

Value Lesson – Week 9

GOD’S CHILD

I want to be a child of God.

Those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

Grant’s brother had to have 10 stitches put in his head because they had gotten into a fight and Grant hit him with a tennis racket.

One day at school Grant’s teacher sent him to the principal. He had thrown spit balls on the walls. Grant told his parents and teachers he didn’t have to obey them.

The children’s pastor at Grant’s church talked with him. The pastor asked Grant, “Do you believe Jesus died for you? Do you know He loves you?”

“Of course, I’m a Christian. I go to church, don’t I? My parents are Christians, aren’t they?” said Grant.

“But going to church doesn’t make you a child of God,” said the pastor. “Every person must decide whether or not to follow Jesus. Your parents can’t make that decision for you. No one can, except you.”

“A child of God loves Jesus and wants to follow Him,” the pastor said. “A child of God likes what Jesus likes. He wants to please God and obey Him.”

“The pastor was trying to tell Grant that loving Jesus is doing things His way. Then you can become a child of God.

Grant told his pastor, “I’m sorry for the trouble I have caused everyone. I don’t want to do things my way anymore.”

“Let’s pray together,” said the pastor.

Your turn:

1. Grant thought he was a child of God because he went to church and his parents knew Jesus. Was he right or wrong? Why?
2. How do you become a child of God?
3. How do you show others you are a child of God?

Prayer

Dear God, I want to be Your child. I don’t want to do things my way anymore. I want to do things Your way, God. Amen.

(Source: Gotta Have God, Legacy Press)

I BELONG TO HIM

God wants me to belong to Him.

Return to me for I have redeemed (to buy back) you. Isaiah 33:22

Cody left his bike out in the yard one night. When he woke up the next morning, the bike was gone. Someone had stolen it!

One day Cody was walking down the sidewalk. He passed a boy on a bike. As he passed the boy, he noticed the boy was riding Cody's bike. It was the bike that had been stolen!

Cody chased the boy hoping he could get his bike back. When he caught up with the boy, Cody asked him for his bike. The boy wouldn't return Cody's bike. So Cody said, "I'll give you ten dollars for that bike."

The boy said he would sell the bike back to Cody for ten dollars. The boy wanted the ten dollars more than he wanted the bike. Cody saved his bike and bought it back for himself.

Do you know that we were bought back by God? God made us and we belong to Him. But, we were taken away from God by not loving Him and making wrong choices. Doing things our way and not God's way is called sin. But, God bought us back from those things. He saved us! It is like the boy who bought his own bike back. Jesus died on the cross to buy us back for God. Jesus was the price God paid to get us back from sin. Anyone who wants to have Jesus as Lord and Savior can be bought back to be in God's big family.

Your turn:

1. To whom do we belong?
2. What did Jesus do to get us back to God?
3. Have you been bought back to be in God's big family?

DID YOU KNOW? John 3:16

Jesus promises that if we believe in Him and trust Him to be our Savior, our spirits will live forever with Him in heaven. Did you know that's what eternal life means---to live forever?

I still have trouble contemplating forever, but I do understand eternal live. Someday our bodies will get old and die. This eventually happens to all humans. But Jesus says that who we really are on the inside—our spirits—can go on living, even though our bodies have died.

Do you know Jesus as your Savior? He wants us to understand that He died for our sins to give us eternal life. He wants to be our Savior so we can all live with him forever. However long that is!

Prayer

Thank you, God, for wanting me even though I sometimes let the things of this world get in the way of loving You. Help me to remember that you paid your son to have me as Your child. Thank you Jesus, for eternal life. I know that you died on the cross for my sins, and that you live --so that we can live forever.

(Source: Gotta Have God,

Legacy Press & Adventures in Odyssey Devotions.)

