



ONE TRUE GOD

Disciples & Early Church • U4# 2 1st-3rd Gr. • Sept.29, 2024

Concept

There is only one true God who is able and faithful to meet our needs.

Goal

Students will learn that through Jesus' death on the cross we are freed to trust God for all we need so we can give to others.

Passage

1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 10:1-8

Key Verse: "... We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one." 1 Corinthians 8:4b

Planning Ahead

| Lesson Supplies | Craft Supplies |
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| <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods, Glen Keane</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground ball, 1/class Masking tape, 1 roll/class <p>Optional Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Those Foolish Israelites" worksheet, 1/student | <p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Jacks, 2 sets/room</i> <i>3 small balls</i> <i>Magazines or Sunday newspaper ad inserts</i> <i>Toy catalogues</i> <i>Construction paper, 1 sheet/student</i> Scissors Glue sticks |

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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We live in a culture that promotes the acquisition of things to achieve status, significance and fulfillment. In and of themselves things are not wrong or evil. The Bible says we are given all things, including the temporal, to enjoy. However, when we depend on them rather than God for fulfillment and significance, the result is disastrous. Some people don't have a problem with materialism but depend on people or even their intelligence for fulfillment and significance. The point is that, as fallen people, we are all prone to replace God with some type of idol/s. Are they our friends, family, money, jobs, toys, etc.? It is important for each of us to identify those idols and to see them for the counterfeit they are because they never produce what they promise. On the other hand, as we choose to depend on God for purpose, meaning and significance in our lives, He does keep His promises. He provides us with everything we need for an abundant life as we accomplish His purposes. We deny ourselves the privilege of partaking all that God has for us when we look to anything to meet a need that only God can truly meet.

In the Corinthian church "[verse] 1...The importance of the question of 'foods offered in sacrifice to idols' (eidolothuton) becomes evident when one realizes how thoroughly idolatry and pagan sacrifices permeated all levels of Greek and Roman society. Indeed, people could hardly escape contact with the pagan practices and their influence. ...Thus a considerable amount of sacrificed meat ending up in the public market, on the tables of pagan neighbors and friends, or at the pagan festivals. The problems Christians faced are obvious. Was the meat spiritually contaminated? Did the pagan god actually have an effect on the meat? Even if one did not think so, what would his participation do to his Christian brother who might have scruples about this? Though Christians today do not have to deal with this particular problem, they too must face questions of how to conduct themselves in a non-Christian society." [1] "[verse] 4...The main thing to remember in connection with such meat, Paul says, is that the idol before which it was sacrificed and the god it represents are actually nothing--that is, nothing as to personal reality and power. That he means this is clear from his statement 'There is no God but one' (cf. Deut. 6:4-9; 1 Kings 18:39; Isa 45:5).

Additional reading: Exodus 32; Daniel 3; Matthew 6:19-24, 35; Colossians 3:5; Isaiah 44:6-23; 1 Corinthians 10:6-10

[1] Frank Gaebelin, The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 10, ©1976 by Zondervan Corporation, p. 238.

Activity Stations

- **Craft -- Collage**

- **Instructions:** Using the provided ads, catalogues and magazines, have students identify and cut out pictures of things they would like to have or people they look up to. Have them glue them on a piece of paper. These will be used for the STORY.

- **Roman Games [1]**

- **Instructions:** In the days of the early church children played games much like in our day.
- **Jacks:** They played jacks using chicken wings or oxtail bones for the jacks.
- **Trigon:** Trigon is a ball game the ancient Romans played at the baths. Three players stand in corners of a large triangular area. They throw balls to each other without warning, tossing with one hand and catching balls thrown at them with the other. The goal is not to drop a ball. They didn't have rubber balls. Balls were actually sewn pieces of animal skin filled with sand, feathers, dirt, flour, or round beanbags.

[1] Laurie Carlson, Classical Kids, © 1998 by Laurie Carlson, Chicago Review Press, Inc., pp. 169-170.

Introduction Lg. Group

Can anyone tell me some of the things God promises He will provide for us? (He promises to love us, give us food, help us to love other people and to be good friends. He promises He will be our friend if we ask Him for His forgiveness, to give us work to do that will last forever.) God promises us a lot of things and he is very faithful to keep His promises. But we often forget that God is so generous and look to things or other people for the things God promises He will provide. Today we are going to learn about idols that take the place of God in our lives.

Lesson Lg. Group

Last year we learned about a man named Moses who lived thousands of years ago. What do you know about Moses? (He was put in a basket when infant so wouldn't be killed, Egyptian princess rescued & raised him, killed an Egyptian & ran away, burning bush, God made Him the leader of the Jewish people, the nation of Israel, etc.). God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. As He led them to the land He promised to give them, He provided everything they needed - food, water and guidance through the desert. They experienced the power and faithfulness of the true God. Moses went up on a mountain to meet with God and was gone a long time. Listen while I read Exodus 32:1-9 to learn what happened.

