

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 13. **THE BEST GIFTS**

- Purpose:
- a) To allow the child to realize that the best gifts are “giving of self.”
 - b) That these gifts can be expressed in many ways.
 - c) That all these gifts must be “taken out of the darkness and brought into the light.”
 - d) That they all have one thing in common: love.

Materials: (The following material should be saved for a later lesson. See “Beginnings” on page 16.)

One large box (decorated with many stickers from “The Children of the World” series)

Many smaller, brightly wrapped gift boxes inside the big box. (Wrap only the lids, so the top of each box can be lifted off without disturbing the wrapping.)

A picture inside each gift box, depicting one of the following ideas:

sharing
friendship
caring
hugs
kisses
helpfulness
etc.

On each picture is a red heart.

Lots of extra red hearts.

- Presentation:
- 1) Show the children the large box with stickers on it and ask them if they remember that there are many different kinds of people in the world.
 - 2) Tell them that inside of each of these people are many wonderful gifts.
 - 3) Open the big box and take out one of the beautifully wrapped gifts. (For this example, the one with “hugs.”)
 - 4) Laughingly, ask the children if they have “boxes” inside of them; and assure them with “Of course not!”

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- 5) Say that you have wrapped these boxes just to remind us of gifts.
- 6) Now, hold up the gift and , without opening it, ask the children what's inside.
- 7) When they don't know, act surprised and ask them "Why not?!"
- 8) Allow the children to discover that gifts must be opened to be seen. They must be "brought out of the darkness and into the light."

(By this time, the children should be very familiar with this phrase, as it has been used for the last two months.)

- 9) Ask them if we should take this gift out of the darkness.
- 10) Open the box of "hugs."

(My box had a picture of a little girl hugging her mother.)

Ask the children what the little girl is giving to her mother.

- 11) Say that the little girl had a "hug" inside of her just waiting to come out. It was a gift, but no one knew it was there until she "gave it" to her mother.
- 12) Ask the children if they remember how to take care of that hug...and use it. (If they don't remember, remind them that we can take care of it by keeping it "very special...and can use it by giving a hug to someone else.)
- 13) Take out another gift (for example, "helpfulness").
- 14) Again, ask what's in the box.
- 15) Ask what we must do the see the gift.
- 16) Etc.
- 17) Discuss each gift, as with "hugs."

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- 18) After all the boxes have been opened, ask if anyone noticed that there was something “the same” in each gift. (Lead them into discovering the “heart.”)
- 19) Tell them that each gift was a gift of love, and things done because of love are the best gifts of all.

Activities: On the bulletin board should be a very large box, unopened and decorated simply in gold (like the gift boxes for today’s lesson). It will be opened during the next Sunday School class. If the children ask about it, tell them that is a “very special gift,” and we will see what’s in the box next Sunday.

Have the children past red hearts on the bulletin board around the beautifully, but simply, decorated gift.

As each child leaves for the day, tell him/her that you have a gift inside of you just waiting to be brought into the light. Then give he/her a real hug...or a smile...or a kiss...and tell the child to remember to take good care of it ...and use it.