



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS...MATTHEW 6:33

Fruit of the Spirit

Patience - Lesson 4

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

Circle Time

Who can tell me why we celebrate Christmas? (Jesus' birth.) Can you imagine waiting for Jesus to be born? Before Jesus came people waited a long time for the Messiah, the Savior of the world, to come and rescue them so they could have a relationship with God. Because God is only good, when people sin, or do "bad" things, God cannot have a relationship with them. But God cares so much about you that He GAVE his one and only son to be born. God gave us the most important gift. He sent His son to live on earth and go through all the stuff we go through. Pain, hunger, being tempted to do bad things; Jesus suffered through all of that and still did not sin. He then died to take our place as a sacrifice for us so that we can be free and have a relationship with God again. If we believe in Him we can have everlasting life with Him in heaven. The Bible tells us to be patient and faithful while we wait for the day He sends Jesus back.

But what are we suppose to do while we are still here on earth? Should we just sit around waiting? We should be patient, but we are to tell other people about Jesus and what He did for us and for them. We can have new life when we follow Him. And we get to show others God's love through the fruit He gives us in our lives. God wants us to first love Him, and then we are to love other people. We are to show them love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Remember, when we accept Jesus and follow Him, other people can tell us apart from people who don't follow Him because of the way we live.

Prayer Time

Break up into small groups and pray for anyone who wants to follow Jesus (we could all use this as a reminder to choose to follow Him). Also, pray for any needs mentioned. Thank God for Jesus' birth and pray for Him to help us remember that He LOVED us, so He GAVE, and we should do likewise. Pray for God to help us be givers and not getters.

Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to every activity, we encourage you to complete the “Take-Home” activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.

Cards for Your Plants

Supplies:
Cards
Crayons

Talk to them about how God loved so much that He GAVE. And that each of us has people in our lives that we need to show love to. Sometimes they are people that aren't nice to us that need to hear good news and feel loved. Help them think of someone God has put in their lives who they can give this special plant to.

Have them color the card. Help them write their names inside.

Patience Tower

Supplies:
Blocks (found in the room)

Ask the children if anyone has built a gingerbread house at their house before. Today we will take turns building a house or tower together. The children will practice patience and teamwork as they each take turns putting one block on the tower at a time. Tell them that when it falls, they can pick it up together and rebuild it, being patient with one another.

Patience Prayer Chains

Supplies:
Strips of paper (1 per child)
Crayons
Tape

Remind them how long people waited for a savior to be born so that they could have a relationship with God again. We will be making a “patience prayer chain” to help remind us that God always hears our prayers, but we need to be patient, as God will answer prayers in His time and His ways, not ours. Just like the people who had been praying for a Savior and waited for Jesus to be born.

Give each child a strip of paper. Have the kids write or draw a picture of something they are praying about. Remind them that they should be patient as they pray and seek God. Take the strips of paper and chain them together, using the tape. Hang the chain in the Quest room and explain to the kids that the chain will act as a reminder to pray and be patient. Tell the kids that they can share with the class when they see how God has answered the prayers and you will remove that link from the chain.



Duck, Duck, Goose

Have the kids make a circle and play duck, duck, goose. Before you begin, remind them that they are working on practicing patience. Encourage them to work hard to be patient as they wait to be selected as the goose.



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