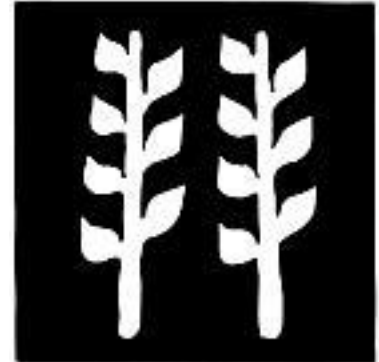


Year 5

God is Provider 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That God expects us to be good stewards of all that He has provided
- That it is important to thank God for His provision
- That possessions are not the most important things in life
- That some people make a god out of their possessions
- That God expects us to share the things He has provided
- That being a servant of God is better than being rich

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Rainforests and forestry

Link between “God is Provider” and classroom topics:

The world’s rainforests provide homes for animals, plants for medicines and purify the air. Our forests are rapidly being destroyed and many animals and plants are becoming extinct as a result. As God’s stewards we should be concerned about the destruction of the earth’s precious resources that God has provided.

Values:

faith, care for the environment, peace, generosity, thankfulness

God is Provider

Week 1

Taking care of God's provision

Bible references:

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Ps 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

Deut 8:18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Matthew 10:29 - that even the sparrow does not fall to the ground without Him noticing it.

If God loves every tiny bird then we should do what we can to preserve and protect God's creation rather than to cause harm and destroy it.

Introduction

Begin the lesson by reading the Matthew 10:29. Explain that if God loves every tiny bird then we should do what we can to preserve and protect God's creation rather than to cause harm and destroy it. God has asked us to be good stewards of the earth and all that He has created.

A steward is a person that takes care of the possessions of another person.

Who owns all the possessions in the world? Read Psalm 24:1 and Psalm 50:10

God has given us the opportunity to care of His possessions. God asks us to be good stewards of His gifts.

Here are some different ways in which we can be good stewards:

- Caring for God's gift of our beautiful world, its creatures, the plants and the soil (Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:15)
- Caring for God's gift of each other
- Caring for God's gift of ourselves
- Caring for money that we earn, or not wasting the money that our parents earn

Read Deut 8:18 Who gives people the ability to earn money? God expects people to give some of that money back to Him. The money that people give to God can be used to help God's work, including helping those who do not have the things they need.

What are some of the things God gives to us?

We shouldn't waste what God gives us. We should look after our homes and our things carefully.

What things do you own? How can you look after...

Clothes?

Books?
Sports equipment?
Toys?
Why should we look after our things?

God is Provider

Week 2

Quarrelling over possessions

Bible references:

Genesis 13-14:7 Abram's unselfish choice: a peaceful end to quarrelling.

Job 22:21-23 Stop quarrelling.

Mark 9:50 Peace with one another.

Matt 20:16 The first shall be last

Introduction: A story about sharing

Ask the students if they have ever seen seagulls or other animals fighting over food.

A family decided to go for a picnic. When they arrived at the park there were a few seagulls on the grass. They sat down and opened their picnic. Immediately the seagulls started crowding around them. Some more seagulls flew in to see what was going on.

The seagulls did not take their eyes off the food. They were just waiting for a chance to move in and gather up a crust or a crumb that might drop on to the ground. Well, that did not take long to happen.

Soon one of the younger children dropped a piece of his sandwich, and much to his surprise there were great squawks, and then a flutter of wings. It was a great race amongst the seagulls to see who could get to the food first. It was a case of first in, first served. A rather proud looking seagull took the first piece of bread and flew off with it. The seagull did not go too far away though, because he did not want to miss the chance of collecting a second piece.

From the moment the proud seagull picked up the bread, the others were after him, squawking and fighting and pushing in. But the big proud seagull did not let go of his prize.

The children threw a few more pieces of food. Each time there was the same big commotion. The seagulls fought and squabbled, and never for a moment thought of sharing.

People can fight with each other, a bit like seagulls. They push others out of the way because they want to get there first. They want the biggest and best of everything. Jesus said that the people who are happiest are the ones who don't always push in to be first, but who let others go before them. He said that the first in His kingdom are really the last, and the last are really the first.

Bible Lesson: Abram's choice

In the Old Testament we are told about a man named Abram. Later God changed his name to Abraham because he became the father of many nations including the nation of Israel.

God told Abram and his wife Sarah to make a journey to a new land, because God was going to bless him with a large family. Abram and his wife had no children but they had many relatives. They all gathered up all their possession – their tents, their animals, their clothes and food. They made the long journey to a new land. When they finally arrived in the new land they set up camp. One of Abraham’s nephews was called Lot. Soon quarrels broke out between Lot's servant and Abram's servants. They quarrelled about the best grass and the shadiest water holes.

