

2009 – 2010 EGCC 6th-8th grade Class for 9-27-09

Activity: Good/Not Good. Have one sign that says “Good” and have one sign that says “Not good” posted on opposite walls of room, or on the couches – wherever. Then ask the class to answer whether a thing is good or bad by moving to the corresponding sign. Let one student from each side answer why they went to that side. Then say the next word/phrase.

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|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> whales | <input type="radio"/> sweat | <input type="radio"/> staying up late |
| <input type="radio"/> Hannah Montana | <input type="radio"/> taking the bus to school | <input type="radio"/> balloons |
| <input type="radio"/> mosquitoes | <input type="radio"/> guns | <input type="radio"/> Australia |
| <input type="radio"/> a light bright green dress | <input type="radio"/> a bird pooping on you | <input type="radio"/> orange (the color) |
| <input type="radio"/> books about books | <input type="radio"/> a bird pooping on the | <input type="radio"/> chores |
| <input type="radio"/> Going to the dentist | <input type="radio"/> person next to you | <input type="radio"/> being homeless |
| <input type="radio"/> cavities | <input type="radio"/> fireworks | <input type="radio"/> staying home from school |
| <input type="radio"/> Chocolate | <input type="radio"/> dogs that wear coats | <input type="radio"/> because you're sick |
| <input type="radio"/> Opera | <input type="radio"/> Elephants | <input type="radio"/> backpacks |
| <input type="radio"/> Getting Rick-Rolled | <input type="radio"/> alarm clocks | <input type="radio"/> motorcycles |
| <input type="radio"/> Cats | <input type="radio"/> shoes | <input type="radio"/> vitamins |
| <input type="radio"/> Newspapers | <input type="radio"/> kids | <input type="radio"/> salad |
| <input type="radio"/> apples | <input type="radio"/> prison | <input type="radio"/> carpet |
| <input type="radio"/> knitting | <input type="radio"/> being hungry | <input type="radio"/> Mini-vans |
| <input type="radio"/> pool (to swim in) | <input type="radio"/> silence | <input type="radio"/> dinosaurs |
| <input type="radio"/> recycling | <input type="radio"/> noise | <input type="radio"/> guilt |
| <input type="radio"/> sneezing | <input type="radio"/> getting up early | <input type="radio"/> driveways |
| <input type="radio"/> band aids | <input type="radio"/> midday nap | <input type="radio"/> math |
| <input type="radio"/> coffee tables | <input type="radio"/> tattoos | <input type="radio"/> soccer |
| <input type="radio"/> coffee | <input type="radio"/> star wars | <input type="radio"/> hoola hoops |
| <input type="radio"/> mustard | <input type="radio"/> hugs | <input type="radio"/> pine cones |
| <input type="radio"/> snails | <input type="radio"/> salt | <input type="radio"/> couches |

Ask: So, you were able to answer the questions with Good/Not Good. But tell me, how do you know what is good? What do you think good is? Where does “good” come from? Do you think you are good? Why or why not? Do you know someone who you think is good? Why or why not?

Tell: We’re going to read two scripture passages that offer perspective on what good is and/or where good comes from.

Read: Mark 10:17-18 (God alone is good).

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. He fell on his knees before Jesus. "Good teacher," he said, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good except God.

Ask:

- According to Jesus, who is good? (God)
- According to Jesus, is Jesus good? (He says, "Why do you call me good?" Which means he doesn't think he is. However, this isn't super-clear so let the class argue amongst themselves if they so choose).

Tell: Now we're going to read from a letter written by the apostle (apostle means: Somebody who is sent out) Paul to the church in Galatia.

Read:

(from the Message) Galatians 2:17 Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren't perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. **18** If I was "trying to be good," I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan. **19** What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. **20** Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in Jesus, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

Say/Ask:

Verse 18, charlatan means "false expert." Paul is saying that if he was "trying to be good" he'd be faking it. Paul says he has been "Crucified with Christ" and that "Christ lives within me" in verse 20. What do you think that means?

Tell: Paul is saying that he is who he is because of his relationship with God. He doesn't try to keep rules, instead he seeks to have Jesus live within him. Does that sound strange? To have someone live within you? We're going to watch a clip from the Lion King that might help to better illustrate this idea.

Watch: Clip from Lion King (see it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCUmaDl820Q>)

Overview: Simba thinks he can't go back home, can't face the past, can't be king. Then the baboon (Rafikki) asks Simba, "Who are you?" Then a little bit later Rafikki says, "You are Mufasa's boy."

When Simba asks Rafikki if he knew his father, Rafikki says “I *know* your father.” Then when Simba sees himself in the water, Simba says, “That’s not my father, that’s just my reflection.” But Rafikki says, “You see, he lives in you.” Then, like Jesus’ baptism story, there’s a voice from above (Mufasa’s) that speaks to Simba. The voice says, “You are more than what you’ve become. You’ve forgotten who you are and so you have forgotten me.” If Simba remembers, then he can be king. His identity is tied to what he thinks he can/cannot do. The scene ends with Simba going back.

Say

Paul says he seeks to have Jesus live within him. In the video clip we just watched, we saw Simba come to understand that his father, Mufasa, lived within him.

Ask

- Did that understanding change things for Simba? (Yes).
- How? (He remembered who he was/gained confidence).
- Using Simba’s experience as a model, how might we interpret what Paul says about Jesus living within him....
- How does Jesus living within Paul help Paul? (Helps him remember who he really is...gives him confidence because he’s not alone in what he is doing...he feels like he belongs...this is why he no longer cares about his ego/pride or how he appears to other people [vs 20]).

Tell:

At school, you have to be really good or sort of bad in order to be recognized, right? In sports, you have to be good to be a starter (usually), right? To be friends with certain people, you have to act a certain way, right? All those things are about doing and being judged if you did well enough. Here, in this class, it’s different. Part of what church is is to remember who we are. We are God’s children. We are sons and daughters of God. God lives inside each and every one of us. And if like Simba and like Paul, we remember this, and keep this in mind, it will help us live in ways that are about trust instead of fear. When we remember that God lives inside of us, then we can think like Jesus does. Then we don’t have to worry about what’s right or what’s wrong, we just have to keep checking in with God and God will lead us and guide us in what we need to do.

If there's time...

Activity

On a piece of paper, list some things in your life where you are put in a position of having to act or be in a way that doesn't feel like "you" in order to fit in.

Now circle one of those things that you listed that you especially don't like how it feels for you when you are in it.

Now write down next to it that you are God's beloved daughter/son and that no matter what happens in that situation, you will always be loved and will always belong.

Imagine in your mind that situation that you wrote down taking place. Now imagine yourself praying and asking for help from God to know and trust who you are, that you know and trust that you belong and are not alone.

We ask you to imagine it because that's like practice for the real thing. So when that situation that you're imagining actually happens, you can remember to invite God into your experience. Because by inviting God in, you will be more aware of the truth that you belong to God.

Closing Prayer

Dismiss