

CHARACTER COUNTS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7



The STORY

Read about the qualifications for an overseer in I Timothy 3:1-7. (You can substitute the word Pastor for overseer to help the children understand the passage.)

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Why do pastors need to have godly character and lead their families well? (If they can't lead their own small family, how could they lead a whole big church family?)
- Can you remember any of the qualities we read? (If the children cannot remember, read the passage again and then ask them.)
- Why did God give us pastors? (God gave us pastors to teach us His Word and show us by their example how we should live out God's Word.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a person showing his heart with the words "Man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart – character counts". Engage the children by asking:

- Why does God look at our hearts? (That is where he can see if we love Him or the world.)
- Why is it important that pastors love God in their hearts? (Pastors teach us – we follow their example.)
- Help the children memorize 1 Samuel 16:7b. (The verse in the heart.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Do you think these qualities are only for pastors? (No, they are first for pastors and then they are also for us as we follow the pastors.)
- Do we need to wait to see a pastor do this before we do these things? (No, we should try and follow these qualities ourselves and learn them from God's Word).
- If we are poor examples and ignore self-control or love money, would we be setting a good or bad example for our friends and brothers and sisters? (We would be setting a bad example. So, although these qualities are for pastors to follow, they are also for all of us to follow.)

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.



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