

Modelling Godly Character - fruit of the spirit

FF02

Bible Verses: Romans 5: 3-5, 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:22-23&25, Philipians 4:8, Colossians 3:12-17, James 3:17, 1 Peter 3:8-9 and 2 Peter 1:5-7.

To encourage the young people to think about what it means to model Godly character and how to make this a part of their daily lives.

Leader's notes

What sort of person are you? When people look at you what do they think? *Oh there goes.....she's a right moaner! Nothing's ever right! Does my head in!* or *'I really likehe's such a kind and thoughtful person. Nothing's ever a problem. He'd do anything to help anyone!'*

People who work in the service industries can have a great impact on us. Imagine going out for a meal. Little things matter, like the person who is serving us being friendly. If they are grumpy or abrupt it can spoil it, but if they love their job, nothing is too much trouble. It is their pleasure to talk to you about the menu and to ensure that your meal is a pleasant experience. 'Their character shines through in all that they do' they may have problems at home, a relationship problem, a worry at college etc. but this doesn't show. Their good character, the person that they are, is what comes across.

So what does it mean to model Godly character? It's not just about being nice and walking around with a cheesy grin on your face. Jesus wasn't always nice to people. There were times when He had to be really strict and harsh in tackling people's behaviour and He certainly did not shy away from this.

Godly character is about allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and to help us to develop the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23) Godly character is letting go of all the things that are not good for us which tempt us. Not an easy task by any means.

It is not about 'doing' but 'being'. It's not about 'doing' loving things or kind things; it's about having the qualities of love and kindness in our core being. Although as Mark Greene states in his book, 'Fruitfulness On The Frontline';

'...godly character will often lead to loving actions – and should. But here the emphasis is on 'modelling', on the way we come across to others, on how our character leads people to expect certain kinds of responses from us...' (p63)

It is however, about allowing the Holy Spirit to mould us and shape us into being Christ-like,

During this session, it is hoped that the young people will aspire to adopt the Fruit of the Spirit into their daily lives. It is hoped that they will decide to turn their back on the old and look forward to the new, as they seek to model Godly character on a day-to-day basis.

Go Bowling

Preparation: Using the masking tape, mark out two lines to make the bowling alley. At the end of the alley set out the different objects.

Ask each team to stand by one of the bowling alleys and give them a tennis ball per team. Explain that everyone has one go to bowl the ball down the masking tape alley and to see how many objects they can knock down. Get one of your helpers to keep score.

Depending on your numbers, you may need to divide the group and have several bowling alleys. You may want to play for fun, or introduce a competitive element.

The Point: Just For Fun

Equipment

A roll of masking tape, items to knock over – e.g. empty plastic bottles; an inflatable ball, a toy on wheels etc. – several tennis balls.

How Do We Want To Be?

Display the following Bible verses to remind the children of Godly characteristics:

‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...

(Galatians 5:22-23)

“Be gentle, kind, humble, meek and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you.”

Colossians 3:12-13

Explain any of these which the children don't understand.

Ask the children to pick one, and tell everyone why it is important to be like this.

See if they can think of times when they are not like this, e.g. when they are impatient or unkind. What difference would it make if they were patient and kind instead?

Encourage them to pray and to ask God for help to be patient, kind and to show all these other characteristics.

The Point: To encourage the children to want to model Godly character and to ask for God's help to do this.

Equipment

Bibles

Be Gentle, Kind ...

Response

5 mins

 Memory Verse

The Memory verse is:

Be gentle, kind, humble, meek and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you.

(Colossians 3: 12-14 paraphrased)

Say the memory verse altogether as a group 3 times. Then get your children to turn round so they can't see it, and see if anyone can still say it. Encourage them to have a go, even if they don't know all of it.

If necessary, let them see it, or tell them the next word each time they get stuck.

The Point: To encourage the young people to learn more about God through learning Scripture.

Equipment

The memory verse displayed so that your group can see it.
