

Activity tie-in: Archery

Object- Bullseye and arrow

Bible verse-Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Lesson- You can never hit the bullseye without God.

Introduction Ideas

- Give examples how you have tried to do something but then ended up messing up even in the slightest way. Then have the students share theirs.
- Put a small dot on the wall or on a board and then have the students try to hit the dot with a bean bag at a far distance. This will give an illustration of how they cannot hit the mark perfectly.
- If you are actually learning archery then show yourself trying to hit the bullseye or the students if they have been trained. This will give the same illustration as above.
- Have students try to tell stories about when they have done something perfectly or almost perfect. Then discuss how there were still some errors.

Lesson Suggestions

- Talk about how the arrow cannot reach the bullseye without your arm and string pulling the arrow back. In the same way we cannot be perfect in God's sight without Jesus.
- Object lesson: Use a demonstration of shooting the arrow and not always hitting the bullseye.(Do this if you didn't use the arrow in your introduction.)
- Explain that Matthew 5:48 is a command which we can't follow unless we have Jesus and God's Word in our lives just like the arrow can't make it to the target without the string. The string is God's Word.

Questions for Interactive Lesson.

- When you talk about being perfect you could ask students where else in their lives is perfection not possible.
 - The children may talk about homework, building things, getting along with siblings, etc. Then talk about when things seem perfect there still might be things that go wrong but whether or not it appears perfect the glory should still go to God.
- Have the children come up with Bible stories where people were not perfect but God worked it out for good.
 - Stories may be Joseph being sold into slavery or Moses killing the Egyptian so he ran away then became the leader of Israel. Almost any story from the Bible will work for this. If a child may be struggling to come up with the good side help them.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, we know that you command us to be perfect like you. But we cannot obey this command because of our sin. Since we miss the mark of perfection we thank you for sending someone to achieve perfection for us, your Son. Please help us remember that when we are feeling sorrowful because we sinned that we are perfect in your sight because of Jesus. In your name we pray. Amen.