Today we are going to learn that being truthful and honest is the right thing to do in every situation, at any time, for everyone. God is true so we should be truthful and honest.

Honesty is more than just not telling a lie, it is respecting other's things, doing one's own work, and not tricking or misleading people with what you do. Throughout the Bible God has made it clear that lying, cheating, and stealing are wrong (Leviticus 19:11-13).

Being dishonest not only hurts people around us but also ourselves and it always leads to bad consequences. Tell the story of Ananias and Sapphira from Acts chapter five.

Game: "Capture the Eraser"

To play, there should be teams of six players who each have a number. Have the teams line up and face the center. Place an eraser on the floor and call out a number. The kids with that number must race to capture the eraser. The first one to get it must race back to his spot before a member of one of the other teams can

Be sure to teach the kids God's list of six "Do Not's":

1. Do not steal
2. Do not lie
3. Do not deceive
4. Do not swear falsely
5. Do not defraud
6. Do not rob.

(See the supplement to Lesson 6 for additional ideas)

take his spot. First person back to the spot earns one point for his team. First team to ten points wins.

(An adult scorekeeper should play the role of a cheater in this game by adding points to the team that is behind and stealing the eraser himself. At the end, use ideas from lesson supplement to open discussion..)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name God's six "Do Not's"

A:

1. Do not steal
2. Do not lie
3. Do not deceive
4. Do not swear falsely
5. Do not defraud
6. Do not rob

MEMORY VERSE:

Leviticus 19:11-13, "Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. Do not swear falsely. Do not defraud your neighbor or rob



**God is true, so
we should be
true and honest.**



Lesson Supplement

After the “Steal the Eraser” Game

Ask the following questions:

- Did you see the scorekeeper do anything wrong? (*He was cheating, stealing, and lying*)
- Did the scorekeeper do his job fairly? (*No, he changed the score*)
- Did the scorekeeper respect other people’s things? (*No, he stole the eraser*)
- Did the scorekeeper tell the truth about his actions? (*No, he said he did not change the score or take the eraser*)
- What was wrong with his actions? (*Cheating, lying, and stealing are dishonest and wrong*)

IMPORTANT: Tell the children that the scorekeeper is not a dishonest person. Inform them that you had asked him to play the role of a dishonest scorekeeper in order to get them to think about honesty.

Draw or Act Out Bible Events

Divide the class into three teams. Tell them you are going to give each group a Bible event to act out or draw on the board. The events all show God is true. The other teams will have to guess what is being acted or drawn.

The teams may choose to act and/or draw, but they may not speak. Whisper the descriptions to one member on each team. Ask them to split into different parts of the room to secretly discuss how they will act and draw the event.

Team A: Draw and/or act God bringing Israel out of Egyptian slavery and parting the Red Sea for them to cross.

After Team A

Ask someone to read Exodus 6:6-8. Ask: “What did God promise?” (*to take Israel out of Egypt and give them the promised land*) “Was He true to His promise?” (*yes*) Ask someone else to read Joshua 21:43-45. Stress that God does not lie, but keeps His promises. God is true.

Team B: Draw and/ or act God giving a rainbow after Noah and the ark survived the flood.

After Team B

Ask: “Why did God flood the world?” (*because the people were wicked*) “What was God’s plan to save Noah’s family and the animals?” (*the ark*) “What did the rainbow represent?” (*God’s promise to never destroy the earth with a flood again*) Ask a child to read Genesis 9:11-13. Say: “God has kept His promise. While there have been regional floods, there has never been a flood that destroyed the whole world since Noah’s time.”

Team C: Draw and/or act Jesus taking a little boy’s lunch of five loaves and two fish, blessing it, and feeding 5,000 with twelve baskets left.

After Team C

Read John 6:5-13. Ask: “Did Jesus steal the boy’s lunch?” (*No, the boy offered his lunch*) “Did Jesus return the lunch?” (*Yes, not only was the boy able to eat lunch, but more than five thousand other people ate.*) Say: “Jesus shows us what God is like. God is honest; He does not steal.”



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 7

Bible Lesson: God is Pure

Talk about pure.—Gather items that advertise being pure. Example: vanilla, olive oil, soap, orange juice, etc. Ask, “Why is the word *pure* important to each of these products?”

Define pure.—Have a child read it from a dictionary.

