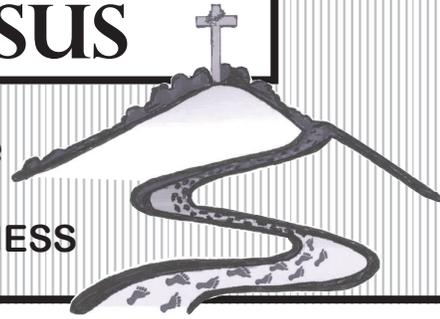


TO BE LIKE JESUS

Parent Resource Page Lesson 18: HUNGERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS



Themes:

- Christians are to have a strong desire for Jesus' righteousness in their daily lives.
- God wants His children to become righteous and holy.
- We must find out what thoughts, words, and actions please God.
- The Bible provides us with God's righteous commands for every situation.
- Jesus promises happiness to those who hunger for His righteousness.

Scripture:

Matthew 5:6; Ephesians 5:8-10; Philippians 4:4; Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:24b; Proverbs 31:9; 2 Timothy 3:16

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Take it to heart: Do you find yourself thinking about what is right to do in every situation? Why is this hard? What kinds of things often appear to be more fun and exciting? Can you think of a situation in which doing what was wrong seemed fun at the time but afterward, you wished you had done what was right? Is obedience to Jesus' commands popular with the world? Will it be hard to "be different" and do what is right? How can Jesus help you with this struggle? Do you go to God's Word to find out what is righteous? Do you pray for righteousness in your life? Do you hunger for righteousness or do you simply care about appearing to act right? What's the difference?

Are there things in your life that are hurting your growth in righteousness? Will you grow in righteousness if you are constantly hungering after more television or computer games or sports? Do you put as much effort into training for righteousness as you put into those other things? Can you think of something that you can do this week that will help you to better grow in righteousness?

Read Romans 6:13-18. Why are Christians called to be "slaves" to righteousness? If you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation, who is your Lord and Master? Do you offer your tongue, hands, feet, ears, and every other part of your body in order to do the righteousness of Jesus? Can you give an example of how your tongue, arms, and feet could participate in doing something righteous?

Pray about it: Hungering for righteousness is not about merely performing external righteous acts—it's about your heart's desires. Does your heart crave doing what is right and pleasing to Jesus? Ask God to give you a true, constant hunger for righteousness. Read 1 John 1:8-2:1. Examine your heart and pray about your response.