



Lesson 11:

DELAYED GRATIFICATION



TEACHING GOAL: Temporary discomfort can lead to greater rewards.

1. Play theme song
2. Pray
3. Review last lesson
4. Lesson and discussion
5. Memorize: **In heaven is my reward; when I'm sacrificing for my Lord.**
6. Close in prayer



SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.”



MATERIALS: Large bucket
Water and ice
20 marbles
Dimes



IN ADVANCE: Fill the bucket with ice and water. You want the water to be very cold. Place marbles in the bottom of the bucket.

Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A Big Idea

Your willingness to put up with pain and discomfort to win a future reward is called “delayed gratification.” Delayed gratification is a very important skill for Christians.

Jesus had a choice to die on the cross. He could have denied the responsibility of being the Son of God. But he went through the pain for the future reward of having Christians join with him in heaven.

Christians in other countries spend time in jail or suffer pain because they refuse to deny that they believe in Jesus. They do this because God has promised them a greater reward in heaven if they follow him on earth.

Because you are a Christian, friends may make fun of you. You may not be able to watch the same television shows as your friends. You may not be allowed to wear immodest clothes that are considered popular by your friends. When you give up something for Jesus, God promises that you will receive a greater reward when you get to heaven. Ask one person to read Matthew 6:19-21. Ask another person to read Matthew 5:11-12.

B Activity

There are 20 marbles in the bottom of the bucket. Take off one of your shoes and socks. I will give you a dime for every marble you pull out of the bucket with your toes. You can earn up to \$2.00! You can only keep your foot out of the water for 5 seconds, just to pull out the marble. Give each child a turn.



Lesson 11

Was keeping your foot in the water easier or harder than you expected? Listen. Did the cold water hurt? Listen. Why would you keep your foot in the water even when the cold water hurt? Listen. The reward of pulling out more marbles that were each worth a dime.



Application

Ask participants to give examples of delayed gratification in their lives. If possible give an example that involves being a Christian.

- Going to church instead of sleeping late.
- Spending time memorizing scripture when your friends don't.
- Not watching a popular TV show because the violence or sexuality is dishonoring to God.
- Giving money to people who need to buy food instead of buying more candy or toys for yourself.