"We are going to feed our sheep here," Lot's servants would say.

"No, we were here first. We are going to feed our sheep here. You go away," Abram's servants would answer.

Abram knew that God was not pleased when the servants quarrelled together. Abram said to Lot, "Our servants are always quarrelling. Soon they will make us quarrel too. Let's not live together anymore."

Then Abram took Lot to a place where they could look over the land about them. "You choose first," said Abram.

Lot looked at all the land about him. He could see the River Jordan and the green grassy land around it. Lot chose the best land for himself. He said, "I will go there," and pointed to the lovely land around the river.

Abram did not argue. He allowed Lot to have the best land. Abram took the land that was left. It was not good land, but he was not sad about what he had done. He knew that he had done what God wanted him to do. Because Abram pleased God, God blessed Abram with more than he could ever wish for, and he was very happy. Later, when God gave Abram a son, He changed his name to Abraham and he became the father of the nation of Israel.

Discussion

Lot chose the best land. What does that tell us about Lot?

What should our response be if we are offered a plate of cake, and some pieces are bigger than the others?

How did God reward Abram for making the unselfish choice?

What possessions do people fight over today? (Land, inheritances, chiefly titles etc.). If people love possessions too much then it can break up relationships and friendships.

God is Provider

Week 3

Sharing our possessions

Bible references:

Genesis 18:1-15

Introduction

Last week we learned about God's instructions to Abram to make a long journey with his whole family to a new land. God was going to make him the father of many nations, including the nation of Israel. We learned that Abram, who was later called Abraham, was not selfish. When a quarrel broke out between his servants and the servants of his nephew Lot, over who would take the best land, Abram allowed Lot to take the best land.

Bible Lesson: Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and his wife Sarah loved God. They listened to God and did the things He told them. One day God told Abraham something he could hardly believe. God said that Abraham would be a father of many children.

Sarah and Abraham were quite old. They had no children of their own, and were really too old to have children now. Abraham waited, day after day, for God to do the thing that He had promised. Abraham had to be very patient. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was lunch time. The sun was high in the sky and it was very hot. He looked up and saw three men. They were strangers.

"Please stop and rest," he said to the strangers. "Come and sit down under this tree and I will bring you a bowl of water for you to wash your feet. I will also get some food for you so that you will have strength for the rest of your journey."

"Thank you," said the men. "We accept."

Abraham went to Sarah.

"Quickly bake some bread from the best flour," he said. "We have some visitors."

Abraham went to get some food. He set out the food under the tree and the men ate it. Then one of the men said, "Where is your wife, Sarah?"

"In the tent," said Abraham.

"Nine months from now she will have a baby," said the man.

Sarah heard the man say this. She was listening at the doorway. She laughed because she thought she was too old to have a baby. Then God spoke to Abraham. God said, "Sarah should not have laughed because there is nothing too hard for the Lord."

Nine months later, Sarah did have a baby. His name was Isaac. When Isaac grew up he had a son... When his son grew up he had a son... When that son grew up he had a son... and so the family kept on growing, until finally one of Abraham's great, great, great grandchildren had a very special baby. His name was Jesus.

Abraham did become the father of many children...many great, great grandchildren and the father of a great nation...the nation of Israel. Like Abraham we have to be patient in order to see God's promises come true. It may seem to take a long time, but if God says He will do something, we can be sure He will keep His word.

Discussion

We already know that Abraham was not selfish. We learned last week that he gave the best land to his nephew Lot.

In today's lesson we saw how he invited strangers into his home and gave them food and drink. This is called showing hospitality. Hospitality is when we share our home and our food with others.

What kind of food does your family share when visitors come to your home?

God rewarded Abraham for his kindness to others. He gave him a son when he thought he would never have a son because he and his wife were too old. But nothing is impossible with God!

Generosity

What is generosity?

- Giving and sharing
- Giving because you want to, not because you will receive a reward
- A way of showing love and friendship

Discuss with your partner:

What kind of gifts do people appreciate the most?

When is it difficult to share?

How do we practice generosity?

- We think of ways to share what you have
- We think about what people need
- We give our time, ideas, things or money to those who need it

Discuss with your partner:

How does it feel to give something to someone?

Who do you know that has a need?

Write: three ways you can be generous today: a) at home b) at school

I am generous when:

I look for opportunities to give and share; I give freely, fully and joyfully

God is Provider

Week 4

Making possessions a god

Bible references

Mark 14:3-11; Matt 26:6-16 Judas

Matthew 19:16-24. The rich young ruler

Luke 9:23-26 Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world, but loses his soul?

Luke 21:1-4 The widow's generous gift

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with much grief.

