

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 1-2:17; 1 Peter 2:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that a Hebrew girl named Esther was chosen by God to fulfill a great mission, and that God continues to call us today to fulfill His mission.

Materials: Aluminum Foil, Construction paper, Markers

Memory Verse: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Lesson Summary

King Ahasuerus was a very powerful man that ruled a large kingdom. The king invited lots of people to a banquet at his palace in Shushan. On the seventh day, the King told the servants to go get his wife, Queen Vashti, to show the princes and people and the banquet how beautiful she was. However, Queen Vashti refused to come and the King was very angry. The King then said that Queen Vashti would be no more according to the law, and someone else would become queen. King Ahasuerus sent out men to find the most beautiful women in the kingdom to come to the palace, and he would then choose a new queen. Mordecai was a Jew that worked in the king's palace, and he had a young girl named Hadassah. Hadassah was his uncle's daughter, but Mordecai was raising her. Hadassah was a Jewish name and Mordecai knew if she was taken to the palace, she would need to have another name. He called her Esther, and told her not to tell anyone she was a Jew. Esther was chosen to go to the palace and found favor in the sight of the king's servant. The King met all the women, but Esther pleased him and was chosen to be Queen.

Bible Point:

God Chooses Us



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Make crowns by cutting construction paper into strips and stapling or taping to fit each child's head. Let the children decorate with markers or aluminum foil. Remind each of them that just as the King chose Esther to be Queen, God has chosen us to be his 'royal priesthood'. Students can also wear the crowns to act out the memory verse or play a game of "The King/Queen Says". This is the old game "Simon Says" with a different name.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the King become upset with Queen Vashti?
2. Why was Esther different from the other women? Where did she come from?
3. Esther was chosen for a specific purpose that we will learn about later. Does God choose us? What is our purpose?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 2:21-3:15; Matthew 5:11; Matthew 10:22

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how Esther and her people (the Jews) were in grave danger because of their faith in God; just as many Christians do today.

Materials: Large sheet of construction paper or poster board, markers/crayons

Memory Verse: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." (Matthew 10:22).

Lesson Summary

Queen Esther and her people (the Jews) were in grave danger. The King loved Esther, but he did not know that she was a Jew. There was a plot to kill the King! Mordecai warned Esther and the men were caught. However, the King thought a man named Haman had discovered this, and he rewarded him by giving him great power of those in his kingdom. Haman was an evil man that secretly hated the Jews. When he discovered Mordecai was a Jew and that Mordecai refused to bow before him; he was very angry! He went to the King and told him the Jewish people living in his kingdom did not follow his laws and requested a decree to kill all the Jews. The King gave Haman his ring and told him to do what he wanted. The Jews were to be killed, not because they had done anything wrong, but because of their faith in the one true God. Haman had lied to the King and deceived him. However, God had a plan. Remember Esther was chosen for a purpose and now God would call her to stand for Him. Today, many people are still persecuted by evil men because of their faith in God. God still calls us to stand for Him, and He has a plan!

Bible Point:
**God Calls Us
to Stand.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students to brainstorm with you to name other Bible characters who were persecuted for their faith. Then divide your students into groups of 4-6 and have them choose one of the characters. Have them search the scripture (with your help as needed) and list facts about that character. Let them draw a picture of the character and list important facts to share with the class. (If you have younger children, you could provide the characters and reference scriptures).

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be persecuted?
2. Do we ever suffer because people know we are Christians? Explain.
3. How does the Bible say to treat those who persecute us? Why?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 4-5:3; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God sometimes asks us to be brave, strong, and courageous in Him as we face the enemy.

Materials: Yarn or rope, index cards, pencils/pens/markers, glue or tape

Memory Verse: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (Ephesians 6:10).

Lesson Summary

Haman's decree has gone out and Mordecai and Esther have learned what is to happen. They know they must seek God to save His people. The Jews join together and declare a fast to call upon Jehovah, however His answer asks Esther to be very brave. Queen Esther must go before the King and break the law. The law stated that no one could enter into the inner court of the King unless he had sent for them. The penalty for breaking the law was death, unless the King extended his golden sceptre to pardon them. Queen Esther was afraid, but she knew God was asking her to be brave and trust Him. Queen Esther dressed in her royal clothing and went to the court. The words of Mordecai were, no doubt, echoing in her mind, "and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14) The King saw Esther standing in the court and she found "favour in his sight:" (5:2) He stretched out his golden sceptre and asked Esther "what is thy request?" (v. 3) God was with Esther when he asked her to stand for Him, and he will be with us, too. Remember our strength comes from Him alone.

**Bible Point:
Be Strong in
the Lord**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut enough pieces of yarn or small rope for each student. The length should be about 1 ft. Have the students take an index card or piece of paper and write the memory verse on it. Then give each student their piece or rope/yarn and tell them to let the rope or yarn stand alone. Let them try several times. Then ask them if it worked. Discuss the fact that we can't stand in our own strength, it is like the rope or yard. Now ask the students to hold their piece of rope/yarn up with their hand. That is what God does for us. He help us be strong in his might, not our own. Let the students glue or tape the rope/string to their memory verse cards as a reminder.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be brave?
2. Can you be afraid and still be brave?
3. What does it mean to be strong in the Lord?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 5:4-5; 7-8

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God is faithful to deliver His chosen people.

Materials: Smooth Rocks or Stones or construction paper cut into the shape of a rock, paint/crayons

Memory Verse: "And he said, The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;" (2 Samuel 22:2).

