

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 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.

We love ministering to your child!

Kidstuff Doctrinal Objectives

1st 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.