

OBJECTIVE:

In the third lesson covering Psalm 23, the kids will learn that God's love will follow them all of the days of their lives and that only through Jesus will they be both contented and blessed.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing me to teach me more about you! Help me to concentrate and understand while my parents teach me. Amen.

Note encourage your children to pray on their own.

KEY VERSE

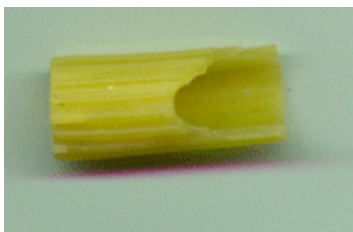
"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." NIV psalm 23:5-6

OBJECT LESSON

SWEETNESS OF JESUS

It is much easier for a Christian to handle the pressures of this world when they have the sweetness of Jesus inside.

Dried noodle (hollow type)
Box of raisins



Broken noodle

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will take one noodle and one raisin and demonstrate that the noodle, when smacked with the palm of your hand will crumble into many pieces, unlike the raisin. You will compare the noodle to someone who does not know Jesus, easily crushed by worldly pressures, and the raisin to a Christian who can handle what comes because they have the sweetness of Jesus inside. You can also use other dried fruits if available. After the lesson, the kids can enjoy eating a small handful of raisins.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

What is the difference between this dried noodle and this raisin? This raisin has something the noodle does not. Do you know what it is? It is fruit sugar, or fructose. It was in the grape before it became a raisin. Because of the sweetness inside, this raisin tastes great. Like other dried fruits, such as dried apricots, dried apples, and fruit roll-ups. This raisin is like a Christian who has the sweetness of Jesus inside. When things become difficult, like a tough test at school, or getting lost at the mall, it is much easier for a Christian, because they have the sweetness of Jesus inside. Someone without Jesus is more like this noodle, hard and brittle. When the pressures of the world come, (smack the noodle with the palm of your hand) someone without Jesus might break into many pieces. You do not want to be a noodle. Besides, raisins are much tastier. Let's have some.

Share the following verse while eating:



2 Corinthians 4: 8-10. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed. Perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

INTRODUCTION

During the past two weeks, we have learned how God provides for and protects us. He knows what we need and He gives it to us. He knows that we are surrounded by enemies, so He saves us from harm and gives us courage. Today, we will learn about God's wonderful love and generosity.

Definition: Have one volunteer look up the word **ANOINT** in a Bible dictionary and read the entry aloud to the class. Point out that when David says "You anoint my head with oil," he is describing how he was set apart to worship and praise God, and how God healed him from the pressures of the world.

SCRIPTURE READING AND STORY

Psalm 23:5-6

After the reading, let your child pick out/write down the difficult words in the passage. Now help them with the meaning and context of those words.

Cathy's First Car

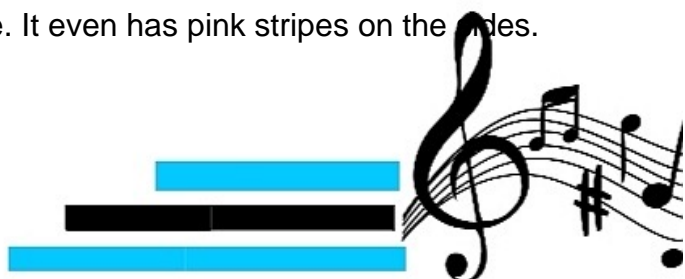
The day finally came for Cathy to buy her first car, so she asked her best friend to go with her to the car dealership. After looking around for a while, the young women walked over to a salesperson and asked to be shown some of the used cars.

Salesperson: We have some great used cars, but wouldn't you rather have a brand new one? We have a really good sale on this cool red convertible over here. It's cheap, but very chic.

Cathy: Yes, it is really nice. But I don't want to spend too much money on a car.

Salesperson: Well, if you insist. Let's go to the used car lot and see if you can find something you like.

Cathy: Look at that one over there. It's kind of cute. It even has pink stripes on the sides.



Jessica: What! Cathy, I don't even think that one is for sale. It looks too old to run.

Salesperson: Oh no, it is for sale. It has almost 100,000 miles on it, but it runs pretty good. It was once owned by an old lady that only drove it to church until she passed away. Would you like to give it a test drive?

Cathy: Oh yes! I'm so excited. Let's go Jessica.

Jessica: Well, you're right. It is kind of cute, and it has a radio and air conditioner. But I think you'll need new tires.

Cathy: With the price of this car, I can afford new tires too.

