

2.24 WE ARE ALL VALUED BY GOD

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: We are all valued by God

3 C. All are Equal and Valued

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When questioned if God values them, students will respond that they are created in the image of God. God values every person.

Attitude: Students will show value in each other and accept each other as equal.

Materials Needed:

Cloth for covering a student's eyes

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Exercise Book

Scripture:

References: Mark 10:46-52; Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Don't do anything from selfish ambition...but be humble toward one another." Phil 2:3

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. When you had decisions to make, did you remember to ask yourself "What Would Jesus Do?"
2. When you see persons with disabilities like blindness, unable to walk, how do you feel about them?

Bible Story:

3. We meet blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52. Is the attitude of Jesus toward Bartimaeus different from the crowd's?

Suggested Discussion Questions

4. Describe what it would be like not to be able to see.
5. Describe how the crowd treated Bartimaeus.
6. How did they respond when Jesus stopped and asked Bartimaeus to come to Him?
7. What does Jesus teach us by His reaction to Bartimaeus?

Application:

8. How do you treat others who are different from you?
9. If we valued each other, do you think we would argue and fight over things?

Evaluation:

10. How will you live out the words of our new memory verse?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Let children respond.
2. Notice anything the children say that may seem they are giving people less value than they have for themselves.

Bible Story:

3. Students will identify the attitudes of Jesus and the crowd toward Bartimaeus.

Possible Answers to Questions:

4. Let children answer. They would not be able to read, to move about in strange places, difficult to see food
5. They were embarrassed by him. They scolded him and told him to be quiet.
6. Their attitude changed. They told him Jesus wanted him to come to him.
7. Jesus demonstrates that He gives value to every person. We are all important to Him.

Application:

8. Let the students discuss how they feel about people who are not like them.
9. No. We would respect each other and discuss patiently our concerns.

Evaluation:

10. Students will indicate they will be humble toward each other.

Extension Activities

1. Have children write the new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise Book: “Don’t do anything from selfish ambition... be humble toward one another.”
Philippians 2:3
2. Have the children make a page in their exercise book that says at the top: “Living Out Our Faith”. Underneath have them write: “We Value Each Other”. Have them draw a picture reminding them about blind Bartimaeus.
3. Have the children pair up. Ask one of them to close their eyes tightly. Let the other child lead them around the room. Point out how important it is for the one that sees to watch that the “blind” child doesn’t bump into things or stumble over things. After they have had some time to do this, talk to the “blind” ones and ask if they felt they could trust the one leading them around. Talk about how they could feel more secure. If there is time, let the two exchange roles so all of the children experience being led by another.
4. Have the children pair up. Ask one of them to close their eyes tightly. Let the other child describe something he/she sees and see if the one with his eyes closed can guess what it is.
5. Act out this story while it is narrated. Be prepared with props and arrange with the children for who will be the blind man, Jesus, the disciples, the crowd etc.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

This Bible story teaches many things but today focus on the fact that Jesus values everyone: the strong, the weak, the rich, the poor, the healthy, the disabled. He loves us all and He treats us equally. He gives each of us worth.

1. Point out that the blind man was an embarrassment to the people making up the crowd. They didn’t want him to draw attention to himself in front of Jesus.
2. The blind man had a strong feeling that Jesus could heal his eyes. He was not intimidated by the crowd. He shouted, “Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!”
3. Make a big point that Jesus stopped and invited the blind man to come to him.
4. It doesn’t sound like the crowd particularly helped the blind man walk toward Jesus but they did let him know that Jesus was calling him to come.
5. Jesus asked what the man wanted.
6. He said that he wanted to see. Jesus told him that his faith had made him well and Jesus gave him the ability to see and he followed Jesus!

Key Point

Students need to know that God loves everyone of them. He sees value in each person. Jesus could have walked right by the blind man and ignored him but he stopped and gave him not only his sight but he gave him self-worth. We need to do that for each other as followers of Jesus.

Peacemaking Exercise: Building Self-Esteem helps us handle difficult situations

When we feel good about ourselves, we can cope when people or situations try to make us feel bad. One of the ways to build self-esteem is to tell one another something positive about the other. If possible, put your class members into a circle [if a large class, make more than one circle]. Go around the circle and have each child turn to the person on his/her right and say so all can hear: "I know Jesus loves you. I especially like you because you.....[make me happy,are always kind to me,share your lunch with me when I forget mine,you notice others who are lonely,] It is important for everyone to hear what is said because it will help them care more about each other. When you have gotten around the circle, talk about how you felt when someone said something nice to and about you.

Teacher Evaluation

Do I give value to each of my students? Am I too quick to criticize and not quick enough to give praise and appreciation for what the student is or does? Do I know that Jesus loves me and sees value in me? When I feel valued, is it easier to handle the times there is criticism of me? How am I going to be a better model for building self-esteem in my students?