

Dear Parents:

All of us in **kidstuff** Children's Ministry are excited to partner with you in teaching your child to know and love God! What a privilege we have to help you fill their minds and hearts with the never changing truth from God's Word.

One of the ways we accomplish this goal is by teaching what we call doctrinal objectives. We have developed a comprehensive set of 100 doctrinal objectives, taken right from the North Hills doctrinal statement and stated in kid-friendly language. We teach five of these doctrinal objectives each quarter for the five years a child is in **kidstuff**.

Below you will find the doctrinal objectives for your child for this third quarter. The teacher is already working to help your child learn these truths, and the special classes provided each week in the Art Studio, as well as the skits in the warehouse, reinforce what they are learning.

As the primary spiritual teacher in your child's life, we trust that you will go over these truths with your child at home over and over again. To help you in that venture, we have suggested some simple and fun at-home activities that you can do with your child. You may be helped by using these ideas—and you may come up with some even better ideas on your own.

We love ministering to your child!

## **Kidstuff Doctrinal Objectives**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Year A)**

#### *Doctrines of Mankind*

- God did not create man because He needed him.
- God created man to glorify Himself. (i.e. to show how great God is)

#### *Doctrines of Salvation*

- Repentance is being sorry for sin and turning from sin to God.
- God keeps changing believers to be more and more like Jesus Christ as they grow in their Christian life
- God sees believers as not guilty.

### Indoor Activity

**God created people to glorify Himself.** Teach your child what it means to *glorify God*. In Kidstuff we call it “showing how great God is.” Select an item in your home (such as a lamp or vase or figurine) and ask your child to think of ways to put the most attention on that item. How can we show how great it is? Follow his/her suggestions by surrounding the item with shiny ribbon, putting the item in a prominent place, shining a flashlight on it and turning off the other lights, etc.—whatever he/she says will show off the item. Then ask the same question about a member of the family. How can we put the attention on \_\_\_\_\_? After discussing that, turn the focus toward God. How can we show how great God is?

### Outdoor Activity

Walk across the yard together with your child/family and talk about the normal direction of someone who does not know God at your child’s level. The person is selfish, proud, angry, etc. Ask your child to give examples of the things that normal sinners do. Then yell “Freeze!” Have everyone stop in place and turn in the opposite direction. Explain that repentance means to stop going one direction and to head in the opposite way. **Repentance is being sorry for sin and turning from sin to God.** It means to stop walking in the direction of sin and to walk in the direction of God. As you walk back down the yard discuss how a change in direction means a different life. Have your child give examples of how saved people have different lives when they turn away from sin to God. After the discussion, you can have your child run in one direction saying or doing something “bad” like yelling, punching the air, etc., and then when you shout “repent”, he/she turns around and runs the opposite direction doing the opposite thing—singing a good song, shouting compliments, etc.

### Unbelievable Exchange

Teach your child that God sees His children just like He sees Jesus. **God sees believers as not guilty.** This is called positional sanctification. Let your child experience an example of this unbelievable exchange by letting him/her enjoy your adult privileges for a block of time (say 2-3 hours). Within necessary boundaries, let him/her eat whatever whenever. Let him/her use the phone without any limits. Let him/her sleep in your bed, etc., whatever you can appropriately give the child to let him/her have your position. Explain that God does the same for believers. To God, we are in the same position as Jesus Christ. Without sin. With the promise sharing in everything Jesus’ has forever!

### Journaling

If your child says he/she is a believer, help him/her start a journal of the ways that “progressive sanctification” is happening in his/her life. Have him/her decorate the cover of the journal in a way that represents the truth that **God keeps changing believers to be more and more like Jesus Christ as they grow in their Christian life.** Start by helping him/her record a few examples of how God has changed him/her since salvation. Then every month or two revisit the journal and keep adding examples of what God is doing!

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One of the ways we accomplish this goal is by teaching what we call doctrinal objectives. We have developed a comprehensive set of 100 doctrinal objectives, taken right from the North Hills doctrinal statement and stated in kid-friendly language. We teach five of these doctrinal objectives each quarter for the five years a child is in **Kidstuff**.

Below you will find the doctrinal objectives for your child for this second quarter. The teacher is already working to help your child learn these truths, and the special classes provided each week in the Art Studio, as well as the skits in the warehouse, reinforce what they are learning.

As the primary spiritual teacher in your child's life, we trust that you will go over these truths with your child at home over and over again. To help you in that venture, we have suggested some simple and fun at-home activities that you can do with your child. You may be helped by using these ideas—and you may come up with some even better ideas on your own.

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## **Kidstuff Doctrinal Objectives**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Year A)**

#### *Doctrines of Christ*

- Jesus lived a sinless life.

#### *Doctrines of Sin*

- All people are sinners because they have inherited a sin nature.
- All people are sinners because they choose to sin.
- People sin because of wrong desires in their hearts.
- People sin because the devil tempts them.

