

2.29 SHARING GOD-GIVEN GIFTS/ABILITIES

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: Sharing God-Given Gifts/Abilities 3F. Spiritual Gifts: Evangelism and Service

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When asked what Jesus expects us to do for Him, students will say they are to share their gifts/abilities.

Attitude: Students will seek ways to share what they have with others.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse and Exercise books

White paper with black dot on it

Scripture:

References: John 6:1-13; Mt. 14:13-21; Mk 6:30-44; Lk 9:10-17

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. How do you feel when someone has something you want or need but they refuse to share it?

Bible Story:

2. Jesus blesses us in different ways—materially, wisdom, understanding—but He wants us to share. Listen to how one boy shared his lunch. Tell the story from John 6:1-13

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. When Jesus saw the large crowd who wanted to hear Him speak, what was He concerned about?
4. What was Philip's reaction when he was told to buy food for them all?
5. What did Andrew offer to Jesus?
6. What did Jesus do with five loaves and two fish?
7. Was there enough food for this large crowd?

Application:

8. The little boy shared what he had and God blessed it. Does Jesus ask us to share what we have with others?
9. Why should we be willing to share what we have?

Evaluation:

10. What can you share with another to show God's love for them?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Expect responses. They may include anger, disappointment etc.

Bible Story:

2. Children will learn that a little boy gave his lunch and Jesus blessed it and fed 5000.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. They were tired and hungry.
4. He couldn't think how they could find enough money to feed them all.
5. He told Jesus a boy had a lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. But that was too little to feed everyone.
6. Jesus gave thanks to God and distributed it so that all got enough.
7. Yes—more than enough. There were twelve baskets left over.

Application:

8. Jesus gives us many abilities/gifts which He wants us to use to honor Him. These abilities may be money, food, listening ear, sensitive spirit to help others, speaking ability.
9. When we help someone who is hungry, or cold, or in need, we are doing it for Jesus.

Evaluation:

10. Help an old mama carry water. Read the Bible to someone who is ill etc.

Extension Activities

1. Have students write new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: “whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me.” Matthew 25:40 Talk about this being a teaching of Jesus. He wanted people to know how important it is to feed the hungry, offer water to the thirsty, give hospitality to the homeless, provide clothes for those who need it, care for the sick, visit those in prison. Jesus gives us the ability to do these things and He wants us to be His hands and feet so these people feel loved and cared for.
2. In their exercise book, have them write at the top “Living Out Our Faith”. Underneath have them write “Sharing God-given Abilities”. Then draw a picture of the boy giving his lunch.
3. Object Lesson: Ahead of time, have a white paper. Somewhere on that paper, put a black dot. Hold the paper up so the students can see. Ask them what they see. [Most of them will tell you they see the black dot. Few will tell you they see a large white piece of paper.] Many times we go through life missing the things right around us or within us that God provides for us to share with another. The little boy may have thought he couldn’t share his lunch because then he wouldn’t have had anything to eat. But when we give our abilities/gifts to Jesus. He blesses them and provides for all our needs. We need to share what we can with others in need as if we were doing it for Jesus.
4. Is there someone within your class [or church] who is in need? Can you do something to let them know you care about them? Maybe making a card together or everyone signing a card to take to the person will cheer them up. Or maybe you can prepare a basket of food or items you know he or she needs and take a field trip to the person’s home and deliver the basket. Be creative in what you can do for someone else using the abilities/gifts within you as a group.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

Background: Jesus had sent His disciples all through the land to preach the Good News. When they came back they wanted to tell Jesus everything that had happened. Jesus knew they needed to rest but there were so many people coming and going that He suggested they get into a boat and sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. But when people saw where they were going, they walked around the lake and met them there. So Jesus taught them.

1. It was getting late and the people had had nothing to eat. Jesus knew they were hungry so he asked Philip where they could buy enough food to feed all these people.
2. Philip was stunned. It would take way more money than they had to buy food to feed this crowd. Why there were 5000 men plus women and children. There was a suggestion that they simply send the people away so they could buy their own food.
3. Apparently, Andrew, another disciple, was hearing the conversation and he was looking around trying to see if there was any food available. He spotted a young boy whose mother had sent him with a lunch of 5 loaves of bread and two fish.

4. Andrew may have felt a little foolish but he told Jesus about the boy's lunch knowing it could not feed all the people.
5. Jesus told Andrew to bring the boy's lunch. He told the disciples to have everyone sit down in groups in the green grass.
6. Then Jesus took the bread and fish, looked up to heaven and thanked God for the food. Then He broke the loaves into pieces and gave some bread and fish to the disciples to pass around to the people.
7. Amazingly, the food multiplied and everyone had enough to eat. There were even twelve baskets left over!
8. We never know how Jesus can use the little we have to meet the need of another. What we need to do is to be willing to share what we have with someone in need.

Key Point

God gives each person both gifts or abilities and a purpose to fulfill God's plans. Sometimes we need to tell another the Gospel message and other times we demonstrate God's love by sharing something the other needs. What we share may seem insignificant but when we give it as unto Christ, He can use it in unexpected ways.

Teacher Evaluation

Have I been able to convey to these children that God equips us with abilities/gifts He wants us to share to let others know God loves them? Am I sensitive to the needs of the children in my class? Are there needs God wants me to respond to? How will I do that?