

“HELPING THE POOR”

Just for Parents

Read Matthew 22: 34 – 40. For the first 12 years of my life, and then for 5 years as an adult with my family, I lived in a third world country where there were always very poor people all around me. As a child I didn't think much about it as that is all I knew. As an adult wanting to teach my kids how to help people, I was constantly overwhelmed. How do I help them all, or who do I help and who do I not help? In my search for answers I asked some of the more seasoned missionaries as well as some of my Ethiopian friends how they dealt with this ever-present challenge and what their philosophy of helping the poor was. When I was done, I concluded that I was to help those that God brought across my path. We still supported and helped with mission programs and efforts that worked with the poor on a larger scale, but these individuals were the neighbours that God told me to love. By helping them it was the same as if I was helping Jesus Himself. WOW! But then, by not helping them it was the same as if was not helping Jesus when He was in need. Double WOW. Let's ask God for opportunities to help others and in so doing show our kids that God loves everyone.

Explore

Look at the 10 images at the bottom of this lesson and guide your children in the choosing of which five are the most important for a family to have in order to live in Steinbach. Ask them if they know anyone that doesn't have these five things. Keep these people in mind as you go through the rest of the lesson.

Lesson

Look at the **Matthew 22: 34 - 40** passage with your kids and ask them the following questions

- Who is the King that is being talked about here?
- Have you ever seen Jesus really hungry or in need of a jacket when the weather is really cold?
- What do these verses tell us we can do to show Jesus we love Him?
- Why is it so important to help other people? Stress with the kids that God tells us to, and that He loves everyone very much and He wants us to love them as well. Tell them that Jesus showed us how to love people when He was living here on earth.

Respond

- Talk about the following options with your kids and choose one that you can do together as a family to show others you love them and also to show Jesus that you love Him. For the last few years our church has chosen an Advent project that focuses on helping those in need. We are planning on doing another giving project this year which will be announced in the next couple of weeks. Here are some ways that you can save money as a family to give to this project.
 - Fast from junk food for a week or more and then total the money you have saved and donate it to the Advent Project
 - Give your kids a weekly allowance of whatever amount you see fit. Ask them then to put a portion of it (10% ?) in a jar labeled “ God loves Everyone” or something similar
 - Have your kids do odd jobs around the house, pay them and ask them to donate a portion to the Advent project
 - After Advent project choose another ministry that helps those that need extra help. Options:
 - Compassion Canada
 - Steinbach Community Outreach Steinbach
 - Southeast Helping Hands Steinbach
 - Help a neighbour

Blessing

Pray the following blessing over you children. This is to be done one child at a time, with your hand on child's shoulders say the blessing over them. This is something we would encourage you to do on a daily basis. This can be done in the morning before they go to school, before they go to sleep or any other time that works for you.

(Child's name) May you always know how much God loves you. May you always allow Him to write your story and may you always talk about the amazing things He has done for you.

Pray for your children







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