

CITY SG – September 30 – October 2, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Just the Way You Are (A Tree and Its Fruit) • *Luke 6:43-45 (John 15:1-17)*

Today's Bottom Line: Be truthful with your whole life.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Anyone who lives without blame walks away safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.* Proverbs 10:9 (NirV)

1. The Fruit of My Tree

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Fruit of My Tree" Page (one per kid), Red, green and yellow markers or crayons (10 of each color per bin), more markers of all colors

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Fruit of My Tree" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers.
- Direct the kids to write their name on the trunk of the tree and only color the trunk and the tree around the fruits.
 - NOTE: Don't color inside the fruit!
- Together, read the Bible verse out loud at the bottom of the "Fruit of My Tree" Activity Page.
- Ask:
 - According to these verses, what kind of fruit does a good tree produce? What kind of fruit does a bad tree produce?
 - What does this have to do with integrity? (*Share that integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.*)
- Say, "This tree represents you! Jesus wants us to stay connected to Him so we will grow good fruit!"
- Pass out the red, green and yellow crayons or markers.
- One at a time, read the numbers below and the good choice that goes with it out loud.
- Instruct the kids to color the fruit to indicate how often they do the action you call out.
 - If the action is something they do all the time, instruct the kids to color the corresponding numbered fruit **green**.
 - If the action is something they do sometimes, direct the kids to color the corresponding number **yellow**.
 - If the action you call out is something they don't do, direct the kids to color that corresponding number **red**.
- Reinforce that everyone will have a mixture of all three colors and that's okay!
- Good Choices:
 1. I read or listen to my Bible every day.
 2. I pray to God.
 3. I go to church.
 4. I have friends who encourage me to make good decisions.
 5. I talk to my family about God.
 6. I make good choices.
 7. I listen to the Bible story.
 8. I tell my friends what I learn about God.
 9. I tell the truth.
 10. I tell God that I'm sorry when I make a mistake.
- Tell the kids to hang this at home. Remind them that the green and yellow reminds them that they are trying to follow God and make better choices.

2. Steering to the Choices

Application Activity

What You Need: “Probably Yes” and “Probably Not” sheets (1-2 sets per group), and blue wall tape

What You Do:

- Tape the two pages on opposite sides of your space.
- Stand in the middle of your space.
- Instruct the kids to line up in the center of your space around you.
- Point out the “PROBABLY YES” and the “PROBABLY NOT” signs.
- One by one, share the situations below.
- If a kid’s answer is “PROBABLY YES,” instruct them to run to the side of the space with that page.
- If their answer is “PROBABLY NOT,” they will run to that page.
- After the kids have run to their destinations, direct them to come back to you.
- Read the next situation.
- Continue until all of the situations have been read. (Feel free to add more situations or change the way they travel (walking, skipping, crawling, etc!))
- Situations:
 - Instead of sneaking candy while dinner is cooked, I’ll wait and eat the nutritious meal.
 - I see some toys on the floor in the living room, and I pick them up without being asked.
 - I wait quietly to ask a grown-up a question while they’re talking to someone else.
 - A player from the other team was having trouble, but I still said, “Good try!”
 - My school teacher seemed a little sad, so I colored a cheerful picture for her.
 - A classmate was having trouble making a good decision, so I shared a Bible verse with them.
 - My neighbor who is younger than me didn’t have anyone to play with, so I played with them.
 - A classmate forgot their pencil, so I shared an extra one I had.
 - There is a kid I don’t like very much, but I still pray for them.
 - I wanted to play video games after dinner, but I helped clean the dishes instead.
- Remind your group it’s important to remember that, even when it’s hard, the choices we make can show others the love of Jesus.

3. Memory Verse Motions

Memory Verse Review

What You Need: Nothing

What You Do:

- Remind the kids of this month’s memory verse and say it together a few times, “*Anyone who lives without blame walks away safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.*” Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)
- Break the verse up into sections and come up with motions to the verse as a group.
 - Alternate option: Divide kids into smaller groups and give them a section of the verse to make up motions for. They can teach the group their section, then put them altogether.
- Practice the verse a few times together with the motions.
- Say, “When we make wise choices that honor God and others, it’s like taking a safe path. But when we’re dishonest with our words or actions, it’s like getting stuck on an unsafe, crooked path.”
- Ask, “Which path would you rather travel on and why?” (*Invite responses.*)

4. Pray

- “Dear God, we love You. Thank You for Jesus and that we can follow Him each day. Please help us spend time this week practicing these faith skills so we can make choices that honor You. We know we can’t live with integrity on our own. We need Your help to be truthful with our whole lives. Thank You for Your promise to be with us and help us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their parents the “Fruit of My Tree” page and let the parents know that today we talked about how following God can help them make better choices.