



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Everyone's Favorite Bible Game Show!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize Matthew 6:33 as they learn "I can love and trust God."

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:33, Put God First

MEMORY VERSE:

"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you." Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Every game show has contestants. Everyone wants to be contestant #1 because they get to go first. We all want to be important, but the Bible shows us who and what is most important: God and His kingdom.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us everything we need as we seek you first.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you." Matthew 6:33 (NirV)

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Post the verse on a video screen and read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP:

Make a fun chant (or a cheer) to accompany this week's verse. Include some clapping and actions to add to the fun. Here's an idea:

But put God's kingdom first. (clap, clap)

Do what He wants you to do. (clap, clap)

Then all those things - will also be,

given (clap), to (clap), YOU! (clap, clap)



SKIT

THE VERSE IS RIGHT: Matthew 6:33

ITEMS NEEDED:

A microphone for Stu
Podiums for the contestants (optional)

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

3M, 2F

CHARACTERS:

Stu - Game show host
Katie, Diana, and Jason - Contestants
Announcer

Katie, Diana, and Jason enter and stand off to the side. Stu enters.

STU: Hello everyone, and welcome to *The Verse Is Right*, the game show that knows all the right answers are in the Bible. I'm your host, Stu Berry. We've got three lucky people vying to be our first contestant of the day. Let's say hi to Katie.

KATIE: Hi, Stu!

STU: Diana.

DIANA: Hi, Mom, I'm on TV!

STU: And Jason.

JASON: Whoa, wait, this is *The Verse Is Right*? I thought I was gonna be on *Wheel of Virtue*. Oh well.

STU: Okay, contestants. You know what it takes to become contestant number one. I will read the verse, and you will try to guess where it is in the Bible. The closest guess, without going past, is the winner. Are you ready?

SKIT

KATIE: Let's do it!

DIANA: I'm ready!

JASON: Where's Vanna?

STU: Our first verse is a good reminder of what is most important in life. Here's the verse: "But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you." Katie, what do you think?

KATIE: Umm, okay, let me think. Think, think. I'm gonna say... Mark 5:1.

STU: Katie says Mark 5:1. Diana?

DIANA: Umm, wow, this is so hard. Luke 1:37!

STU: Luke 1:37. And Jason?

JASON: You said the closest without going over, right?

STU: Right.

JASON: Genesis 1:1.

STU: Genesis 1:1. Actual scripture verse is... Matthew 6:33. Jason, you are Contestant number one!

JASON: Woo hoo!!!!

STU: Sorry ladies, you were closer, but you went over. Jason is contestant number one because he guessed verse number one. And ironically, Matthew 6:33 reminds us to keep God and His kingdom, number one! Will Jason be able to win again? Stick around! We'll be right back!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 1 glass jar 2/3 full of rice or sand
- 1 empty jar (both jars must be identical in size)
- 4-5 larger objects (such as medium size rocks or golf balls) that can fill the entire empty jar to the rim

*Note: For best results, be sure to practice this object lesson before class.

Challenge one of the kids to come up and fit all of the large items into the jar that is already filled 2/3 full of rice or sand. After the kid tries, be sure to remove the large items and set them on the table before beginning the lesson.

Let's pretend that these jars are our lives. The sand in this jar are all the things in our lives that we think are important. Things like our family, our friends at school, or being picked to play on a baseball team. Can you think of other things, besides God, that are important? These things are all very good. But when we put that stuff first in our lives (the sand), we don't have enough room to fit the most important things in our lives. Things like a relationship with God (*put a large item in the sand jar*), or prayer (*put another*), or reading our Bibles (*put in another item*), or memorizing scripture (*add item*), or consistently going to church (*add item*). There's just not enough room. (*Remove the large items from the sand jar and place on table.*)

But here's a thought: What happens if we choose Him first? (*Place one large item in the empty jar.*) What if we prioritize praying (*place another large item in jar*), and memorizing scripture (*repeat*), and going to Sunday School (*repeat*)? When we seek Him first and do the things that God's Word tells us to, we now have room for Him in our life (*Show how all the large items fit comfortably in the jar*). But what about all this other stuff (*point to jar with sand*)? This other stuff, like our family, friends, and hobbies are super important too! But when we get the order right (*start to pour the sand over the large items*), and put God first, He says, "I'll take care of everything. All the things you worry about or care about; If you put Me first, there's room for everything else."

