Bible Story 201
Finish What You Start
Haggai

OPENING ACTIVITIES

• Blocks
  o Set out various types of blocks for the children to build with
  o In the process, have some of the children build an unfinished temple with large blocks

WORSHIP

PRAYER

STORY
Haggai 1:1-15; 2:1-23

• Act
  o Using the book of Ezra for historical context, have the children pretend to be Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people of Judah
  o Have your helper pretend to be Haggai sharing God’s messages with the people
  o Explain the passage as they act it out

MEMORY VERSE
Haggai 1:7

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!”

• God wanted the people to think about what they were doing with their time and their talents. Were they doing what God wanted them to be doing?
• Practice the verse by doing motions
  o “says” – point to your mouth
  o “LORD” – point up
  o “hosts” – spread out your arms over your head
  o “consider” – point to your mind
  o “ways” – walk in place
ACTIVITIES

• Object Lesson
  o Show the children a baby food jar or another small container with a lid
  o Place some small individual candies such as Skittles or M&M’s in the jar as you name things the children might spend their time on (playing baseball, reading, doing homework, doing crafts, playing video games…)
  o Attempt to place a fun size candy bar into the jar to represent time with God (reading your Bible, praying, going to church, being kind to others…)
  o There is not enough room left in the jar to fit the candy bar in without spilling out some of the individual candies
  o Talk about how the people of Judah were putting the things they wanted to do before the things God wanted them to do
  o Now, take everything out and start over. This time place the candy bar in first, reminding them that it represents doing the things God has asked you to do
  o Then put the smaller candy back into the jar, representing things you enjoy in your flesh (that are not sin in and of themselves). This time everything will fit
  o Encourage the children to put God and what He wants them to do first in their lives
  o Give the children each the materials to make a candy jar of their own, reminding them to put the fun size candy bar in first

• Role-play
  o Have the children act out situations where they have a choice to put God’s will first or their own desires first
    ▪ Your friend invites you to spend the night Saturday night, but that will mean you don’t go to church Sunday morning
    ▪ Your brother is playing video games, but you haven’t read your Bible yet today
    ▪ You are playing video games, and you see your mom bringing the groceries in from the car
  o After they act out the situation, have the class determine whether they were putting God’s will first, or their own desire first
  o Encourage the children to put God first and trust Him with the rest. Read Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”

• Color
  o Color the paper with the memory verse on it

MATERIALS

- Coloring paper with memory verse on it (Print the coloring page from http://www.calvaryknoxville.org/OTTableOfContents.pdf)
- Crayons
- Various types of blocks
- Costumes and props to act out the story
- Baby food jar or similar container for each child
- Fun size candy bar for each child
- Small candies like “Skittles” or “M&M’s” for each child
- Props for role-playing