

Reserving a Little to Give Away

Preparing Your Heart to Teach Session 7:

A margin is an extra amount set aside for contingencies or emergencies. Everyday life needs a little margin of time for the unexpected. But those who don't plan margins into their schedule usually don't have them. Life can get very complicated very quickly and only those who are intentional have a little of themselves left over when the pressures of life increase.

Usually honoring others requires extra time or energy. Many people live so close to the edge that they don't have anything left to give for an unexpected act of kindness. In the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-36, one man, although not as religious as the others, had enough margin in his life that he could help someone in need. Jesus commended him by asking the disciples, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The obvious answer was the man who had time and took initiative to give of himself.

It's the small things that often count the most. The smile or kind word, an encouraging observation or compliment can brighten a person's day. Take a few moments and reflect on your own life. Is it so crowded with activities and things to do that you can't show honor to others? If you don't have time for an unexpected act of kindness every once in a while, then maybe you need to reevaluate your life. Being available to give small gifts of kindness will bring joy into your life as well as the lives of others.

What Children Learn in Session 7:

Honor is something to give to others. Using the story of the Good Samaritan children will explore ways that they can share honor outside their families as well as inside. Sometimes children become self-focused and need some help thinking about others. This session prompts them to do just that.

A Summary of the Video Session 7:

Can you honor your family too much? Yes, we believe you can. A family can become so inwardly focused that it encourages selfishness. The solution is to work as a family to give honor away. Then children see that their family has a special gift that they can pass on to others. A family actually grows closer together as they learn to reach out with honor. Practical ideas are shared of how a family can show honor to others. *(parent training video series is optional)*

Read Along in the Book, "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes... In You and Your Kids":

Pages 165-178 address the question, "Can you honor your family too much?" The point of this chapter is that your family actually grows in honor as you work as a team to give it away.

Welcoming Activity

5-10 minutes

As children arrive have them decorate cookies with icing. You may purchase these cookies at the store or bake them yourself. Bring icing and various sprinkles or decorations to put on them. Tell the children they can each decorate two cookies, one to give away and one to eat a little later in the session. Provide plastic bags or wrap to protect the cookies that the children will take home and give away.

Together Time

15-20 minutes

Use the thoughts and ideas below along with your own thoughts and the Bible to help children understand that honor is something that we give away.

Introduction:

Talk to children about their cookies. What was their favorite sprinkle? Who are they going to give the extra cookie to?

Object Lesson:

Bring several small objects that could be used to help accomplish a task and put those objects in a bag that you keep hidden. One at a time, place the objects in a large sock and allow a child to reach in and feel what the object is. They shouldn't tell anyone what they feel or what the object is. Instead, the child should tell everyone how this object might be used to help. Other children try to guess what's in the sock. The one who guesses gets the next turn. You might use objects like a hose nozzle, a paper clip, a rubber band, a key, a battery, a staple remover, or a cassette tape. For younger children you may just have them guess what it is they feel and then allow the next child to have a turn.

Talk about all the different kinds of things we use in life to help us get a job done easier and faster.

Bible Story with Application:

Read Luke 10:20-37 and use the ideas you read, along with some of the following thoughts to tell the Bible story.

Since the story of the Good Samaritan is a common story, start by asking children what they know about it. This will prevent those who've heard it several times from tuning you out. Who can tell me what a Good Samaritan is? Allow children to recite the story or tell what they know about it. Why did Jesus tell that story? Again, allow children to share what they know.

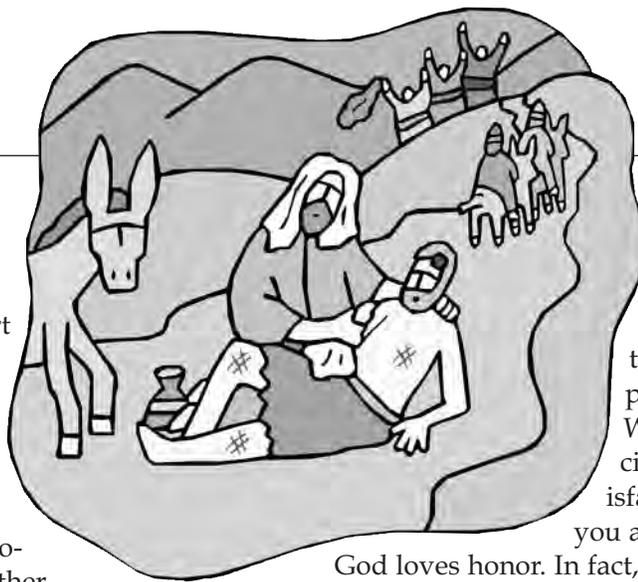
The story of the Good Samaritan was told by Jesus to help people know what it means to be a good neighbor. A good neighbor doesn't just think about himself and the things he has to do, but he thinks about others, even people he doesn't know. He looks for ways to help them. Did you ever help someone you didn't know? Sometimes we gather up clothes we've outgrown and put them in the bin near the grocery store. Other times, you might give money to a person or an organization in need. Those are some ways you might help someone else.

