



Date: _____

Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Fall Year 3, Lesson 20

Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit

Primary Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19a, 20

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19a, 20, “Don’t you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit?... You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Our children are growing in their understanding of how the world fits together and their place in it. Children need to know that their bodies and their lives do not belong to them but to God. He created them and purchased them back through the giving of his Son. Kids will grow up in a world that says, “Do whatever you want with your own body because it is your right to choose.” God’s word says differently. Since God lives in our lives, we take care of our bodies to honor him.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus’ body was offered as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Jesus did this so we would receive forgiveness and the presence of Jesus.

Jesus in us: Jesus dwells in us through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might be able to show his presence to the world.

Jesus through us: Jesus uses our bodies so that we might serve him and others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Read the following story.

A little girl, Sarah, was given a beautiful doll by her grandmother. The doll had curly brown hair, a lacy pink dress, and eyes as blue as the sky. Sarah named her doll Lucy. Sarah took care of Lucy. She made her a special blanket; she asked her grandma to make her some special clothes; and she hugged Lucy all the time.

One day she was playing with her friend, Alana. They played with their dolls for hours and hours. When it was time to go home, Alana asked Sarah if she could keep Lucy overnight so that their dolls could have a slumber party. Sarah knew that she would be back at Alana's tomorrow, so she left Lucy and her special blanket at Alana's.

Sarah got sick that night and did not make it back to Alana's for a few days. She really missed not having Lucy around when she felt bad. When Sarah looked at Lucy's smile, she always felt better.

After Sarah got better, she went right over to Alana's house to get her beloved doll. Alana came to the door and the girls raced to her room. As Sarah scanned the room she could not find Lucy!

"Where's Lucy?" Sarah asked.

Alana told Sarah a terrible thing had happened. Alana's puppy had grabbed Sarah's doll and ran to the back yard. He started to chew on Lucy when no one was looking. "I'm sorry," said Alana. "Maybe your grandma could get you a new doll."

Sarah's eyes filled with tears. "But it wouldn't be Lucy. I know it was an accident, but I trusted you with Lucy and you let your dog chew her up!"

Can we learn from this story? God did not lend us a doll, but he gave us our bodies as a gift. We are to care for them, take baths, wear neat clothes, eat good food, and get lots of rest. When we do things to dishonor our bodies like staying up late every night, not eating veggies, and not drinking milk, we dishonor God's gift.

God made each of us special and there is no one like you. We can honor God with our bodies. Today's Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 6:19-20,

"Don't you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit?...You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body."

We all have a special job that only we can do for God. We are like Lucy; there is no replacement for us. Each of us is a unique one of a kind creation from God. He loves each of us in a special way. Let's praise God and thank him.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Have kids secretly count on their fingers how many things they have done to use their bodies to dishonor God or others in the last week. (*They do not need to show anyone their count but doing this will help them tune in and listen.*) To do so, invite the children to open their right hands to the number five, then say:

For each one of the following examples of how we might use our bodies to dishonor God or others, pull one finger and tuck it away. Be honest. These are some things that we will admit to God because

he knows them anyway. When we admit them and confess them in Jesus' name, God gives us forgiveness and the power to change.

Here are the five ways we might dishonor God or others with our bodies. In this last week, did you ever...

- 1. Use your mouth to say any unkind things about another person?**
- 2. Use your hands to hit or hurt another person?**
- 3. Fail to get enough sleep or whine when your parents said it was time to go to bed?**
- 4. Eat dessert or candy before dinner so that you could not eat the nutritious meal?**
- 5. Join a group of friends that did not allow anyone else to play with them?**

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies needed: hula hoops

Interview several kids to ask them what it is they can do with their bodies to give glory to God. Invite them to think of ordinary activities they do at home or in school that, if done with thankfulness to God, can give glory to God as a living sacrifice.

Place several hula hoops on the floor up front. Invite each child to step inside the hula hoop to represent giving themselves as an offering to God. The children can also bring their offerings of money forward as they do this.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Hula Hoop Be-Bop”

Supplies needed: three hula hoops

Have the kids spread out and kneel down throughout a large room. While kneeling, they can *be-bop* (jump up) five times. While *be-bopping*, they are eligible to be lassoed by one of the three children with a hula hoop. The three children with hula hoops are trying to catch one of the *be-bop* kids who can only be captured while they are up for a *be-bop*.

After a child is captured, he must stay in the hula hoop with his captor. The two kids will try to capture another child on the next round of *be-bops*.

