

IT IS THE THINGS

WEEK 5
Deut 18:9-13



Materials: 1 green and 1 red crayon.

Instructions to parents:

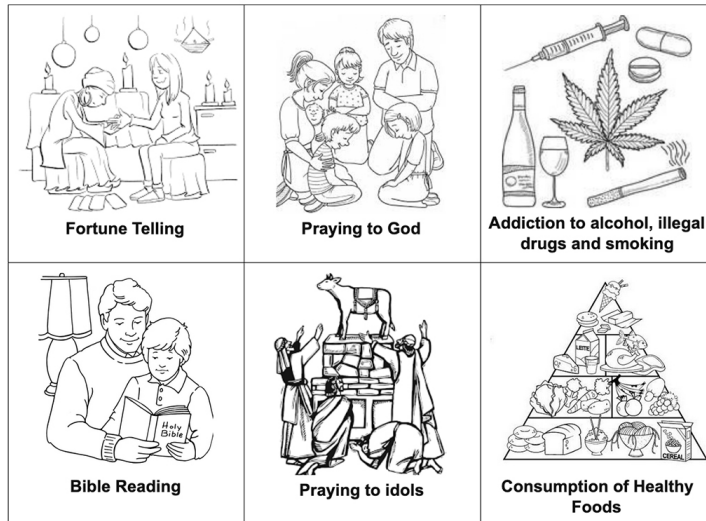
For those who can print the devotional: Tell your child to use the green crayon to put a big ✓ mark on the picture that shows how to live a life that is pleasing to God and to use the red crayon to put a big X mark on the picture that shows how to live a life that will bring us away from God. Then, discuss each picture with your child and ask them why they placed a ✓ or X on the photo.

For those using a gadget: Show the pictures to your child. First, ask them to point at the pictures that show how to live a life that is pleasing to God. Discuss why they think that these are pleasing to God.

Next, ask them to point at the pictures that show how to live a life that will bring us away from God. Discuss why they think so.

Be mindful to explain carefully to little children about the negative impacts that the use of and addiction to alcohol, illegal drugs, and smoking can do to their lives.

We do so many things in our lives. While we may think that all of them benefits us, the truth is, some of the things we do are actually harmful for us. Our Bible lesson today tells us about what God wants us to know about bad deeds and what can happen to us if we do them.



Let us open our Bibles to Deuteronomy 18:9-13.

As we have read, not everything that we do can be good for our lives and bring us closer to God. There are practices that God finds detestable. The word detestable means "intense dislike." Some people think it is okay to do the things that do not please God. You may not have heard of people practicing the detestable ways mentioned in the verses that we just read nowadays, but they still continue to happen.

Read Deuteronomy 18:10-11.

You may not be aware of this, but practices like fortune telling and praying to idols are detestable to God. So is celebrating pagan rituals which many think is harmless. We think it's fun to dress up in scary costumes and get sweet treats but the truth is, these practices come from pagan rituals that involved human sacrifices done for demons and spirits. These are the very things that God dislikes greatly. It is not that God does not want us to have fun but He does not want us to do them in ways that lead to death. This is what our power verse for today reminds us: **"Some people think they are doing what's right. But what they are doing will really kill them."** Proverbs 14:12

You see, not everything that everyone else does can do us good. So whenever you find yourself in a situation where someone pressures you to do or participate in something, take your time to pause, pray to Jesus, and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit whether or not it will please God's heart. There will be things that look harmless like talking to spirits or "mediums" using a glass or a board with either letters or the words yes and no. It has been decades that teens find it cool and if you don't try it, they will say you're not cool or just afraid. Nope. It is the lie of the enemy. you don't need to participate in those. God hates those things. Let us always remember to love what God loves and hate what God hates.



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- Do you like candies?
- Would you like to celebrate Halloween to get candies? Why or why not?

7-12 years old

- What are bad practices that you feel pressured to do because everyone else is doing them?
- How would you like the adults to further help you in making sure that you are living a life that is pleasing and honoring to God?

Kid/s to Parent:

- Are there bad practices that you are still pressured to do or trying to overcome?
- What do you do in order not to participate in practices or ways that are not pleasing or honoring to God?

As you grow, you will meet a lot of people in your life. It is important to remember that not all people believe in God and live a life that is honoring to Him. You may find yourself in situations where you are asked or even pressured to do things that will bring more harm than good to you. Do not be afraid to stand up against these bad practices. If you are unsure, do not hesitate to reach out and ask help from adults that you can trust and are living lives that you know are pleasing to God. Also, develop the habit of reading the Bible to know more about the plans, promises, and purpose that God has as the giver of your life. God only wants what is best for His children and will not tolerate any deed that will lead His creation to death.

And if you noticed, the series is called "Not Things" because from the past four weeks, it wasn't about the Bronze Snake, the Jar of Oil, the Cloak nor the Handkerchief that we get power, but from God. On the other hand, we named this week "It is the Things" because it is the practice of witchcraft and the like that we need to point out: It is these things that God doesn't want us to get involved in. Aside from the fact that these don't honor God, there are real evil spirits that are involved in these things.



Dear Lord, thank You for reminding us that You alone are the giver of life. Thank You for giving us instructions in Your Word about the things that will lead us to death, therefore we should not be doing them. May we always remember not to be pressured by the world and pray to You for direction and guidance if we find ourselves being tempted to do things that will displease Your heart. May we always be blameless before Your sight. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Closely associated with Halloween is All Saints Day, a day to celebrate the saints and martyrs. But did you know that, Biblically speaking, the Apostle Paul used the word "Saint" to refer to people who believe in and belong to Christ? You can read these greetings at the start of the letters that he wrote to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 1:1), Colossians (Colossians 1:2), Ephesians (Ephesians 1:2), and others. Come to think of it, instead of the dead, we should be celebrating "All Saints Day" for people who are living and believers of Christ! We should be rejoicing during this day as Christians and thanking God for giving us life!

What do you think?