**January 31st, 2021: Elementary Sunday School Lesson
DAILY LIVING - TEACHINGS FROM JAMES lesson 6: becoming a glory-giver**

***After completing this lesson, the children will realize that they need to give the credit, praise, or glory, to whom it is due, especially to God.****by Andrea Wehmeyer*

**ACTIVITY: WHO GETS THE GLORY? (Materials: activity page, pencil)**

***Who gets the glory when things go well, you or God?***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** The kids will read each of the five examples. Then, they should circle the ones that give the credit, or glory, to whom it belongs, and put an ‘X’ through the examples where the characters keep the glory for themselves. When everyone is finished, discuss their answers and share the correct responses. It is okay that they get some wrong. This activity is designed to show how easy it is to give yourself the credit or glory, even when it seems to be a humble response.

**Correct Responses:
Example 1**: **(X—she focuses on how she messed up and on what she did!)**Sally: Angie! You sang so beautifully today!! And your song had a very good message!
Angie: Awww! Thanks, Sally! I really didn’t think I did that good. I worked really hard on it, but it just didn’t sound too good. But thanks!

**Example 2:** **(Circle—gives his teammates the credit)**Joe: Dude! You play soccer so well! Way to score three goals for the team!!
Harry: Thanks, man, but our team played very well together! We were a good team! I wouldn’t have been able to do it without their help!

**Example 3:** **(X—it’s all about her)**Jane: What are your plans for the future, Hanna? What do you want to study?
Hanna: Well, I want to be a nurse. I’m going to have to study really hard to get into nursing school, but I love to help, so I will be a really good nurse.

**Example 4: (Circle—Gives his parents the credit)**Joe’s mom: Hey, Jimmy. So, what are you guys doing this summer?
Jimmy: Well, Miss Sue, we’re going on vacation. My parents are taking us camping. Dad and Mom were both able to get off work, so they want to be able to stay there a couple of weeks! Dad has all these fun activities planned!

**Example 5: (Circle—Gives the credit to his Speech teacher)**Andy: Jesse, you are really good at giving speeches!
Jesse: Thanks, man, but I know I wouldn’t be half as good if I hadn’t had such a good Speech teacher last year!

**OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE AND MEMORY WORK
"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." James 4:14 NIV

VerseaPuzzle (Materials: printed puzzle page)**
***A great way to memorize Bible verses is with a fun, homemade puzzle.***

Write the memory verse on the board, or have the children look it up in their Bibles. Provide sheets of light colored card stock or construction paper and dark colored markers. Have the children neatly write the verse to fill up most of the page. (see example). After this, erase the verse from the board, or have the children close their Bibles. Next, with a lighter-colored marker or pencil, have them draw lines, making it look like a puzzle. Then have them cut the pieces out, and put their unique puzzle back together at least two times. To finish, recite the memory verse a couple of times together as a class.

**SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)**

**Introduction:** In our memory verse, we were reminded that we are only here for a little while. What does this have to do with giving glory to God? Let's see what James tells us about our life, and giving glory to God.

**Read James 4:13-17**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. What were the people saying about their future in this passage? *(They were planning to go to a city, spend some time there and make money.)*
2. What did James say we know about tomorrow? *(We don't know what will happen.)*
3. Why does James compare our life to a mist? *(Our life is short compared to eternity, but however many days we have, we belong to God.)*
4. How is saying, "Tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there and make money," in verse 13 different from saying, "If it is the Lord’s will we will live and do this or that," in verse 15? *(The first saying does not even mention God, making it seem like they are in control of everything. However the second saying gives God the credit, or the glory, for providing and giving all things.)*
5. When we claim we can do whatever we want, instead of giving God the credit, what are we doing according to verse 16? *(Boasting and bragging.)*
6. What does James say that such boasting is? *(Evil.)*
7. Is making plans for the future bad? *(No, it is not bad to make plans, but you need to realize that God is in control and you need to give Him the glory He deserves.)*
8. Why does James end this section with verse 17?*(Because now that we know we need to give God glory, if we don’t do it, we will be sinning. So…we need to start working on that!)*
Do you see how this passage is tied together? People in James’ time were boasting and bragging about their plans. They didn’t mention God in any of it. James then goes on to point it out to them that their lives will be short, and it’s only because of God that they are still even alive. Now James expects his listeners to change, if they don’t and continue to boast and brag about what they are doing, they will be sinning. Same applies to you!

 **SKIT: HELP OR NO HELP? (Materials: skit handout printed, sheets of paper)**

***A skit about three boys who realize through a little humility to give credit to whom the credit is due.***(A skit for four persons: Billy, Joe, Bob, Narrator.)

**APPLICATION:** Like the examples used earlier, we need to give credit, or glory, to who deserves the credit. We might need to give the credit to our parents, our teachers, our friends, our teammates, but we especially need to give it to God. We learned from James, that when we do not give credit or glory to the proper person, and give it to ourselves instead, it is a sin.

If you have time, let the kids brainstorm a little and make two lists on the board. On one side, give examples of people who deserve credit for helping us. On the other side, list different things God does for us where He deserves the glory.

**What we learned:** Today the children learned the importance of giving credit, praise, or glory, to whom it is due, especially to God. According to James 4:13-17, when we do not give credit or glory to the proper person and give it to ourselves instead, it is considered boasting, and that is a sin.

**Memory Verses:** "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." James 4:14 NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help him or her remember the verse, but it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Brainstorm with your child and make two lists. On one, list examples of people who deserve credit for helping us, and what it is they do to deserve that credit. On the other, list the different things God does for us where He deserves the glory. Discuss how we can show our appreciation for what others do for us, and how we can honor God for what He does.

**Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord. Thank You for everything You do for me. I know sometimes I forget that You are the one in control, and I become boastful and full of pride. Please forgive me for that Lord. Starting today, I want to give You the honor and glory You deserve. Amen.