The large presenter indicates which kids can *be-bop* by calling out a month of the year. All kids with a birthday that month jump up to *be-bop* five times and then crouch down again. The people trying to capture the *be-boppers* within their hula hoops will have different sets of children to capture at different times.

The learning point is that God has captured our entire lives, including our bodies, since he gave the life of Jesus for us. We do not belong to ourselves, but we belong to him.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: video, The Visual Bible: Matthew, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997.

Show Matthew 8:1-22. *The Visual Bible: Matthew* will demonstrate the value Jesus has for people who may not have had much value in his culture.

After the video section, say:

First, Jesus healed a man with leprosy. Lepers were outcasts from society. Then he healed a Roman soldier's servant. Roman soldiers were despised among the Jews and a servant had no status at all. Finally, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. He restored peoples' bodies to health and cast out the demons.

At the end of this Bible passage Jesus said, "Follow me." Jesus says the same thing to us as he has redeemed our lives, our bodies, and us so that we might follow him in all that we do.

Application:

"How Much Are They Worth"

Supplies needed: candy, costumes for a doctor, movie star, sports figure, and a disabled child

Present the interactive drama below:

How Much Are They Worth Interactive Drama

Using some costume props, pull four children from the audience. Give the children identities as described below. Ask the children in the audience to pretend they are determining the most valuable of these volunteers by how much money they would pay for them if they were for sale.

Rather than distributing paper play money for them to bid, give each child a small piece of candy. The candy represents one thousand dollars. Tell the children not to eat the candy. After listening to the presentation of the characters, the children will place the candy by the person they count the most valuable. Later, the kids will divide and eat the candy.

Introduce the following characters.

Donny, the Doctor – Donny is a young man who has gone to college and medical school for years and years. He has learned all about how to heal sick people. Now he helps a hundred people a week get better. He also makes a lot of money and helps other people by sharing his money with them.

Mary, the Movie Star – Mary makes millions of dollars while she entertains people and inspires them through her wonderful movies. Everyone knows her and she is very famous. Is she more valuable than Donny the Doctor?

Sammy, the Sports Figure – Sammy is a professional baseball player. He has hit more home runs than anyone else. He is making new records in baseball history. Millions of people clap for him because he has done what very few people can do. How valuable do you think Sammy the Sports Figure is?

Katie, the Cripple – Katie was in a car accident when she was four. Since then she has been in a wheelchair. She has not been able to use her legs or arms. She can only speak a few words and needs constant care. How much do you think she is worth?

Let all children vote by coming forward to place a piece of candy at the foot of the person who they think is most important. Ask a few children why they voted for who they did.

Then ask,

Where do you think Jesus would spend his money?

Allow some discussion. Help the kids understand how God sees our value on who we are and not by what we do.

The truth is that Jesus will not spend money to help any of these people. He will spend something much more important.

Read 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

“Realize that you weren’t set free...by a payment of silver or gold which can be destroyed. Rather, the payment that freed you was the precious blood of Christ...”

Read 1Corinthians 6:19, 20, which describes how we were bought with a price.

“Don’t you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you. You don’t belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body.”

Our bodies, no matter what condition they are in, can be used by God to give glory to him. God can use all of us to make a difference.

Tell the story of Joni Erikson Tada who was injured and lives in a wheelchair. Italicized below are several paragraphs from the website www.joniandfriends.org.

A diving accident in 1967 left Mrs. Tada a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, unable to use her hands. During two years of rehabilitation, she spent long months learning how to paint with a brush between her teeth. Her high detail fine art paintings and prints are sought after and collected.

Due to her best-selling books, beginning with her autobiography, *Joni*, as well as having visited 35 countries, Joni's first name is recognized around the world. World Wide Pictures' full-length feature film, JONI, in which Mrs. Tada recreated her own life, has been translated into 15 languages and has been shown in scores of countries around the world.

The only thing she could move was her head. She painted pictures with a brush in her teeth. As she learned more about how to trust and depend on God, she began to share her experiences with others. Today she reaches millions of people around the world who have come to understand, know, and trust Jesus in hard circumstances.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Invite some children to tell how they have used their bodies to help others.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chairs:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Offering:

- hula hoops

Learning Game:

- hula hoops

Bible Reading:

- *The Visual Bible: Matthew* produced by Visual Bible International, 1997

Application:

- “How Much Are They Worth”
- candy
- costumes for a doctor, movie star, sports figure, and a disabled child

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