

Youth Worship Lesson – October 25, 2020

VISIONS OF PEACE

Focus Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46

Purpose: To look at the relationship between the Great Commandment and the quest for peace.

Youth issue: Self Esteem and World Peace

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for Bible story and activity materials at the end of the lesson.

Opening Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me show love,

where there is injury, pardon,

where there is doubt, faith,

where there is despair, hope,

where there is darkness, light,

and where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.

SONG: Jamie Kimmett – “Love your Neighbor” on YouTube

Introducing the Theme – Acrostics

Materials: paper, pen or pencil.

Make a sample acrostic based on your name.

Think for a moment. What are some of your good qualities? What are you good at? What do you like about yourself?

We’re going to make acrostics, like this. (Hold up your sample.) Write your name vertically down the left side of the paper, in decorated letters. Then use the letters of your name to describe some of your good qualities.

Example: Loving

Imaginative

Singer

Admires other people

Bring out the paper and writing supplies. After they are finished, hang it somewhere in the house.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

Read: Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

What was the question put to Jesus? (Which of the Ten Commandments in the law is the greatest? verse 36) Can you tell me Jesus' response without looking back at the verses? (You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.)

Now read Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

So after reading these passages, was Jesus saying anything new? Perhaps he had memorized these verses as a child or youth. He was using the wisdom of his people – the people of God – but he put it together in a new way that made the meaning clearer. Jesus' words summarized the commandments and have come to be known as the "Great Commandment."

Let's explore the idea of showing love for God, ourselves, and others. Bring out a piece of paper and a pen and write the topics "God," "Ourselves," "Family and Friends" and "Society" at the top of the page.

Let's take a few minutes to think of how we show love in these different categories. Record your ideas on your sheet. (under "Family and Friends" you might write: hugs, respect their privacy, share belongings; under "Ourselves" you might write: eat well, be fit, manage stress, pray; under "Society" you might write: volunteer to help others, do random acts of kindness; under "God" you might write: pray, go to church, help others. It is OK for points to come up in more than one category.)

Discuss and add ideas in each category. Why do you think some of our ideas came up in more than one category? (when we show love for others, we are also showing love for God; when we pray and build a relationship with God, we are showing our love for God and also nurturing ourselves.)

Which of these four categories do you think is hardest to do?

Where is there conflict and hurt in our community and our world? (Take the time to hear all of your children's concerns.) What difference would it make if everyone loved God, themselves, and others? What effect would that have on society? Would we still have poverty and homelessness? War? Crime? Prejudice and racism? Drug abuse and suicide? (Give time for your children to respond and discuss this.) What role does our personal self-esteem have in this? (Again, give time for discussion.)

Memory Verse: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*

Matthew 22:37&39

Integrating the Theme – Peace Commercials

Materials: Video camera, smartphone or tablet that does video recordings. Bring speakers and a cord.

We all know that when you want to promote something, you need an ad. You're going to create a video ad - commercials - for Peace. There are two basic characteristics of a good advertisement. First, it presents a problem, and shows how the product solves that problem. Second, it has a catchy slogan or musical jingle that helps you to remember the name of the product. When you are ready, you are going to record them, and show your family. You may also choose to send them to Nikki to post in the "News of the Week". The email address is communications@stouffvilleuc.ca.

Closing Prayer

O God,
Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.
Amen.

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