



Cooperative Program

Bible Study Series

Cooperating to Make a Difference - Children's Teaching Plan -

ACTS 4:32-35; 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

Storing up for themselves a good foundation for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real. 1 Timothy 6:19 HCSB

Materials

- printed copies of the handout for each child
- poster board or large pieces of newsprint paper
- markers and crayons
- glue
- magazine pictures

a Difference for Eternity,” making the lesson title simple for the children to understand.

- Pray for the children's hearts to be prepared and for the lesson to be practical.
- Practice what you will be teaching to the children so that the lesson's reality is true in your own life.

Preparation

- Read the scripture passages.
- Read and study the lesson guidelines and gather the items needed to implement it.
- Cut pictures from magazines, old pieces of curriculum, old teaching pictures, etc., of a variety of items representing things that God would consider “riches” or “wealth”, including helping and being involved with family, friends, church, and helping others.
- Gather all of the items needed to implement the lesson.
- Make a simple banner or write on the chalkboard “Working Together to Make

Lesson

1. Invite the boys and girls, as they arrive in class, to use their own Bibles to look up the second listed scripture for the lesson, 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Bringing one's own Bible to class is a valuable habit for children to form. Teachers may call the children before Sunday morning to remind them about bringing their Bibles. It is appropriate for teachers to even provide incentives for children who remember to bring their Bibles, such as a “books of the Bible” bookmark, a scripture card to use for memorization, a sticker to place in the front of their Bible to indicate their

remembering it, etc. Avoid incentives that cause children to become competitive since the purpose of bringing one's Bible is not to compete with another person. Instead, the purpose is to develop a personal life-long pattern of using God's Word. For children who forget, teachers may gently remind and provide a classroom Bible to use. For children who do not have a Bible of their own, teachers may check on the church's support in providing one so that each child may have his or her own.

2. From a translation that children can understand well, teachers may read the story to the entire class from 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Special attention may be given to the emphasis in verse 17 on God's provision for each person. Teachers should lead a discussion on how each child's needs are met; asking who provides for each child. Children should be led to realize that it is ultimately God, through various means, who cares for each need. A child who indicates that his parents take care of him can be helped to see how God gives his parents the health they need, the work opportunities, the knowledge, and the abilities in order to earn the funds necessary for the family. A place to live, food to eat, medicine when sick, clothing to wear, etc., all are evidences of God's provision in a child's life. Children may realize that even having a parent is a gift from God.
3. Provide the copied handouts for the children. Ask the children to fill in the blanks at the top of the page based on what verses 17-19 share. Younger children will need a teacher's (or older child's) help in completing this item. This is a good opportunity for the older children in the class to assist the younger ones.
4. Children may be guided to include in their answers on their handout page the following concepts relating to 1 Timothy 6:17-19. These verses assure us that God is the One in whom we place our hope that we are to have wealth in good works, that we are to be generous and ready to share, and that we should lay a good foundation for the future. These concepts may be discussed and listed on their handouts in terms that the children suggest and understand.
5. Provide the magazine pictures, poster board or large pieces of newsprint paper, glue, markers, and crayons for the children to use. Invite children to work together to make a large banner to hang on the classroom wall. The banner may be labeled with the lesson's child-understandable title, "Working Together to Make a Difference for Eternity." On the banner, the children may glue pictures, make drawings, and decorate with markers and crayons so that it shows many different ways that please God and represent ways we can make an eternal difference in other's lives.
6. Upon completing the banner, from a translation that children can understand well, read Acts 4:32-35 and guide the children as they learn the benefits of working together with others who love and know God. Encourage the children to list these benefits on their handout in the appropriate area. These benefits may include: being agreeable (v. 32), sharing (v. 32), great power (v. 33), grace (v. 33), no one in need (v. 34), caring for each other (v. 35).

7. Explain to the children that within the church, one of the ways that we work together to make a difference for eternity is through the Cooperative Program, which allows us to bring our gifts of money to put together to be used to bless others in many ways. Just as the church people in Acts 4 combined their resources, church members in today's church may do the same type of thing. Give the children a simple explanation/definition of what the Cooperative Program is. A suggestion would be that it is "people who care reaching, sending, and helping others".
8. Provide for the children a few ways in which their own church is involved in the Cooperative Program, such as through its mission's emphasis.

Follow-Up

1. Assist the children in hanging their banner on the classroom wall. Share with them that during the next month, they may add new ideas to the banner each week as they enter the room. Request that the new ideas should be something that the child has done at home, at school, at church, with friends, or elsewhere in an attempt to make a difference in another person's life.
2. Pray for the children to have a clear understanding of the opportunities that God will provide for them to affect other's lives.



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What are God's instructions about the way we are to view material belongings in 1 Timothy 6:17-19?

- verse 17 _____
- verse 18 _____
- verse 19 _____

What are the benefits that we enjoy when we follow God's instructions about working together and sharing with others in Acts 4:32-35? _____

Give a definition of the "Cooperative Program" and tell one thing that your church is able to do by contributing money through this program.

definition: _____

one way we help: _____
