

Memory Verse: Truly I tell you whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.

Luke 18:17

There once was a very curious little girl named Luisa. Luisa is just 6 years old and lives with her mother and father. Luisa likes to ask questions and ask for answers all the time, so that one nice morning while her parents were having coffee and she was having breakfast, many questions went round and round in her head.

- Mom, why does time pass so slowly? When will I be big like you and dad?

The mother burst out laughing at this. But Louisa's look was so demanding that her dad had to give her an answer.

--Luisa, dear, don't insist on growing up. Enjoy your childhood. The Word of God says that "he who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God as a child will not enter it."

Louisa, even more surprised, added another question:

-- Then does this mean that you both will not go to heaven?

To which her mother answered:

--It means that we should be pure of heart, and promote truth, love, and all good things that there are in life. Don't be hasty to grow up; be occupied with being a good girl and pleasing God.

Luisa kept these words written on her heart and mind. From then on she concentrated on enjoying her friends and being a good girl. Every night before bed and every morning upon waking she would pray to God and asks that He would keep her heart pure, that He would always remember her as a child, and that the adults would understand the value of this.

Questions:

1. Do you sometimes wish you could be all grown up?
2. Why does God's kingdom need good boys and girls?
3. When you pray, what do you ask God to help you with?
4. Can you tell us a time when you felt your heart was pure?

Activity: Maze

Memory Verse: “Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.”
Luke 6:37

Manuel and Hector are neighbors, and in addition to neighbors very good friends. They go to the same school. They would always go together to school and after classes they would come home together.

One day on the playground at recess, Manuel was showing off to the other children the toys he had. Hector was at the other end of the playground with a unique handmade paper airplane. It was made of many different colored papers and handsome designs. When Hector saw it, he came up and insisted that Manuel lend it to him. Manuel replied, “I’m sorry but I can’t.”

Without waiting for anything else to be said, Hector shouted, “ You are a bad and selfish friend. Don’t speak to me again!”

Hours passed. The friends did not speak to each other. The moment arrived to return home and even though they usually went together, each one went home separately. It was a sad walk for them both.

Once they were home, Manuel felt something in his heart and wanted to go and play with Hector. He went to his house and looking in the window realized that the paper airplane Hector had been so careful of was the birthday present of his little brother. Manuel felt badly for having judged his friend.

Hector too saw Manuel from inside the house and came out to invite his friend to take a walk. Although Hector had been angry, he pardoned his friend, because it’s better to have friends that fill you with joy than to have a solitary life. Manuel understood that one shouldn’t judge others or make hasty decisions. Both promised to keep their friendship forever and always to speak clearly and truthfully.

Questions:

1. What does a judge do? What is his job?
2. Are you a judge? Should you judge others?
3. Who is the judge of the world?
4. Is there anyone you need to forgive?
5. Do you want God to forgive you? Then what do you need to do?

Activity: Word Search

Memory Verse: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

James 2:8

Ana studied very hard at Incarnation School, that she had attended since she was a little girl. She was in 6th grade and enjoyed school. Lessons could be hard. Her teacher could seem “mean”, like when she told Ana to do something she did not like. Still, Ana liked her classmates and believed that when she graduated, she would be able to go to the university and study to be a doctor, the first person in her family to go beyond the level of high school.

Then one day, a new student came to her classroom. His name was Francisco and he came from Mexico. The teacher introduced him as Paco, a nickname for Mexican boys named Francisco. Ana thought that nickname was pretty funny and not something a seventh grader should go by. She also wondered about Paco’s clothing — a mixed match of dark pants, an older shirt (like some other kid had worn it first) and stiff shoes that did not fit him very well. He spoke with a strange accent that made him hard to understand. He knew very little about the history or geography or culture of the Dominican Republic. He didn’t know much mathematics either and math was Ana’s favorite subject. She decided he was strange and did not deserve her attention, never mind her friendship.

So, Ana and her group of friends ignored Paco. They didn’t choose him in games of volleyball. They pushed ahead of him in the line for the cafeteria. Whenever Paco said anything to them, even “Buenos Dias” at the start of the school day, they turned away and without responding to him. Ana agreed with her buddies — if they acted like he didn’t exist, then they would never have to bother themselves with such a strange new kid.

Then, one day, the teacher (noticing Paco’s increasingly sad mood) told the class a little story. Maestra Kenia had moved to Santo Domingo from the United States when she was in the seventh grade. She felt homesick for several months in her new home. People teased her about her accent and the way she dressed. They gave her a hard time about the music she liked. She felt very much alone. Maestra Kenia read from her Bible to conclude her story: “Como El Apostol Santiago dijo, Ama tu projimo como a ti mismo.”