Judas

Judas was one of the twelve disciples. He criticized Mary for pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. He didn't see any sense in wasting money. Perhaps Mary knew what others did not believe, that Jesus was soon to die; and she showed her love for him, and her sorrow for his coming death, by this rich gift of perfume.

But Judas, the disciple who carried the bag, was very angry at Jesus; and from that time he was looking for a chance to betray Jesus, or to give him up to his enemies. He went to the chief priests, and said, "What will you give me if I will put Jesus into your hands?"

They said, "We will give you thirty pieces of silver."

Because Judas loved money more than anything he was willing to betray Jesus and lead Jesus to the Roman guards, who took him away to be crucified... all for 30 pieces of silver.

This true story had a sad ending. Judas later felt so bad about what he had done that he went out and hanged himself.

A Rich Young Man's Question

Read the passage from Matthew 19:16-24.

Did Jesus really mean that if you have a lot of money you can't get into heaven?

What is the real problem? (*Ans: loving money and things more than God.*)

Did Jesus mean that everyone has to sell all they own to become a Christian?

Why did Jesus say this to the rich young ruler?

The rich young ruler's problem was not really his money, but the fact that he loved it more than anything or anyone else... even God. Children do not usually have a lot of money, but wanting THINGS can be the same.

Read 1 Tim 6:10. This verse says that it is the *love* of money that is the problem, not money itself.

Read Luke 9:23-26. Jesus is telling us here that to take up the cross and follow Him, we must be willing to do whatever He says to do. Sometimes that may mean giving up possessions. Owning everything in the whole world would be worth nothing without Jesus in our life.

The widow's generous gift

Read the passage from Luke 21:1-4.

A widow is a lady whose husband has died. It is very difficult for a woman to bring up children without the support of her husband to provide money. This woman in the Bible had very little. She only gave two copper coins. These were not worth much at all. But her gift was worth more to God than the gift of a rich person. A rich person has plenty of money and might only give a small amount of that money. This lady probably had very little money for food yet she still decided to give to God.

God is Provider

Week 5

The Greatest Treasure

Having Jesus in our life is far more important than having an abundance of material possessions.

Bible references

Matthew 6:19-21 & 24 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God

Proverbs 8:11 Wisdom is better than riches.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold.

Bible lesson

Read the passage from Matthew 6:19-20

These verses start with a command from Jesus. He says, "Do not store up treasures on earth."

Most people do not have an enormous amount of treasure. But most of us have things that are precious to us. Perhaps we have a favourite piece of clothing or a bike or a favourite toy.

We would be very upset if we lost these things.

Ask the children to name some of the *things* (not people) that are important to them. Make a list.

Is it wrong to own these things? Of course not! The problem comes when we think that these things are the most important things in our lives. Jesus tells us that instead of hoarding treasures on earth, we are to pile up treasures in heaven.

Can we store up our possessions in heaven? No. These aren't the treasures Jesus is talking about. Treasures that we can store in heaven are the things we do to serve God. Can you think of some of the treasures we can store in heaven?

Make a list

On the board or a large sheet of paper, write a heading "Heavenly Treasures". Ask the children to give ideas such as: prayer, reading the Bible, sharing our toys, helping to feed the hungry, etc.)

Jesus wants us to store up heavenly treasures instead of earthly treasures. No matter where are treasures are, that's where our heart is going to be. We can ask ourselves, "What is most important to me? ...the things on earth that may get stolen or fall apart, or doing things to serve God.

Read Matthew 6:24

Matthew 6:24 says, 'No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.'

Too often the message we get from TV, movies, music, and some people around us is that life is all about the things we own. But Jesus tells us that life is not about what belongs to us, but about whom we belong to. We belong to Jesus, who died for our sins. When we serve him by sharing our earthly treasures with those in need, we store up real treasures in heaven.

Ask the children to read:

Matthew 6:24

Proverbs 8:11

Proverbs 16:16

Discussion

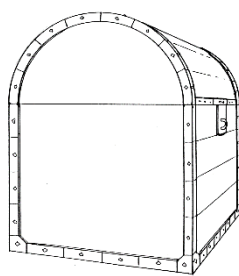
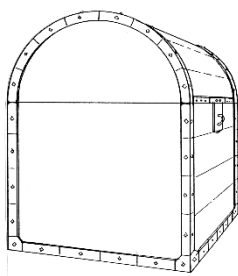
Who is in need in our community or the world?

How can we help them?

Activity

Read Matthew 6:19-21

Draw two treasure chests. In the first treasure chest, draw some different kinds of treasure that people may like to store up. In the second treasure chest, draw what might happen to this treasure.



Earthly Treasure



Puzzle

Solve the picture puzzle to find out the very best treasure to store up. Write a sentence: The best kind of treasure is and