Transition to Bible truth.—(Before class make a poster with this definition on it: “Pure—Not mixed with anything else. Not containing anything dirty or hurtful, clear. Not bad or evil; virtuous, innocent, or just.” Which part is not covered? (A: *clear, not bad or evil; virtuous, innocent, or just.*) Say, “The products we have here are pure in some ways, but God is pure in all ways.”

Present the truth about purity.—God wanted to show his people, the Israelites that He was pure. He showed Moses how to have them build a wor-

ship tent they called a tabernacle. The most important things in the tent were made of gold. God is a metal that can be made pure. God wanted them to come into the worship tent and see pure gold to remind them that God is pure.

Apply Bible truths.—Have the kids gather around the pond. Ask, “What are some of the ways we can pollute our bodies and minds?” Turn the splotches over and read them.

Lead in Prayer.—Say: “God is pure, but He is also merciful. Ask Him to help us remember who He is so that we can make right choices about how we treat our bodies and the bodies of others. Then, ask him to change us and forgive us.

Game: “Hazardous Waste Pond”

Have an area you call the pond. Have brown splotches all over it to represent hazardous waste. Have the splotches face down with these words not showing: Illegal drugs, bad movies, bad words, lying, cheating, stealing, hate.

To play, have a narrow board for the children to walk across. Tell them it is the only bridge to get over the “Hazardous Waste Pond.” Then have

the children all walk over it. Any child who falls in should have a tag stuck to them labeled, “contaminated.”

The children will have fun watching others make the walk. There will be some children who will purposely become contaminated. Remember you are working with children. Have fun and enjoy them!

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name God’s six “Do Not’s”

A:

1. Do not steal
2. Do not lie
3. Do not deceive
4. Do not swear falsely
5. Do not defraud
6. Do not rob

Q: What does God want us to do with our bodies?

A: God wants us to honor Him with our bodies.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, who you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”



**God is pure, so
I will keep my
thoughts and
actions pure.**



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 8

Bible Lesson: God is Love

Ask the children what they think love is. Then say: according to the Bible, love is caring for another person as much as you care about yourself (Mt. 22:37-39). Today we are going to talk about the story found in Lk. 10:25-37.

"One day a man who was an expert in the Old Testament law asked Jesus, 'What must I do to go to heaven?' Jesus answered this with a question. He asked, 'What is written in the law?' The man replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as thyself.' Jesus was pleased with his answer and he said, 'You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.' Then the man asked, 'Who is my neighbor?'"

Ask the children who they

think their neighbor is. To answer this question have some children act out the story of the good Samaritan.

After Jesus had finished the story he asked which of the three was a neighbor to the hurt man. He replied, "the one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Explain to the children that back in that time, Jews did not like Samaritans and usually were not nice to them. Even though Jews were not nice to him, the Samaritan man still helped the hurt Jew. Have the children think of some people who are mean to them. God is love and He wants us to love even those people who do not act in a loving way toward us.

Game: Ways to Show Love

Materials needed:

Game boards made of four pictures that illustrate these four places: home, school, church, and playground.
Beanbags.

To play: Break the children up into groups of 8—10 and have each group play this game separately.

Have the children gather around the game board and take turns tossing the beanbag onto one of the four quarters of the board. The child tosses the beanbag and then tells a way she can show love and be kind in the place where the beanbag landed. Gather the children back together and discuss their ideas.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What is love?

A: Love is caring for another person as much as you care about yourself.

THOUGHT QUESTION

Who are our neighbors?

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 22:37-39,
"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.'



God wants us to love and treat other people the way we want to be treated.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 9

Bible Lesson: Justice — God is Just

Ask the children to tell some of the choices they had to make today. Then say: Everyone makes choices every day. Some are really easy and some are difficult. Sometimes we can make the right choices and sometimes we can make the wrong ones. In order to make right choices, we need to compare our choices to God's standard. (Review the steps of truth with the children.)

Today we will learn about justice. God is always just and fair to all people, at all times, in all places. Being just is always the right thing to do. Since God is just and fair, we too should be just and fair.

Tell the story in Genesis ch. 13 about Abraham allowing Lot to take the better land. Explain to the children that Abraham was willing to

be unselfish and to be fair with Lot. God blessed Abraham with much land and many children and grandchildren. Ask the children: "What choices did Abraham have?" Then ask them: "Did he make the right choice?"

