

The dictionary gives the definition of righteousness as righteous conduct. It gives the meaning of the word righteous as being morally right or justifiable. The word righteousness is translated from Hebrew and Greek terms and means that which conforms to the character of God or that which is right.

The desire to please ourselves rather than pleasing God is within all mankind. By nature, man is not righteous. Wanting to have appropriate behavior comes only when our heart and spirit are clean. We all need to ask God to create a pure heart in us all. The Bible says in Psalms and Matthew:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Matthew 5:6

This week we will spend time learning about our need to be righteous and how it can only happen with belief and obedience in the Lord!

2) I Should Be Righteous True and False Page

10 minutes

Hand out one page, pencil and bible to each child if they don't already have one. Go through the verses as a group, getting someone who is comfortable reading to read each verse; taking turns. Then read aloud the question and ask true or false?

3) Teach me to be Righteous Windsack Craft

10-15 minutes

Before class print out copies of the Teach me to Be Right Windsack template. Cut poster board into 4 ½ x 11 inch strips, then join the short ends together and staple to make cylinders, one per child (cover the staples with clear tape to avoid injury.) Cut felt to 9 x 11 inch pieces, then cut 9 slits on the 11 inch side (see diagram on template when you print it) making one per child. Make a sample if possible so the children can see the finished craft.

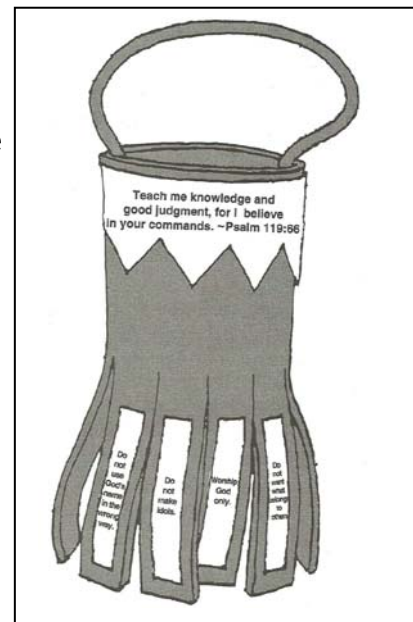
At class

Hand out the poster board cylinders and hole punch. Have Children hole punch two holes one on each side of the Poster board so that the chenille wire can be put through and then secure to make the handles.

Have the children apply glue to the outsides of their poster boards so that the felt pieces with the slits can be glued and wrapped around with the fringes facing down and away from the handle. Next, have children color and cut out a label and glue it around the cylinder.

Finally, have children cut out the commandments and glue one to each of the fringed sections, they can color the commandments first if want.

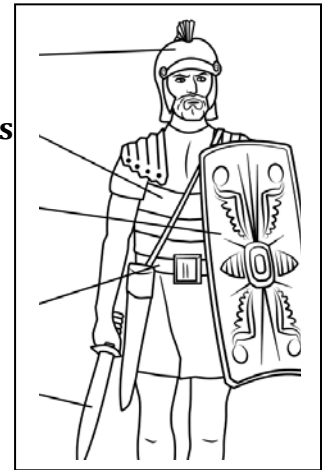
Tell students, **“When you know God’s laws, you can make right decisions and know what God wants. By hanging your windsack where you can see it, it will help you remember that God is right and shows us the way to be right as well.**



4) Breastplate of Righteousness Fill in the Blanks

10 minutes

Hand out a sheet and a pencil or crayons to each child. Read directions aloud and then have children turn to their bibles and read Ephesians 6: 10-17 to fill in the blanks. Before you read the bible say, **“In Roman times, a soldier would wear a breastplate over his chest to protect his vital organs. Of course each piece of armor he would wear was important for various reasons, but the breastplate made sure that his heart and lungs were protected from blows from a sword or a fiery dart shot from an archer. While the Apostle Paul was imprisoned in Rome, he observed how the soldiers depended on their armor to keep themselves alive and protected in battle. When he used the different pieces of armor to describe spiritual armor, he used the breastplate to illustrate righteousness.**



Righteousness describes the “gracious gift of God to men whereby all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are brought into right relationship with God.” Simply stated, to be righteous is to be right with God. Righteousness is a characteristic of God that is the essence of perfection and holiness.

Man cannot earn this righteousness by his own merits, nor can anyone create his or her own righteousness. When a person comes to Christ through faith and is baptized, he or she is clothed in the righteousness of Christ. It is a judicial act of God, whereby He imputes or declares that we are righteous as His Son Jesus. And so it is Christ’s righteousness that we wear as a breastplate. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, “ God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

As a breastplate, righteousness is used to protect a Christian from the attacks of the devil. These attacks could be doubts of salvation, pride, bitterness, anger and any other destructive force that distracts a Christian from his or her walk with God. Because Christians are clothed in the righteousness of God, they know that Satan’s lies and deceit have no place in their lives and they can withstand every one of his attacks. Satan is a defeated foe. Let’s remember that as we try to live righteous thanks to God!

If time, allow children to color the page.

5) Optional: God is Righteous Dart Game

10 minutes

Last week we talked about the 10 Commandments and how we could see 10 ways that God’s ways are right by looking at the common sense we find in the 10 Commandments. These are the commandments God gave to the Israelites.

Print the Target from the template on white construction paper in color. Laminate and cut out or use plastic page protector sheet - if you didn’t already from last week. Hang somewhere on a wall with tape (be careful not to place near something breakable.) Purchase Rubber Darts and gun from a dollar store or toy store if you did not have some already.

What are different ways we see God’s righteousness?

We are going to play a game to find out more about God’s righteousness through His Commands in Exodus Chapter 20. To play the game we are going to throw rubber darts one at a time at a target. When you hit the target, you will be asked some questions based on the command you land on or land closest too. This will help us learn some of the righteous commands God has given.

While children are still seated, number them off one, two, three, etc. The first child gets up goes to the target and takes a turn throwing a dart at the target, whatever command they land closest

to read out that command from Exodus 20 and then ask the child to describe what they think it means– ex: 1st Command – Definition: Thou shall have no other gods before me. Meaning: I should not worship anyone but God! Continue until every child has at least two turns. If time you can continue until every child has had five turns or even more! For younger children, you may need to describe a meaning that relates to the command they landed on for them.

These commands show us the characteristic of God. Because God is righteous! He gives righteous commands to follow and because he is always right we know these are good and right things to do! Any questions? At the end ensure all darts are returned and things are cleaned up.

6) Optional – Snack : Organic Carrots and Juice

5 minutes

Hand out carrots along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Show the kids that **the snacks you are eating are 100% Organic or pure. They are right for you because they are 100% free from mistakes or chemicals.** Remind the children that **God is 100% right too. He is always good for you and perfect for you to learn from and to talk to. His ways are always the best and right ways so you can enjoy learning about his ways and know it is good for you, just like these carrots! Let's try and be pure and free from bad things in our lives as well as we rely on God!** Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how we should be righteous while snacking!

7) Close in prayer

Thank you God for being able to be 100% right, always, all the time. Thank you that we can rely on you to do the right thing and be the right answer all the time so we know we can always trust in your word and commandments. We pray that we will tell others about your righteousness so that they too can find peace and comfort knowing that you are a perfect and righteous loving God! Help us to learn how to be righteous too because You God are righteous and through You and Your Son we can be right too by following Your ways. We ask all of this in Your Son's precious, holy and righteous name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!