

Honoring God at School

THE CONVERSATION:

School comes with tons of challenges. Not only is there the stress of the actual school part of homework and classes, there can also be pressure to be involved in certain activities or hang out with a particular group of people. God calls us to do everything in a way that honors Him, even at school! In this lesson, students will learn why school is important and how they can make the most of it.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- What are some of the craziest things you have ever experienced at your school?
- If you could invent a class about anything in the world, what would it be?
- If you were teacher for the day, what would be your first act?

SCRIPTURE TO LOOK AT:

Mark 12:29-31

1. What does Jesus say are the two most important commandments?
2. What do you think it means to love God with all your mind? All your heart? All your strength? Try to give an example of each from day-to-day life.
3. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Who is your "neighbor"?

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING:

On average you spend 1,260 hours of your life at school each year! And that's not including after school stuff or the homework you do. That's a lot of time! Since it is such a big part of your life, it's a good idea to think through how you can honor God with that time.

DID YOU KNOW? Jesus went to school! Well, most likely. In Jesus' time, Jewish boys went to Rabbi school. So basically, Jesus had the first five books from the Old Testament memorized. That's a lot of work! He totally understands having a lot of stuff to do.

- Why is school important?

Teaching Moment: It is a gift and privilege to learn, be educated, and gain more knowledge as you grow up! Doing your best at school helps to build good habits—you learn how to manage your time, work and study hard, and how to persevere through difficult seasons of stress.

Topic #1 - School is a mission field.

Your classmates and teachers are some examples of the “neighbors” Jesus talks about loving, as they are in your daily life.

- How many of the students at your school do you think have heard about Jesus?
- How many of them do you think have a relationship with Jesus?
- Do your classmates and teachers know that you are a follower of Jesus? How can you live in a way that makes a relationship with Jesus attractive to those who don't know Him?

Topic #2 - You can worship God through school.

Read Luke 12:48.

What do you think this phrase means: “when someone has been given much, much will be required in return”?

Why does trying your best in school honor God?

Teaching Moment: God has blessed you with the opportunity to go to school and get an education. Learning is important because not only do we learn important (sometimes boring) stuff that helps you live your life (like math) but also you learn about friendships and how to live out your faith. When we do our best in school, we are doing our best with the opportunities God has given us.

LIVE IT OUT:

You don't get to decide whether you go to school, but you get to decide how you go to school. Your attitude and your actions at school make an impact!

- What makes it hard for you to be motivated at school?
- What are some things that you can do to make school more enjoyable and maintain a good attitude throughout the day?
- How can you show someone Jesus at school this week? Write down an action in your booklet and make it a goal this week.

MEMORY VERSE: Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people.