Ana felt bad. She realized how much she and her friends had contributed to Paco’s sadness. What would have happened if Ana had moved to another country? Would she have been shunned and ignored? How would she have felt?

It was hard at first, but Ana knew that the teacher was right. She started to treat Paco as she would like to be treated. Slowly but surely, attitudes changed. Students realized that Paco’s tastes in music were pretty cool. He was a terrific football/soccer player. His family struggled at times to pay for school, but they wanted the best for Paco, just like Ana’s parents did. Everyone felt so much better with Paco inside the class rather than pushed to the outside. It really does pay, Ana concluded, to treat people as you want to be treated!

Questions:

1. Have you ever met someone at school or in a sports club or in your neighborhood who was new and seemed different?

2. In what ways did he or she seem different?
3. Were these things really important once you got to know the new person? Did the person become a friend (or at least someone you could get along with)?
4. What is really important about a friend? Is it the way he/she talks? Dresses? Or is it some other things that are more important?

Activity: Word Swap

**Memory Verse: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Matthew 5:9**

Beatitudes (from Matthew 5:3-10)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Questions:

8 questions made into a phrase match starting with ‘Blessed are’ – with corresponding ‘for’

Activity: Fallen Letters Crossword Puzzle

Memory Verse: "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

John 15:14

Raisa and Alberto are best friends. They went to school together, did homework together, played together like the best of friends, went to church together, and each one helped the other. Their parents invited them to spend their birthdays together. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful and sincere friendship of Raisa and Alberto.

One day, Alberto went to look for Raisa to go to school together as they always did, but this day Raisa's mom told him that she was in the hospital since the night before, that she didn't know when she would return home and to school. She handed him an envelope and asked Alberto to bring the medical excuse to the teacher. Surprised and worried, Alberto began to cry but the mother assured him that when it would be possible she would take him to see Raisa, and asked that he would pray to father God to heal Raisa. Alberto was left more peaceful and went to school with the letter.

The teacher read the letter that Alberto gave her and said that Raisa was sick and couldn't come back to school; that the doctors said that only by a miracle from God could Raisa survive. When the teacher finished reading the letter Alberto raised his hand to speak and the teacher gave permission. Alberto said, "We can help Raisa! "

"How?" asked the teacher. Alberto said: "Raisa's mom said that we should pray for God to heal Raisa. He could heal her if we all go and ask that he heal her. The teacher said, "Of course, Alberto, let's all go together and ask God to heal Raisa."

When Alberto got home from school his mother said to him, "Son, I know that you are very sad that Raisa is sick; her mother told me what happened. Have something to eat, take a bath, and do your homework; we will go to see Raisa at the hospital. "

"Yes, mama, I want to go; she needs me and I have to tell her that God will heal her quickly so that she isn't sad." "Of course," said Alberto's mom.

Alberto and his mom went to the hospital and there met Raisa's parents, who had received the news that Raisa needed a kidney in order to survive and that they should look for a donor immediately. While they were explaining what the doctor had said, Alberto interrupted the parents and said, "I came to save Raisa and God is going to heal her!"

"What are you saying?" they all said, very surprised. The doctor came by and asked what was going on.

"I came to save Raisa and God is going to heal her!" Alberto repeated. The doctor asked Alberto's mom if she agreed that her son could be the donor. She told him she would have to speak with his father and let them know the next day.

The next day Alberto's parents came to the hospital to speak with Raisa's doctor, who told them that first they would have to do tests to be sure that Alberto could give one of his kidneys to his friend. The parents were surprised but Alberto insisted sure and contentedly that he had come to save his friend.

His parents agreed and immediately began the arrangements for the operations. The tests were positive and he was able to save the life of his friend, and God healed them both, Raisa and Alberto.

Alberto was willing to give his life for his friend Raisa. He did what Jesus commanded, to love others, as He loves us. Therefore Alberto is the friend of Jesus. And you, do you want to be a friend of Jesus also? You know what to do... love others also.

Questions:

1. What are 3 things Alberto and Raisa did together?
2. How did Raisa's Mom tell Alberto that he could do to help Raisa?
3. What did Alberto tell Raisa's and his parents when they were at the hospital?
4. What has Jesus commanded us to do if we are to be His friends?

Activity: Cryptogram