

Three easy steps for an at-home experience!



BIG IDEA: WE GIVE

In this lesson, Jesus teaches us to give to the needy. (Note, the passage says, "When you give" not "If you give"). But he goes even further to teach us the right way to give. We give to help others and to honor God, not to bring attention to ourselves. We give, expecting nothing in return. When we follow Jesus, we give to the needy because we love God and we love others.



STEP ONE: READ THE BIBLE STORY

Matthew 6:1-4 in the NIV Bible.

Our story is not found in the Read With Me Bible.

STEP TWO:

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO

Available at youtube.com/eastviewkids

Life with Jesus - Week 4



STEP THREE: CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

FOR ALL KIDS: Who Is on the Throne?

Materials: Chair, items that represent stuff your family loves (stuffed animal, TV remote, video game, food item, etc.)

This object lesson will help your family to understand that, when they fill their lives with "stuff," there is little room for Jesus.

The chair represents Jesus' throne in our hearts. Right now, the chair is clear, and Jesus can sit freely in the chair. But what happens when we clutter our hearts with other things?

Pull out your items one-by-one and place them on the chair. Explain that it is OK to have things like this, but when these things become so important to us that we want more and more for ourselves, eventually there is no room on the chair--no room for Jesus in our hearts.

Jesus wants us to put Him first in our hearts. We can do this by remembering that these toys and things are temporary--they will not last. And we can do this by being generous to others--by sharing and by using our money to buy things for others and not always for ourselves.

Ask family members to give you one idea of how to be generous to another person. With each idea, take an item off the chair. When it is empty, remind the kids that we need to be sure to keep Jesus on the throne of our heart!



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FOR ALL KIDS: Growing Gifts

Materials: Two bags of microwave popcorn, small bowls

Preparation: Open and empty the kernels from one of the popcorn bags into a bowl. Pop the other bag of popcorn. Show your family the bowl of unpopped popcorn kernels. Ask what happens to these kernels when they get heated. They pop and they get bigger! How many bowls would we fill up if we popped these kernels? Have family members make predictions.

Explain that God can take our gifts, no matter what size, and multiply them! Even if we only have a small amount to give, God can make it bigger!

Now, let's see if the predictions are correct. Open the popped bag of popcorn and pour the popcorn into the extra bowls. Compare these bowls to the bowl of unpopped kernels.

Wow! That sure looks like a lot more! God can grow our gifts, just like this popcorn grew and grew!

Share the popcorn while you think of ways to give to others.



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