



L.I.F.E. - Living in Faith Everyday

Life Sunday Children's Message

Verse: "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to [take away] our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10-11).

Lesson:

Children, I have a big job that needs doing. **[Describe the "job" and make it something that will indeed require some real work. E.g. "See all those hymnals stacked over there? Well, I need those all carried to the back of the church."]**

[Some children may quickly and eagerly offer to help. If so, then respond: "I'm glad you are eager to help. But do you think I could get everyone to help ..." then continue as below.]

Do you think I could get you to do this job if I said, **[sternly]**, "Children, if you do not do this, I will make sure your parents put you in time out when you get home from church and you won't get any treats or snacks the entire day"? **[Responses]**

Yes, I'm guessing most of you would help. You may not like all the work, but it would be better than being in time out and no snacks!

Well, don't worry. I'm not going to do that! But do you think I could get you to help if I offered you a treat? **[Have some form of treat or trinket.]** If I said, "If you help, I will give you one of these," would you help? **[Responses]**. I bet you would! Again, you may not like the job, but it would be worth it to get a treat.

But I'm not going to do that either. Here's what I am going to do. I'm going to give you all a treat right now, even though you didn't do anything. **[Hand out treats.]**



Now, I'm wondering if anyone would be willing to help me with this job? **[Responses]** Yes? Well thank you! See, now you are going to help not because you might get punished if you don't. You are going to help not because you might get something yummy. You are going to help because you are thankful that you got something yummy and you want to show your thankfulness.

That's what **Living In Faith Everyday** is really all about. When you live in faith in Jesus, you do what He asks not because you might get punished if you don't, and not because He offers you some reward if you do, but because He loves you and died on the cross for you. He gave you something very, very special—forgiveness of your sins and life forever with Him in heaven! So, that's why we live every day in faith trying to do what Jesus asks us to do and loving one another because He first loved us!

Now, who will help me with this job? Wonderful! **[Have them complete the task.]**