

PRAISING GOD

Memory Verse

Psalms 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Central Thought

I can love God by praising Him.

Bible Story

Genesis 1 The Story of Creation

OBJECT LESSON

Materials: balloon

1. Partially inflate the balloon. "Is this balloon blown up?" [Looking for response to fully inflate the balloon].
2. Inflate the balloon a little more. "Now is this balloon blown up?" [Looking for response to fully inflate the balloon].
3. Continue to inflate the balloon, until it is fully inflated. "So, the amount of air I put in the balloon actually makes a difference as to whether the balloon is really blown up, right? It wasn't enough to just put a little air in the balloon. I really had to make an effort to put air in the balloon."

When we praise God, we really have to make an effort. We can't just sing a little bit of a praise song and say that we've praised the Lord. [Let some air out of the balloon]. If we mumble our way through praise and worship, it's just like this limp balloon. The balloon only has a little bit of air in it, and you've already told me we can't say that it's blown up. So, when we aren't really singing during praise and worship, or we're looking around the room, or talking to our friends, we aren't fully praising God, just like this balloon isn't fully blown up.

GAME

Praise Contest

Materials: P-R-A-I-S-E on construction paper (1 letter per sheet)

1. Divide the class into 6 groups.
2. Give each group 1 letter.
3. Each group will write down things we can praise God for that begins with that letter.
4. Have each group share their list.
5. Praise God after each group shares their list.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

I. Introduction

A. Illustration

Materials: List of compliments/criticisms (*see attached*)

1. Randomly read 1 compliment or criticism at a time.
2. Children stand if makes them feel good (compliment). Or, children sit down if makes them feel sad/bad (criticism).
3. Discuss:

- Which words would you rather hear – compliment or criticism?

- Why?

- Does it matter who gives you a compliment or criticism?

- Does it matter how the words are said?

Sometimes a criticism can be said gently, kindly, and it doesn't hurt as much. Sometimes a compliment can be said in a forced or sarcastic way, and it doesn't mean much.

B. Complimenting God = Praising God

1. What kinds of words do you think God wants to hear?
2. What kinds of words might make Him feel good?

C. Practical Application

1. Model praising God and giving Him compliments.
2. Allow children to praise God and give Him compliments.
 - a. Praise God!
 - b. God is good! Great! Wonderful! Marvelous!
 - c. Glory to God!

II. Creation

A. God's response after each thing He created was "It was good."

B. Word Connection

Psalms 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

1. All of His works are wonderful.
2. Each one of us is one of His works.
3. Since, all of His works are wonderful, we are wonderful.
4. Because He wonderfully created us, He wants us to praise Him.

C. Thank God for His creation.

III. Praising God

A. During Service

1. Participate in praise and worship.
2. Pray.
3. Other ways??

B. Personal Time

1. Sing praise songs.
2. Pray.
3. Thank God for everything.
4. Other ways??

C. Illustration

Materials: pictures of different activities

1. Show each picture to the children. Who created all these different things we can do?
2. Praise God for each of these activities.

None of these activities are wrong. God just wants us to praise Him, whenever we do these activities.

IV. Personal Application

A. Sing a praise song every day this week.

B. Remember to praise God at least once a day for how good He is or for something He has done for you or given to you.

Compliments

You look really nice!

You did a great job!

Your room looks clean and organized.

Your picture is beautiful!

What a great idea!

How did you think of that cool plan?

I love what you made!

You sure are a big help to me!

You are so kind!

What a nice way to use your talents!

That was so nice of you!

I'm impressed with your work!

You're doing a great job of listening!

Thank you for thinking of me.

You play so well!

How wonderful!

What a pleasant surprise!

You are beautiful!

You are such a great friend!

Thank you for all your help!

Criticisms

You should've combed your hair.

What kind of work is this?

Your writing is messy.

Can't you do a better job than this?

What were you thinking?

That's a silly idea.

Can't you do anything right?

Couldn't you remember to help?

You weren't being careful.

Your plan won't work.

You're mean.

Your room is so dirty.

You're always getting in trouble.