

Lunch Money

Jesus paid the price for us to have a relationship with God, but it's our choice to accept that relationship or not.

Prep

Get 2 \$5 bills and get 2 cool prizes.

Mark your Bible to John 3:16.

Demonstration

Call up 2 volunteers and give each a \$5 bill. Tell them that they can use their \$5 to get a prize you have for them or they can keep the money. After they think about it a moment, tell them there's a catch. Say, "If you keep the money, you can have it the entire class time, but you must give it back before you leave the room when class is over."

Then let them either purchase the prizes or keep the money (until class is over).

Object Lesson

Ask students:

1. "What was a better decision in this situation?" (Take responses) "Yeah, the prize they could keep!"
2. "When did the prize become the volunteers' to keep?" (Take responses) "Right, when they gave me the money for it."
3. "Many of you go to school with lunch money in your pocket, but it's your choice to spend the money or not. If you're in the cafeteria, when does a lunch tray become yours?" (Take responses) "Right! After you pay for it! So it's not enough to have lunch money, you have to pay for lunch if you want food."

Having a relationship with God works the same way. Jesus died on a cross to pay for our sins so that we can freely know God, but that's not enough. We have to decide whether we will accept that gift and use Jesus' sacrifice to pay for our sins or not, just like we have to decide whether to spend our lunch money or not.

However, the great news is that all we have to do is to believe Jesus is God's son, ask him to forgive us for everything we've done wrong, and commit to loving and obeying him.

John 3:16 sums this all up saying, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Wrap Up

"God is offering us a relationship with Him, but we have to do our part and accept His offer and then we will have a relationship with Jesus forever."