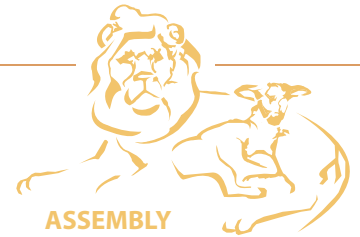


TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 9:23



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**THE BEST TREASURE****Supplies**

- several dollars worth of new and shiny coins
- a Bible

Place the loose change in a pile on a table and the Bible opened next to it. Ask the children if they could only choose one or the other (the money or the Bible) which would they choose?

Help them to see how far more valuable the Gospel message of the Bible is over the treasures of this earth. The Word of God gives eternal life. Money doesn't give us any life. The Gospel promises everlasting joy with Christ. The money could be a candy bar which could give us temporary pleasure that has an end. The money could provide for us for a while, but the Bible promises us that God will take care of our needs, what we will need to eat, drink, and wear.

Money can't buy what the Bible offers. The person, who chooses God's Word, can trust God to provide for the money and everything he needs.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 9:23

DO NOT BE ASHAMED

Supplies

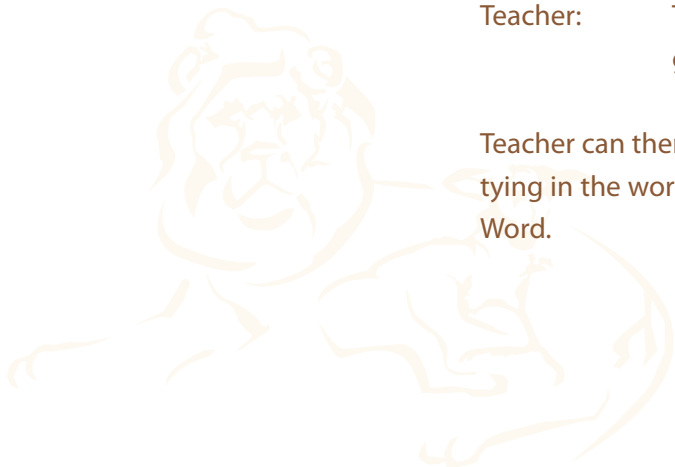
a puppet with a Bible in
his hand

This puppet show is designed to help the children know that they do not need to give into the fear of man regarding their belief in God.

Puppet enters from behind the staging.

Teacher: Hi Puppet. How are you?
Puppet: (Embarrassed and trying to hide his Bible by turning it away from the teacher.) I'm fine.
Teacher: What's that you've got?
Puppet: Got? What do you mean?
Teacher: That book you are carrying?
Puppet: The book? (Looking around and sounding shocked.)
Teacher: Yes, that book in your hand.
Puppet: Oh, this book. It is just a book I got for my birthday that I've been reading.
Teacher: What is it called?
Puppet: (Puppet mumbles.) It's ... just a ... Bible.
Teacher: What did you say it was called?
Puppet: What was called?
Teacher: The book in your hand. What did you say it was called?
Puppet: Oh, this book, it's my new (Puppet mumbles again) Bible.
Teacher: (Teacher speaks very loudly.) Puppet, did you get a Bible for your birthday? How wonderful!!
Puppet: (Aggressively tries to quiet the teacher while looking around.) Shhh! Not so loud.
Teacher: (Again speaks loudly and excitedly.) Why puppet, you don't have to be ashamed of your new Bible. I think it is wonderful.
Puppet: Well, I'm afraid the others will make fun of me.
Teacher: Then let them. You could not have gotten a more wonderful gift.

Teacher can then make the transition from the skit to the passage of Scripture tying in the words of Jesus who said we should not be ashamed of Him or His Word.



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 9:23

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

In Luke 9:22 Jesus specifically predicted His death and resurrection which is the core of the Gospel story. He continues in verse 23 to describe how the path to following Him involves our own cross. We must be willing to give up everything, even our very lives. Physical death is not a requirement, but death to self and the pleasures of this world are a definite cost of following Jesus. If we try to secure salvation or save our own lives by any other means, we will fail. Whether by our good works or our own understanding, all paths outside of the Gospel fail and end in eternal death. We have life only when we trust in Jesus and what He has done on the cross on our behalf.

The passing treasures of this life may bring temporary happiness, but even all the treasures of the earth cannot equal our salvation in Christ. Money cannot buy eternal joy. Good works cannot save.

