

Do or Do Not

Romans 12:9-13:14

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

- As you practice the verse, think about a few ways you can live it out this week as a family.

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.
- In preparation for the lesson, get two pieces of paper. On top of one, write "DO" and on the top of the other, write "DO NOT". Set these aside for use later.

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 a long passage from Romans 12:9-13:14. This passage tells us lots of practical ways that we can love God and love other people. We're going to make a list of things we should do and things we should not do as we go."
- Read Romans 12:9-13:14. As you go, make note of each thing the passage says to do and not do on the appropriate pages you prepped earlier. You could read the passage from The Message or another kid-friendly translation to make it more understandable to kids.
 - Key Concept: God's word gives us practical things to do to show we love God and love others.

DO	DO NOT
Have sincere love	Do not lack zeal for God
Hate what is evil and cling to what is good	Do not curse people who hurt you
Be devoted to one another in brotherly love	Do not be proud
Honor one another above yourself	Do not be conceited
Keep your spiritual excitement	Do not repay evil for evil
Serve the Lord	Do not take revenge or get even
Be joyful in hope	Do not be overcome by evil
Be patient in affliction	Do not leave any debts outstanding
Be faithful in prayer	Do not think about how to sin
Share with others and practice hospitality	
Bless people who hurt you	
Rejoice and mourn with people	
Live at peace with other people	
Be careful to do what is right	
Leave room for God's wrath	
Help your enemies	
Overcome evil with good	
Submit to those in charge	
Give people what you owe them	
Put on the armor of light	
Clothe yourself with Jesus	

- Review the passage:
 - Ask, "How can we sum up what we should do?"
 - Love God and love other people
 - Ask, "How can we sum up what we should not do?"
 - Don't think about yourself all the time.
- 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 really clearly tells us what we should and shouldn't do, if we love Him. If we love God, we'll look for ways to serve Him and other people. If we don't love God, we'll only look for ways to serve or help ourselves. This week, let's look for ways we can love other people and God."
- 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.

- Read Luke 10:27 together as a family. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Talk about ways you can do that this week. Look at the "DO" list you made earlier for inspiration!
- Color the page below as a fun and relaxing activity for your kids to wrap up the lesson.

Helping Others Pleases God