### "Table" Talk

Draw a table with two columns for your child to see as follows:

| Temptation | Sin |
|------------|-----|
|            |     |
|            |     |

Explain the difference between temptation and sin. (i.e. seeing money on the counter and having the idea to steal it and buy some candy is a temptation *not* a sin. Actually stealing the money is a sin.)

Have your child think of at least three or more ideas of temptations/sins and list them in the table to show the distinction.

Read Hebrews 4:15 (the high priest is Jesus) with your child explain that Jesus was human and He was tempted like we are. Look at the Temptation column in the table and imagine Jesus being tempted in all of those ways.

This verse also says that even though he was tempted, Jesus never sinned. ***Jesus lived a sinless life.*** Even though He experienced all of the temptations, He never gave in and sinned. Look at the Sin column and imagine that Jesus never did any of these sins.

### Activity

Buy a newspaper and look through it with your child, reading headlines or excerpts of articles, asking him/her to look and listen for examples of sin. Cut out the examples and lay them on the table.

Then talk about what makes people sin . . . helping your child discover all four of these reasons:

1. ***People sin because we are all sinners*** (we are born that way)
2. ***People sin because they choose to***
3. ***People sin because the devil tempts us***
4. ***People sin because of wrong desires in our hearts***

Emphasize that we are all responsible for the wrong things we do. When we sin, we cannot say it is someone else's fault. BUT—when we are willing to admit our sin and confess it to God, He will always completely forgive us!

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Below you will find the doctrinal objectives for your child for this first quarter. The teacher is already working to help your child learn these truths, and the special classes provided each week in the Art Studio, as well as the skits in the warehouse, reinforce what they are learning.

As the primary spiritual teacher in your child's life, we trust that you will go over these truths with your child at home over and over again. To help you in that venture, we have suggested some simple and fun at-home activities that you can do with your child. You may be helped by using these ideas—and you may come up with some even better ideas on your own.

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## **Kidstuff Doctrinal Objectives**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (Year A)**

#### *Doctrines of God*

- God always tells the truth.
- God is perfect in every way.
- God loves everyone.
- God is full of mercy.

#### *Doctrines of Christ*

- Jesus was hungry, thirsty, tired and tempted. (human)

### Hat Trick

Bring up the topic of *lying*. Have the family offer ideas and insights as to why people lie. Have them write these reasons people lie on strips of paper and drop them in a hat. Have family members pull out the strips of paper one at a time and discuss these reasons people lie. [Have prepared another set of strips of paper that are blank and keep them hidden during this exercise. Say “Now we are going to put all the strips back in the hat—collect them and as you put them back in the hat, secretly switch the written reasons with the blank strips.] Say, “Okay, let’s pull the strips out and talk about what reasons God would have to lie.” Have family members pull out the blank strips—revealing God has no reason to lie. (i.e. God would never be trying to protect himself from getting into trouble, God would never be worried about what people think about Him, etc.) After establishing this contrast, talk about how God’s character makes it impossible for Him to lie. ***God always tells the truth***. He cannot do otherwise.

### Dinner-time Conversation

Ask the whole family what they think of as character qualities of a good person, a good leader, a good friend, and good teacher, etc. Talk about why each of these different qualities is so wonderful when you discover it in a person. End the conversation by explaining that ***God is perfect in every way***. He is all of the things you have discussed and more—in one person! There could never be anyone like Him, and His holiness (perfection) is something we rejoice in and depend upon.

### Forgiveness Fire

Teach about the concept of mercy, which is having a heart of forgiveness toward people who have wronged us rather than giving them what they deserve. Explain that this is God’s heart toward people, even though we have all sinned against Him. ***God is full of mercy***. He forgives us even though we don’t deserve it. Have people in the family share examples of how they have been wronged. Have them write these hurts on a piece of paper. Go outside where you can build a small fire and invite everyone to place their hurts in the fire, which represents God’s mercy. End with a special prayer time around the fire, giving the hurts to the Lord and asking God to work in the hearts of the people who committed them. (Of course, if during this exercise, a child shares a serious or criminal offense, you must take appropriate actions to deal with the situation.)

### Activities

Get a flower with large petals and show your child the old “He loves me; He loves me not” game that young ladies supposedly played. (You may even have your child pluck petals from a flower as he/she plays the game.) You can laugh together about how silly it is to find comfort or disappointment in someone’s love based on which petal comes off! Then explain that God IS love and ***God loves everyone*** everyday. Have your child play the petal game again with a new flower saying “He loves me” with every petal to emphasize the point.

### Leaf Collecting

Go outside and collect beautiful Fall leaves and write on each one a characteristic of God your child has been learning for this quarter:

**Tells the truth**

**Perfect**

**Full of mercy**

**Loves everyone**

Have your child hang the leaves around his/her room as a reminder of these truths about God.