

July Activities

Sacrifice



Activity #1 – Sharing

What You'll Need: Your time, items (treasures), Scripture relating to sacrifice

Learn

Without telling your children the plan, ask each family member to bring one prized possession (treasure) to family time. Mom and Dad included. Let everyone share what they brought and why it's important to them. Now ask everyone to pass their item to the left. Talk about what it means to sacrifice. As an example of sacrifice, you are going to "give" your treasure to the person to your left for one day (or a set amount of time such as one hour or one week).

Try to focus the discussion on the act of sacrifice and the feelings associated with giving away a treasure. If necessary, allow everyone to hold their treasure again to allow them to focus on the importance of sacrifice and the discussion.

Follow-up

This is another great activity to review previous Family Values such as respect and love. Once everyone is comfortable with their choice to sacrifice, then talk to everyone who received a treasure to make sure they understand the importance of the gift they received and that we are to treat everyone and everything with respect and love.

Activity #2 – Jar of Sacrifice

What You'll Need: A unique jar, verses written on index cards (James 2:15-15, Acts 20:35, Deuteronomy 15:10, etc.)

Prepare

Write or print the verses out, hole punch and tie them with string to the jar.

Learn

Create a family "Jar of Sacrifice." This jar is not just for change you find around the house; this jar is where chore money and birthday money can go. Nobody counts or pressures. The jar is placed in your home as a place to practice giving. When the jar is filled, gather as a family and decide how it can be used to bless others with its contents. Small sacrifices will grow into something big.

Follow-up

Maybe your family would like a non-monetary "Jar of Sacrifice." Leave small pieces of paper and a pencil by the jar for everyone to write down acts of service they are willing to perform one Saturday a month. (This may look different for each family.) The idea is everyone decides what they would like to do for someone else during their time to sacrifice. During that time, their service to others is carried out.

Activity #3 – Why Jesus' Sacrifice was Necessary

What You'll Need: Black paper, tape, powder such as cornstarch or baking soda, a long piece of paper or disposable tablecloth with "Jesus" written on it in big bold letters, a shorter piece of same paper or tablecloth, and a Bible (Exodus 3:1-6, Romans 3:23, John 14:6)

Prepare

Make a path of powder outside on concrete. Tape a piece of black paper at the end of the path.

Learn

Gather outside and read Exodus 3:1-6 (Moses taking off his shoes to walk on holy ground). In bare feet, traverse the walkway (of powder) and then place their feet on the construction paper without getting any powder on it. Discuss how the powder represents life on earth which always includes sin (Romans 3:23). The black square at the end represents holy ground, being in the presence of God. It shouldn't have even the tiniest speck of leaven on it.

Try various strategies for going through the powdered path without tracking powder onto the black paper (leap, run, jump, tiptoe). Once they determine that there was no way to walk through the powder without tracking onto the black paper at the end of the path, discuss:

- Is there any way we can get to the holy ground without making it dirty with sin?
- Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. He didn't deserve our punishment, but we are so thankful He took it.

Next, place the long piece of paper or table cloth with the word "Jesus" over the powder (sins); place the shorter piece perpendicular to form a cross. Now walk the path of Jesus which now covers our sin. We can now reach the holy ground without tracking any powder. Discuss:

- How is the cross like a bridge?
- How is Jesus' death like a bridge for us to reach God?
- Can we become holy by ourselves?
- Even though we made this paper cross and can use it to get to the clean area, we can never really make a way to get to God.

Read John 14:6. No matter how hard we try, we will always have a little sin in our lives. That's why Jesus needed to die to rescue us. He sacrificed everything for us.

Activity #4 – Serve as a Family

What You'll Need: Your time

Prepare/Learn/Follow-up

Did you know there are areas where your preteens and teens may serve alongside you? Contact a ministry such as preschool, children's, missions, etc. to see how you can serve together.