

Sowing And Reaping

Galatians 6:6-10

MEMORY VERSE

GALATIANS 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two simple games, (example: nerf ball and a bucket, and a glass jar with clothes pins.

Enough small prizes (stickers, pencils, etc.) to give each child in your class two, brown paper bags, a marker and tape.

Paper to draw or write on.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Practice Makes Perfect

Bring two simple games. The first could be a Nerf ball and a bucket. The children would be required to stay a certain distance away and throw the ball into the bucket. The second game could be a glass bottle or jar with clothespins to drop in. Divide the class in half; let one half practice one game and the other half practice the other game.

After a time let the class come together and compete as two teams. Both teams compete in the ball throw, and then both compete in the clothes pins drop. The team that has practiced in each of the areas should have an advantage and win.

If we are faithful in continuing to do good, this will assure us of good results, we will reap good things in our life. The more we practice doing good things the easier it will become.

LESSON TIME!

Maybe you have seen this kind of picture before or could imagine it. You see a pretty garden by the roadside. There are all kinds of beautiful spring flowers in all different colors. It is just gorgeous and fragrant with all of the fresh flowers. Then you look at the lot next door and all you can see are a lot of dry, ugly weeds that need to be pulled out or cut down.

Life is like that sometimes. The pretty garden is like the people who follow Jesus and do good with their lives. The weeds are like the people who do wrong and hurt others. Our very lives can be something beautiful or something that is not very pleasant. It all depends on what kinds of things we put into our heart. This is called sowing and reaping.

The Bible says we reap what we sow. Sowing is the same thing as planting a seed, which will one day grow and produce a flower or fruit. Reaping is the same thing as harvesting or collecting the flowers and fruit from the plant. If we do or plant what is right we will receive God's blessing. If we do or plant what is wrong we will be hurt. **We will always reap what we sow.**

Let's look at what the Bible teaches us about sowing and reaping.

GALATIANS 6:6

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

When we learn about the goodness of the Lord, we need to be willing to love and help others, especially those who have taught and helped us. Do you think that we need to appreciate those who are our teachers? Certainly, the Bible tells us that we should. Why is that do you suppose?

Well, our teachers at church or our parents perhaps teach us about the Word of God. When they are doing that they are “planting” good things into our hearts and lives. They want us to grow up and have a very blessed life. So when people share “good” things with us, we need to also be willing to share good things back with them.

The Waiting Game

Give each child a small prize in a brown paper bag so they can't see inside. Write their names on it with a marker and seal the bag with tape. Tell them they can open their bag and have their prize right now if they would like to. But also explain that if they will wait until you ask to see their bags in a little while (or set a certain time) and show you that they have not broken the tape seal and opened the bag to play with the prize, they may have another one as well.

If we do good things even when it is difficult, looking ahead to the reward, we will get our reward. Just like saving our prize, even though it is hard, we get a bigger reward. The decisions that we make right now will affect our lives later. So we always need to make wise choices and look ahead to the rewards that God will give us.

GALATIANS 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Do not be misled. If we are selfish or do wrong, God will know. He can not be fooled. He knows and cares about each one of us. He knows what we do, what we think, everything about us. Nothing is hidden from God. What a man does will determine what he will become and what will happen to him. If you plant a flower, a flower will grow. If you plant a weed, a weed will grow. If we plant sin (disobedience to God) then bad things will grow out of our lives.

Imagine a farmer going out to his field and he plants 100 rows of corn. He waters it and pulls the weeds. Then after a few months he goes out into his field. What do you suppose is growing? Well what would happen if he got angry and said, "Why aren't cucumbers growing, I don't understand." That would be pretty silly wouldn't it?

It is the same way in our lives. If we plant bad things into our hearts then bad things will grow in our hearts and come out of our lives. We should not be surprised if we begin to do bad things and we have a lot of problems in our lives. That is why we need to be so careful about what we watch, or listen to or read. We need only allow good things to come into our hearts and minds. **We will always reap what we sow.**

GALATIANS 6:8

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

What is sowing to the flesh? That just means that we do the things that we feel like doing and not caring about what God says about it. Many times the things we feel like doing are the wrong things and will lead to problems. We are naturally sinful and our flesh wants to do things that do not please God. But if we do what we feel like doing and not what God wants us to do, then we will reap, or harvest the results. Our lives will end up being a big mess.

But the Lord wants to keep us from a life of destruction. He wants us to have such a wonderful life. He wants to use us for His plans and bless us all of our lives. But we need to allow Him to use us and to plant good things into our lives so that He can produce in us something beautiful. If we do good things as unto the Lord, God will bless us with good things. The first and best thing we can plant into our hearts is to accept Jesus and believe in Him. That is the place to start! **We will always reap what we sow.**

GALATIANS 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

We should not become discouraged in doing what is right even if it does not bring immediate results. We will see the results of our labor if we don't give up. We may not always feel like doing the right thing, but if we remain obedient to Jesus He promises blessings in our lives.

When a farmer plants a seed he can go out to look at it the next morning and do you know what he will see? Nothing! It does not sprout over night. Sometimes we have to continue to sow good things into our hearts and be patient to allow God to work in our lives. The farmer has to water the seed, fertilize the soil, and keep the weeds from choking it out. Then after several days a plant will start to come out of the soil and after a few months he will be able to harvest a crop.

Sometimes God's work in us takes a while for it to be produced in our lives. But when we are patient and allow God to work in us He will produce a great crop of spiritual fruit in our lives. **We will always reap what we sow.**

GALATIANS 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

We always should make it a habit to do what we know is right. Whenever we have the chance, we should love and help others, especially other Christians. As God blesses us, we should share His love with others. This is "sowing" or planting good things.

As we go through life, we should as they say, "keep on trucking." Even if we are going through a vast desert or wilderness (having a

really tough time), if we keep going we will reach our destination and our reward. In life it is much the same. If we keep following Jesus and do what we know is right, even through the hard times; He will never leave us.

We can depend on Jesus to take care of us. When we keep close to Jesus, we will feel His love for us. Jesus can make our life full of joy and happiness. If we keep on going and do not give up, we will reach our heavenly destination and will receive our reward. **We will always reap what we sow.**

Give What You Can

Verse 10 says, “to give as we have opportunity.” Ask the kids what they could give to someone. We are not asked to give what we do not have, only to give as we can. What are they able to do? Could they draw a picture? Or write a note of encouragement? Or if old enough, perhaps baby-sit? Or rake a yard for someone in need? Maybe give someone a hug? Younger children could draw a picture of what they will do; older children could write it down. Then encourage the children to go and do the things they write down.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to only sow into their lives that which pleases the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.