

What does the Bible say about being good

Youth Session



Game: Saying Thank You

You could play the riddle game where the group has to work out the rules of the game. The leader starts by using any object, like a pen, to draw a moon in the air. You can say:

"The moon is round, has two eyes, a nose and a mouth"

Then the pen is passed onto the next participant, who must say thank you at the start of their go to be successful. You can help make it more obvious by emphasizing saying thank you at the start of your go and that your description of the moon might change but you always say thank you to get it right.

This game is a silly example of how manners and being good can help us to be successful, and so how often this is what we strive for.

Video: Being Good equals a Good Life

This video from a Thai Life Insurance commercial is a good conversation starter to help the young people think whether being good is all there is to life, and what makes being a Christian different from being a good person. It is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaWA2GbcnJU>

Video: Jesus stands in our place

This video is pretty cheesy but makes a great point that our good deeds are not what matters for our standing before God. It is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrLzYw6ULYw>

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Activity: What is the Good thing to do?

Using the situations below by reading them to the group, then asking the young people what they think would be the good thing to do. This is to get young people exploring and thinking about being good and what things they do to honour God or just to be good.

1. You are starting back to school for a new term and there is a new guy in your class. He has moved from Europe and seems really shy. Some of the guys in your class have been told to help him out but they are just ignoring him. What would you do? Why?
2. She is a friend of your parent and you have known her ever since you were young. She always brings you gifts for the big occasions even though you aren't related. You've just found out that she is in hospital. What would you do? Why?
3. Your family has a rule, you have to keep going to church until you are 16. Then you get to choose for yourself. Your Granny goes every week to church and she always says how much she loves that you go too but you are always tired on a Sunday morning and often there are other things you would rather do. What would you do? Why?

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Discussion: What does the Bible say?

Read Matthew 23v1-12

1. What does it say in this passage?
2. What do you know about the Pharisees? What did they think about themselves? How did other people view them?

The Pharisees were meant to teach the people about following God and how to love God. They were searching after the wrong things. They acted so that they would be seen to be good, seen as good people in doing a bit to help the poor, seen as good followers of God by praying in public using fancy words, seen as good by being friends with popular people at banquets and seen as good by wearing the best clothes.

3. Do you think being good is part of being a Christian?

Read Micah 6v6-8

4. What does it say that God requires of his people?

Read Titus 3v1-8

5. Does this say that doing good works makes us a Christian?
6. What saves us?
7. How should Christians see good works?