Memory Book Club

Lesson Planner – Year Three

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Memory Book Club Format

What is a Talking Stick?

Monthly Lesson Plans – (25-36)

Fruit of the Spirit – Introduction Part 1

Fruit of the Spirit – Introduction Part 2

Love One Another

Pure Joy

Perfect Peace

Learn Patience

Being Kind

Possess Goodness

Control Yourself

Rooted in Faith

Handle with Care

Fruit of the Spirit – Conclusion

Bibliography

Lesson Completion Record

Introduction

Objective

The purpose of the Memory Book Club Lesson Planner is to give facilitators of Memory Book Clubs support by providing lessons, activity ideas, and supportive biblical scriptures designed to promote wellness and hope for children experiencing traumatic life events.

The Memory Book Club Lesson Planner is designed to be used in coordination with Memory Book Clubs and Memory Books. Children are invited to attend monthly Memory Book Clubs where they will receive a personal Memory Book. The personal Memory Book is designed to help children tell their own personal stories with words, drawings, artwork, poems, music and the act of story telling.

The Memory Book Club Lesson Planner should be used to guide children to reveal and express their own thoughts and feelings about what has happened to them. Some children may lack language or verbal skills to speak aloud, or lack understanding to express what they are feeling, but can use other methods we view as play, such as art, play acting, music such as singing or playing instruments to tell their story.

Lessons combine psychological and spiritual perspectives to help children grieve the things and people they have lost, while growing in greater sense of wellbeing and identity.

As a witness to a child’s story, it is not important we fully understand what they are saying or showing us but that we are simply a witness to what it is they are expressing. That their story is important.

Lessons

Each of the twelve lessons contained in this Lesson Planner are designed to address thoughts, feelings, and circumstances children are experiencing in their lives, such as death of loved one, homelessness, violence, neglect, poverty, chronic or terminal illness, abuse, incarceration of parent, discrimination or bullying. Most children today are suffering from the presence of grief as the result of these circumstances. The innate sense of hope humans have during difficulties can produce a smile, but hidden deep inside children are silently grieving alone. The lessons promote self-esteem and confidence while helping children develop a sense of identity in spite of what they are facing.

The lessons contained in the Lesson Planner should be considered ‘simple seeds of truth’ that have the capacity to encourage healthy developmental growth of trust, autonomy, industry and independence in children living in the midst of loss and enduring grief. As children grow they may revisit preserved stories and derive greater understanding, truthfulness, and insight into the events of their childhood.

These lesson plans are designed to help a child uncover thoughts and feelings they are having about their life, and discover they are valuable, their lives have purpose, and that they are loved by a God who will never ever leave them, abuse them or neglect their needs. That they are loved by a God they can trust, they can love, and live a life learning more about God and His love for them.

Memory Book Club is not an opportunity to tell children what we want them to know, but the opportunity for children to tell us what they want us to know creating a journey designed unique to the child and the needs he/she has. If we allow children to lead on this journey, by telling their story they will ultimately arrive in a place emotionally and spiritually suited for each and every child, unique in every way.

Club Activities

Club activities include ‘talking stick time’, lessons, time to work in personal memory books, optional craft or art ideas, and closing ‘talking stick time’. These activities allow children a safe environment to grieve their losses, re-establish a healthy sense of identity, and express hopes and dreams. Memory Book Club activities are all designed to promote resiliency and post-traumatic growth after experiencing loss and traumatic events. Facilitators and peers act as a valuable witness to a child’s story helping a child to discover they are not alone in their loss. Memory Book Club theme is ‘I Am Somebody’.

More information

Training for facilitators of Memory Book Club is available in Training Manual, 2015. The Training Manual, 2015 and Introduction to Memory Books for Children and Memory Book Club power point presentation is available at [www.memorybooks4children.com/resources](http://www.memorybooks4children.com/resources). All facilitators are required to complete training prior to starting a Memory Book Club. Volunteers must complete training prior to helping with club events. Hard copies of the Training Manual, 2015 are available on request at memorybooks4children.com/contact us

While the concept of using a simple Memory Book may seem foreign or even too simple to address the needs of children who are grieving, research conducted to explore the outcome using a memory book as a tool by a grieving child reveals positive results by children orphaned, vulnerable and disadvantaged in India, Kenya and South Africa. Most of these children have suffered some of life’s most devastating losses, but exhibit resiliency and hope for their future when having a witness to their stories. (See Evaluation of Use of Memory Book Intervention by Orphaned Children in South Africa published by Journal of Pediatric Nursing, July/Aug 2014 for research) (Additional research examining the universality of the memory book as a tool is currently being completed for publication in 2016)

Memory Book Clubs and Memory Books are designed for that process, to process grief; allowing children the opportunity to lead through the telling and retelling of their stories while others act as a witness simply agreeing to accompany them on their journey of grief.