Now we can be the person God wants us to be! It all fits!

Have you ever tried to squeeze so many things into your day, and you realize you just can't do it all? What happens when you put your friends or your school or even your family before God? But when we put the big things in first in our own lives, everything will fit right! Truthfully, what can be bigger than God?



LARGE GROUP GAME

KEEP THAT FOCUS – CONCENTRATION GAME

ITEMS NEEDED:

1 standard 52 card deck per group of 4 kids (or adjusted amount of cards depending on time, age of kids, and group size)

INSTRUCTIONS:

This game can be played with students of varying ages, even with young kids competing with older students.

To set up the game, first shuffle the cards well and then place each card face down in 4 rows of 13 cards each.

For later purposes of this lesson, be sure to note who Contestant #1 will be to take the first move. Perhaps the youngest person of the group starts first, or the person with the most letters in their name starts. From there, each player takes a turn by turning two cards over. If the cards match, then the player picks up the cards and keeps them. If they don't match, the player turns the cards back over. If the player gets a match, they get to go again until they fail to get a match.

A match is when two cards have the same rank and color. For example, a match would be two jacks that were both red, one was the jack of diamonds and the other the jack of hearts.

The game is over when all cards have been matched and picked up.

The winner of the game is the player with the most matches once all the cards have been picked up.

VARIATION:

To make the game easier, kids can make matches of any rank where color doesn't matter. Younger kids may do better with lesser cards; just remove all face cards or remove two of the four suits before beginning. For older kids, it may challenge them to play with two decks where matches must be of the same suit and the same rank. For example, the nine of hearts only matches with the other nine of hearts.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God doesn't need you to be first to win at life, He just needs you to focus and concentrate on Him.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Everyone's Favorite Bible Game Show!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize Matthew 6:33 as they learn "I can love and trust God."

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:33, Put God First

INTRO:

How many of you have played concentration before today? Have you ever thought about who first invented playing cards? Let's take a survey here. Stand up if you think the person who first invented cards is your mom and dad's age. Stand up if you think the person who first invented cards is the age of your grandparents? Stand up if you think the first inventor of playing cards is the same age as Mickey Mouse, who is 92 years old? Ok, let's all sit down.

According to the Internet, the first version of the game of concentration started in the 9th century in Japan. To get a better understanding of the time frame, who can tell me what century we are in now? Yes, it is presently the 21st century. Jesus died and left this earth, which started our 1st century. 900 years after Jesus died, the 9th century, someone in Japan invented the card game "Concentration," and now 2,100 years later we are still playing it!

The game "Concentration" is over 1200 years old! Do you think anyone remembers the name of the guy or gal who invented this game? No! Even the internet doesn't know the name of the actual mastermind behind the game! But to this day, millions and millions of people have played this game or games like it. There have even been game shows on television and memory games in toy stores that replicate the idea of using your memory and ability to match pairs up. I wonder if the inventor of this game would have ever thought the game would become so famous! My guess is that this person really didn't care to be the first person to do anything – He/she just wanted to have a game to play out of boredom!

So often we want to be first at something because we hope it will make us more important. If we're first, our chances of being a winner goes way up, and winning makes us feel important! Now I want to ask: Raise your hand, and keep it up, if you were Contestant #1 in your concentration game that we just played.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Now, keep those hands up, and I want those of you who actually won the concentration game to stand up. What have we learned? Were the kids who moved first also always the winners?

If you really want to experience what it's like to be first all the time, then decide right now to do your best to serve God with your whole heart and make *Him* first in your life. Because there is no doubt that you are first in His heart!

READ MATTHEW 6:33

MAIN POINT:

Some Bibles use the words "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" in place of "Put God's kingdom first." When we seek something, it means we are looking really hard with the expectations that we will find it. God commands us to seek His kingdom and trust that He will take care of our needs. For some reason, we like to worry about things in our life, but God wants us to completely depend on Him so we can be a part of all that He has to offer. Instead of relying on ourselves or on others, God wants us to put our energy into pursuing Him, trusting His righteousness, and leaving it to Him to take care of our needs.

Jesus also knew that sometimes we have a hard time prioritizing the things that are important in our lives. So that is why He instructed us to put His kingdom first so we will never get confused about what is most important. From there, He promises to provide for our needs and we can remember that He is able to do far more greater things than anything we can ever ask for!