Jessica: Cathy, I'm curious. Why do you like this one? I'm sure your parents would help you pay for a much better and newer car.

Cathy: Yes, they would help me, but I want to do this on my own. You see, if I get an expensive new car, it would be a burden for my parents, and for me. I would have to spend my time working more just to pay for it. And the cost for insurance would be higher. I would like to be able to buy other things too.

Jessica: Like what? What's better than a cool car?

Cathy: For starters, I would like to do some traveling with my youth group, attending camping trips and choir tours. That costs money you know. I just need a car that will get me where I need to go.

Jessica: Oh! okay, I understand. But pink stripes on the side, give me one good reason for that!

Cathy: Sure, you know how hard it is sometimes to find your car parked in a parking lot at the mall. Well, with pink stripes, I'll be able to find it right way!

Salesperson: Well, it sounds like you made up your mind. Let's go and write it up.

Discussion

1. Who do you feel felt the most fulfilled, Tommy or Cathy?
2. Which child could most easily say, "my cup overflows with joy"?
3. Who showed the most strength to be able to resist temptation?
4. Who or what was the enemy in Tommy's situation?
5. If each child was following his or her heart, how were his or her hearts different?

True wealth is not having bigger, better, or more expensive things. Instead, it is contentment that only comes from knowing you are following the will of God. The Bible says, **"The blessings of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it."** (Proverbs 10: 22)



APPLICATION

David saw God as a true friend and savior in the presence of many enemies. God treated him specially by preparing a banquet for him and by pouring precious oil on his head as if he were an honored guest. David saw his cup overflowing with the blessings of the Good Shepherd.

Seeking only the things of this world can leave us with an empty feeling. We anxiously grab whatever looks nice, or what will make us feel good, or taste good, but we only want more and more. In the long run we still feel empty and never really satisfied. The things of this world leave us unfulfilled. However, we can be filled with the Love of God and by accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. When we let Him be our Good Shepherd, He will fill us with many blessings until our cup overflows, forever and ever.

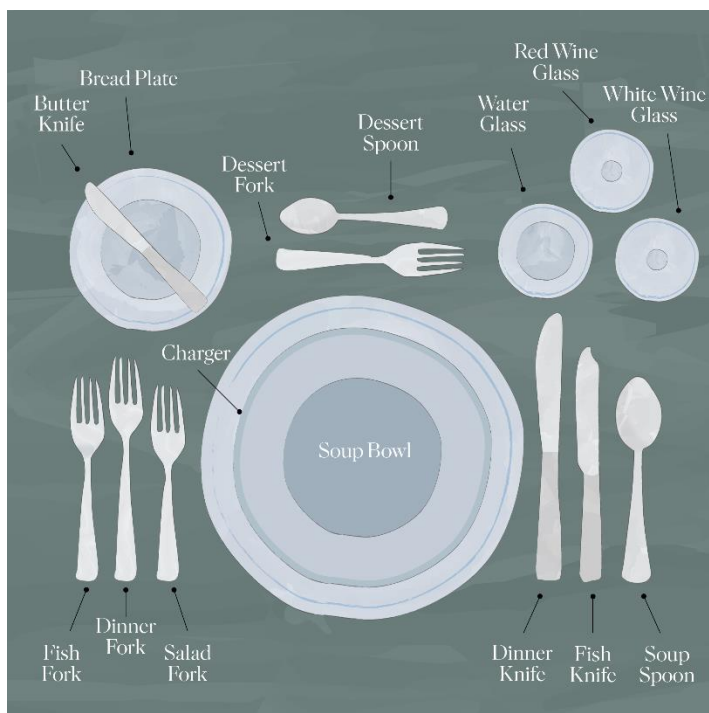
CREATIVITY BOX

You can suggest your child to draw whatever they understood from the Bible passage and the story they heard today.

ACTIVITY:

Prepare Me a Table

The children must be able to set the table at home with the cutlery and crockery available at home.



MEMORY VERSE:

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" John 14:2 NIV.

DISCUSSION:

1. After you eat from a table prepared with lots of good food and drink, do you feel full or empty? (*Full.*)
2. Who prepared the table for David and where was it prepared? (*God, in the presence of his enemies.*)
3. How would a table prepared by God be different than a normal supper table? (*Allow for discussion.*)
4. What else did God do for David? (*Anointed his head with oil.*)
5. What blessings can follow you all the days of your life? (*Jesus, Heaven, contentment, hope, family, etc.*)
6. How long can we live in God's house? (*Forever.*)
7. How can seeking only the things of this world leave us with an empty feeling? (*Allow for answers.*)

CLOSING PRAYER