“A young child in South Africa sitting at a small table at an HIV/AIDS clinic leaned over her paper burying her work with her arm and head. She looked up only to choose another crayon from the jar of many. I took a seat next to her and simply watched. She continued to cover her paper, choosing another crayon occasionally without acknowledging my presence. Then I simply said, ‘ You choose pink’. I said nothing else. ‘You choose orange’. Again, I responded with simply what she had done. The young child began to change crayons more frequently. Again, I responded with simply what she had done. After a few minutes, the child raised her head and shyly looked at me. As she continued to draw, she lifted her arm revealing her work. She changed crayons simply to produce my response. When she smiled, I smiled back. When she studied my eyes, I looked into her eyes. I was a mirror for this child. A mirror that says to the child, I am alive, someone sees me.” ~ Tamara Faris, RN, MS and Founder of Memory Books for Children International

Memory Book Club Format

Volunteers facilitate the club event by setting date and time, putting out advertising, rehearsing lesson and activity. If option 2 Activity is chosen art and craft supplies will need to be purchased and assembled. (art and craft supplies will be provided by individual club sponsors) Club format, including ‘talking stick time’ led by lead facilitator. There should be enough volunteers to facilitate club events to adequately interact with each child during club.

It is suggested Memory Book Club be held once a month, on same day, same week in same facility at same time to provide continuity. Filers may be sent to families for reminders of upcoming Memory Book Club. Memory Book Club may be one child and one adult, or many children with many volunteers.

Club begins – Facilitators begin club by singing theme song ‘I Am Somebody’. Volunteer facilitators clapping hands together and move into a circle where every face can be seen. (See ‘I Am Somebody’ wording and music)

First Talking Stick Time – Remaining in circle, lead facilitator welcomes everyone, introduces new children and new volunteers by name. Facilitator holds talking stick and reminds everyone how the talking stick rules work. See ‘talking stick rules and use’. Lead facilitator asks if anyone would like to share something that happened this week; ie celebrated a birthday, learned to ride bicycle, lost a tooth, was sick. Passing the talking stick from person to person. If a child does not want to share anything they can simply say ‘pass’ and pass the talking stick onto the next person.

Lesson Time – Lead facilitator invites everyone to sit in circle. Facilitator reads lesson from Lesson Planner. These lessons are not designed to give in any particular order. Use your own discretion. Children may ask questions, make comments related to lesson. Facilitator may invite children to give examples from their lives about the lesson. Always remind everyone to the ‘talking stick rules’. Supportive biblical scripture may be shared here.

Activity Time – Option 1 – Invite children to locate a picture or page in their personal memory book to write or draw what the lesson means to them. (Make sure every child is given a personal memory book). Facilitators may want to provide pencils, colored pencils, crayons for this activity. Invite children to write supportive bible scripture in their memory book.

Option 2 – If available, art and craft supplies to complete a craft can be provided by club sponsor here. Learning songs, or playing an instrument like drums, or a drama may be inserted here.

It is important to read and understand Reflective Art, Reflective Play and Reflective Listening techniques found in Training Manual, 2015 to assure this time is effective and valuable to children.

Talking Stick Closure Time – As children are completing their work, invite children who have finished to come to the front, and read their story or show their drawing from today’s lesson. Remember to have them hold the talking stick whenever anyone shares. Thank them, and invite everyone to clap. Invite children to memorize the supportive biblical scripture and stand and share it (optional). Facilitators may want to give a sticker child can place in their memory book next to written scripture for this activity that promotes courage to accomplish this task.

Closing Time – Sing ‘I Am Somebody’ passing the talking stick from person to person as the song is sung. Thank everyone for coming and invite everyone to come next time, bringing memory books. Invite children and adults to bring a friend next time. (You may want to hand out a flier for next months date and time)

What is a ‘talking stick’?

The talking stick has been used for centuries by many American Indian tribes as a means of just and impartial hearings. The talking stick was commonly used in council circles to designate the person who had the right to speak. When matters of great concern came before the council, the lead elder would hold the talking stick and begin the discussion. When he finished what he had to say he would hold out the talking stick, and whoever wished to speak after him would take it. In this manner the stick was passed from one individual to another until all who wished to speak had done so. The stick was passed back to the leading elder for safekeeping.

