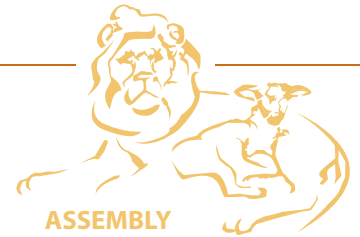


MOSES DISOBEYS GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NUMBERS 20



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

LESSON IDEAS

TRUSTING EVEN WHEN YOUR EYES ARE CLOSED

Supplies:

- a bag or box full of strange “touch” items such as a rubber alligator or other rubber animals, a furry stuffed toy animal or actual animal skin, a goldfish in its bowl, an earthworm, etc.
- a separate container to hold one item at a time

First, explain to the class that trust means to act on someone else’s words even when you are not sure about what they are saying. Ask the class to trust you.

Tell the class that you have some strange and wonderful animals in your bag. Tell them they won’t get hurt but they need faith and trust in your words to reach into the container and discover these surprises.

Have a volunteer reach in and touch one thing. Before bringing it out of the container, have the volunteer handle it and describe what it is they are touching. Ask the class to guess what it is. Ask them if anyone is afraid based on what they are hearing described.

Explain again that trust means acting on someone else’s words even when you aren’t sure. This is particularly true when it is God’s Word or our parent’s words.

MOSES DISOBEYS GOD

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THE SPONGE ILLUSTRATION

Supplies:

bring a large car wash size sponge and a bucket of water

First, explain to the children that the water in the bucket represents those things that we want when we come to children's ministry (i.e. a snack, coloring time, a video, no clean-up, to see my friends, etc.).

For each item you list, dip the sponge into the bucket and have it fill up with a little more water. When the sponge is full, explain that the sponge, like our heart, is full of desires (water) and expectations and demands. So our hearts are full of "what I want to do at Sunday School today." Each of us, including the teachers, arrived at church today with hearts full of things we want to do, things we want to have happen or feel and enjoy. Our hearts, like the sponge, are full.

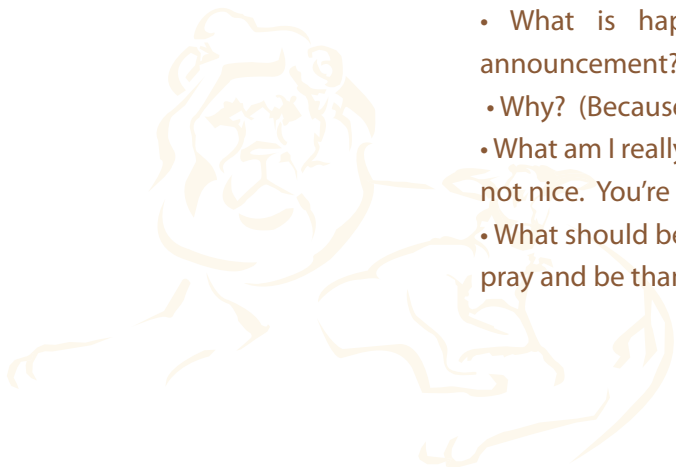
Second, pretend that as the teacher you have decided that today in children's ministry the following things are going/not going to occur:

- no snack time – instead only the teachers will get a snack
- no coloring time – instead we will practice writing our ABCs
- no talking to your friends – instead we will be silent for the entire time in class
- no assembly time/singing – instead we will stand and listen to a teacher sing songs
- you make up a few ...

With each example you give, squeeze the sponge a little: water should pour out. The children should be saying: "no," or "not that," or "boo-hiss." In other words, simulate a complaining attitude.

Ask the following questions:

- What is happening to this heart/sponge with each disappointing announcement? (My heart is complaining / water is being squeezed out.)
 - Why? (Because I am not getting what I want.)
 - What am I really saying about my teachers and God when I complain? (You're not nice. You're not fair. I don't like you because you won't do what I want.)
 - What should be our response when we don't get what we want? (We should pray and be thankful. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and / or Hebrews 12:28.)



MOSES DISOBEYS GOD

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Where Is Jesus?

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.

Instead of speaking to the rock to draw forth the water, Moses strikes the rock in his anger. Here we see the fallibility of Israel's redeemer. Up until this point Moses did what God told him to do. But Moses was a fallen mediator, unable to stand in the gap for the people without sin. Jesus is the perfect mediator.

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19)

Unlike Moses, the imperfect mediator, Jesus, though He was tempted like us, did not sin. He intercedes for us yet today. His blood covers all our sins and He continually stands before God the father testifying to our redemption.