Their human leader, Moses, took too long to return and they didn't trust that God would continue to lead them and meet all their needs even if Moses wasn't with them. So they collected and melted their gold jewelry to make a statue. They trusted this statue they made rather than God who had rescued them from the Egyptians and opened the Red Sea so they could get away from the Egyptians. Isn't that crazy?!

Lesson Continued

God had rescued them, led them, protected them, and provided food and clothes for them in the desert. He had given them everything they needed. I wonder why they chose to look up to a statue that they had made rather than the one true God who made them?!!

Let's read **1 Corinthians 10:5-7**. Paul reminded the Corinthians about this incident that happened thousands of years before. You see, there were some people in the Corinthian church who were involved in idolatry but didn't think it had an effect on their relationship with God. He addressed the issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols to warn them of the danger of doing worse than just eating sacrificed meat to idols. Paul warned them not to be arrogant and think that this couldn't happen to them. He reminded them what happened to the Israelites even though they had seen so many of God's miracles. After all that, they quickly chose to forget who God was and all the things He had done.

We can clearly see how foolish the Israelites were. Certainly we would never be as foolish. But is that true? There are religions today that worship statues, animals and other objects. Some people worship Buddha, some worship nature and totem poles, some believe that crystals have power and some people even believe that they are a god. Remember our key verse, "... We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4b). This verse tells us that there is only one true God. He is not in a totem pole, or crystals, or nature. He's not Buddha or Mohammed or the president or a famous athlete or a movie star. Read 1 Corinthians 8:6 with me. God is the creator, He made the whole world and there is nothing and no one greater than He is. We exist because He created us. And He created us to be in relationship with Him. But because of our sin and rebellion against Him, we are separated from Him. His love for us is so great that Jesus came to this earth as a perfect man to die on the cross to pay for our sin and rebellion against God. When we accept that death on our behalf, we are forgiven and that relationship with the creator God is established. Then we are freed to trust to God for all that we need so we can give to others.

Transition

Gather 'round while I read Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods, Glen Keane

Instructions: Have an animated reader read the book to the class.

Transition

Let's get into small groups to make the connection between the idols of the Israelites, Adam Raccoon and us. Take the collage you made at the beginning of class.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

- Let's read 1 Corinthians 8:4. You probably don't worship a golden calf, and you're probably not tempted to participate in pagan temple worship like the Corinthians or bow down and pray to a totem pole. So does this warning have anything to do with you?
- Why do you think Adam believed he needed all the things he took on the hike? Why did he get lost? (He couldn't see in front of him.) Do you remember what Adam learned?
- Do you know your temptations? What things might you be tempted to view as idols? Anything on your collage that you might be tempted to make an idol? How about your friends, your things, your desire for people to like you?
- Now let's read 1 Corinthians 10:12. What is Paul's warning? Paul warns us not to be so arrogant to think that we can't be tempted to turn away from God.
- The problem with idols is not the actual idols, but us. We are all easily tempted to trust in idols rather than the true God. Now read 1 Corinthians 10:13. God not only wants to provide everything for us, but He is faithful and He will even provide the way out of temptation when we fall.
- If you're really honest with yourself, do you ever think that what you have makes you important, more acceptable or "better" than other people? Do you ever think that if you just had that certain thing or friend that you would be happier? Have you ever gotten that certain thing? What happened?
- Why did Adam leave his ball behind at the end of the story? (He didn't need it... knew King Aren was all that he needed.) Is there something in this story that we can apply to our lives?

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray and thank God that He is faithful and always provides for all of our needs. Let's ask Him to warn us when we are getting distracted.

Roman Ball Game

Ancient Roman children also played games with balls that resemble modern hockey or volleyball. One ball game played by many Romans involved bouncing a ball inside a circle without the other players catching it. They drew one small circle surrounded by a much larger circle (or one small square surrounded by a larger square). We will use masking tape. At least three people would stand outside the larger circle. The first one would throw the ball trying to get it to bounce inside the inner circle. If the ball bounced inside the circle and no one caught it after the bounce, then that person would get a point. The player who catches the ball on the bounce gets to throw it for a point. Players can move around the circle to distract their opponents from making good shots.

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Game – Anatomy Clumps [1]

Instruction: Players begin by milling around the room as the leader stands in the middle. After a few seconds the leader blows a whistle and yells out two things—a part of the body and a number, e.g., "Elbow! Three!" All players then rush to get into groups of whatever number was called and connect with each other whatever body part was called. After the call "Elbow! Three!," for example, players form groups of three and touch elbows with each other. The last group to correctly do this or a group of players not in a proper group is eliminated from the game and can cheer the others on. Other examples: knee (4), nose (3), ankle (6), back (2), toes (5), neck (2), shoulder (6), head (4), hips (2).

Worksheet – “Those Foolish Israelites [2]”

[1] Rice & Yaconelli, *Play It Again!*, © 1993 by Youth Specialties, Inc., Youth Specialties Books, p. 50.

[2] Adapted from Finley, *Incredible Stories Twenty Active Bible Lessons for Your 8-12 Year Olds*, © 1991 by Youth Specialties, Inc., "Calf?, What Calf?," p. 39.