Permission to talk is given the person who is holding the talking stick. No one else is allowed to talk or whisper when someone else is holding the talking stick. During the first few Memory Book Club events, talking stick time may be very short, because children may not feel comfortable talking. In time more and more children will want to talk, and the time needed will increase.

Please do no worry about the time needed to allow children to share. You may invite a number of children to share the topic of the day to promote self-esteem. If a child does not want to share, they simply take the talking stick and say ‘pass’, passing the talking stick to the next person. (A child may pass without saying anything at all. That is okay.)

The talking stick carries respect for free speech and assures the speaker he has the freedom and power to say what is in his heart without fear of reprisal, humiliation or judgment. The correct response to a child sharing is simply ‘thank you for sharing’ or simply repeats the final words the child speaks. Facilitators do not need to respond with correction or advice after a child has spoken. Simply repeating the words of what they say tells the child, I am heard. ‘You feel happy to make your bloom today or you learned you are loved by God today’. When in doubt, always respond beginning with ‘you\_\_\_\_\_’ always keeps the focus on the child and their own story. Never use ‘I’ in this circumstance, because the story focus turns to you. If you are reminded of something in your own life, look for an opportunity to share it with someone at a different time and place because your story is important too.

The talking stick made of wood, 15 inches or 40 cm long, may be decorated with paint or simply plain, Make sure wood is smooth and absent of slivers. Store the talking stick in a safe place so it will not be necessary to replace. Never, ever use the talking stick for discipline, or even slapping across the hand when speaking. It must remain a friend to all.

Lesson No. 25 – Fruit of the Spirit – Intro Part 1

Lesson

You can name a tree by the fruit it produces. An apple tree produces apples. An olive tree produces olives.

Jesus compares people to trees. He says that when a tree is rooted in bad soil, the fruit it produces can be bad. When people are rooted in the world, like bad soil, meaning they live their lives focusing on worldly things, and separated from God the fruit produced may look like selfishness, greed, lying, cheating, gossip, and hatred. But, if we are rooted in God, His Spirit fills us like a tree absorbing water. Connected to God, the fruit we produce will be the fruit of God’s spirit in us. Good fruit that represents God’s spirit, or His character in us. Apart from God we cannot produce good fruit because the world we are rooted in is full and ruled by sin.

Did you know one diseased tree in an orchard could infect all the other trees it is near leading to an entire orchard of diseased or bad fruit? It is important to choose your friends based on the fruit they produce. The fruit of God’s spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithful, gentleness and self-control. Find friends who produce good fruit. Be a friend who produces good fruit. Remember, you can tell each tree by the kind of fruit it bears.

Activities

Option – 1 Invite children to find a blank page in their memory book and draw a tree large enough to cover the whole page. This tree will bear the fruit of following lessons.

Option – 2 Invite children to locate a tree, which produces fruit. Examine whether tree is growing in good or bad soil Examine its fruit, and judge whether fruit is good or bad.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their tree and what the lesson means to them.
* Invite children to write supportive scripture on their tree drawing; Luke 6:44 You can tell each tree by the kind of fruit it bears.
* Invite children to come forward and recite supportive scripture.
* Additional in-depth reading; John 15:1-17; Gal. 5:19-26; 2 Corinth. 6:14-15

Review of Lesson

Rooted in God, our lives can produce good fruit.

Lesson No. 26 – Fruit of the Spirit – Intro 2

Lesson

Although we may have a spirit of God living in us, our flesh is at constant battle to rule. Jesus tells us ‘the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak’. He instructed his disciples to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, but they fell asleep. He told Peter he would deny knowing him, and Peter would not believe it until confronted by authorities when he not only denied knowing Jesus, but also did it three times! The apostle Paul says, I do what I don’t want to do, and don’t do what I do want to do.

The disciple John tells us God cuts off the branch in me that does not bear fruit. And prunes the branch that does bear fruit, so it will be more fruitful. Ask God to show you areas of your life that causes you to produce bad fruit; bad friends, bad habits like skipping school, bad thoughts and words, not honoring elders and those in authority, teachers, pastors, or police. Ask God to show you ways to replace bad fruit with good fruit; love instead of hate, joy for sadness, peace for dissention, patience for irritable, kindness for rudeness, faithful for distrust, gentleness for anger, and self-control for indiscipline. Ask God to give you the strength to do what is right and good.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to write their name on the trunk of the tree they drew in their memory book.

