

Week 1 Children's Moment Resources: Soul Reset | Luke 3:21-23

Lessons & Illustrations:

- 1) When we get baptized (for some people it is when they are babies, for others it is when they are older), we are welcomed into God's family. Being a part of God's family is different from joining a sports team or music group where you have to try out to get in or where some people are star players. In God's family, you are important just because you are a member of it.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Place a long piece of cloth (maybe blue) in the baptismal font and drape it down the aisle. Have each child grab hold of the cloth. The cloth is like the water of baptism. We are all connected to the same cloth/water through baptism.
- Have children come to the baptismal font and touch water or glass beads as a way to remember their baptism. Or sprinkle with a branch dipped in water to maintain distance.

- 2) The way we see ourselves and the way God sees us can be different. Sometimes, there are things we don't like about ourselves, or we make mistakes and do not feel like ourselves. But God sees us differently. God always sees us with love, as who we are meant to be. When we think about our baptism, we are reminded that God sees us for who we really are, and we can start to see ourselves that way too.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Partially cover or obstruct a mirror with, for example, shaving cream. Have the children look in the mirror and name what they see. Then, wash the mirror with water as in baptism (perhaps rinse in baptismal font) and have them look again. Now they can see themselves more clearly, as God does.
- Place a mirror in the bottom of the baptismal font and have children look in and describe what they see. Lift the mirror out of the font, as we are "raised" in baptism. Now they can see themselves more clearly, as God does.

Call to Action:

This week, tell somebody that they are loved *and/or* every time you look in the mirror this week, remember that you are loved.

Prayer:

God, help us remember that we are your beloved children, and help us remember that the other people we meet are people you love too.

Additional Components:

Throughout series, you may choose to read excerpts from the book, *When God Made You* by Matthew Paul Turner or *Nanette's Baguette* by Mo Willems

Week 2 Children's Moment Resources: Reset Purpose | Mark 1:32-39

Lessons & Illustrations:

1) God has a purpose for each of us. When we know what our purpose is, it helps us decide what's important and helps us to stay on track.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Introduce a short task without telling the children what the end goal is. For example, a very simple connect the dots (e.g., star shape) with dots that are not numbered. Have someone "complete" the activity incorrectly or do it yourself incorrectly (e.g., connecting five dots as a circle/pentagon) and talk about how they/you decided to do what they/you did. Then provide the same task with numbered dots and an explanation that the purpose of the activity is to draw a star. Only when you know the purpose, can you complete the task and decide how best to do it.

2) Sometimes we get really busy or excited and forget the most important thing - spending time with Jesus. And when we forget to spend time with Jesus/take time to connect with God, we can forget what is important to us. Then, our purpose becomes less clear.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Bring a partially made chain of "links" made of paper strips stapled into loops. Give additional paper strips (unstapled) to the kids and ask them to finish the chain by making more links. It will quickly become clear they cannot do the task without stapling the strips. The staples are like spending time with God. If we forget what's important, we will not be able to achieve our purpose.

3) Everyone has a purpose, or different purposes at different times. God has something for each of us to do because we are all a part of God's plan. Sometimes we think we have to do it all by ourselves or be good at everything, but if we listen to God and learn what our special purpose is, we can work together with other people to do something greater.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Give the kids a short task that is hard to do by yourself but easier to do with others (e.g., a 12-piece puzzle or a Lego set, but each child only gets one block). Have them try to do the activity alone (e.g., solve puzzle or build a tower), then let them help each other. We do not have to do everything alone. We all have a special part to play in the bigger picture. Your job is to do your part.

Call to Action:

Practice asking God what God wants you to do when you pray every day *or*

Work with Sunday School teachers to give children a task (purpose) to accomplish in Sunday School

Prayer:

Hi God, sometimes we forget things, but that's okay. Help us to remember Jesus already started the

work and that we can help, each in our own ways.

Week 3 Children’s Moment Resources: Reset Values | Galatians 5:24-6:10

Lessons & Illustrations:

We are all guided by values. Values help us to make decisions about how we live and what we do. Some of the values that Jesus teaches us are kindness, helping other people, and working together. But sometimes we really want to keep things for ourselves or win against someone else. We value ourselves (our own good) more than other people. Sometimes we need to “reset” (get back in touch with the Holy Spirit) to make sure we are guided by the values of Jesus.

Ideas to illustrate:

- Use a power button (e.g., on a laptop, tablet, phone) or an image of a power button and talk about how when things stop working, sometimes we need to press “reset”
- Use clip from *Toy Story 4* where Woody decides to give up his voice box so that Gabby, a defective toy, can have it and bring joy to a child, even though it means Woody won’t be able to talk to Andy again.
- Bring a baked good (e.g., a large cookie) or chocolate bar that can easily be broken in pieces and ask which of the children want it. Assuming multiple children do, ask what they are going to do and guide them to the end result of sharing – being guided by wanting others to be happy as well.
- Have someone (maybe a young person) help. Ask them to do something that they cannot do on their own (set them up to fail). How will they be able to do it? The children will need to help.

Call to Action:

This week, share something with a friend or family member *or*

Practice “resetting” when something goes wrong or you get upset. Normalize that it is okay for people to change direction and have a “do over.”

Prayer:

Dear God, help us always to remember and do what is most important, not just for ourselves but for everyone around us as well.

Additional Components:

You may want to use the book *If You Give A Cat a Cupcake* by Laura Numeroff.

Nanette’s Baguette by Mo Willems is particularly good for this lesson.

To continue this lesson in Sunday school or youth group, consider having the children play a board game where everyone has to work together to win, rather than competing against one another.

Another idea for Sunday school is to have a “competition” – who can share the most? Have the Sunday School teacher keep track. The children will realize it is paradoxical.

Week 4 Children's Moment Resources: Reset Direction | Acts 9:1-15

Lessons & Illustrations

We all get into certain routines. Some routines can be helpful, but doing something because it is a habit or routine is different from following directions from someone you trust. Sometimes, when you follow directions, you will learn a new, better way or go in a new direction. Sometimes God wants us to go in a different or new direction. It is important to listen to God (by praying, reading the Bible, learning from others) so we can keep learning what direction God wants us to go in.

Ideas to Illustrate:

- Change the order of worship and/or the location from which you tell the children's story (for example, do the children's story first and/or from the back of the sanctuary or facing a window). Ask the children what's different or what they notice from that location that they normally would not. Sometimes changing our direction can help us see things in a new way. Or, as they enter church, ask families with children to sit in a different place from usual that day. During the children's time, ask them how it feels and what they notice.
- Point an arrow in one direction. Have two people help you by going where they think the arrow is pointing. For one person it might be two steps away; for another, it might be the opposite side of the sanctuary. God has a different "way" in mind for each of us, even if we are all going in the same direction.
- Use the example of what happens when a parent is driving somewhere and then there is an accident or bad traffic and Google Maps/GPS says "rerouting". Sometimes, even if you are going the "right" way, you need to listen to God and change directions.
- Play the "hot/cold" game where one person is blindfolded and an item is hidden. Others have to direct the blindfolded person to find the item by saying "warmer, colder," etc. But then have another adult move the hidden item in the middle of the game. It might be confusing for the blindfolded person, but sometimes we have to listen carefully and change direction!

Call to Action:

Challenge the children to do something differently than usual this week like walk a different way home or have their parents take a different route home from church/school, sit with different kids at lunch, etc.

Prayer:

God who guides us, help us listen. Sometimes you speak through the Bible, sometimes through prayer, sometimes through other people. Help us listen and go where you lead us.