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School: Central Valley Christian
Grade Level: Kindergarten
Theme/Lesson: Actions that are Pleasing to Jesus

Your objectives in this lesson:

a.) In this lesson students will realize that their actions are important to making our class a safe and positive learning environment.

b.) Students will realize that our behavior must be pleasing to Jesus.

Materials needed:

- 1) A box of Teddy grahams (represents the class)
- 2) A bag of M and M's (represents the sweet things that we can do)
- 3) A bag of marshmallows (represents our soft and kind words)
- 4) A bag of chocolate chips (represents that we always do our best to obey)
- 5) A bag of chex mix (represents that we are a mixture of talents and personalities made by God, and together we make up our class of friends.)
- 6) A rotten banana
- 7) Napkins

Idea: As the year begins in Kindergarten there is so much to learn. We go over the routine, the order in which we do things, where things belong, and the classroom rules. It is important not to forget to teach what the Christian expectations are for our behavior towards others in our class. This lesson is one of the first lessons I teach during Bible time to my students. I stress that we are Christian and how we love Jesus. I also talk about how Jesus is our best teacher on how to live and on how to treat others. The Kindergartner's attention span is short at this stage in the school year, so our discussion is brief. The "object lesson" by use of a snack really hits home, and it surely makes sense to the kids.

I begin by taking out my snack items, and I pass out a napkin to each child. I start by describing that the teddy grahams represent all the kids in our class. I pass out a little handful to each child, and allow them to eat one. I then pass out each of the other items (allowing them to eat one), and as I am distributing them I describe what they represent (see list above). We talk about sweet things we can do for others, and what kind words are, and how we always work hard, and do our best to obey. We also talk about how each of us are important and made special by God. Once all of the mixture is passed out I pull out the rotten banana. I ask the children if they would like some rotten banana in their snack. Of course they don't. I ask them if Jesus would like us to do "rotten banana" kinds of things to others in the class. We discuss what "rotten banana" actions are such as: biting, pushing, poking with a pencil, fighting, kicking, and lying. We all agree that we do not want any "rotten banana" behavior in our class, and that Jesus does not approve of that either. We then enjoy our delicious snack and the children go home and "share" all about the rotten banana. It works great and is a lot of fun!