

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 12. **ALL GOOD GIFTS**

- Purpose:
- a) To teach the child that the world and all that's in it is a gift.
 - b) To create an awareness that gifts need to be taken care of, used, and shared.
 - c) To allow the child to realize that there are many ways to say "Thank you" for gifts we've been given.
 - d) To teach the child that all good gifts come from God.

Material: A puppet
A gift for each child (animal crackers, for example)
A banana

- Presentation:
- 1) The puppet is used for the entire discussion. The following is an example of the conversation. Lots of adlibbing makes it more interesting. The puppet, for this demonstration, is a monkey.
 - 2) Ask the children if they remember on what day God made this animal. (Answer: the 6th.)
 - 3) Ask them if they remember what Adam named this animal.

Monkey: Squeak, squeak!

Teacher: Who called you a monkey? Why, Adam did!

Monkey: Squeak.

Teacher: Of course, I understand...We'll call you "Harry," if you'd rather.

Monkey: Squeak, etc. (interspersed in the conversation).

Teacher: (Carries on a one-sided conversation, the gist of which is as follows.)

We're going to talk about gifts, today Harry.
What would you like for a gift?
A banana?
(Teacher holds up a banana.)

Where did this gift come from, Harry?
No, no, not from me. I didn't make it. I mean,

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Who made it?...Where did it come from, originally?
The store? Well, I did get it from there, but they didn't make it, either!
From a tree? Yes!!
But who made the tree?

(Harry doesn't know. The teacher asks the children):

"Harry doesn't know who made the trees on the Third Day of Creation.
Can you help him?"

(Hopefully, they'll say "God.")

Right! God made the trees. So, God made the banana.
Can you say "Thank you" to God, Harry?

(Harry shakes his head "no.")

Why not? God understands you even better than I do.
Oh, you don't want to say "Thank you"...
You want to hug a "Thank you"?

It's OK, Harry. You can give God a hug...
Oh...you don't know how to give God a hug?

Do you remember how you felt the last time you hugged me?
Well, just think about all those warm, apple pie, pepperminty thoughts
and God. Then God will have His hug!

(At this point, Harry thinks a bit. Then he gives the teacher a hug,
too...one the children can see.)

Why, thank you, Harry! You gave me a hug, too!
Tell me, Harry, if I had given you this banana and you had thrown it on
the floor and stomped all over it, would that be saying "Thank you"?

(Harry shakes his head, "no.")

How about if you weren't hungry and ve-r-r-ry carefully put it on a shelf
until later?

(Harry nods his head "yes." Then he makes some more noises.)

What's that, Harry?

(Harry is asking a question.)

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Do all good things come from God?
Yes!!

Even houses?

Well, some houses are made of wood and wood comes from trees,
and God made the trees...

And some houses are made from brick and brick comes from things of
the earth and God made the earth...and everything on it...

So, yes, even houses!

What's that, Harry?

How about hugs? Well, I know that you gave me the hug...
but God made you.

All good things come from God, Harry.

So, if I gave you a kiss, would that come from God?

(Harry nods "yes.")

How about if I got angry and called you mean things...Would that
come from God?

(Harry shakes "no.")

Well, right now I'm going to give you a kiss...and I want you to say
"Thank you" by taking very good care of it and using it, OK?

What? You don't know how to use it?

Why, if someone smiles at you,
don't you use that smile by smiling back?

If it's a great big beautiful smile, you've take very good car of it!!

(At this point, the teacher asks the children, "How can Harry take care
of and use the kiss I've given him? If they don't know, the teacher
whispers in Harry's ear. If the do know, Harry simply follows their
advice. Either way, Harry goes around and kisses every one of them.)

Activity: Just before the children are ready to leave, the teacher should talk
about animal crackers. If she were to give them to the children, they
could use them by eating them...and giving some to someone who
doesn't have any. As they leave, each child is give an animal cracker
box. And is prompted to say, "Thank you."