

Stewardship Sabbath Children's Story
April 13, 2019

Takers, Traders, and Investors
By Jackie Bishop

Preparation: Bring some items that look fun for children, enough for each child to have one. Items such as fun toys, puzzles, little Lego sets, pens, etc. Have as much variety or as many colors as possible so that there are few repeats.

Say: "I have some things with me that I'm sure many of you will really like. (Give one of the items to each child.)

"Each of you has something that is unique. It is different in some way than what someone else has."

"Please look at what all the other kids have. Is there something that they have that you would trade what you have for theirs? Would you give them what you have in your hand for what they have in their hand? Go ahead and try and see if someone here will trade with you." (Wait for them to look and start to trade. If it goes a little slow... pull out a reserved 'favorite' item and try trading it with one of the kids or have 'pre-planned' traders already positioned.)

As they trade, take note of some of the interactions. Give them a minute or two to trade and then 'debrief' with some of your observations.

Say: "Some kids like what they have and don't want to give it up. Others may be disappointed with their item and feel frustrated that no one will trade. Others may feel frustrated because everyone wants what they have. Others may feel sorry that their friend or sibling didn't get the thing they want and no one will trade with them."

"I have another something 'extra special' that I think everyone will like the very best. (Pull one of the items out of the sack and hand it to a child.)

(To the child that received the 'extra special' gift) "Please reach into my bag and take out something and give it to another child." (Then to that child who received the gift) "Now you come and reach into the bag and pull out an item to give to someone. And that person you give it to should come up here to get something to give to another. And we will continue until everyone has received an 'extra special' treat."

Say: "Please tell me what you like better. Did you like the trading or the sharing better? How did it feel to reach into the bag and give a special treat to another child?"

"God invites us to TAKE from Him to GIVE...not trade and especially not TAKE to KEEP."

"When we reach into the bag to take something for ourselves, we are thinking only of ourselves. When we start trying to trade we are not attempting to give away our best, but once again, we are

thinking only of ourselves. What does that person have that I WANT, rather than how can I take from what God has given me to help someone else.”

“When we take from the blessings God has provided, we should think also how to be a blessing to others. God tells us that He loves a cheerful giver, and that when we take from all He has given us, to GIVE or SHARE with others, we are the ones who are the happiest.”

“Let’s pray and ask Jesus to help us find ways this week to be a generous giver with our time, our possessions, our forgiveness, and our kindness.” (Pray)