Option 2 – Invite children to find a large fallen tree branch. Place the branch in a bucket of rocks and place in front of club. Ask each child to cut out a leaf from paper, write its name on the leaf and hang it on the branch with a piece of twine.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Holy Spirit, produces is love, joy peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of one self. There is no law against things of that kind.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club, Matt. 26:24; John 15:9-17; Matt. 7:17-19; John 15:4; Romans 7:19

Review of Lesson

The fruit of the Spirit is like growing God on the branches of our life.

Lesson No. 27 – Love One Another

Lesson

What is the most powerful thing in the world? A great athlete? A president of a country? A person with the most money? No. Love is the most powerful thing in the world. Love created you. Love made Jesus come to save you from destruction by sin in this world. Love prompts someone to give away something they value. Love inspires someone to risk losing his or her life in attempt to save another life. Love makes someone think more often of others than themselves.

When a person is hurtful to you, love helps you forgive that person. When your parents or caregiver asks you to do something, and you don’t want to do it, love helps you obey. Love is not warm, fuzzy feelings inside. Love is doing! Sometimes it is hard work to love. But, the more you love you give, the more love comes back to you.

Hatred destroys. Evil hurts. But love builds up and heals.

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. Love never fails. Now that is powerful!

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw an apple on the tree in their memory book, and write I choose to Love on the apple.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large apple; another child to write Love on apple; another child to attach apple to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; 2 John 1:6 And love means living the way God commanded us to live. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is this: Live a life of love.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Deuteronomy 6:5; Psalm 143:8; John 3:16; 1 Corinth. 13:4

Review of Lesson

It is God in us that helps us to love, because God is love.

Lesson No. 28 – Pure Joy

Lesson

Why does God tell us to consider our problems pure joy? Because He wants us to turn to Him when difficulties come or we are sad or afraid. God uses problems to show how he can help us. He tells us to call out to Him when we are sad, when we are afraid. Then God will give us wisdom. God will give us strength. God will give us whatever we need to keep going. Learning to trust God during problems will help our faith grow stronger.

Problems can be consider pure joy, when we discover God is faithful and near us when we call out to Him. Can you turn your frown upside down into a joyful smile. This is not about being ‘happy’. This is about having a feeling deep inside that comes from knowing God is near, He loves you, and you can trust God to help you when you face difficulties.

Call out to God. Use your voice to call out for help, for peace, for direction when difficulties come, and God will help you.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a lemon on their tree; and write I choose Joy on the fruit.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large lemon; another child to write Joy on the lemon; another child to attach lemon to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; James 1:2 My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Hebrews 12:2; I Peter 1:8-9; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Psalm 5:11-12; Isaiah 49:13

Review of Lesson

Call out to God when problems come and He will help you.

Lesson No. 29 – Perfect Peace

Lesson

Do you worry? Are you afraid in the dark? Do you ever get upset or angry? What are you thinking about when you have those feelings? If you are thinking about something scary, then you will be scared. If you are thinking about something sad, you will be sad. If you are thinking about something someone said that hurt you, you may become made or even angry? But if you think about God you will find peace. And finding peace is better than finding fear or worry, sadness or anger.

If you are a troublemaker, meaning you fight and hit others ask God to forgive you and decide to choose peace. If you gossip or tell lies about someone, ask God to forgive you and decide to choose peace instead. Ask God to show you how your actions produce anger, sadness in others and ask God to forgive you. Ask God to make you an instrument of peace. Show others God can change people starting with you. Ask others to forgive you, and explain you are choosing to be an instrument of peace. Peace begins with me.

You can choose what to think about. So you can choose to have peace. If anger, sadness or fear about someone or something enters your mind, ask God for peace to replace those feelings inside. This takes practice. First you have to know God. You have to know you can trust Him to fill you with peace when you are willing to give up anger, sadness or fear. Remember God can help you with your problems. God can watch over you as you sleep as you dream, as you daydream and think about things during the day.

What you think about will change how you feel. Think about God. Then He will fill you with His peace.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a strawberry on the tree in their memory book and write Peace begins with ME on the fruit.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large strawberry; another child to write Peace on the strawberry; another child to attach strawberry to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Phil. 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: 2 Thess. 3:16; Romans 15:13; Col. 3:15; Ps. 4:8

Review of Lesson

In this world we will have troubles, but God give us His peace when we think about Him

Lesson No. 30 – Learn Patience

Lesson

If you plant a seed will the plant grow today? Tomorrow? No. A plant takes a long time to grow. First the seed opens to yield a small sprout underground in the soil. With water and heat from the sun, the tiny plant begins to grow. Still we do not see anything for sometime because all that is happening is underground. One day the plant will erupt through the soil. After days of sunshine and water, the plant will continue to grow and eventually produce fruit or a flower. But it takes a long time.

