

MYOB

Or “Mind Your Own Business”
Part 3

Goal for the Lesson

“Mind your own business!” is a phrase frequently used by parents and teachers. These four words are very important, and they reflect an important Bible truth. Sometimes teaching the “why” behind the command to “mind your own business” will help children realize how this statement is vital to them and others. A continual stream of stress is added to people’s lives by those who meddle. Thus, our goal in this third lesson is again to teach the importance of minding one’s own business.

Scripture for the Lesson

After His resurrection, Jesus was with His disciples on the beach sharing a meal of fish and bread. Jesus had just told Peter what He wanted him to do: spend his life feeding the sheep of Jesus, feeding them with the Word of God. Jesus also told Peter how Peter would die by being crucified. This death would glorify God. For some reason, Peter turned around and saw John.

“Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.” —John 21:21-22.

Definitions

Ask the children what they think the word means in this verse, and then explain the correct definition.

Tarry - wait or delay

Ask the Children

Ask the children questions to prod them to think about how the verses can apply to them.

- (1) The first thing Peter did was look around and notice other people. Then Peter expressed curiosity (a desire to know) about John. Why do you think Peter wanted to know this? (There can be many right answers to this question.)
- (2) Do you think it would have made Peter feel better to know that John was going to die in the same way?
- (3) Do you think that there was just the slightest, smallest thought in Peter’s mind that Jesus was not being fair? After all, why did Peter have to die that way, and maybe John wasn’t going to die in the same way?

Keep in mind as we study this lesson, that curiosity about how we are treated or the things that happen to us may not be a good thing, but could be very sinful.

Skit 1

Joy complains to her mother, “How come Kathy gets to go to Grandma’s and I don’t?”

Ask the Children

- (1) What was Joy asking about?
- (2) Why do you think Joy asked her question in a complaining manner?
- (3) What sins are behind the sin of complaining questions? (answer: discontent, self-pity, resentment, anger)
- (4) Do complaining questions imply that the person in authority may be unfair or wrong?
- (5) Do you think it is right to question the person in authority about his/her fairness, especially when it is a child questioning an adult? Why?

Teacher Notes (explanation of skit)

There is so much sin in this one short sentence: “How come . . .” Discontent, complaining, self-pity, resentment, and a little anger are just a few. And, in Joy’s estimation, who is the probable cause of Joy’s discontent? Why, her mother! These negative emotions are directed at her mother. Joy’s statement also is judgemental. Joy is verbally arguing with her mother as to the fairness of letting Kathy go to Grandma’s and not the both of them. Joy’s curiosity was much like Peter’s.

Personal Application Questions

- (1) Do you ever look at others and wonder how come they have more than you, or get to do things that you don’t get to do, and you wonder about the fairness of it?
- (2) Is it any of your business?
- (3) Why do you wonder and ask and question if it is none of your business?
- (4) Do you ever have feelings of self-pity, discontent, or resentment when you don’t get to do what others get to do?
- (5) Do you think these feelings are sinful?

Sharing Thoughts With Children

Joy’s questioning complaint is just like Peter’s question to our Lord. She is worried that Kathy may be getting a better deal than she is. Perhaps she is a little bit jealous. However, by asking the question, she is putting her mother on the spot. Perhaps Mom wanted to tell her, or perhaps she had a good reason for keeping that information confidential. It is really none of Joy’s business. Joy needs to learn to trust her mother, be thankful, and be content.

The Solution

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,” —1 Thessalonians 5:18. God’s will for Joy was staying home from Grandma’s. Joy should learn the great secret of contentment and that is giving thanks for *all* things, for we know that *“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,”* —Romans 8:28. Trusting in God and having a heart of thankfulness will chase away all the sinful feelings of discontent, self-pity, and resentment. We will not worry if we are being treated unfairly because we will be busy giving thanks for all things, knowing there is a reason and a purpose, and God is working it together for good for us. So, the next time you are tempted to ask “How come?” stop, think, pray, trust, and give thanks, and yes, mind your own business!

Skit 2

Paul always receives an “A” on his spelling test with little effort. His brother James works hard to get a “C.” When James received an “A” on his final spelling exam, his father brought him home a new baseball glove. Paul complained to his mother, “I always get an A. Why doesn’t Dad buy me a new glove?”

Ask the Children

- (1) Do you think Paul was envious of James’ new glove?
- (2) Do you think Paul should have complained to his mother about Dad not buying him a glove?
- (3) Do you think Paul was questioning his father’s fairness?
- (4) Should Paul be questioning his father’s fairness? Why or why not?
- (5) Does Paul have a right to not like his father’s decision?
- (6) Was Paul out of line, meaning “was it his business if his Dad gave James a new glove”?
- (7) How was Paul like Peter in the verses?

Personal Application Questions

- (1) Do you ever question your parents about their decisions?
- (2) Should you question them? Explain your answer.
- (3) Should we be worried if others are treated better than us?
- (4) Should we be worried about being treated fairly?
- (5) When we worry about these things, or feel that we are not being treated fairly, are we more concerned about ourselves or the other people?

The Solution

“Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.” —John 21:21-22.

When Peter asked Jesus what was John going to do, Jesus clearly put Peter in his place. Jesus basically said, “Peter, it is none of your business. What is that to you? Peter, just follow me, and mind your own business.” Now, think about that! Jesus was God! And Peter was questioning Him instead of simply following or obeying or agreeing to what Jesus said. Peter had no right to question Jesus. Jesus was in authority. Jesus was God. Jesus was giving the directions. And, so it should be with us. We must recognize the authorities in our lives, and for children, this is their parents.

Parents give direction, children follow. Now, sometimes parents make honest mistakes, but it is not up to children to question them, but to follow them. Sometimes things might not be fair, or so it seems, but God asks us to *“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,”* 1 Thessalonians 5:18.” Also, *“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content,”* 1 Timothy 6:8.

It does not matter if we think things are fair or not. We just need to give thanks and be content. So, the next time we are tempted to whine, complain, and are about to ask a question, which is none of our business to ask, we need to stop and pray and maybe even ask ourselves, “What is that to me?”

Review

Review the verse and give the young people a challenge to “mind their own business!”

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Teacher Notes (explanation of skit)

When Paul complains, “Why doesn’t Dad buy me a new glove?” he is thinking that Dad is not being fair. He, Paul, deserved a glove. He may feel resentment, anger, self-pity, so much so that he is more than curious to know just why Dad has treated him thus. He is questioning Dad’s ability to make fair decisions. By seeking to know the answer to his question, he is placing himself in the role of a judge. He will be a judge to see if Dad was fair or not.

Sharing Thoughts With Children

Paul may have experienced envy, but he did not have a right to question his father’s decision. By questioning his father’s fairness, he was putting himself in a position of authority over his father. His father did not need to answer to him. The father is the father, and the child is the child. We are to be thankful and content for what we receive and not worry about how others are treated or if they are treated better than us.