

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

Read Matthew 6:25-34 ~ Do Not Worry

"I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things than clothes?"

"Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?"

"Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They don't work or make clothing. But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all of his glory was dressed like one of those flowers.

"If that is how God dresses the wild grass, won't he dress you even better? After all, the grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. Is your faith so small?"

"So don't worry. Don't say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them. "But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you. "So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself."

1. What things does the Bible tell us not to worry about? (Having something to eat, drink, clothes to wear, etc.)
2. How can we be sure God will provide enough food for us? (Because we are valuable to Him, and He says He will take care of us. We need to have faith in His word.)

Read 1 Timothy 6:17

"Command the people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy."

1. What is wrong with putting your hope in wealth or money? (It's uncertain, or temporary. Only God can give us everything we need.)
2. Why do you think God wants to give us the things we need? (Answers will vary....Discuss together.)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 18

"Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus."

1. What kinds of things can you be thankful for? (Discuss – allow the children to either make their own list or make one together. Pictures are great too!)
2. What kind of circumstances may make it difficult to be thankful? (Think about the Pilgrims, and all they had to endure for example.)
3. What does this verse tell us about when we should be thankful? (We should always be thankful to God, in any circumstance or situation because we know God will take care of us.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

Holidays and Special Services in the New Apostolic Church:

For 2010, we will have our USA Thanksgiving service on the Sunday before **Thanksgiving** in each congregation, rather than on the actual Thanksgiving Day. There are other holidays that are observed and focused on throughout the year in the New Apostolic Church:

New Year's Day Service – January 1st

Palm Sunday – the Sunday before Easter

Good Friday – the Friday before Easter

Ascension Day – 40 days after Easter Sunday

Pentecost – the 7th Sunday after Easter Sunday

Advent Season – Celebrated on each of the 4 Sunday's before Christmas Day.

Christmas Day Service - December 25th

Closing of the Year Services – (For 2010 this will be on the last Sunday of the year before January 1st.)

Service for the Departed – celebrated internationally 3 times per year on the first Sunday of March, July and November.

TEACHING IDEA: To help the children better visualize and understand the Holidays and Special Services, use a piece of poster board or your easel or chart paper and draw the 2011 Calendar with 12 boxes, labeling each box with one month (Jan, Feb, Mar, etc.). Use bright colored post-its. Ask the children what holidays or special services they know of. As they name them, give them a post-it to write it on, and have them get up and put the post-it on the "calendar". Keep adding to the "calendar" until all the days are covered. This will allow for further discussion as needed.

Application to Real Life

Talk with the children about the pilgrims again. They must have been so thankful that God kept them fed and warm in the cold winters a very long time ago. They had lots of things going on that could have made them be angry with God. It was so cold outside. Maybe they didn't have enough food. But they were still thankful and took time to "give thanks" to God no matter what was happening around them. God today is still the same God. He wants us to be happy and He gives us many things to enjoy each day. There are 4 ways to show God if we are truly thankful for what He has provided for us:

1. How we look.
2. The way we act.
3. What we say to others.
4. The way we feel inside.

The same thing is true if we do not appreciate God's blessings in our lives and if we do not thank Him. It is also easy for others to see by:

1. How we look.
2. The way we act.
3. What we say to others.
4. The way we feel inside.

Application to Real Life

Talk with the children about both scenarios. Practice the “how we look” and “what we say” parts. Talk about the “how we act” in both of the scenarios. Remind the children that we need God’s blessings in our lives, and this starts with a thankful heart. We always want to “Give thanks no matter what happens.” --1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV) (Memory Verse for this lesson.) And we must remember to put God first in our lives so that we never have to worry about anything. God will take care of us too.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse. Explain what it means to you.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One Activity

“Thank-you Notes for God”:

Bring in any materials needed for the children to make a “home-made” thank you note to God. (stickers, fancy stencils, colored pencils, special paper, etc.) Have the children take their “reasons to praise God” list from the Intro activity, and use their list to make a thank-you note for God. No one has to see their note. It should be sealed in an envelope when it is completed. If you like, the children could decorate their envelopes and they may be used in the altar decorations (even if hidden) for the Thanksgiving Day altar. If some children prefer not to write, encourage them to draw pictures. Let them know that it is their chance to write a personal expression of thanks to God for all He has done for them, AS WELL AS all He will do for them in their future. Play some soft music if possible, to help get those creative juices flowing. Give the children plenty of time to complete their project.

“Bible Turkey Hunt”:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → games → “Bible Turkey hunt”

You will need large envelopes (one for each child), glue sticks, Bibles, turkey puzzle pieces (see the above website) and extra pieces as needed for this activity.

To begin this game, give each child an envelope with one of the puzzle pieces inside. The children will open their envelopes and look up the verse on the back of the puzzle piece inside. As the children read their verse and have a short discussion, the piece will be glued into place. Have a large sheet of paper or poster board 11" x 14" to paste the pieces to complete a finished turkey to look like the picture above. Extra pieces if needed can be glued on as well to complete the picture. After the puzzle is complete, share with the children how thankful we are that God provides for us, but how we must also do our part and gather his blessings.

Before class, you will need to print the three turkey puzzle piece pages on medium card stock and cut out all of the pieces. On the back of each piece, write one of the Bible verse references (Write only the Bible reference, not the actual verse.). Please see the above website for more detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion.

“Giving and Receiving”:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → activities → “Giving and Receiving”

You will need: Treats or small prize for each child, paper bags or envelopes, a bandage strip, two pennies, one raisin, a small piece of cloth, a used pencil, and one nail for this activity. Before class, put each item above into small brown bags, or envelopes. During the activity, you will give these gifts to half of the children in class. You may wish to decorate the containers with ribbons, etc. to make the packages more attractive. (IF you need more people to make this activity more interesting, recruit your youth to volunteer, or anyone else who might be willing. Just ask!) For more detailed instructions, please see the website above. Follow the discussion guide as listed.

God’s Many Blessings:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → object talks → “God’s Many Blessings”

For this activity, you will need a water glass (about 2 1/2” in diameter), a pitcher of water, a spoon, some cheerios®, and 10 to 20 marbles or large coins for blessings. You will also need to practice this a few times before the class. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Journal Reflection Questions

- Write a letter of thanks to God. Talk to Him in your letter, and tell Him what lives in your heart as you prepare for Thanksgiving.
- Is it always easy to be thankful in your heart for what you have or something you received? Why do you think it is important to have a thankful heart? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home the lesson titled: **Spiritual Habits – A Relationship with God** and Psalm 42:1-2. Also read Genesis 3, Exodus 40, 1 Kings 5, and John 1.
- Learn the memory verse: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?"
--Psalm 42:2 (TNIV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith #_____.
- Think about the following question: How close do you believe you are to God? Give this question some thought before coming to class.