DRIVE IT HOME:

What does it really mean to prioritize something? Yes, it's when we treat something more or less important than other things. Sometimes we have many things that we must put in order to decide what is most important. Moms and dads might even tell us to stop doing something and do something else. They may tell us to "get our priorities straight" so we focus on the important things, and not waste all our time on the unimportant things.

So let's see how we stack up. Can you think of a few examples of things that may compete for your devotion to God? (Doing well at school, wanting to do what my friends are doing, playing video games, getting the latest new toy, etc.). These aren't all necessarily bad things. Sometimes when we prioritize we have to think about what's better vs. what's best. But our devotion to God should not take second place to anything.

Imagine what would happen in your day at school if you actually do what God tells you to do in Matthew 6:33. For example, let's say you have a big spelling test the next day at school, and you need to study your spelling words, but you would rather play a video game. What if you recited, "But put God's kingdom first."

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you.” What do you think God would be telling you to do in this situation? He would want you to prioritize your learning before your playing. He would want you to go to school the next day feeling confident and prepared to do your best. If you don’t study, God knows that you will feel nervous and disappointed in yourself if you don’t do your best, and that’s not what He wants for you. God does not promise you will get an “A” on that test, but He does promise you do not have to worry. He knows your needs, and God is good.

God says that just because we put Him first, it doesn’t mean we can’t have anything else in our life. He actually means that we can still do and have the good things we like to have in our lives, and we can still find the important things that we like in our lives, but by putting Him first, our priorities will align and fall into place that can make room for even new and exciting things to enter our lives. If you put God first in your heart, then all these other things will be given to you!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us everything we need as we seek you first.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Tell about a time that you let someone go first before you. What happened and how did you feel?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:33

Make a fun chant (or a cheer) to accompany this week's verse. Include some clapping and actions to add to the fun. Here's an idea:

But put God's kingdom first. (clap, clap)
Do what He wants you to do. (clap, clap)
Then all those things will also be,
given (clap), to (clap), YOU! (clap, clap)

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Get a long jump rope. Have two people hold an end of the rope each and begin looping it while another player starts jumping. For younger children, you may choose to swing the rope back and forth instead of looping all the way around. Count how many times a kid jumps without missing. This is the number to beat. The player who makes the highest total number of jumps is the winner. This game proves that it doesn't matter who goes first to win!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:33.

- Who should we always put first in our life?
- What things can we do that will help us keep God first in our hearts?
- What are some things God wants us to do?
- What are some things we need that God promises to provide?
- Does God promise to give us all the things we "want?"

SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for giving us our needs.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Tell about a time that you let someone go first before you. What happened and how did you feel?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:33

Make a fun chant (or a cheer) to accompany this week's verse. Include some clapping and actions to add to the fun. Here's an idea:

But put God's kingdom first. (clap, clap)
Do what He wants you to do. (clap, clap)
Then all those things - will also be,
given (clap), to (clap), YOU! (clap, clap)

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Get a long jump rope. Have two people hold an end of the rope each and begin looping it while another player starts jumping. Count how many times a kid jumps without missing. This is the number to beat. The player who makes the highest total number of jumps is the winner. This game proves that it doesn't matter who goes first to win!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:33.

- Who should we always prioritize first in our life?
- How do we put God's kingdom first in our life?
- What are some of the things God wants us to do?
- If we put God first, does He promise He will give us everything we ask for and everything we want?
- What are some things that are "needs" that God promises to provide for us if we trust him?
- Tell about a time God provided a "need" for you. Has there been a time that God has provided a "want" for you?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for giving us our needs.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

In all things we should put God _____.

- A. first *
- B. on our list of important things, but it doesn't matter where
- C. after our family
- D. third after ourselves and our family

What can we do to make God first in our life?

- A. Pray to Him
- B. Memorize Bible verses so it's in our heart
- C. Talk to our friends and family about God's word
- D. All of the above *

"But put God's _____ first."

- A. name
- B. word
- C. kingdom *
- D. love

"Do what he _____ you to do."

- A. tells
- B. shows
- C. loves
- D. wants *

"Then all those things will also be _____ to you."

- A. given *
- B. thrown
- C. found
- D. enchanted



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Verse is Right Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: CONTESTANT NUMBER 1



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

This week we talked about how every game show has contestants and everyone wants to be contestant #1 because they get to go first. We all want to be important, but the Bible shows us who and what is most important: God and His kingdom. Matthew 6:33, Put God First



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Tell your kids about a time in your life when you choose to trust God and put Him first. What happened? How did it teach you to trust him more?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What does "all those things" mean in Matthew 6:33?
- What are some things you sometimes put first in your life before God?
- Can you tell me the difference between 'needs' and 'wants'? Give me an example of each.



