

Middle/High School Sunday School Lessons by

rfour.org

Year 4: *Session 9* – Review

Class 25: End-of-Year Review

CONCEPTS that will be covered in the lesson

- Review the overall objectives, concepts, and Bible stories of the year

Materials needed:

1. Video clip (available on rfour.org) of an acorn growing into a sapling
2. Electronics that show the video clip
3. Way to display list of video clips on the following Google spreadsheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bNcD7G8tTqlagTvYM3QrgJ_cD75XV13gdFFohZEytal/edit#gid=0
4. Print out and share handouts that review all lessons from this season (available for download on same page as this lesson was located)
5. Also, print out and share the handout and the end of this lesson

THE LESSON

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

- One of the things we do every class is ask and answer the opening question at the beginning of class – because it helps us 1. Learn more about each other and 2. Helps “warm us up” for some of the ideas in the upcoming lesson. So we’re going to do that now.
- So here’s the opening question for today’s class. I [the teacher] will ask the question and then to give you some time to think of an answer, I will answer first.
- Once I answer the question, we’ll go around the circle and each of us will answer.
- When it’s your turn, start with your name and then answer the question to the best of your ability.
- *Here’s this week’s question:* What’s one moment or story or conversation that you remember somewhat vividly from class this year?

TELL – things we wanted you to learn this year

- There were reasons for why we did what we did this school year and we want to highlight some of those reasons...
- We wanted you to see that the Bible stories are weird *and* interesting – even if they are sometimes hard to understand

- Although the Bible stories are old, we wanted you to see how the ideas in them and what’s happening in the stories are pretty timeless – which is why we matched them up every week with a movie clip – to help illustrate how the ideas in the Bible stories are still being included in the modern stories we tell today.
- We wanted you to practice linking the ideas in the Bible stories to your own everyday lives. This is a type of analytical thinking and it is why the opening question was meant to relate to both our own lives and to the lesson/scripture story for the day.
- We, the teachers, wanted all of us to get to know each other better and even trust one another. Which is why we had the opening question that was about our lives and also why (when we had time for them) the activities were mostly built around some sort of challenge – because working together helps us get familiar with each other and trust each other a little bit more.
 - We’ve very much enjoyed spending this year with you and getting to know you better and thank you for all the ways in which you’ve made the class fun and interesting and educational.
- Speaking of educational – there were two main themes that we looked at this year:
 - First, we saw many instances of what to expect when a person paid attention to God or did not pay attention to God.
 - We saw characters experience greater **freedoms** (the Israelites freedom from Egypt, King David dancing), **healing** (Naaman, Good Samaritan), **belonging** (Zacchaeus, the woman at the well), **forgiveness** (Zacchaeus again, Saul, the younger son in the Prodigal Son), and **healthier lives** (Daniel’s diet, Peter’s vision).
 - And then, we saw that those people then wanted to share what they had learned with others when they paid attention to God.
 - For the characters who did **not** pay attention to God, we saw Cain **killing** his brother, the Israelites **killing** each other because of the golden calf, or **dying** from eating too much quail, or **wandering** in the wilderness for 40 years, Peter **interrupting** and **sinking** and **arguing**. In other words, when people weren’t paying attention to God, then they experienced an increase of violence, confusion, and discord in their lives.
 - Second, we then looked at a number of stories that show that we are changed / transformed when we pay attention to God. We see Jesus transfigured, Saul’s conversion, and Peter transition from mistaken student to confident teacher. We also saw how the woman at the well, an outsider in her town, convinced her entire town to listen to Jesus. We saw Zacchaeus promise to give away half of his possessions. We saw Levi leave his work and follow Jesus.
 - Now change is not always welcome, which is why we first looked at what we can expect to experience when we pay attention to God vs when we don’t pay attention to God – because those outcomes are information that we can use to help us make a more informed decision about why we’d choose to make a concerted effort to pay attention to God or not pay attention to God.
- As a way of summarizing in a symbolic way what we covered this past year, let’s watch the following video clip of an acorn becoming an oak tree (it’s in sped-up time, of course)

Watch Video Clip

ASK/TELL

- Simple question with obvious answer: What does the acorn become?
- But – in order for the acorn to become the oak tree, did the acorn get to stay as an acorn?

- Or, asked in another way, if we dug up any oak tree, do you think we would find that one acorn that still intact at the bottom of the tree? (nope! In the video, we see the shell split and then the inside of it splits, too and then it grows into something else).
- The same thing is true for us when we pay attention to God – we are changed in a way that is bigger and better than the wonderful acorns that we already are
- Now, since we might like being acorns, then the idea of being transformed may not be very enticing – that’s understandable – which is why we talked so much about stories this year that helped us to see what some of the positives were to making the choice to pay attention to God and what some of the negatives were to not paying attention to God.
- Again, this is not to pressure you in *any way* but to simply help you better understand what you would be choosing if you chose to make a commitment to paying attention to God.

TRANSITION TO REVIEW ACTIVITY

- So those are the reasons for why we did what we did and read what we read and discussed what we discussed this year.
- It was a really good year and we, the teachers, thank you for making it such a great year.
- For the rest of class, then, we thought we’d review some of the stories that we read and discussed this year
- We thought we’d do this by:
 - *Optional:* Doing a speed-reading of all 24 lessons based on this handout I’m about to give you
 - *For sure:* By rewatching some of the movie clips that we watched in class.
 - And then, we’ll try to match the movie clip with its associated Bible story and lesson.
 - I’m going to pass out a handout that reviews all the lessons we discussed. That’s something you can take home with you
 - I’m also going to pass out a printout of the spreadsheet I’ll be using that has the descriptions of the classes to match up with the video clips that we watch.

Link to do activity

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bNcD7G8tTqlagTvYM3QrgJ_cD75XV13gdFFohZEytal/edit#gid=0

DO ACTIVITY

Conclusion

- Thank you for a wonderful year
- We hope to see you in worship during the summer
- And we look forward to seeing you next fall!

CLOSING PRAYER

Handout to go with Video Activity

Bible Story Summary

(which of the following matches the video clip we're watching)

A. Moses feels the weight and stress of leadership. God tells him to not go it alone, but to ask other leaders in the community to help out with the problems Moses is facing.

B. The serpent tells Adam and Eve that if they eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil then they will be like God. But it turns out that Adam and Eve weren't made to be like God, but to be with God. By being like God, Adam and Eve fall short and start blaming each other.

C. Mary is told that she's pregnant and though it is good news, it is also very scary news

D. The Israelites want to eat like they did when they were in Egypt. So they complain to Moses. Moses talks to God. God sends some quail. But the Israelites eat way too much of this good thing and a number of them die.

E. What is Jesus' identity? That's exactly the question Jesus wants his disciples to answer when he asks them who they think he is.

F. Jesus goes up a mountain to pray with a few of his disciples and is transfigured -- his clothes turn bright white and he can see and hear more than usual

G. Peter has a vision where he is told to not call "unclean" that which God calls "clean." This is a hard thing for Peter to choose between: What he's always been told and what God is telling him. Peter chooses to listen to God.

H. Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents to help us think about how our understanding of who God has some bearing on how we act -- which is why the third servant, who does not trust his boss, buries the talent he was given.

I. Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan to clearly illustrate that there are no loopholes to loving your neighbor. Your neighbor isn't just someone who is close to you or near to you or like you. Your neighbor is 1. Everyone and 2. Those who need help

J. When Peter sees Jesus walking on water, Peter wants to do like his teacher and DOES ... until he loses focus and sinks into the sea (which is a symbol for what!? chaos!)