



LESSON 16

IN THE FOREST OF FINDING OUT

ALWAYS A BLESSING

LESSON INTENTION

The intention of this lesson is to understand that there is always a blessing to be found in every situation. We must remember that God is always present.

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE & PURPOSE

To teach and demonstrate:

- ◇ If we look patiently enough, we will find the blessing in the situation.
- ◇ God's blessings are not always obvious.
- ◇ God is present no matter what.

AFFIRMATION

I am blessed by everything I experience.

PRAYER FOCUS

"...yet our God turned the curse into a blessing."
Nehemiah 13:2

SUPPLY LISTS

YOUNGER CHILDREN

OLDER CHILDREN

Book

*That's Good, That's Bad, by
Margery Cuyler*

Beginning Experience

Two Sides to a Coin

- ◇ Different kinds of coins
- ◇ Workbook, p. 18

Creative Experience

That's Bad, That's Good Masks

- ◇ Paint stirring sticks, 1 per child
- ◇ Paper plates, 2 per child
- ◇ Tape
- ◇ Stapler
- ◇ Glue
- ◇ Markers
- ◇ Yarn
- ◇ Google eyes
- ◇ Pipe cleaners.

Book

Youth Bible

Beginning Experience

Two Sides to a Coin

- ◇ Different kinds of coins
- ◇ Workbook, p. 18

Creative Experience

Blessing Others

- ◇ Dowel rods, 2 per child
- ◇ Colored leather cording or yarn
- ◇ Beads
- ◇ Feathers
- ◇ Markers

*That's Bad, That's Good Game
Show*

- ◇ Scene Starters, (See end of lesson)

SACRED CIRCLE

Invite the children into the Sacred Circle by ringing a chime or gong or singing a song. This helps them to know that it is time to move from pre-session into the beginning activity.

Once the children are seated in the circle invite one of them to read an Inspirational Reading. It can be a shortened Daily Word, poem, or Bible quote.

Collect the Love Offering. It is important to give the children an opportunity to give something at this time. The focus should be on giving something that they would like to multiply in the world. It does not have to be money but can be joy, love, fun, etc...

Create an opportunity for them to pray. It can be learning a new prayer together; using a prayer box and inviting them to add their prayers or focusing on the affirmation.

Help them to get to know one another by inviting each one to share their name and something about themselves. Keep it short but related to the lesson focus.

MOVING INTO THE EXPERIENCE

Introduce the lesson Intention by asking the children to share a blessing they recently received.

Then, lead them into the next experience:

Two Sides to a Coin

Materials: Different kinds of coins

Pass the coins around and invite the children to study them. After the children have studied the coins for a while, ask, "How many sides to a coin? Have you heard the expression, "There are always two sides to a coin? Does anyone know what this means?" Allow time for responses.

Share with them that:

There are always two sides to every situation, for example – if it is raining and you wanted to play outside you might see the rain as a negative thing but, if you look further, you might be able to see it as an opportunity to do something fun inside that you had not thought about.

We always have the choice about how we will look at any situation. We have the power to decide if it is good and not good for us.

Our lives are richer if we choose to see blessings everywhere.

Workbook Activity

Page 18

Using the workbook activity sheet, encourage the children to explore the two sides to each coin idea as it relates to 2 sides of one idea or thought.

STORY – YOUNGER CHILDREN

“That’s Good, That’s Bad,” by Margery Cuyler

The little boy in the story goes through many different adventures. Depending on how you look at them, they can be described as either good or bad. It all depends on your perception.

Story Focus/Interpretation: We always have the power to choose to see the good, or blessing, in every situation.

Discussion

- ◇ What is happening in the story?
 - ◇ How could the things that happened to him be both good and bad?
 - ◇ What does it mean to be blessed?
 - ◇ Describe a time when you were blessed.
 - ◇ How can we see God in every situation?
 - ◇ How do we know that God is always there?
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STORY – OLDER CHILDREN

“The Good Samaritan,” Luke 10:30-37

This is a story of a man attacked by robbers and the three people who had a chance to help him. Only the Samaritan helped him. The others looked away and pretended not to see him.

