

4TH - 5TH GRADE PARENT GUIDE

BIG IDEA: THE VALUABLE COW

BIG POINT: NOTHING IN OUR LIVES SHOULD TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD.

BIG WORD: PRAISE THE LORD. PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL. I WILL PRAISE THE LORD ALL MY LIFE; I WILL SING PRAISE TO MY GOD AS LONG AS I LIVE. PSALM 146:1-2 (NIV)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- Understand that when we let other things become more important than God they can become like an idol in our lives.
- Learn that what we spend our time, energy and money on shows what we value.

CONNECT TIME

What do you like doing the most each day?

THE BIG QUESTION

1. What did the Israelite people do when Moses was still up on the mountain?

They didn't know when he was coming back so they convinced Aaron to melt down all the gold that they could find and make a golden cow. They began to worship the golden cow instead of worshipping God.

2. What things, in your life, are very important to you?

Allow the children to answer and then share your answers also. There are lots of things that are important to us; family, friends, school, music and sport. There are also things that we enjoy doing and we give lots of our time to them like reading, playing games, listening to our iPods and other hobbies.

3. What is the MOST important thing in our lives?

Although many things are important to us, nothing in our lives should take the place of God. We should be careful not to let anything become like an idol in our lives. God is the only one we should worship.

ACTIVITY SHEETS

Children complete the Activity Sheets in this time.

THE BIG ACTIVITY

Supplies Needed: A board game of connect four

Purpose: For the children to learn that just like the Israelites, we are to follow God's commandment to put Him first in our lives.

Directions: Divide the group into two teams. State the rules: Each team places a colored circle in the grid one at a time. The first team to make 4 in a row horizontally, vertically or diagonally are the winners. One team is yellow and the other is red. Put yourself on one of the teams and, as you play begin changing the rules for your teams advantage. Begin to play the game by choosing a team to go first.

Make up your own rules as you go. For example; "Our team gets another turn because we went second." Or, if the other team have four in a row, say, "No, you have to get 5 in

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• a row to win", or "no the four in a row has to be horizontal or you don't win" etc. As the children are telling you that you can't change the rules half way through the game because it's not fair, share the explanation with them.

Explanation: Rules are important in a game. They make sure that the game is the best it can be for everyone involved. When the rules are broken the game isn't fun anymore. A game without rules just doesn't work. God gave His commandments to His people and they still stand today. Of course keeping rules is not what our relationship with God is all about. We are saved by God's grace through Jesus Christ and our faith in Him. But God gives us guidelines so we can live a great life with and for Him. Read together from Exodus 20. What are the first two commandments? We can follow God's guidelines and put Him first in our lives. Nothing in our lives should take the place of God.

THE BIG WORD

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalm 146:1-2 (NIV)

Memory Mix Up! - Write each word of the verse on a separate piece of card. To make it more challenging you could add some words that are not from the verse. Help the children to arrange the words into the correct order of the verse.

GAME

Supplies Needed: Plastic bowls, cereal and if you have plastic to lay down you can also add milk ☺

What a Mess! - Choose a few contestants from your group (or if you're willing to clean up, everyone can play!) and give each player a bowl of cereal. With the cereal bowls in front of them on a table players must race to see who can finish their bowl of cereal the quickest and with the least amount of mess.

PRAYER

Dear God,

You are the only one we want to worship. Help us to make sure nothing becomes more important to us than you.
In Jesus name, Amen.

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