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

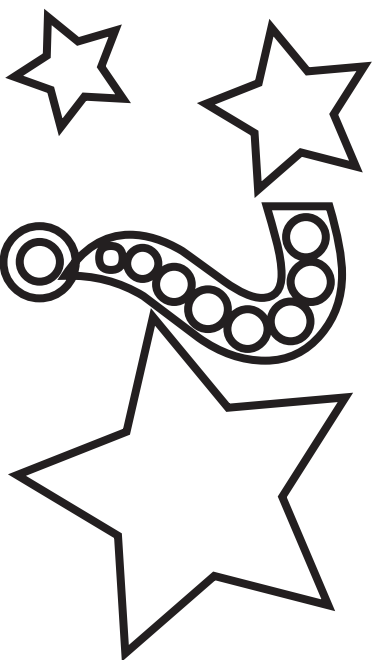
"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you." Matthew 6:33 (NIV)



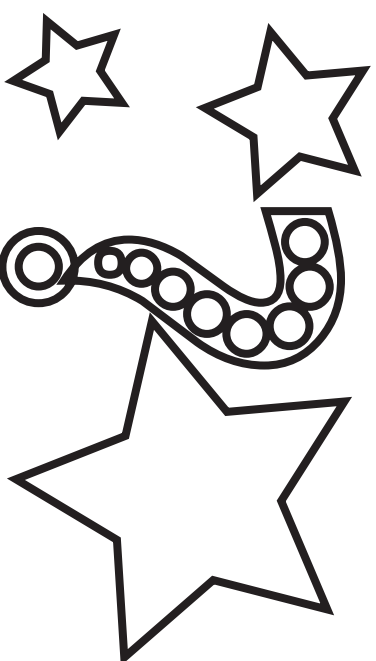
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

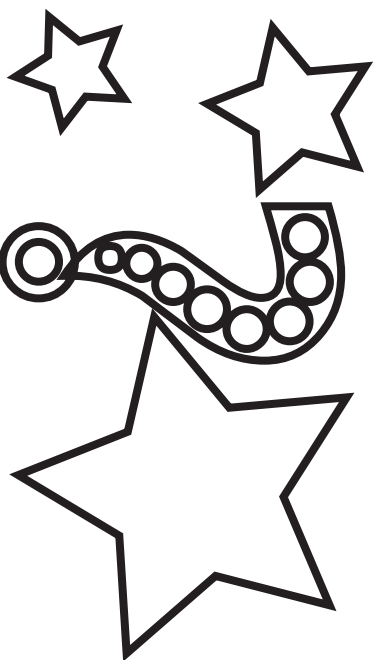
Think about how difficult it is on a moment-by-moment basis to trust God and put Him first. As parents we are natural worriers, and oftentimes we find ourselves wanting to be the captain of our own ship instead of handing the wheel over to our Creator. Think about ways you can model in your home putting God first even when it's hard.



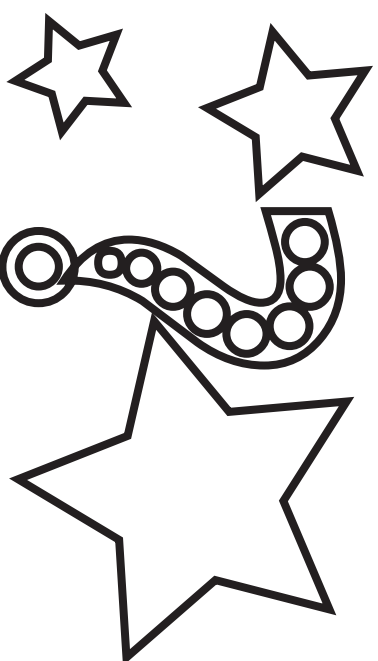
"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you."
- Matthew 6:33 (NIV)



"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you."
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"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you."
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"But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you."
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

FIRST PLACE AWARD

Have the kids make a “First Place” award ribbon. Using ribbon, scissors, felt or cardstock paper, and glue, have kids design a ribbon award that can be displayed in a conspicuous place. Be sure to write “First” on it, with the word “GOD” in even bigger letters as a daily reminder to who is always the first place winner!