



Righteous

MAIN IDEA

- **Everything that God thinks, says, and does is right.**

MEMORY VERSE

*Righteous are you,
O LORD, and right
are your rules.*
—Psalm 119:137

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 119:137
- 2) Psalm 145:17
- 3) Luke 4:1-13
- 4) Ephesians 6:1



LESSON SUMMARY

In his book *The Pleasures of God*, John Piper provides an excellent way to understand God's righteousness:

Is not the essence of righteousness to place supreme value on what is supremely valuable, with all the just actions that follow? And isn't the opposite of righteousness to set our highest affections on things of little or no worth, with all the unjust actions that follow? Thus the righteousness of God is the infinite zeal and joy and pleasure that he has in what is supremely valuable, namely, his own perfection and worth. And if he were ever to act contrary to this eternal passion for his own perfection he would be unrighteous...¹

In this lesson, we gave the children an example of something it would be wrong to value—a pail of garbage—and then led them to examples of things it would be right to value with increasing affection, ending with God Himself. Grounding God's righteousness in His valuing what is truly most valuable—His own greatness and worth—gives a sort of measurable starting point from which to understand that God righteousness is right, along with everything He does and all of His rules and commands. We then presented the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness to demonstrate His perfect righteousness, always obeying His Father, even when tempted by Satan.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *for your child to be gripped by the intensity of God's valuing of His own glory.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would begin to cause your child to see his or her own unrighteousness and the need for a perfectly righteous Savior.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Read Psalm 119:137. Why are God's rules always right? Do you treat God's rules like they are always right? Do you always obey rules like Ephesians 6:1? Why do you think we fail to always do the right thing? Can you think of any Bible verses that explain this problem?**

1. Piper, John. *The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God*. (Colorado Springs, Colo.: Multnomah Books, 1991), 39.

[e.g., Romans 3:23] **Do parents care whether or not children obey their rules? Do you think a righteous God cares whether or not we obey His right rules?**

- Review the story of Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. **If you were really hungry, why might it seem like the right thing to turn stones into bread? But if it meant disobeying God, would it still be right? Did Jesus trust that His Father would take care of His needs another way—a way that would not require Jesus to disobey His Father? (See Matthew 4:11.)**

Explain that sometimes we disobey because we do not trust that God’s rules and ways are

really right and good. We only think about the immediate benefit (getting what I want, when I want it), and not about the benefit of trusting God and His right rules and ways. Give a concrete example of this using Ephesians 6:1 or something similar showing that obedience, while difficult, ultimately brings about more joy and contentment.

- Emphasize that when it comes to God’s right rules, Jesus is a perfect rule keeper. **Is that true of you or me? Is that true of dad and mom? How do you feel knowing that you do not always keep God’s right rules? Do you think that Jesus can help you? In what way?**

ACTION STEP

This week, talk with your parents about one of God’s righteous rules that you have a hard time obeying. Why is obedience to this rule difficult? Whose help must you depend upon? Daily pray and ask Jesus to help you. Thank Him that He obeyed all God’s rules perfectly.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This verse is not right. Put the words in the right order.

rules LORD you are O righteous your
right and are —*Psalm 119:137*