So does patience. If you are waiting for something to happen, or have asked God to do something or provide something you may think God has forgotten your request if it does not happen when you ask. But, like the seed sprouting underground, God may be doing something you do not yet see. God will answer at the perfect time. You will see His answer, when it is the right time. You will feel his love for you when the answer comes.

Ask God to help you learn to be patient. Remain calm. Remember one day God will produce the answer to your request. Remind yourself

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a piece of melon on the tree in their memory book and write Patience on it.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large piece of melon; another child to write Patience on the melon; another child to attach melon to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Phil. 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Col. 1:11; I Timothy 1:16; 2 Peter 3:15

Review of Lesson

Learning patience will help each of us to see God at work around us.

Lesson No. 31 – Being Kind

Lesson

Did you know that people could tell what kind of person you are by how you behave? When you care for others by serving them, offering to work for widows without payment, showing compassion to someone who is experiencing loss, sickness, or disappointment shows others you follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. When you share with someone in need Jesus considers the act as though to Jesus Himself. Kindness is love in action, and when you are kind and compassionate, others may be encouraged to be kind themselves.

Meanness can produce meanness leading to bitterness. Kindness can produce kindness leading to peace in ones’ life, family and community.

Kindness means ‘serviceable, good pleasant’. What kind of world do you want to live in? Do you know kindness that starts with you may spread kindness throughout your neighborhood; kind neighbors can spread kindness to neighboring countries, even around the world. Your kindness can change the world to be a pleasant, good place to live. Really.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a peach on the tree in their memory book and write Kindness on the fruit.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large peach; another child to write Kindness on the peach; another child to attach peach to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Ephesians 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 3:8; Titus 3:3-7

Review of Lesson

Kindness changes the world we live in.

Lesson No. 32 – Possess Goodness

Lesson

It is certainly easier to practice goodness with people we like, and who like us. But, God does not make a distinction between practicing good deeds with only those people we like, but tells us to practice goodness with everyone. Even people who do not like us. When we practice good deeds with everyone, it pleases God because then people will see God truly lives in us. Practicing goodness is like putting on clothes that make us look good on the outside. The only difference is putting on goodness makes us look good on the inside and the outside, no matter what we are wearing.

Pray and ask God what He wants us to do, especially for someone we don’t like, or who doesn’t like us. The more we practice goodness, the more we will possess goodness, a beautiful garment that costs nothing but our obedience to God. Remember to not grow weary or give up doing good and you will always look beautiful to God and others.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a banana on the tree in their memory book and write Goodness on the fruit.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large banana; another child to write Goodness on the banana; another child to attach banana to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Eph. 5:8-10; Psalm 23:6; Psalm 25:21; Galatians 5:22-23

Review of Lesson

Practicing goodness makes us look beautiful to God and others no matter what we are wearing.

Lesson No. 33 – Control Yourself

Lesson

One day someone asked if you would care for his home, his animals, and garden while he was away for a small reward. The first morning you overslept and when you arrived you found the farm animals being unfed broke through the fence and ate all the garden plants. On the second day, your friends asked you to spend the day with them at the river, so you didn’t check on the friends home until the next day. When you arrived you found the cows had broken through the flimsy fence you built the previous day to repair damages on the first day. They entered the house and broke all the furniture, and were sleeping on the clothes they pulled from the drying line. On the fourth day, you were so tired from chasing the cows and cleaning you decided to sleep in and hang out with friends instead. On the fifth day, you returned to find the neighbor had returned. He was crying at the condition he found his hoe and garden. I might have well left the cows in charge, he shouted. It certainly wouldn’t have been any worse off. Laying in the shade of a nearby tree, the cows chewing their cud contently, and appearing completely innocent of your dilemma. The neighbor never asked again, and neither did anyone else.

You have only yourself to blame when lacking self-control. Living a life of obeying rules, being responsible, hard working and discipline will reward you with a good report and reputation.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a pear on the tree in their memory book and write Self Control on the fruit.

