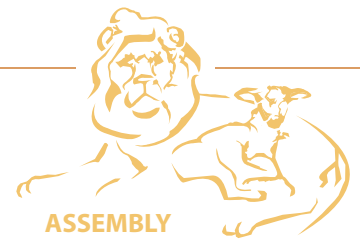


CHARACTER COUNTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7



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

LESSON IDEAS

LEARNING THE QUALITIES

Go through the list of qualifications and help the children understand what they mean. Create a motion for each of those listed and have the children learn them to help them understand. Go through them slowly at first and then mix them up and see how many can get them correct.

- Above reproach – (Explain that this is having clean hands, hands not guilty. This motion could be brushing off the hands as you might do on the beach to get the sand off.)
- Husband of one wife – (Show the index finger in the “number one” position.)
- Sober minded – (Explain this as steady, not falling into foolishness, and have the children put their hands out like a surfer balancing.)
- Hospitable – (Giving food and kindness to those who visit them. Have the children offer an open palm as though they were offering a handful of candies to a friend.)
- Able to Teach – (Have the children place their hands beside their mouths as though they were calling loudly to a man a far distance away.)
- Not violent but gentle – (Have the children do a motion like they are petting a dog.)

Explain to the children that these motions only represent a partial list. Ask them why God requires our pastors to have these qualities. Explain to them the answer is that pastors are the leaders of the people and they need to be able to lead the people in righteousness. If they have sinful lives they will only set a bad example. Explain that God loves His church so much that He sets the standard high for the leaders.

CHARACTER COUNTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

PRAYING FOR THE PASTORS

Supplies

photographs of each of the pastors serving at your church

Show the pictures of the pastors and see if the children can get all their names correct. Once they know the names, mix the photos up and then test their memory. See if the children can also name the general job description of the men, i.e. Senior Pastor, Youth Pastor, etc.

Take time to explain that pastors have strict qualifications or behavior they must follow. Remind the children that pastors need our prayers to God so they will be able to follow God's standards for their lives. Go through the list of names praying for each of the men.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Supplies

- a spool of twine
- eight chairs

Leaders are called of God to lead by example. If they follow God's Word they will lead the church into righteousness. If they do not follow God's Word they will lead the church into sin.

Before class, create an obstacle course of string traps (string wrapped between two or three chairs.) Have all the children follow you in a single file line. Tell them that you are going to show them how a pastor is supposed to lead the people. Tell them that the traps represent sin. Lead them around all the obstacles. Then walk the course again only this time walk them through the string traps where they will be entangled.

Afterwards, draw them out about how your leadership was either good or bad depending on where you led them. Explain to them that God loves them so much that He requires pastors to be a good example.



CHARACTER COUNTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

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.

Jesus said, I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). Jesus loves the church. He gave His life to save the lost and bring them into His church family. He is the chief shepherd and all the leaders under Him must be able to lead by example so that those for whom He died will be well cared for. If it were not for His death on the cross, which brings us redemption, there would be no church and no need for pastors.

