

Youth Worship Lesson – October 18, 2020

GLIMPSES OF HOPE

Focus Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

Youth issue:
Am I giving to God what belongs to God?

Purpose: To explore how we can make a difference and bring hope to our world.

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Lighting the Christ Candle: We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.

Prayer

Creator God, we give you thanks for our families and friends,
for our church and for our amazing world.

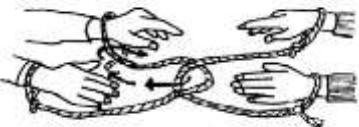
We pray for those who live in the midst of poverty, conflict,
or natural disaster, and feel hopeless.

Help us to understand how we can make a difference in our world.

Amen.

Introducing the Theme

Rope Trick



I'm going to give you a puzzle to solve. Get a partner. I'm going to attach a string to each of your wrists, and your string will be looped across your partner's string. Your task is to unlink the ropes without removing them from your wrists. This is not easy, but it can be done!

Give them several minutes to try to solve the puzzle, then show them the solution.
(Make a loop in one of the ropes and slip it back through one of the tied ends on the wrist of the other person – note the direction – then over their wrist.)

Let's talk about your experience. Do you like solving tricks and puzzles like this? Was it frustrating? Did you give up at any point? Did it seem unsolvable or hopeless? Sometimes problems in our world seem like that – unsolvable and frustrating, and even hopeless.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story: Jesus and the Coins

Our Bible story today involves a puzzle – a trick question that was put to Jesus. The people who asked it thought it was unsolvable and would get Jesus into trouble with either the Romans or the temple authorities.

In Jesus' time there were two types of coins in use in Palestine. The Romans had conquered the country and ruled over the people living there. Their coins were used to pay taxes and to purchase goods. Roman coins had the head of the emperor on them and said "Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus."

What does the word "divine" mean? (heavenly, a god) These coins were a problem for the Jewish people. Remember when we talked about the Ten Commandments, the laws that God gave to Moses and the people of Israel in the desert? The commandments forbid acknowledging any god but Yahweh. These coins said that the emperor was a god. This was a very big problem.

The Jewish people also had their own coins, which they used in the temple. These coins also had pictures on them – religious symbols like a chalice or goblet, or things from nature that had been created by God, like an animal or palm branches.

Read Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodian's. "Teacher", they said "we know that you are a man of honesty and that you teach the way of God in compliance with the truth. You aren't moved by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil scheme, said, "You deceivers, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying taxes." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's" they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." When they heard this they were amazed. So they left him alone and went away.

How did Jesus answer the question? What do you think he meant by, "Pay to God what belongs to God?" (all that we have is a gift from God, so we owe God our praise and thanksgiving; because of God's generosity, we give a portion [tithe/first part of the crop harvest] of what we have to others.) How can you and I "give God what belongs to God?" (by coming to church, bringing an offering, sharing our friendship and what we have with others, caring for the world God has made)

Let's talk more about the offering that we bring to church each week. Do you know what it is used for? (to cover church costs, to help others – give some specific examples of work that our congregation supports) Does your weekly offering come out of your allowance? From money that you earn? From your parents? Do you feel that God deserves a part of what we earn?

It is important that we give to God with our actions, and also with an attitude of love and generosity.

Hold up the unit 2 logo.

This is our logo for unit 2. Can you tell me what these symbols are? (**a dove, a symbol of hope and peace; hands that are reaching up, welcoming, and working for peace; a candle, representing Jesus, the light of the world; clouds, a symbol of God's Shalom**)

The theme of the Unit is "Making a Difference." What do you think "Making a Difference" is? What are some examples?

Activity/Game or Craft – Good Deed Coupon Book

Materials: Paper, pen or pencil.

Create a coupon book with a list of chores that you can do (watering the plants, doing the dishes, vacuuming, etc.) Give this to your parents or grandparents too. You will do these chores this coming week.

Closing Prayer

Generous, Creator God,

We thank you for the many gifts you have given us.

Help us to be cheerful and generous in our attitudes towards others.

Guide us through the week ahead as we try to make a difference in our world.

Amen.

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Unit 2

Making a Difference

October 18 to November 22, 2020