

EXTRA for Children

April 13, 2008

Grades 1 and 2: God Created People Grades 4-6: Obey God: Be Baptized

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Grades 1 and 2: Genesis 2:4-24 Grades 4-6: Matthew 3:1-6,11-17; 28:19; Acts 2:36-41; Romans 6:1-4

Power Up Activities

Grades 1-2

Musical Handshake

Instruct the children to begin by going around and shaking other children's hands while the music is playing. When the music stops, the children will introduce themselves to the one they are shaking hands with at the time. Instruct children to say: "Hello my name is _____ and my favorite _____ is _____." Ask one of the following questions each time you stop the music:

- What is your favorite color?
- What is your favorite subject in school?
- What is your favorite thing to do on Saturdays?
- What is your favorite food?

Encourage children to find someone new each time the music stops.

Conclude by explaining that each one of us, even though we have different likes and dislikes, is made in the image of God.

Grades 3-6

Fortunately, Unfortunately!

Children form pairs and begin a back and forth conversation until one person hesitates and does not know what to say. The game is played as follows: One player begins by saying "Fortunately..." finishing the sentence however he wishes. The other player must respond with "Unfortunately..." and continue the conversation. The first player to hesitate is out. Winning players can compete against each other until there is one player left. Example conversation:

- Fortunately I get to go to the ball game tomorrow night.
- Unfortunately it is calling for rain.
- Fortunately I have an umbrella.
- Unfortunately it has a hole in it.
- Fortunately the gift shop sells umbrellas.
- Unfortunately they cost \$59.95.

Say: "This game was played by following the order of fortunately/unfortunately. Order is important in life. Babies crawl before they walk. You learn addition before multiplication. Today we'll learn that God wants people to be baptized after they become Christians."

Application Activities

Grades 1-2

We're All a Part of the Puzzle

PREPARE

Gather heavyweight paper or lightweight cardboard, pictures of people with different ethnic backgrounds (magazines, internet, newspapers), scissors, glue sticks, zip-lock bags, and fine-tipped permanent markers.

Option: Children may draw pictures of people rather than cut and paste.

TEACH

Ask the following questions:

- Do you feel uncomfortable when you meet someone who is different?
- Do you have friends that are a different nationality than yourself?
- Is God's love for you stronger than His love for other people? (No, God's love for all people is the same.)
- Instruct the children to print today's life application statement in the center of the heavyweight paper.
- Lead the children to cut and paste a collage of people from the pictures you gathered, being careful not to cover the life application statement.
- Help the children to cut their collages into a simple puzzle.
- Place puzzle pieces in a zip-lock bag.

APPLY

Children can challenge others to put the puzzle together this week and be reminded to respect all people as well as thank God for creating all people.

Grades 3-6

Courage From Others

PREPARE

Secure three or four people, different ages, who have been baptized in the last year to join your class and tell the children about their baptism experience. Give them the following questions ahead of time:

- Why did you get baptized?
- Were you afraid?
- Did the preacher tell you what to do or did you have to guess?
- What was your favorite part of being baptized?

TEACH

- Print the above questions on index cards to give to the children when guests arrive. Allow the children to ask any questions they may have regarding baptism.
- Introduce your guests by telling the children the name, age each was when they became a Christian, and how long ago they were baptized.
- Help children understand that God wants all people to be baptized after they become a Christian and not before. Baptism is special because it is an outward picture of what happens when a person becomes a Christian.

APPLY

Ask children to examine their own relationship with Jesus. Instruct them to bow their heads and silently answer the following:

- Have I ever asked Jesus to forgive my sins and be my Lord and Savior?
- If you have not, stop now and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know when it is time for you to become a Christian.
- If yes, ask, "Have I followed that decision with baptism?"
- If you have, stop now and thank God for sending Jesus to be your Savior.
- If the answer is no, stop now and ask God to give you courage to be baptized.

Remind the children of God's great love for them and His desire for each one to be a Christian and be baptized.

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