Option 2 – Invite one child to cut out one large pear; another child to write Self Control on the pear; another child to attach pear to large tree branch in bucket.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Titus 1:7-8 Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless-not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and discipline.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: I Thess. 5:6,8; I Peter 1:13; I Peter 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9; 2 Peter 1:5-7; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; Proverbs 25:28

Review of Lesson

Live a life of obeying rules, being responsible, hard working and disciplined and you will be rewarded with a good report and reputation.

Lesson No. 34 – Rooted in Faith

Lesson

The roots of a tree grow under ground. You may not see the roots, but roots are what makes a tree strong and withstands falling when storms come. The roots feed the tree so it can be healthy and strong, and produce the fruit to which it was made.

Do you know you are like a tree? Your roots are the things you do to make your faith grow strong. When you sing worship to God, when you learn about His words in the Bible, when you pray to God and give Him thanksgiving for His love for you, the roots of your faith grow stronger. Each day you think about and look to God the roots of your faith go deeper. Do not turn to God only when life’s storms come, but build your faith always, especially when life is sunny.

When life is challenging or difficult, the deep roots of your faith will help you stand strong and not fall when life’s storms come.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw roots beneath the tree they drew in their memory book, and write the word FAITH on the roots.

Option 2 – Invite children to look for a fallen tree in the community and investigate what caused the tree to fall.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; Hebrews 11:1 Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Isaiah 61:1-3; Colossians 2:6-8; I Thess. 5:24; 2 Thess. 3:3; Deuteronomy 7:9

Review of Lesson

When life is challenging or difficult, the deep roots of your faith will help you from falling, like a mighty oak tree withstanding any and all storms of life.

Lesson No. 35 – Handle with Care

Lesson

If you have a priceless treasure you would like to give to someone, would you strap it to the snout of a snapping crocodile or to the sharp point of a rhinoceros horn? Of course not! You would handle the priceless treasure with care as to not destroy it before the person could receive it. Gently you would care for the treasure until the person takes possession of it and loves it as their own.

Inside each of us, is the ‘priceless treasure’ of the good news about God’s love and the gift of His only Son for each of us. If we are not gentle with the news to others, we may destroy the message before they can receive it. Others may not want to hear about the message if we are snapping insults like a snapping crocodile, or mean and threatening like a rampaging rhino.

The message of Jesus Christ in us must be handled with care and gentleness, as it is a priceless treasure we can share with others for our entire lifetime.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to draw a wagon or bucket near their tree filled with fruit, and write on the front HANDLE WITH CARE: Fragile fruit

Option 2 – Invite children to visit a widow or sick person and share with that person what they learned about Fruit of the Spirit, offering to serve or help that person.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; I Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do this with gentleness and with respect.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Matthew 11:28

Review of Lesson

Be gentle with the message of God’s love so others will not feel threatened or hurt enough to run away, or simply avoid you coming around.

Lesson No. 36 – Fruit of the Spirit – Concl.

Lesson

Think of someone who was righteous, someone who never has ever done anything wrong? Maybe someone in the bible? No, even people remembered in the bible did things wrong. Maybe someone in the church; the pastor, your teacher? No, even those people have done things wrong. None of these people you or anyone else can think of were perfect. Are perfect. None of these people were righteous on their own. Not one. And neither are you. There is nothing you can do on your own to do what is right.

We are all sinners who need help to produce good fruit. That help comes from Jesus, the only one who was righteous. When we ask Jesus into our lives, His righteousness lives inside of us. His righteousness in us is what produces the fruit of the Spirit. Without Jesus we have no hope to produce good fruit. This righteousness is a free gift from God through Jesus His Son. Accept this gift today and began to produce the fruit of the Spirit on your Tree of Life, rooted in your Faith in God.

Activities

Option 1 – Invite children to find the basket of fruit in their memory book. Write the words Fruit of the Spirit over the basket, and write all the things they can remember as the Fruit of the Spirit on the page.

Option 2 – Invite children to visit a widow or sick person and share with that person what they learned about Fruit of the Spirit, offering to serve or help that person.

Talking Stick Time

* Invite children to come forward and show their drawing and share what the lesson means to them
* Invite children to recite supportive scripture; John 15:5,8 I am the vine you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing. This is my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
* Invite children to memorize and recite supportive scripture; or read additional reading to club: Romans 3:19-26; I John 2:1-2; Proverbs 2:7-8; James 1:25; Matt. 5-6

Review of Lesson

Producing the fruit of the Spirit requires that we remember what it is that we have heard, obeying t. This will make our lives joyful and peaceful.

Bibliography

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Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

Lessons Completed

Date Lesson No. Facilitator