

Topic: Proper Humanity – Gracious

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verses: “...and to those who were blind, He graciously gave sight” (Acts 7:21).

“The wicked borrow but do not repay, but the righteous is gracious and gives” (Psalm 37:21).

Focus: To be gracious means to be kind and full of generosity. We need to be gracious in all kinds of giving, even if it means we won't have as much.

Practical Application: If you have five cookies and your friend in children's meeting (or sibling at the dining table) has none, would you be willing to graciously give that friend one cookie? How about two cookies? How about three cookies (which would mean that your friend has more than you)?

Intermediate:

Verse: “But since they had nothing with which to repay, he graciously forgave them both” (Luke 7:42).

Focus: We need to be gracious in forgiving others. When someone has done something to us that makes us angry or makes us feel upset, we need to learn to forgive that person even if they do not apologize or say sorry.

Practical Application: Consider telling the story in Luke 7 about the two debtors who owed 500 denarii.

Advanced:

Verse: “But we have received...the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God” (1 Corinthians 2:12).

Focus: To be gracious is to go above and beyond being kind; it is to give up something for the sake of another. The Lord Jesus graciously gave up His life for our sake.

Practical Application: Tell the children that to be a gracious person is to be a person who gives up something for another. Consider telling the story of a man who was traveling by airplane. He was seated in first class, but when he looked to his left, he noticed there was a little girl next to him who was crying. When he asked her what was wrong, she said that her uncle was seated back in economy class and she did not want to sit next to a stranger. The man graciously gave up his first class seat and traded seats with the uncle. How is the Lord's giving up His life on our behalf an example of being gracious?