

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



MATTHEW 6

DONE IN SECRET

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-8

Supplies: Names of each child in the class in a jar, paper trumpets or horns

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Ask:

What did we learn about last week? (Loving their enemies, eye for eye and tooth for tooth)

Have you ever given a surprise gift to someone or thrown a surprise party? What was your favorite thing about it?

Have you ever given a gift to someone who didn't know who it was from?

Have you ever received a gift from someone, and you didn't know who it was from? Tell me about it.

Read: Matthew 6:1-4

Ask:

Can anyone tell me what this means?

What do you think Jesus means when he says the people who practice their righteousness in front of others have received their reward in full? (Greater rewards are in heaven when we do kind acts without the desire to be noticed by others).

Does this mean that we shouldn't ever thank somebody or tell them we appreciate them?

God sees everything, even if we do it in secret, so we don't need to shout it out and have everyone recognize us for doing something kind. This can be hard because we want to be noticed if we clean our room or do a kind thing for another, and it's great if it is noticed. But we aren't meant to do kind things just to get noticed, but to spread the love of Jesus. And if we're doing that, we can rest assured that God notices and has rewards waiting for us, even if no one else does.

Read: Matthew 6:5-8

Act it Out:

The same is true with prayer. Our prayers don't need to be long and loud, but from the heart to God. He sees us and hears us.

Now, I think we should act this out. Have the kids designate a hypocrite and really go over the top. Have a poor beggar and a hypocrite who gives to them. Have the other kids make a parade and interview the giver, with the hypocrite getting all the attention or whatever ways they can come up with to honor the person. (It may be a good time to note that "hypocrite" means an actor, one who's wearing a mask. Meaning their heart doesn't line up with their actions).

Do the same for verses 5-8 with prayer.

Activity:

Have each of the kids write their names on a piece of paper or have this done before the lesson. Have them all grab a name from the jar. Then have them make a card addressed that person somewhere in the room away from others. Have them write something nice about the person on that card. They can then draw a picture, etc. Leave the card anonymous.

Collect all the cards at the end of the class and hand them out to each child.

How it feels to receive something nice without knowing who it's from?

How does it feel to give something nice to someone in secret?

It may be worth pointing out during the lesson that secrets shouldn't be kept that are dangerous. "Secrets" should only be kept in the form of a surprise gift or party, or an act of kindness to someone.

Memorize: Matthew 6:1

Close in prayer