

The Value of Prizes

In the Royal Rangers program, boys study, work hard, and strive toward a goal (such as a medal or a badge). The medals and badges are a constant reminder of work they have done for Jesus and an incentive to push on for the next award. Missionettes works in the same fashion.

In like manner, Junior Bible Quiz has awards, certificates, and trophies for kids who work hard to memorize God's word.

The Bible talks a lot about Christians who strive for the prize and one day receive a crown.

Prizes as Incentives

You can definitely go overboard on prizes; however, kids strive on being special and accomplishing things for such a reason. If we run a kid's crusade, we usually have a visitors contest. Yes, we want kids to bring visitors because they are concerned about the lost, but quite often they work harder at bringing visitors due to the prizes involved.

Yet once the kids bring visitors and see the visitors get saved, the Holy Spirit witnesses to their spirits that their efforts help bring about the salvation of their friends. Now you will begin to see these same children inviting their friends, not for a prize, but because of their concern for the lost.



Missions

We have a strong balance in our missions curriculum. Each year BGMC produces 400 pages of material that teaches children to care for, pray for, and some day go to the missions field. Giving is taught as a command

of God and a duty of Christians. It's taught as a response to the concern for the lost.

Having some additional incentives helps the children to stretch, strive, and remember to bring their barrels faithfully. The prize becomes the reminder to the child, but the reason for giving and the purpose for the offering and the impact it makes upon the world is the deeper thought process.

Behavior Modification

Prizes are used to help children sit quietly, to bring friends to church, to remind kids to bring their Buddy Barrels to church, to earn a badge, to study the Bible, or numerous other areas in our church classrooms. In this whole process, we are teaching kids the joy of giving. Kids are being taught that they can do much more through their labor than just asking their parents for money. These same kids who start giving to BGMC due to a contest continue giving because they are hooked on what God is doing through their lives.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What are the spiritual benefits of using material prizes as incentives?
2. How do prizes help children learn about missions?
3. How do prizes help modify children's behavior?