

D/G CIRCUS SPECTACULAR: A DESIGN

SESSION 42: "HONEST TO GOD" (*a tableau on Christian virtues of truth and honesty and being true to God*)

BIBLICAL BASIS: John 14:6 – "I am the way, and the truth, and the life...."

Ephesians 4:15 – "the truth is in Jesus."

Ephesians 4:15 – "Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way...into Christ."

RESOURCES: varied including "Pockets," Sep, 2009, v.29, no8; "The Blind Man and The Elephant," John Godfrey Saxe in Kaiser Aluminum Communications, 1965; IDB, v.4, p717.

PROJECT: "What Would You Do?," p48, "Pockets"
"What Do You See? Tell the Truth Now"
Elephant Paper Bag Puppet

AVAILABLE TIME: @30 minutes.

PURPOSE: the truth is as one sees it in comparison to that which is seen as being untruth; to distinguish truth from untruth; the only truth is Jesus:
...his teaching,
...God's grace for us as
revealed in the gospels, and
...to know it for oneself.

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1. Calliope plays one verse of "Jesus, the Very Thought of You," LBW316 or alternate: "I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone," LBW395
 2. Dismissal to the Big Top with the Big Ticket of respect, responsibility and reverence.
 3. All welcomed, admitted.
 4. 3-ring action including:

Ring 1

Center Ring

Ring 2

D/G VIDEO PLAYING:
"Finders Keepers" or
"Kookaburra"

[DO FIDGET BUSTER:
"The Elephant Walk" to
same-named song; arms as
trunks]

SAY: "Hi, my name is Betsy.
What's yours?"

[LET KIDS RESPOND;
HOPEFULLY, SOMEONE
WILL SAY THAT'S NOT

TRUE.]

SAY: "Yes it is and you are
(make up different
names for each child)"

[LET KIDS RESPOND;
HOPEFULLY SOMEONE
WILL SAY THAT'S NOT
TRUE]

SAY: "Okay, you're right. My
name isn't Betsy, it's
Trudy."

[LET KIDS REACT]

SAY: "Okay, okay, you're
right. My name is
Cindy. And that's the
truth. Honest.

[LET KIDS REACT]

SAY: "How did you know
what wasn't true and
what was true?"

[LET KIDS REACT]

SAY: That's right. Truth is
what we know to be
true, to be correct.

Truth is knowing
what we know to be
true: by seeing,
...by thinking,
...by reading,
...by feeling.

I have a very special
story to share with
all of you today. It's
called "The Blind
Men and the
Elephant."

[MOVE TO CENTER
RING]

[READ STORY; CHOOSE A CHILD
FOR EACH OF 6 ITEMS, HAVE
THEM CLOSE THEIR EYES, AND
THEN DESCRIBE WHAT THEY
FEEL: IE BRICK, BARK, ETC,.. AFTER
EACH ASK: "Is he/she right or wrong?"]

SAY: Well, there you have it.
Each one was right.
Each one was wrong.

[MAKE ELEPHANT PUPPETS, WHILE DOING
SO...]

DO: "What do you see?"
[EACH KID WILL SEE SOMETHING
DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHERE
THEY ARE SITTING; KIDS CAN MOVE
AROUND TO SEE WHAT THE OTHER
KIDS SEE]

AND DO: "True or False" statements:

- Grass is green (sometimes brown)
- Water is blue (sometimes green, brown, black,
even white)
- The sun is yellow. (sometimes, red, orange, or
at its very center, white)
- We see with our eyes (sometimes with our
hands or hearts)
- We learn by reading (sometimes by seeing,
thinking, doing)

SAY: So, what is truth?

[LET KIDS RESPOND]

SAY: Truth is Jesus.

He says so. [READ: John 18:38 from
Bible].

That what he says and
...does is of God...who is true.

And what God asks of us is that we:

- ...love one another, and
- ..."be kind to one another,
...tenderhearted,
...forgiving one another,
...as God in Christ has forgiven you."
-cf Ephesians 4:32

And therein in us is God's grace alive.

And that's the truth: the way of God.

God loves each of us a whole lot.

That's the whole truth to believe.
Honest to God.

CLOSE WITH ECHO PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for being
true to me in your love.
Help me to be true
...to you in going to
school,
...with my classmates,
...parents,
...teachers,
...brothers and
sisters. Amen.