

Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-8

October Memory Verse: Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

- When you see your kids living out this verse this week, highlight that to them! Celebrate them choosing to care for and honor others.

Opening Activity: Choose one or two that seem most appropriate for your children to start the lesson. Feel free to work them into the lesson if your kids tend to get antsy and need an activity to regroup.

- Practice saying this month's memory verse together, along with other verses you have memorized. Say it in funny voices, say it as loudly or as quietly as you can, say it while standing on one foot. If your kids are writers, have them write it down on a pretty or cool piece of paper to hang in their bedroom. Come up with motions that you can do while saying the verse, too.
- Pray together as a family for any needs you or others have. Remember to thank Him for His blessings and what He is doing in your lives, too.
- One at a time, tell each of your kids what they are good at: art, sports, reading, talking, etc. Discuss how God gave them that gift to use to honor God. Brainstorm a list of ways they could honor God with their gift.

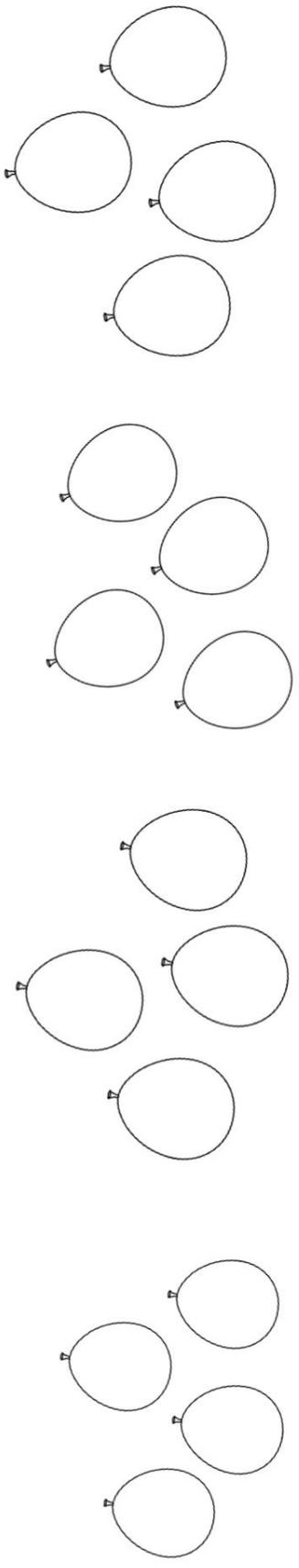
Lesson: As you teach God's word this week, remember that He is using your faithfulness to accomplish His good purposes... whether it seems like it in the moment or not! Don't lose heart and don't give up. The seeds you are planting NOW will yield fruit.

- Provide a quick recap to your kids: "We are learning from the book of Romans about how to live in a way that pleases God. Romans was written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus and wanted others to love Him, too. We have learned so many different things already, but I think it's important to remember that God cares more about our hearts than our hands. He wants us to be kind and obedient in our hearts. Jesus helps us do that!"
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading from Romans 12:1-8. This passage reminds us that we can offer ourselves to God to be used by Him."
- Read Romans 12:1-8, stopping to explain words or verses as you go. Ask questions to keep your kids engaged. Feel free to read a section, then review it using some of the notes below. You could also read from The Message or another kid-friendly translation to make it more understandable to kids.
 - *Key Concept: We can sacrificially use our gifts to serve God.*
- Review the passage.
 - Vs. 1-2
 - Paul is telling his friends to be a living sacrifice. That means whatever we do is for God.
 - One way we worship God is by living for Him – thinking about Him when we do things, talking about Him, and loving others the way He loves us.
 - As we do that, we become more like Jesus and get to know God more.
 - Vs. 3
 - We can't be prideful of who we are, though, or how we serve God.
 - God has given us faith so that we can serve Him. We didn't come up with our faith on our own!
 - Because even our faith is from God, we can serve Him humbly.
 - *If your kids don't understand pride vs. humility, talk more about it here. Give them an example of pride ("I'm the best!") and humility ("I know God has gifted me in xyz.")*
 - Vs. 4-5
 - Our bodies have lots of different pieces: heads, arms, legs, fingers, ears, etc.
 - The Bible says that all believers come together like a body, too!
 - We all have different jobs, just like our hands and feet have different jobs, too.
 - Vs. 6-8
 - God has given us different gifts so that we can do different jobs.
 - Some people are good at teaching, some are good at serving, some are good at giving, and some are good at leadership.
 - No gift is better than the other, just like our ears aren't better than our noses. They just have different jobs.

- No matter what our job is, we can use it to glorify God.
- Connect the Gospel: "When God created people, He made them good and with free will. The first people God made, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God. Now, everyone sins, too. The punishment for sin is separation from God forever. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus lived a sinless life. He died on a cross, taking the punishment for our sin. He rose to life three days later, showing that He won over sin and death. If we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He will. Then we can spend eternity with Him in heaven."
- Close the lesson: "God gives us all different gifts so that we can use them to serve Him sacrificially. Let's try and find a way to do that this week."
- Pray, then do some of the activities below, as appropriate for your family.

Activity Ideas: These are designed for use at the end of the lesson or throughout to break up the "sitting still" times. Be in tune with what your kids need in order to make this lesson the most effective for them.

- Print and color the page below to remind your kids that we're all part of God's family... even if we're all different!
- Sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes." Talk about how God created each of those body parts for a different purpose. What's the purpose of our heads? Our shoulders? Our knees? Our toes? Then talk about the purpose for each of us. What's God's purpose for your child to be in your family? What could be God's bigger purpose for him/her to be part of His eternal family?
- Make a list of how you and your child could use your gifts to serve God this week. For example, if your gift is encouraging others, you could write a note for an elderly friend and drop it off at their house with a yummy snack. Pick one or two options and make it happen!



We're all different,

but in the same family!