Story Focus/Interpretation: When we choose to help another, everyone in the situation will be blessed.

Discussion

- ◇ What is this story about?
- ◇ How did the priest and Levite react to the beaten man?
- ◇ What do you think caused the priest and Levite to walk on by?
- ◇ What do you think they saw when they looked at the beaten man?
- ◇ What did the Samaritan see when he looked at the beaten man?
- ◇ What did the Samaritan do?
- ◇ Even though the man was beaten he received a blessing from the situation. What do you think it was?
- ◇ What blessing did the Samaritan receive?
- ◇ Describe a time when we received good from a situation that appeared to be negative.
- ◇ What benefit do we receive when we try to find the blessing in every situation?

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Alternative Story Choice

None

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CREATIVE EXPERIENCE CHOICES

Quiet & Moving Activity Combined

Younger Children

That's Bad, That's Good Masks

Materials: *Paint stirring sticks , 1 per child; paper plates, 2 per child; tape; stapler; glue; markers; yarn; google eyes; pipe cleaners.*

Invite the children to create a happy face on one of the plates and a sad face on the other plate. Once they are created, tape them together with the paint stick between them to form a mask that is 2-sided.

Then, invite the children to take their masks and sit in a circle on the floor. Read the story to the children again – this time pausing at each event and asking the children if it sounds good or bad. They can yell out what they think and show either their happy or sad face.

Alienwards talk about how there can be good in everything. It just depends on how we look at it. Share some of the following scenarios and ask them if they think it is good or bad – again using their puppets. If they think it is bad – ask them how we can find the good in it.

- ◇ Your mom tells you that you have to go to bed early...
- ◇ You can only have one piece of candy...
- ◇ Your mom is going to have a baby...
- ◇ You can't go outside to play because it is raining...
- ◇ You stubbed your toe...

Older Children

Blessing Others

Materials: *Dowel rods – two for each child, colored leather cording or yarn, beads, feathers, markers*

Invite the children to create blessing sticks in any design they choose. Once they are completed they are to create a simple blessing rhyme that they can share with others. They can use the sticks to create the beat and the rhythm of the rhyme.

Moving Activity

Older Children

That's Bad, That's Good Game Show

Materials: Scene Starters, (See end of lesson), copied & cut apart.

This is an acting game. Invite the children to select a partner to act with. The rest of the children will be the audience. Invite the actors to select one of the Scene Starter Cards, read it over and come up with possible “good” endings to the scene described on the card. The card will have a description of a scene that at first looks like it would be “bad.”

Ask one of the actors to read the “bad” scene out loud to the group and then the two actors will act out “bad” scene and then the possible good ending. The audience is to try to guess what the new ending could be.

Give everyone who wants to a chance to act out a scene.

Scene Starters:

- ◇ It's bad – you are trying to buy a candy bar and the cashier is really grouchy, ...no it's good because ...
- ◇ It's bad – you have to decide who gets to watch their TV show first, ...no it's good because...
- ◇ It's bad – you are caught cheating on a test, ...no it's good because...
- ◇ It's bad – you are getting another baby brother, ...no it's good because...
- ◇ It's bad – you are angry with your mom, ...no it's good because...

CELEBRATION CIRCLES

All of the children come back together at the end of the day.

This is a time for sharing:

- ◇ What we experienced today.
- ◇ Some new ideas we gained.
- ◇ A closing prayer.

SCENE STARTERS

Copy and cut apart.

It's bad – you are trying to buy a candy bar and the cashier is really grouchy,

No, it's good because _____

It's bad – you have to decide who gets to watch their TV show first,

No, it's good because _____

It's bad – you are caught cheating on a test,

No, it's good because _____

It's bad – you are getting another baby brother,

No, it's good because _____

It's bad – you are angry with your mom,

No, it's good because _____
