

CHILDREN CHURCH LESSON

CORE VALUES 1

TEXT 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ruth 2:1-3, 10-12

MEMORY VERSE Romans 13:7 NIV "Give to everyone what you owe them; if you owe taxes pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue, if respect, then respect; if honour then honour."

OR
Romans 13:7 NIV "Give to everyone what you owe them; ... if respect, then respect."

STORY – WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Ngozi, Seun, and Sarah sat down with their parents for dinner.

"Mum, this food is delicious," Sarah said as she finished eating the beans with bread. "When I'm old enough I will learn to cook just like you."

"Thanks, Sarah." Mrs Nneka Adedapo said. "I'm glad you enjoyed it. Don't worry, when you turn five I'll allow you to help me in the kitchen."

"Thanks, Mum." She gave her mother a hug and then she started packing away the dinner plates. Ngozi got up and joined Sarah to clear the table. Ngozi washed the plates while Sarah and Seun watched TV.

A few days later Mrs Opeyemi, the neighbour passed by. Seun and Sarah were playing in the garden.

"Good morning, ma," Sarah said.

"Good morning, dear," the woman replied. As Mrs. Opeyemi greeted Sarah something fell out of her bag. Sarah got up and helped her pick it up. She then offered to carry one of the bags into the house.

A few weeks later the children sat in the sitting room with their parents, turn by turn. First was Ngozi. Ngozi had done well in class. The teacher had added that whatever duty was given to her that term, she had done it well. Her parents commended her. Next was Seun. Seun's results were average. Seun's teacher had mentioned that Seun was performing below her capability. Seun's parents were not happy with her and encouraged her to do better the following term. Last was Sarah. Sarah had done well in class. The teacher added that Sarah was polite and helpful. Her parents commended her and encouraged her to continue to do well.

The following day Mrs Adedapo came home with ice cream for Ngozi and Sarah.

"What about my own?" Seun asked.

"This is a reward for their hard work. Sit down. Let me tell you two stories." The three of them sat down and listened to the stories.

Mrs Adedapo told the story of how a slave girl was polite and hardworking and served her mistress. She worked so well that when she advised her mistress to tell her husband to go and see the prophet, Elisha, in Israel, her mistress listened to her. As a result, her mistress' husband, Naaman, was healed of his leprosy. Elisha's helper, Gehazi was greedy and did not respect the authority of Elisha. At the end of the day Gehazi became leprous.

The second story was about how a young woman, Ruth, respected her mother and served her mother so well that God provided her with a good job and a good husband.

When Mrs Adedapo finished telling the two stories she emphasized a few points. "Two values I want you to hold on to are the value of respect and the value of excellence. These values will go a long way in making your life and the life of those around you better."

"Thank you for the stories, mum," Ngozi said.

"Thank you for the stories, mum," Seun said. "I have learnt my lesson."

"Thank you, mum," Sarah said, and she gave her mum a big hug.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention two or three things that Ngozi did that showed that she was a good girl.
2. Mention two things that Seun did that were not good.
3. Mention two or three things that Sarah did that were good.
4. What two values did Mrs Adedapo talk about in the stories?
5. Who helped her mistress' husband to get healing?
6. Who got punished for not respecting authority?
7. How can you demonstrate respect?
8. How can you demonstrate excellence?

CONFESSION

I respect my parents. I respect my teachers. I respect those who are around me. I work hard and I do my best. I am favoured. I am blessed. I do well in school. I reap a good harvest. I am rewarded for my good work. People see me and see God's hand upon my life.

ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** –Play **Simon Says**
2. **With older children** – Find as many words as you can from the words '**Discipline**' and '**Elisha**'. Demonstrate excellence by finding at least ten words of at least two letters, for each word. There are over twenty words in the word Discipline and over twenty words in the word Elisha. For example you can get the word 'spine' from the word 'discipline' and you can get the word 'leash' from the word Elisha. (They can play **Simon Says** as well.)