Read Rev. 15:3. Lead the children to admit that God is right, and because God is just and fair, we should compare our attitudes and actions to Him and be just as well. Say the power point: "We should do to others as we would like them to do to us."

Game: Bible Verse Balloon Burst

Preparations:

Write each of these verses on a separate little piece of paper: 2 Thess. 1:6; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 103:6; Zeph. 3:5; Neh. 9:33; Is. 45:21; Hosea 14:9; 1 Jn. 1:9; Rev. 15:3; Lk. 6:31. Bow up several balloons and put a verse into each one.

To play: Have each child pick a

partner and tie one leg of each partner together and tie a balloon to their knees. Explain that they must work together without using their hands to break the balloon and get the Bible verse. As each verse is taken from the balloon, the child looks up the verse in their Bible, writes it on a slip of paper, and tapes it to the board.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: How do we make right choices?

A: We make right choices by comparing our choices to God's standards.

MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 32:4,
"He is the Rock,
His works are perfect,
and all His ways are just. A
faithful God who
does no wrong,
upright and just is
He."



**God is just and
He wants us to be
just and fair with
others.**



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 10

Bible Lesson: God is Mercy

After playing the game, ask kids to volunteer to come up with their partners and tell about the situation that was written on their backs. Ask them if they would have made that same decision to forgive. Allow for several pairs to come up. Then ask if there are a couple of kids who can tell of a time that they forgave someone for something that someone did to them.

Introduce this simple definition of mercy: "Mercy is not giving someone what they deserve." If someone hurts you, they deserve to be hurt back in some way. To show them mercy is to not hurt them back, but to forgive them. Highlight one of the situations that the kids had come up and talked about.

Tell the "Sand and Stone"

legend here. (See supplement.)

Ask kids why we should show mercy to others. The reason is because God is Mercy and we need to be like God. The Bible says that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Ro. 3:23), and that "The wages of sin is death." (Ro. 6:23) So we all deserve to die because we've all sinned. But, if we confess our sins to God, He doesn't give us what we deserve. Instead, He shows us mercy (1Jn. 1:9). And, since God shows us such great mercy, we should do the same by forgiving others. (Review the power point at this time.) God even says that if we don't forgive other people their sins, He won't forgive us. (Mt. 6:15)

Game: Mercy Mystery Tag

Preparations:

Cut out as many strips of paper as needed for your class size. On one strip write a statement of offense done to the person. For example: "My friend broke my Gameboy." On another strip write, "I forgive my friend for breaking my Gameboy." Make enough pairs of strips with of-

fense and forgiveness to give each child in your class one strip. Tape one strip to the backs of the kids as they arrive.

To Play: Have children go around asking questions to find out what is written on their back. Next, have them find the person whose statement matches theirs. (Discuss)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: How do we make right choices?

A: We make right choices by comparing our choices to God's standards.

Q: What is mercy?

A: Not giving someone what they deserve, but forgiving them.

MEMORY VERSE:

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.'"
(Zechariah 7:9)



**God is mercy
and He wants us
to show mercy.**



Sand and Stone

A legend tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

**"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND
SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE."**

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE."

The friend who had slapped and

saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.

**LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN
THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS
IN STONE.....**

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire lifetime to forget them.

Clumsy Waitress Skit

As an alternative activity to the game in the lesson, you may choose to have some kids act out the following skit:

Scene: A table with a few chairs in a restaurant.

Characters:

- **Three or four kids** who are ordering drinks and having fun after a football game.
- **One clumsy waitress** who is on her first day at this job.
- **One Director.**

Take One: Director says, "Take one!" Waitress come up to take their order. They each order a soft drink. She writes it all down and goes in the back to get a tray of drinks. As she delivers the drinks, she trips and spills (water) all over

everyone at the table. They all get angry at her and she runs out saying, "I quit! I stink at this job! Boo-hoo-hooooo!" One kid says, "Well, we're leaving, and we're not paying either!"

Take Two: Director says, "Cut! Clean up this mess. We are doing this scene over! Now, this time, people, I want to see a little MERCY!" Follow the same action as before. Right up until the waitress spills the drinks. This time, the kids all are helpful. One gets a mop to clean the floor. One gets a rag to clean the table. One hugs the poor waitress and tells her it will all be fine. One says, "I'll pay for those spilled drinks and for another order too. (He pulls a dollar out of his pocket, offers it to the waitress) And, here is a tip for you." The waitress smiles and as she goes off to get more drinks, she says, "I guess this job isn't so bad after all."



