

## LESSON 3

### Bible Study for Children

#### **Stewardship of Time and Talent**

–Carole Green–

**Bible Passages:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Romans 12:6-13

**Memory Verse:** We each have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Romans 12:6 (NIV) (Use the translation of your choice.)

*Every Sunday School class for children needs a minimum of two teachers. If you have more than 10 children, a ratio of one teacher to every 5 children is desirable. All teachers should plan together for each Sunday's lesson. Each teacher will select a "Beginning Activity" and a "Bible Application" activity to plan and teach. One teacher, usually the department director, will lead the "Large Group Time."*

#### **Before the Session**

##### **Teachers Preparation**

1. Contact the children who were absent last Sunday. Let them know that you missed them.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Romans 12:6-13 in several different translations.
3. Choose a translation for the memory verse and memorize it yourself.

#### **During the Session**

##### **Beginning Activities (10-15 minutes)**

(Choose activities that are appropriate for the children you teach. Have these activities ready and begin teaching when the first child arrives.)

1. Make a Bible bookmark. Write today's Memory Verse on a piece of fabric or felt using fabric pens. For added decoration, cut two small holes in the top of the bookmark and thread a narrow ribbon through them. The ribbon goes along with the "gift" ideas in the verse.  
*Supplies: Bibles, fabric or felt cut in pieces 4 inches by 6 inches, fabric pens or other pens that will write without blurring on the fabric, narrow ribbon*
2. Ask 2 or 3 children to work together to write a list of the gifts that are mentioned in Romans 12:6-8. These should be included: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, governing, showing mercy.  
*Supplies: Bibles, chalkboard & chalk (if available), or markerboard and markers (if available), or poster board and markers*
3. Let children add definitions of the following words to the "word wall" – prophesying, governing, mercy.  
*Supplies: Bibles, Bible Dictionary, dictionary, poster board or large pieces of paper, markers*

##### **Large Group Time (15-20 minutes)**

- Briefly review the last two Sunday's lessons. Direct the children's attention toward the "word wall." Discuss these words to see if there are any that the children do not understand.

- Pray or have a child lead in prayer. Ask God to help you and the children learn that He has given us each gifts to use for Him.
- Open your Bible to today's Bible passages.

### Bible Lesson

How much time do you have? How many months are in a year? How many days are in each week? Hours in a day? Minutes in an hour? Seconds in a minute?

What about our pastor? How much time does he have? Does he have the same number of months, days, hours, minutes, seconds that you do?

What about the president of the United States, or any other person you can think of – how much time do they have?

Can you save time? Can you take it to the bank, or put it in a box to use later?

Time is one of the things that God has given to us. When He created the world He also created time. In Genesis 1:5 we read that God created the first day, which had both an evening and a morning.

The only thing you can really do with time is to use it wisely. The Bible talks about time. [Read Ecclesiastes 3:1. (Suggestion: for younger children read only the first verse; for older children read verses 1-8; don't get bogged down in the details of this passage; a "time to kill" might be very difficult for children to understand.)]

Has anyone ever told you not to waste time? The reason for that is because God gave it to us as a gift, and it's never right to waste a gift – especially from God.

In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, which we looked at last week, we read about other gifts that God gives to us. (Read, or ask a child to read, the first part of Romans 12:6). To whom does the Bible say God has given gifts or abilities? To everyone. But not everyone has the same gift.

Let's read verses 7-8. Look at the list of gifts that Paul mentions here. (If a list was written as one of the "Beginning Activities," use it here. If not, then make a list that all the children can see.)

Notice an important thing about each one of these gifts. They are all to be used to help others. God does not give us gifts for us to keep them to ourselves.

Last week we talked about our bodies being a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). We said that means that God wants us to give our whole selves to Him. Now let's read verses 9-13 to learn specific ways that we can do this. (Call on a different child to read each sentence, or each verse. Give brief explanations if the children do not understand what these verses mean.)

- Lead the children in saying the Memory Verse.
- Give instructions for the Bible Application Activities. Let each teacher briefly explain the activity he/she has selected. Give each child the opportunity to choose an activity.

### **Bible Application Activities (15-20 minutes)**

Choose the activities that are appropriate for your students. Plan for at least two of the activities, and allow the children to make a choice.

1. Banner – let each child choose one of the gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8. Some children will understand this concept well enough to choose a gift that they feel God has given them. Let each child make a banner that illustrates his or her gift. These banners can be very simple (construction paper taped to a pencil, draw with markers) or elaborate (fabric or felt for the banner, glued to a dowel rod or draped and pinned over a dowel rod, words made out of ribbon or cut out of contrasting fabric and glued on).  
*Supplies: construction paper, markers, pencils, tape; OR fabric, felt, dowel rods, hot glue gun ribbons, decorative trim*
2. A Game – using the list of gifts in Romans 12:6-8 let a small group of children make or develop a game. It could be like charades (list each gift on a separate card; each player would draw a card and try to act out the gift). Or it could be a board game with players having to answer questions about these gifts. If this activity is chosen, use the game as one of the beginning activities next week.  
*Supplies: 3 x 5 cards, pencils; or poster board, markers or paints*
3. Write a song – ask the children to put Romans 12:9-13 (or any portion of this passage) into their own words and then put it to a tune. They could choose a familiar tune such as “Jesus Loves Me” or they could make up a tune. If any of the children who choose this activity can play the piano, allow the group to use that instrument in writing their song. Record the song. During group time next week, either play the recording, or let the children sing it.  
*Supplies: Bibles, pencils, paper, piano or other instrument, tape recorder*
4. A basket of gifts – let each child fill a small basket with brightly wrapped small boxes. Label the basket “God’s Gifts to Me,” and label each one of the small boxes with one of the gifts God has given (refer to the list from Romans 12:6-8). The children are to take them home and put in a place in their room to remind them of God’s gifts. As they are doing this project, talk with them about how God wants us to use the gifts and talents He has given us.  
*Supplies: Bibles, small produce basket (such as used for strawberries), empty matchboxes or small cardboard jewelry boxes, wrapping paper, tape, small ribbon, labels*
5. A 12-hour clock – each child will draw a large clock face with the numbers. This can be either an AM or a PM clock. This will work best if the child will draw lines (like pie wedges) on the clock to separate each of the hours. In between each hour, for example between noon and 1 pm (if this is a PM clock), the child writes what he or she typically does during that time. Do the same for each of the hours. This activity will help children see that each hour needs to be spent wisely, because it is a gift from God.  
*Supplies: poster board, markers, yard sticks or other straight edge*

## **Cleanup and Dismissal**