

# NOT THINGS

TEACHING KIDS TO PUT THEIR FAITH IN GOD INSTEAD OF OBJECTS

## WARM-UP

1. Do you believe in good luck or bad luck? Why?
2. What is one thing that makes you happy?

## WORD

It's week 5 of our series "Not Things," where we learn how certain objects were used throughout the Bible to perform miracles. We are reminded that the focus should not be on the object, but on God as our Savior, Provider, Power Source, and Miracle-Worker.

In the story, Moses was giving instructions to the people of Israel before they entered the land God had promised to give them. The people of Israel were strictly told not to follow the abominable practices of the Canaanites or the people who were living in the land that they would take over. To be specific, no one was to burn their children as an offering, practice divination, fortune-telling, omen interpretation, sorcery, and necromancy or talking to the dead, because these practices are not pleasing to the LORD.

Back then, people viewed these occult practices as opportunities to gain power, have control over others, and receive favor from their gods. The Canaanites believed that they would have a better life if they obeyed other gods instead of the true God, but it would only lead to death. The truth is that only God can give us an abundant and everlasting life.

What does God want us to learn from this story?

### 1. God is the giver of life.

*"A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance"*

John 10:10 (CSB)

The devil tempts us with things that seem good. Sometimes we think that physical or material things, like our grades, money, gadgets, achievements, or likes on social media, can give us an abundant life. All of those things are temporary and will never truly make

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Victory Group Material



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us happy. Jesus offers us an abundant and purposeful life filled with love, joy, and peace.

## 2. Jesus came to save us.

*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

**John 3:17**

As we journey through life, we will find ourselves tempted by the practices and beliefs of the world. We will be swayed by things that look good, but offer empty promises. We may want to try to fit in even when it compromises our values, thinking that these things will give us a better life. Because of God's great love for us, He sent His one and only Son to die on the cross so that we may be forgiven and receive the gift of salvation. As that truth sinks into our hearts, may we have the growing desire to please Him with our action, words, and thoughts. Let us ask for God's grace and courage to say no to things or people that may influence us to do bad things like cheating, lying, gossiping, saying bad words, watching ungodly videos, disrespecting the elderly, and other things. May we also have the grace to obey and please God by loving Him and loving others.

## APPLICATION

1. What are the practices and beliefs you are following that are not pleasing to God?
2. How can you stop those practices or beliefs?
3. How can you improve grow in your relationship with God and those around you?

## PRAYER

1. Thank God for giving you a family, friends, and meaningful relationships.
2. Ask God for forgiveness for the time you have disobeyed God and His Word.
3. Ask God for the grace to love and obey Him and His Word.