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 11

Bible Lesson: God Is the Highest Authority

Imagine a kid who's going to be a king. Even though he's the prince, he still has to obey his teachers. God says one day we will "rule & reign" with Him, but for now He wants to teach us how to be like Him. Therefore we need to respect those that God has put over us.

God is the highest authority. This means that God is all-powerful and in charge of everything. Because of this, He is worthy of respect. God could do everything on His own without our help, but because He is all-loving, He chooses to use people. *Read 1 Peter 2:17.*

Because God is worthy of respect and He uses people to do His will, we need to respect others. What does it mean to "respect" someone? It means "to show high regard for someone. To consider them worthy

of praise." Therefore, when we respect God and others, we are saying that they are special and worthy of praise.

Read Romans 13:1-2. According to these verses, who should we respect? (*Get responses from kids.*) That's right, God wants us to respect everyone especially those who have authority in our lives.

Who are the people that God has given authority in your lives? (*Allow kids to respond, leading them to seeing that their parents, teachers and pastors are some of the authorities He's put in their lives.*)

When we respect and obey the people that are in authority over us, we are respecting God who is over everyone and everything. Therefore we respect others because **God is the highest authority.**

Puppet Story: Leroy's Teacher

Leroy: Man, in third grade, we had this teacher named Mrs. Baggs. She was mean! One day she got mad because we all failed a history test. She got up in front of the class and said, "I want all the dummies to please stand up." Well, no one stood up. Then, after a couple of minutes, I stood up. She said, "Well, Leroy, I

see we have one dummy here today." I told her, "Not exactly, Mrs. Baggs. I just hated to see you standing up all by yourself." Then, another day, we were all having a spit wad fight and our principal ran into the room and yelled, "Order! Order!" So I spoke up, "I'll take a hamburger and a coke." (Discuss Leroy's disrespect.)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What does it mean to 'respect' someone?

A: To show high regard for someone. To consider them worthy of praise

Q: Who does God want us to respect?

A: EVERYONE!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Imagine a child asking God, "You see all the suffering and pain in our world. Why don't you send help?" Then hear God say, "I did send help. I sent you."

MEMORY VERSE:

"Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king"

(1 Peter 2:17)



Since God is worthy of respect, I will respect others.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 12

Bible Lesson: God is in Control

(Play the game below.)

Then say: Some of those other kids were pretty funny and it made it hard to not laugh. Have you ever been in class and there was something so funny that it took everything that you had not to laugh? When you do that, your exercising "self-control". Self-control is simply 'having control over yourself'. During the game, kids had to have self-control in order to not laugh. God wants us to have self-control in our lives. It's even one of the nine fruit of the Spirit. (Eph. 5:23)

The reason why God wants us to have self-control is because He is in control. Like we said last week, God wants each of you to be leaders just like Him. But if you are going to have control over anything, you have to begin by having control over yourself. *Read Numbers 14:18.* These verses tell us that God uses self-control by being patient with us when we sin.

Game: Make Me Laugh! (if you can)

Have 2 kids come onto the stage to play this game. They sit across from each other in chairs. One tries to get the other to laugh or smile without touching them in 45 seconds. They are allowed to make funny faces or gestures or tell jokes, as long as they don't touch the other person. It is the goal of the other

This is because He loves us and He wants to see us grow and live in Him.

Jesus also exercised self-control. (*Read Matthew 4:1-11*) Jesus was really hungry, but He knew what God's word said and He had self-control over what His body wanted to do. That's what God wants for all of us. He doesn't want us to be controlled by what our bodies (*or emotions*) want; He wants us to have control over ourselves.

God also wants us to control our anger. Read "*Brandon Washes the Dishes*" story (*see lesson supplement*)

Like shaking a can of pop before opening it, keeping our anger bottled up until it explodes only hurts ourselves and others. Either we let our anger control us or we let God give us His fruit of the Spirit: self-control.

person not to laugh or smile. At the end of the round (when the person smiles or laughs or the 45 seconds are up), they switch roles and do the same thing. (This can be done several times involving different kids each time.)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What does it mean to have 'self-control'?

