

Children's Ministry

1st-2nd Grade

3 John 1:13-15

November 23, 2008

Lesson Plan: Main Point: We should face the future humbly.
Basic Idea: We cannot control our future.
How we get there: I hope to see you shortly (14)

Examine James 4:14

1. What do you plan to do tomorrow?
2. What things could keep that from happening?
3. How much can we really control about the future?
4. Who does control what happens?

While the idea that we are "just a vapor," could seem a little discouraging, it should be an encouraging message. If our lives were completely up to us, then we'd be in pretty sad shape because there isn't much we can really control. Instead, we can rest in the fact that God knows our future and it laid out before us. We really don't know what's going to happen next.

Illustration (see below)

Since we can't know the future, we should place it in Jesus' hands. We should not worry about the future, because our worrying can't change a thing. Also, we should brag about what we are going to do in the future, because we don't really know if we'll have a chance. Therefore, we should understand every day, and every breath is a gift from God who loves us very much. We should rest knowing we are in His hands!

Ask the kids:

1. Why are we so tempted to try to control the future?
2. What is wrong about our attitude when we do? (pride)

Illustration: "Guess the color"

--To help illustrate past tense, hold up a color card. Then set it down. Ask the kids what color you just held up. They can know the past.

--To help illustrate present tense, hold up a color card while asking the kids what color you are holding. They can see the present.

--Next, get a student to guess which color you are going to hold up. No matter which color they choose, you select a different color. This shows them they can't know the future.

"Nailing It" John 14:1-3. While we should speak of our future acknowledging that we don't know what tomorrow holds, Jesus didn't talk about the future that way. Because He is all powerful, when He says something is going to happen, it IS going to happen. Therefore, when He promises the day is coming when we will be with Him, that is a promise and something we can rest in. He will receive those who love Him and nothing can change that!!!

