

LIVING A FRUITFUL LIFE

LESSON 3: PERSEVERANCE

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After completing this lesson, the children will understand that some things in life take time and extra effort, but Jesus gives us all the help we need, even special people to care for us.

TOPICS

Fruitfulness, Perseverance

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:4 NIV

Before memorizing this verse, take some time to discuss the key words: perseverance, mature, complete, and not lacking.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Show a bag of fig bars to the kids. Everyone knows what these are right? Not cookies, fruit and cake as the commercial says. Actually, these are filled with a fruit called fig. You have probably never seen a fig tree. And most likely the only time you ate a fig was in one of these fig bars. But in Jesus' time, people ate a lot of figs, which is important to know because good figs are hard to grow. Most fruit trees bear fruit every year with very little care, but the fig tree may take years before it produces any figs. And for the figs to taste good, it takes extra effort, fertilizer and tender care. Before we eat these fig bars, let's read about one poor fig tree.

Read Luke 13:6-9 (Parable of the Fig Tree)

Have two volunteers read this short parable. One child will be the owner and the other the caretaker. After the discussion questions, give each child a few fig bars to enjoy.

Discussion Questions:

1. How long did the fig tree owner wait to see figs growing on his tree? *(Three years.)*
2. What did the caretaker say he would do to help the tree grow figs? *(Dig around it and fertilize it.)*
3. Can you name some things in your life that are difficult and require perseverance? *(School work, chores, younger brother or sister.)*
4. What are the results of perseverance? *(Usually perseverance results in achieving the goal and more satisfaction for a job well done.)*
5. Do you think there were good figs on the tree the next year? Why? *(Allow for discussion.)*

CLASS EXERCISE (4 minutes)

Sharpening Rough Edges (See Video)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

Restore Me (See page 2)

APPLICATION (4 minutes)

It is difficult to learn how to live on your own. That is why we have teachers and parents. Imagine what it would be like if when you were five years old, your mom and dad said, "We're done, you're on your own now." What would you do? Your parents know what it means to persevere. That's why they make sure you're ready to be on your own before they let you go. Things aren't always easy. But the more difficult something is, the more you can appreciate the accomplishment. Weren't those fig bars good?

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

RESTORE ME

The children will view earthly examples of restoration to learn about spiritual restoration.

TOPICS:

God's Restoration, Forgiveness, Sin, Salvation

MATERIALS:

Pictures from the internet.
Scissors, tape/magnets
Dry erase board with markers

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Search the internet for things that have been restored (such as cars, homes, paintings, etc.) and print the before/after pictures. Be sure to print the pictures big enough so several children can view each one at the same time. Then cut out the pictures and use the tape or magnets to affix the "before" pictures to the dry erase board (leaving room below each picture for the children to write). Then compile the "after" pictures to show the class at the end of the activity.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

As the children arrive, ask them to view the pictures and use a dry erase marker to write one descriptive word (adjective) below each picture. You may need to help the children come up with words (such as old, ugly, broken, rusty, nasty, etc.).

Application:

Read the words below each picture. Then reveal the "after" pictures of each item and ask for new descriptive words (such as new, beautiful, fixed, shiny, etc.). Explain to the class that anytime something that is worn or broken is fixed, we call it "restored." Restoration isn't easy! It takes time, effort, and dedication. And, here's the tough part – we are more like these "before" pictures than the "after" pictures because of sin. Sin separates us from God and leads to death, but the Bible tells us that when we believe in Jesus and turn away from our sins, God will forgive us and begin restoring our hearts to become even more beautiful than these examples! So, even though our physical bodies will still die one day, we will gain spiritual life and be with God forever as the perfect, beautiful creations He made us to be. Our hearts and souls will be restored to God! If you would like to know about believing in Jesus, let's talk today about how you can receive salvation and begin experiencing God's restoration.

