

JUSTICE

BIG IDEA

Justice is doing what is fair, moral, impartial, and right, according to God's will.

KEY VERSES

Isaiah 56:1

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 56:1

Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

This lesson is in story and discussion form. No additional materials are needed.

GAME

- Small prizes like wrapped candy
- Rope or tape for starting/finish line

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)

CRAFT: TOTE BAGS

- Paper plates, the cheap, thin kind.
- Crayons or markers
- Yarn or ribbon



JUSTICE

LESSON

An Observer was walking along one day, thinking about things, when he saw two very tall women way in the distance; they were the size of several men placed one on top of another. The Observer, as wise as he was fearful, ran to hide behind some bushes, intending to listen to their conversation. The huge women came and sat nearby, but before they could start speaking a young prince appeared. He was bleeding from one ear and shouted pleadingly towards the women:

"Justice! I want justice! He cut off my ear!"

He pointed to another boy, his younger brother, who arrived wielding a bloody sword.

"We will be delighted to give you justice, young Prince," replied the two women, "That's why we are the ladies of justice. Just choose which of the two of us you would prefer to help you."

"What's the difference?" the victim asked, "What would each of you do?"

"I," said one of the women, who looked the more weak and delicate, "will ask your brother what was the cause of his action, and I will listen to his explanation. Then I will oblige him to protect your other ear with his life, and to make you the most beautiful helmet to cover your scar and to be your ears when you need it."

"I, for my part," said the tall woman, "will not let him go unpunished for his action. I will punish him with a hundred lashes and one year of imprisonment, and he must compensate you for your pain with a thousand gold coins. And I will give you his sword and you can choose if want to wound his ear as well. What is your decision? Who do you want to apply justice for the offence?"

The Prince looked at the two women. Then he put his hand to the wound, and on touching it his face showed a look undeniable pain, anger and also affection for his brother. And in a firm voice, addressing the second of the woman he gave his answer.

"I'd want you to help me. I love my brother, but it would be unfair if he gets away with this offence without punishment."

Now, from his hiding place in the bushes, the Observer saw the second prince get his punishment.

A while passed and the Princes had left, one without an ear, the other served justice and both with anger in their hearts. The Observer was still in hiding when the least expected thing happened. In front of his eyes, the two tall women changed and took on their true forms. The first was the Heroine of Righteousness who had an eye for

JUSTICE

LESSON

lesson 3

the future; the second was the Villainess of Revenge who had an eye on the past. As they parted the Villainess of Revenge boldly announced:

"I've done it again! These simple creatures, mankind, can barely distinguish between your righteousness and my revenge. Bwahahaha! I will prepare my weapons, a new war between brothers is approaching ... ha, ha, ha, ha."

When the Villainess of Revenge had left and the Observer was trying to sneak away, the Heroine of Righteousness spoke aloud:

"Tell me, good Observer, would you have known how to choose correctly? Did you know how to distinguish between the past and the future?"

And that's how, from the very hand of the Heroine of Righteousness, the Observer learned that true justice lies in improving the future, moving it away from past wrongs, while false justice and vengeance is incapable of forgiving and forgetting past wrongs. Both choices have profound affect on the future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did the young prince choose justice in the form of revenge?

What might have happened if he chose justice in the form of righteousness?

How does revenge-justice have a focus on the past?

How does righteous-justice have a focus on the future?

Which type of justice is easier in the heat of the moment?

Which type of justice has the potential to be easier in the long run?

Where do we find examples of righteous justice?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- *Leader become very familiar with the story so you can tell it dramatically and at a good pace.*
- *Ask 3-4 of the simpler discussion questions.*

• CRAFT •

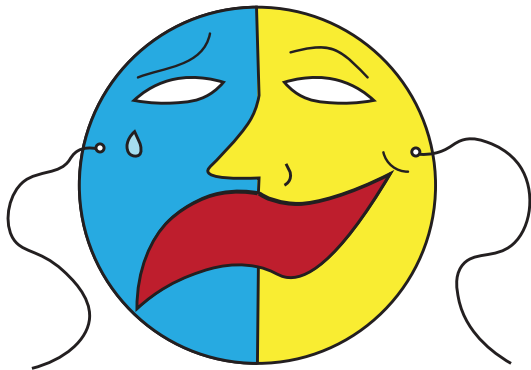
OBJECTIVE: ANGRY/HAPPY MASKS

Make two sided masks with an angry half and a happy half.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

EXAMPLE



MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Paper plates, the cheap, thin kind.
- Crayons or markers
- Yarn or ribbon

DIRECTIONS

- Color a half of the plate happy and half of the plate sad
- Cut out eye holes
- Punch a hole on the left and the right
- Tie 12" pieces of ribbon or yarn through the holes
- Place mask on face and tie in the back



• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: THE UNFAIR GAME

To help children begin to understand that fairness is essential to making games and competitions fun and interesting.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Small prizes like wrapped candy
- Rope or tape for starting/finish line

INSTRUCTIONS

There are many possible variations on this idea. The basic concept is to select a common children's game — Relay Race, 7-Up, Simon Says — and introduce a set of rules that unfairly privilege or hamper a select number of children. For example, all players with older brothers must race with their legs in a sack or on their knees or all children with brown eyes receive a head start in a race.

Do not make them too complicated but have one or more special rules which clearly alter the fairness of the game. Change the special rules each time you play to give everyone a sense of what it is like to benefit or suffer from special rules.

To reinforce the point, winning might be tied to a small prize. In the end, give everyone a prize, but as they play let them think they must rely upon the game and its rules, to gain a prize.

Discuss that while sometimes people have natural advantages or disadvantages in certain areas (size or speed for an athlete, a clear voice for a singer, etc.), it is not right for people to struggle only because the rules are stacked against them. Conclude with a discussion of the Discussion Points below.

1. Is it fair for some players to have an unfair advantage in playing for the prize?
2. Should everyone have a fair chance? Why?
3. What can you do to make sure that the rules are fair when you play a game?

