August 11, 2024

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Construction paper
Art supplies (paints, markers, colored pencils)

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break 20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up 30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer 10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

TODAY'S FOCUS:

Everything we do should be done for God's glory.

Weekly Verse:

"I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself." - Philippians 3:14 (NIrV)

Key Passage:

Daniel 5, The Writing on the Wall

ROCK BRIDGE MISSION:

We know that we exist to glorify God - not just as a church, but as people!

PRAYER:

Dear God, help us to do everything for your glory. Thank you for loving us and giving us a purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen

Introduction:

ASK THIS AS KIDS ARRIVe: Start with a discussion about things they enjoy doing or activities they are good at. Ask them why they think they enjoy those activities and how they feel when they do them well. Share a brief story about a time when you felt proud of something you did and how it could be done for God's glory.

SAY THIS: How often do you give glory to God for the good things in your life? Why is it important to do everything for God's glory? Today, we'll learn from a Bible story about King Belshazzar, who faced consequences for not giving glory to God.

Read: Daniel 5 (This is a longer passage. To help kids digest it, consider writing or doodling as you read to help them recap each section. For example:

Section 1: King Belshazzar's Feast (Daniel 5:1-4)

- Words: Feast, King Belshazzar, Babylon, Gold vessels, Wine, Drinking, Celebration
- Doodle Image: Party hat ,a table with food and drinks, a crown

Section 2: Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5:5-9)

- Words: Handwriting on the wall, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin, Fear, Confusion, Astrologers, Chaldeans
- Doodle Image: Sketch a wall with mysterious writing (scribbles or symbols), stick figure men with question marks around their heads

Section 3: Daniel Interprets the Writing (Daniel 5:10-29)

- Words: Daniel, Interpretation, God's judgment, Aramaic, Belshazzar, Pride,
 Nebuchadnezzar, Kingdom divided
- Doodle Image: A stick figure Daniel in front of a crown, the scribbles on the wall with an equal sign

Section 4: Belshazzar's Fate (Daniel 5:30-31)

- Words: Death, Darius the Mede, Babylon falls, Judgment, End of kingdom, Persia
- Doodle Image: Broken walls, scale, a crown with an X over it, a stick figure with a crown for Darius

MAIN POINT - TALK ABOUT THIS: Belshazzar was terrified. Where did this hand come from? What were these mysterious words, and what did they mean? It was only then that he remembered the prophet who had helped Nebuchadnezzar and sent for Daniel. Daniel delivered the message. God had judged Belshazzar, and his reign as king would end that very night. Babylon would fall and be taken over by Persia. Why? Because Belshazzar failed to give glory to God. He lived only for himself, and God took his kingdom away.

As Christians we must never forget that God is our Creator and our Savior. We must never forget to give God the glory and praise for what he has done. Let's be faithful followers and let's make sure everything we do, we do for God's glory! Belshazzar could have learned to give God glory for all he had and possessed. He could have learned from Daniel. From day one in Babylon, Daniel lived a life that pleased God. Even though he was essentially a prisoner, he remained faithful and used every opportunity to point Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar to the Lord.

Belshazzar could have learned from Nebuchadnezzar as well. Nebuchadnezzar has been called the greatest king in all of history, but even he learned that there is one king higher than himself. Nebuchadnezzar saw the power of God in Daniel's life. He saw God's power when God delivered Daniel's friends from a fiery furnace in Daniel chapter 3. And in Daniel chapter 4, he saw Nebuchadnezzar's personal day of reckoning with the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king, but he learned to be humble and give glory to God.

Belshazzar never learned that lesson, and it cost him everything. When God wrote the score on the wall for Belshazzar, it was a final judgment for the king. It was also a message to us. Will we live for our own glory and face judgment, or will we learn to give the glory back to God? If we train right, by reading and studying the Bible and by praying every day, we will have our minds trained right. We will never lose sight of God's power in our lives, and we will always give the glory to God.

Take a moment and think now, you don't have to answer aloud. But, what do you think your final score will say? If you were judged today, what would God write on the wall? If you have something you want to repent from - to change, to turn away from and move in a new direction towards God - I'd love to talk more with you. But for all of us, let's do everything to the glory of God so that when our day comes we might hear the Lord say, "Well done!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ASK THIS:

- Can you think of a time when you saw someone doing something that brought glory to God? How did it make you feel?
- How can we remember to give God the credit for the good things we do?
- What happened during Belshazzar's party?
- Who interpreted the message for Belshazzar?
- What happened to Belshazzar because he did not glorify God?
- What are some ways we can give glory to God?

Thank the kids for sharing their thoughts and encourage them to think about how they can glorify God in everything they do. Remind them that it is a choice to follow Jesus and to bring Him honor. If anyone hasn't made that choice, invite them to do so today! Celebrate any next steps your kids desire to take!

ACTIVITY:

DO THIS: Glorify God Posters

Give each kid a sheet of construction paper. Ask them to create a poster that shows ways they can glorify God in their daily lives. Encourage them to draw or write about specific activities or moments when they can give God the credit.

Variation: Ask the kids to create artwork that represents what it means to glorify God. Encourage them to show scenes or actions that honor God, such as helping others, praying, or sharing kindness.

Afterward, allow each child to share their poster and explain how it reflects the concept of glorifying God, either in general or for them personally.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 2:

DO THIS: Reflection Journaling:

Give each kid a sheet of paper. Ask them to take a few minutes to reflect on their day or week and write down moments when they think they glorified God. Encourage them to write about how they felt and to be an encouragement to others by sharing their examples.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 3:

DO THIS: Interactive Storytelling:

Divide the kids into small groups. Let each group choose a Bible story or a modern example where someone honored God through their actions (like David and Goliath or missionaries helping others). Have each group make a short skit showing how the characters honored God. Let them perform their skits for each other.

Memory Verse Activity:

Philippians 3:14

"I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself."

DO THIS: Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SAY THIS: Remind kids that we memorize scripture so that we can recall it when we need to be reminded of what God says. When might this verse be helpful for us to know by heart?