In the story, Jesus told about a man who was traveling on a trip through a dangerous part of the country. He was on his way to Jericho. On his way, some bad men came and robbed him and took his money and beat him up, leaving him hurt on the side of the road.

Pretty soon a priest came by. He was a religious man but when he saw the hurt man, he walked to the other side of the street around the man and kept going. A second man came walking by. He was a Levite, someone who also was chosen by God to work in the temple. He also walked around the man and kept going. Why do you think these men didn't stop to help? Brainstorm with the kids about it with answers such as, they were too busy, he wasn't their friend, they were selfish, or they might get dirty.

What do you think the hurt man was feeling? He was probably wishing that someone would stop and help him. Pretty soon another man came by. He was a Samaritan. Now the Jews didn't really like the Samaritans, but this man didn't care. This man

saw someone who needed help and so he stopped. The Samaritan bandaged up the hurt man's sores and put him on his own donkey. He then took the hurt man to an inn where he paid someone to take care of him.



Jesus was trying to teach the people that we should care about other people, even if we don't know them. Honor does that.

It gives more than what's expected. It shares with people and brightens their day. What are some ways that you can show honor to people you don't know? What about at the store?

- *You might act respectfully instead of being wild.*
- *You might smile and say hello to someone you've never met.*

What about at church or at school?

- *You might just talk with someone to be kind, or help someone who spills a drink, or pick up trash when you see it on the ground so that the workmen don't have to do it.*

What do you get out of giving to others like that?

What do you get for picking up some trash and putting it into the trashcan at the store parking lot? Nothing? Well, you do get one special thing. You get the satisfaction in your heart that you are doing what's right.

God loves honor. In fact, God loves it when we do more than what's expected. We may think that no one is watching and that nobody cares, but God does. Every once in a while, even though you don't know it, someone may see your kindness. You never know when you will need an act of kindness in your own life. That's why the Bible encourages us to treat others kindly. Here's our Bible verse for today:

Bible Verse:

Matthew 7:12, "Do to others what you would have them do to you."

Prayer:

Lord, teach us how to give to others and not just think about ourselves. Help us see ways that we can demonstrate acts of kindness. Teach us how to give in small ways every day. Amen.



Craft and Activity Time

15-20 minutes

Refrigerator Magnet

Supplies needed:

- Photocopy the houses onto card stock for each child.
- Two magnets for each child from the craft supply store.



Instructions:

Color the houses with markers. Cut them out carefully and glue them each to a magnet. Talk about

where you will put one and then who you will give the other one to.

Activity Offering Hospitality

Bring several household objects and divide them into boxes. Some may be from the kitchen like placemats, plates, silverware, cups and napkins. Others may be from the living room with coasters, mugs, a nice book to read, and slippers. Others might be from the bedroom like small pillows and blankets.

Give each group of children a box and encourage them to set up house and then get ready to invite people over. Take turns allowing groups to be both the hosts and the guests and discuss hospitality and how it is a way to show honor to others.

Session 7

Game

15-20 minutes

Leading the Blind

Have children divide into pairs. Hand out one blindfold to each pair. If you don't have blindfolds you can make them by cutting an old sheet into strips 30" long. Have children lead each

other through a maze of chairs in the room. The goal is to guide the "blind" child through the maze without touching any of the chairs. With older children you might use words and voices only and no touching to make it a little more difficult.

Review the Bible verse and talk about how we treat others with gentleness, kindness, love, etc.



Snack

5-10 minutes

Have children finish decorating their cookies. Allow them to eat one and then wrap the other one in cellophane to give away to someone else. Talk about who they will give the decorated cookies to and how that person might feel.

Review and Close

5-10 minutes

Talk to the children about their neighbors. You might say, "Let's talk about the people that live next door to you or down the street. What are their names? Do they have animals or children? What color cars do they have? What other things can you tell me about your neighbors?"

In the Honor Club we are looking for ways to show honor to others. How might you treat your neighbor as special? How might you be able to help them? Brainstorm with the children about ideas of ways they can help other people? Ask children to help you clean up the room where you have met. You might say, "We've been talking about honoring others. I need a person who would be willing to clean off that table... Straighten those chairs... Wipe off that counter... Sweep that floor..." Let children help and then praise them for showing honor. Tell them that you're grateful that they are part of the Honor Club.

House Magnets

Instructions:

Photocopy this page onto white card stock. The page contains enough magnet art for three children. Decorate the houses with markers and then carefully cut them out. Glue them to the magnets and let the glue dry.

