

SEEKING GOD

Memory Verse

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Central Thought

I can love God by praying and seeking Him.

Bible Story

2 Chronicles 5-7 Solomon Dedicates the Temple

OBJECT LESSON

Treasure Hunt

Materials: 2 bibles (or other objects)

1. Choose 2 kids to go out into the hallway with a teacher.
2. Hide an object in the room.
3. Give class instructions:
 - Clap if they are getting close to the object.
 - Stomp if they are far away.
 - Raise arms in the air if they need to turn left.
 - Hold arms straight out, if they need to turn to right.
4. Let the 2 volunteers enter room., one at a time. Instruct them that they have to find hidden treasure, using the signals from the class (see #3).

Seeking God is just like looking for these Bibles. He gives us clues in His Word to find Him, so we can know Him better. Or, just like you had the other kids give you clues, God places people in your life to help you – parents, teachers (school and church), friends, etc.

GAMES

The object of the following is to search for something, while blindfolded. Even though we cannot see God, just like we can't see the objects we're searching for, He wants us to seek Him in everything we do. We will find out today how do we seek God when we can't see Him.

Game 1

Materials: 1 large bowl with dry rice and paper clips, 1 blindfold

Object: Search for paperclips in bowl of rice, while blindfolded.

Game 2

Materials: Box full of Ping-Pong balls and Rubber balls hidden inside, 1 blindfold

Object: Search for a rubber ball, while blindfolded.

Game 3

Materials: Large bowl of Jell-O stirred up, marbles mixed throughout, 1 blindfold

Object: Search for a marble in the Jell-O, while blindfolded.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- I. Lost and Found vs. Buried Treasure
 - A. Lost and Found
 1. If something is lost, we will look for it.
 2. It could be something valuable or something we could live without.
 3. How long would we look for it?
 3. We may eventually find it (or we may not).
 - B. Buried Treasure
 1. A buried treasure isn't lost. Someone knows where it is, we just need directions to find it.
 2. A treasure is something valuable.
 3. If it's really important to us, we'll keep looking until we find it.
 3. God is like a buried treasure.
 - a. God is not lost.
 - b. He's given us the directions to find Him in His Word.
 - i. What directions did God give to the Israelites?
 - ii. What direction has God given us to seek Him?
- II. Loving God by Seeking Him
 - A. When we seek God we show Him we love Him.
 - B. He sees He's important and valuable enough to us to spend our time and energy seeking Him.
 - C. Ways of seeking Him
 1. Personal prayer time.
 2. Prayer over meals.
 3. Read the Bible.
 4. Participate during worship service.
 5. Other ways??
- III. Seeking God with our Body

Preparation: Diagram of each position for prayer and its meaning.

 - A. Our body can seek God, along with our spirit and our voice.
 - B. We can show God with our body, what we feel in our heart and say with our mouth.
 1. **Kneeling** shows God that we are entering into His presence or asking Him for something.
 2. **Standing** shows God that we are ready for "marching orders" and that we are waiting for Him to tell us what to do.
 3. **Uplifted Hands** show God that we are reaching toward Him in praise or welcoming Him with open arms.
 4. **Walking** shows God that we are "on the move" for Him and ready for His directions.
 5. **Bowing** shows God that we honor Him and humble ourselves to Him.
 6. **Prostrate (lying flat on face or back)** shows God that we are in awe of Him and really want Him to come and be with us.

IV. Word Connection

A. 2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

B. Who are His people? How does He know we're His people?

C. What does He tell us to do?

1. What does it mean to humble ourselves?
2. What does it mean to pray?
3. What does it mean to seek His face?
4. What does it mean to turn from our wicked ways?

D. What does He say He will do for us, if we do all 4 things He says in 2 Chronicles 7:14?

1. He gave us Jesus, so He could forgive us of our sins.
2. God will the same thing He did for the Israelites for us:
 - a. He will protect us.
 - b. He will feed us.
 - c. He will give us water.
 - d. He will guide us.
 - e. He will lead us to the Promise Land.
 - f. Anything else?

V. Personal Application

A. Choose 3 ways you're going to seek God this week.

B. Hold on to gum coin as a reminder of your commitment to seeking after God.