

Lesson #18

Hebrews 10:1-18; 1 Peter 3:18, 10:12

Mar. 4, 2015

Last week we talked about sacrifice. Sacrifice is what Jesus did when he took the punishment for our sin. Jesus died on the cross so that we could be with God forever. When Jesus gave His life for us, He showed us how much He loved us.

We can show God how much we love Him too. One way we can show God how much we love Him is by doing good to others. Have you ever done something nice for someone? How did it make you feel? How do you think the other person felt?

Sometimes we make sacrifices for other people. We give up things that we really want in order to show love to someone else. Here's a story about a little girl who gave up something she really wanted in order to help someone in need.

For months Annabelle had been saving her money for a new pair of roller skates. She couldn't wait until she had enough money to buy them all by herself and she was almost there—just five dollars more and she would have enough. She imagined herself skating at the park on a warm, sunny day. What fun she would have!

One Sunday, a missionary family came to Annabelle's church. Missionaries are people who tell the good news of Jesus to people all around the world. The missionaries showed pictures of children who lived in an orphanage in their small town in Russia. The children at the orphanage did not have any shoes. As she looked at the pictures of the children, Annabelle thought about how much her feet would hurt if she had to walk everywhere without shoes. She thought about the money she had been saving for her new roller skates. Then, she had an idea!

At lunch after church that day, Annabelle told her grandpa all about the missionary family and the pictures of children with no shoes on their feet.

"I want to help them!" she said. "I want to use my money to buy shoes and send them to the children at the orphanage."

"That's a wonderful idea!" Grandpa said. "I'll help you. Let's start by talking with the missionaries who came to your church. They'll know exactly how we can send the shoes to the children."

Annabelle was so excited. She couldn't wait to pick out the first pair of shoes to send to Russia. "I can even ask some of my friends to help and send shoes too." She thought.

Annabelle not only bought shoes with her roller skate money, but she also collected even more shoes from her friends and neighbors. Soon she had over fifty pairs of shoes to donate to the orphan children in Russia!

Weeks passed and one day Annabelle came home from school to find a brown package sitting on her bed with an envelope on top. In the envelope was a letter from the missionary family who came to Annabelle's church. They thanked Annabelle for all the shoes she sent and enclosed a photo of the orphan children wearing big smiles, along with their new shoes. It made Annabelle feel good to know that she had helped the orphan children. She didn't mind that she would have to start over saving her money for the roller skates. Annabelle set the envelope with the letter and photograph on her desk and turned her attention to the brown package. On the top were written the words, "God loves a cheerful giver. I love you. Love, Grandpa." Annabelle tore off the brown paper and lifted the lid of the box. Inside was a brand new pair of roller skates, just her size!

God wants us to give to people who are in need, just like Annabelle did. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank you for this story about Annabelle's gift to the children in Russia. Help us to give to other people in need. Help us to have a good attitude when we help other people. Amen. "

Bible Verse: "...God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Grow at Home #18
Hebrews 10:1-18; 1 Peter 3:18, 10:12
Mar. 4, 2015

Today the children learned these God facts:

- God loves me so much that He sent His son Jesus to die for me.
- God wants me to show my love for Him by giving to others.

Live it Out: The Bible tells us about Jesus' ultimate sacrifice—He gave his life for our sins. The Bible also teaches that in order to live for Him, we must live a life of sacrifice. While this concept can be very difficult for preschoolers to understand (as they are normally at an ego-centric phase in their development), you might be surprised at how much care your child can show when someone else is sad, or angry, or hurting. It's never too early to instill in your child empathy and generous behavior. Catch him doing acts of kindness this week and praise him for his good choices to help someone else.

Make a plan with your child about how he can practice giving. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Encourage your child to let someone else go first when they're playing a game.
- Help your child choose toys they no longer play with to donate to kids that don't have any.
- Make "Thank You" cards for local law enforcement, fire department personnel, or a school crossing guard. All of these people sacrifice themselves so that we can be safe.
- Let your child help you cook or bake cookies to deliver to a sick friend or neighbor. [This might require some sacrifice on your part!]
- Have a special piggy bank or coin jar where your child can save loose change to give in the offering at church.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave us the greatest gift in the world, Your son, Jesus. Amen.

Bible Verse: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7