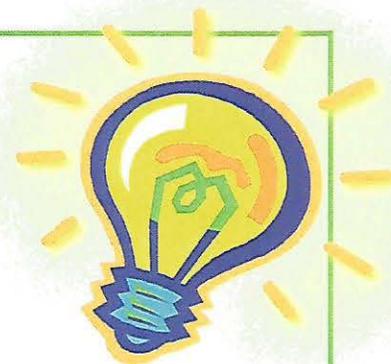


Lesson 11

Being Happy

Theme: Contentment – Being happy with what we have



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Shine a Light on the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Reproduce a worksheet, such as the sample on page 77 of this Guide, providing one for each student. Have the students complete the worksheet, trying first without using a Bible. If necessary, allow students to use the Bible to finish or correct the worksheet. Remind students that next Sunday will be the day for each one to recite the Memory Verse in class.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Ecclesiastes 5:10. Have reading students find and mark Ecclesiastes 5:10 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Introduce Lesson Graphics using “A Great Find” as described on page 9 in this Guide.
4. Tell the story using the *Lighting the Way Lesson Graphics* and other props.
5. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - The world's way of making ourselves happy is by getting more and more things and more and more money.
 - God wants us to be happy and content with what we have, whether we are rich or poor.
 - God expects us to be thankful instead of complaining.
 - Loving and obeying God includes being thankful to Him, no matter what we have or don't have.
6. Discuss what sometimes happens to “friends” when a rich person is no longer rich. Read together Ecclesiastes 5:10. Let students give examples of complaining, in whiney voices!
7. Say a chain prayer, with each student naming something for which he or she is thankful.

8. Lead students to consider things that made people happy that we read about in the Bible. Discuss that the words “rejoice” and “glad” mean the same as being happy. Create a matching activity for your students. Print items in the left column on cards of one color, and print items in the right column on cards of another color. Let students match the people with what caused them to be happy. Discuss with the students that things which make God’s people happy are often different than what makes other people happy.

Psalmist	Served the Lord (Psalm 100:1-2)
Shepherd	Found his lost sheep (Matthew 18:12-14)
Father	His son came home (Luke 15:22-24)
Ethiopian	Baptized (Acts 8:39)
Macedonian Christians	Gave generously (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)
John, the elder	Found Gaius walking in truth (3 John 1-4)

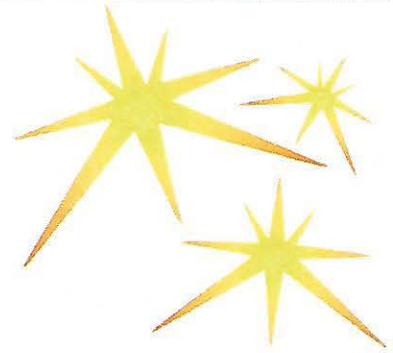
**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 11

Being Happy

Theme: Contentment – Being happy with what we have



Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Shine a Light on the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Reproduce a worksheet, such as the sample on page 78 of this Guide, providing one for each student. Have the students complete the worksheet, trying first without using a Bible. If necessary, allow students to use the Bible to finish or correct the worksheet. Remind students that next Sunday will be the day for everyone to recite the Memory Verse in class. Work with struggling students as time allows.

Prayer

Starter

Think for a moment about riding a ride at an amusement park. You stand in a long line to get on the ride ... thirty minutes or maybe even an hour. Finally your turn comes, and you get on. The ride takes off, builds speed, goes up, down, around, and back up again. People are screaming, and everything around you is a blur. Three minutes later, the ride is slowing down, and you're back where you started. Now, it's off to another line and another ride.

We get some thrill from riding. It's different than many other things we do, and it gives us a few seconds of excitement. But when it's over, we put our feet down on the same ground as before and live life as usual. If you stop and think about it, you might wonder if the ride is really worth the money and the time it took.

The man searching for something, who recorded his search in the book of Ecclesiastes, started to see that life in the world is something like a ride in an amusement park. We get up every morning and work our way through the day, but are we really getting anywhere?

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Identify what we should work for that will last*

Have students make a list of things they anticipate doing in their life that will mean a lot to them. Write these on the board. Ask the following:

- How much will this mean to you later?
- Should you even try to do it?

2. *Objective: Illustrate how many things “under the sun” do not really make us happy*

Bring enough Legos® to class to give about ten to each student. Explain that before class we’ll have a “fun” activity. Give the students a couple of minutes to make something with their Legos®. Now repeat this and repeat it again. It shouldn’t take long for the students to grow tired of playing with ten Legos®. But this is “play” and “fun” that all kids like. Illustrate this with a picture of a merry-go-round. Ask the students how a merry-go-round works. Ask them if they’d like to ride a merry-go-round for an hour. Why not? It’s “fun,” isn’t it? Apply the Lego® activity and the merry-go-round to real life. The Preacher found that most things in life are like this – round and round and round and round we go. But we don’t get anywhere. Refer to the big question mark. He’s still looking for what life is all about.

3. *Objective: To illustrate the need to be happy instead of complaining*

In desktop Bibles, find and read together Ecclesiastes 6:9—”Being satisfied with what you have is better than always wanting more” NIV

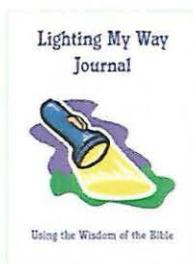
Take items from a suitcase, as you discuss what people think will make them happy—money, toys, sports equipment, clothes. Discuss how long these things may last and how long they may make one happy. Discuss how much is enough. Discuss what sometimes happens to “friends” when a rich person is no longer rich.

Read together Ecclesiastes 6:9 again. Hand out strips of paper with things students might have or things they want. Some examples are: various kinds students green vegetables, a toy or item of clothing, a used toy or item of clothing, no money, no candy, no swimming pool in the backyard You may adjust these items to suit your students.

Let each student complain about his or her item, in a whiney voice. Discuss being happy with and thankful for what we have. Say a prayer involving all the students, allowing each to name something for which he or she is thankful.

4. *Objective: Thinking about unselfish ways to use what we have*

Reproduce the worksheet found on page 75 of this Guide. Divide the students into groups of three or four, giving each group a worksheet. Have the students in each group discuss among themselves and list good and wise ways we can use our money unselfishly.



**When life isn't fair I try to remember ...
This will help me ...**

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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