A: Having power over what you do and say; having control over yourself.

Q: Why should we have self-control?

A: Because God is in control

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

IF YOU DON'T HAVE SELF CONTROL, THEN WHO HAS CONTROL OVER YOU?

MEMORY VERSE:

"Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless. . . self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. (Titus 1:7,8)



**God is in control,
so I will use self-control!**

A Read-Aloud Story



Brandon Washes the Dishes

While his mother was out of the room, three-year-old Brandon emptied a one-and-a-half-gallon jug of water from the fridge. Most of it spilled onto the kitchen floor. His mother's first reaction was to be angry and yell at him. Instead, she stopped herself and said patiently, "Brandon, what were you trying to do?"

"I was trying to be a helper-man, Mom," he replied proudly.

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"I washed the dishes for you."

Sure enough, there on the kitchen table were all the dishes he had washed with the water from the jug.

"Well, honey, why did you use the water from the fridge?"

"I couldn't reach the water from the sink."

"Oh!" my Mom said. Then she looked around.

"Well, what do you think you could do next time that would make less of a mess?"

He thought about it for a minute. Then his face lit up. "I could wash dishes in the bathroom!"

"The dishes might break in the bathroom," she replied. "But how about this? What if you came and got me and I helped you move a chair in front of the kitchen sink so you could do the work there?"

"Good idea!" he exclaimed.

Teacher application: *Do you see the choice Brandon's mother had? She could explode and get angry. What would that have caused? Or, she could keep her anger under control so she could use this as a teaching moment with Brandon.*

Alternate Teaching Idea

Object Lesson: Dart Board of Anger

Materials Needed: Plywood, picture of Jesus, poster with the word "Anger" (same size as picture), darts

Caution: This idea is effective but has some risk to it when used with children. Strict adult supervision will be required.

Set-up: Attach the picture of Jesus to the plywood in a place that will be safe to throw the darts. Attach the poster with the word "anger" over the picture of Jesus. Make certain the poster is the same size or even a little larger so the picture of Jesus is totally covered.

Introduce: Have the children imagine being angry with someone and then throwing a dart at the word "anger." Have each child throw a dart.

Next: Remove the poster of the word "anger" and reveal that all the darts have not only damaged the poster, but also the face of Jesus.

Explain: Jesus says that how we treat others is how we are treating Him.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 13

Halloween: Special Lesson

People say:

- All the talk of witches and ghosts is just child's play.
- Demons and evil spirits are a superstitious throwback to the Middle Ages.
- Ghosts and goblins is mere superstition and is only symbolic.
- We can't take all the fun away from kids.

We say:

- We want kids to use their imaginations, but no one has kids play divorce or suicide or smoking.
- Holy men and women in the Bible, such as Daniel or Esther, appealed to authority about wrong doing, did not compromise their faith, and were absent when pagan parties were held.

- We will convert Halloween to a safe family or church activity that will advertise our faith in Jesus Christ.
- We will learn to battle wickedness in prayer.

The devil wants people to either be afraid of him or believe that he doesn't exist. Either way, he wants to secretly control the life of every person on earth.

We will not let the devil control us. And...we will not let fear control us. Instead, we will give our lives to Jesus Christ, let Him forgive us of all our sins, and make us children of God.

Puppet Show: Trick or Treat?

Leroy: Hi, are you going trick-or-treating on Halloween?

Teacher: No way, not me!

Leroy: Why not, man?

Teacher: I don't go anymore now that I know what it's really all about.

Leroy: What do you mean? Isn't it just a fun night for kids?

Teacher: No Leroy. It began as people trying to keep evil spirits away. And Hal-

loween is the greatest day of the year for Satan worshipers. They do a lot of evil things on Halloween. Satan just wants to make people sin and not love God.

Leroy: I don't think I will go trick-or-treating anymore. What can I do then?

Teacher: Why not come to our church's Family Fun Night.

Leroy: Can I bring my friends? And, can they wear their costumes?

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Who will we give our lives to?

A: Jesus Christ

Q: Whose sons and daughter are we?

A: God's

Q: Does the devil exist?

A: yes

Q: Do we let fear control us?

A: No, we trust God and let Him give us self-control

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Tim. 1:7, "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

1 Jn. 4:18, "There is no fear in love. Perfect love drives out fear..."



God has not given us a spirit of fear.