

PUTTING OFF THE OLD SELF

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 4:22 – 5:2



The STORY

Read about putting on the new self in Ephesians 4:22 – 5:2. Please feel the freedom to explain difficult words for the children by adding a second simpler word that is easier to understand. For example, you might say sinful talk instead of corrupting talk.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What does it mean to put off your old self? (Our old self is our sinful actions against God. When we put off our sinful lives we are committing to follow God and what the Bible teaches us.)
- What are some of the examples of putting off the old self Paul gives us in this passage? (We should not lie but speak truth, not be angry but kind and forgiving, not steal but engage in hard work, etc.)
- What does the new self look like? (The new self is created to look like God; not to be God but to reflect His character.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a man pushing away his twin who is wearing rags and tempting him with gold. Engage the children by asking:

- Which of the men in the story is the "old self" and which is the "new self?" (The old self is the one with the gold and old rags for clothes.)
- What is the old self doing to the new self? (The old self is trying to tempt the new self back into the riches of the world.)
- What is the new self doing to the old self? (The new self is pushing away the old self because he wants to follow God and find his riches in God.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What has God done for us to show us His love? (The children may say family, or toys or other temporal items. Keep asking them “What did He give that is greater than that?” until they mention Christ and His sacrifice.)
- Why does Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross show us God’s love? (Jesus died for us while we were still enemies of God going our own sinful way. He didn’t have to die for us but He did so freely even though we did not deserve it.)
- Why should Jesus’ love help us to love others? (Jesus not only died on the cross as an expression of love, but He took the penalty for our sin upon Himself. Those who believe in Him are forgiven and are given the power by God to live righteous lives. Those who live for Jesus can do good things because of what Jesus has done for them. This special power to not sin is given to us as a free gift that we do not deserve and it is God’s grace to us.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

In Ephesians 5:1-2 Paul gives us the motivation for living a changed life. He tells us to “walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

We are called to put away anger, jealousy, bitterness, stealing and a host of other sins because of what Jesus has done. While we were yet sinners and enemies of God, Jesus died for us! What an example to us of how to love others. What is more, Jesus didn’t just die for sinners in general; he died specifically for me and for you! On top of that, His sacrifice to offer Himself up for the payment of our sins was accepted by God and is sufficient to take away all our sins. So, our motive for doing good is based most importantly on what Jesus did for us.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.