Lesson Summary

Esther's request was that the King and Haman attend a banquet she would prepare. The King granted the request and Haman was very pleased to be included. When they arrived at the banquet and had feasted, on the second day, the King asked Esther again what she wanted. She answered by saying, "if I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:" (7:3) Esther went on to tell the story of how the Isrealites (Jews) had been sold as slaves and treated poorly at the at hand of an evil man. She then revealed to the King that Haman was that man. The King ordered Haman to be killed after he learned of his lies and deception. He soon learned that Mordecai was the one to save his life and granted Mordecai Haman's position. The Jews were saved! Queen Esther was God's chosen vessel that stood for Him in the face of danger. She was strong in the Lord and saw God deliver her and His people. We can be like Queen Esther if we understand God is our strength and our deliverer. All we have to do is accept His call to be brave and strong for Him!

Bible Point:

God Will

Deliver Us.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Discuss with students how God is like a rock. What are the characteristics of a rock? Have students paint or color a rock with images that will remind them of the memory verse. Ask them to say the verse as they hold their rock. If you use paper cut into the shape of a rock, students can write the verse on the paper.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did God use Esther to deliver His people?
2. Does God use people today? How?
3. What does God want to deliver people from in today's world?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Nehemiah 1:3-11; Nehemiah 2:4-9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will use us if we will be willing to work for Him.

Materials: Bible, apples (or items to stack)

Memory Verse: “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6:8.

Lesson Summary

Have you ever had to do a job that seemed impossible? (Give students time to respond with examples of difficult tasks). If you had not tried to accomplish the job, what might have happened? God wants us to be ready to work in order to accomplish great things for Him. But we have to be willing, rely on God, and put forth an effort to do what He wants us to do. Nehemiah is a great example of a willing worker for the Lord who had, what would seem to us, an impossible task he wanted to complete. He received word that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the gates were burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3). This troubled Nehemiah; so, he began to pray to confess the sins of Israel and ask for favor upon him as he was willing to rebuild the city that had been destroyed. Building a wall around an entire city seems difficult to you, right? Nehemiah didn't give thought to how hard the task was or how impossible it was going to be. Nehemiah began to fully rely on God for instruction on how to begin this difficult task as he gathered materials and made preparations to rebuild. God has a job for each of us to do too. But like Nehemiah, we must be willing to say yes, pray for God's help, and put God's plan to action.

Bible Point:
**God uses
willing
workers.**

Ideas to Illuminate:

Have apples or objects scattered on the ground and allow students to take turns gathering the objects and trying to stack them in an allotted amount of time. Make time short enough to give the idea that gathering materials and building is challenging but possible.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What are some jobs God might want us to do today?
2. What action can you take to begin working for the Lord?
3. Who should we depend on?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Nehemiah 2:11-18; Matthew 3:8-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God wants us to work with Him and each other.

Materials: Bible, colored markers or crayons

Memory Verse: “For we are labourers together with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9a).

Lesson Summary

Has anyone ever played a team sport or watched a sports event on television? Does everyone do the same thing when playing? (Allow students to reply). Of course not. Each team member has a certain job to do in order for the team, as a whole, to be successful. It also takes teamwork in order to be successful for God. Nehemiah knew God did not expect him to work alone when he set out to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. God gave Nehemiah a plan that required many people to work together. After Nehemiah told the Jewish people how Jerusalem had been destroyed, he asked them to rebuild the wall with him. Realizing God's favor was upon Nehemiah, the people replied, “let us rise up and build” (Nehemiah 2:18b). Different people built certain sections of the wall, but everyone's job was equally important in order for the entire wall to be joined together. God has a job for each of us, and there are many jobs to be done. God does not want one person to work alone but wants us to work together towards the same goal of building His church. Who's ready to work together on God's team?

Bible Point:

**God wants us
to work
together.**

Ideas to Illuminate:

Prior to class, write the key verse in large letters on a piece of paper. Cut the paper into different shaped pieces to form a puzzle with the Bible verse. Give each student a piece of the puzzle and have them work together to complete the puzzle without help from the teacher. Talk about the importance of working together and review the lesson while students work.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When we are working for God, does He want us to work alone?
2. Who does God want us to work with?
3. Why do you think God wants us to work together and not alone?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Nehemiah 4:1-21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that working for God requires prayer and perseverance.

Materials: Blindfold, objects to make an obstacle course

Memory Verse: “Then therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

Lesson Summary

When trying to complete a task, there are sometimes obstacles that make the task difficult to finish. Maybe when working on homework, your brother or sister starts aggravating you. Or while playing a video game, someone stands in front of the television. Have you ever been distracted from what you were doing? When Nehemiah and the Jewish people were rebuilding the wall there were distractions the whole time they worked. There was a group of people who mocked them, despised them, and even tried to fight them to hinder their progress on the wall. The Jewish people could have stopped the project because it was too dangerous or too hard, but they didn't. They put their confidence in the Lord and took their problems to Him in prayer. God revealed to them the enemy's plan to come in among them to fight. The Jewish people prepared themselves to fight and they continued to work hard toward the completion of the wall. The people did not let distractions stop the rebuilding. But through prayer, perseverance, and hard work, the wall was completed in just fifty-two days. What can we learn from these builders in Nehemiah's day? As we work for the Lord, we will face the same kinds of challenges. People will despise us, mock us, and may even want to fight us. We must not allow these obstacles to stop us from continuing to work for God. When the going gets tough, we must pray to God for help and continue working because we serve an awesome God who will fight for us! If God is on our side, who can be against us?

Bible Point:

**Don't give
up!**

Ideas to Illuminate:

Arrange objects such as chairs, boxes, etc. to create an obstacle course. Have students take turns being blindfolded while the teacher gives directions to guide the student around the objects to complete the course. Reinforce the point that while working for the Lord we will face opposition, but we must be listening to the Lord's voice for direction while reaching our goal of heaven.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What should we do when distractions come our way?
2. Who should we rely on when being a Christian isn't easy?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Nehemiah 5:1-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God uses people to be great leaders for Him.

Materials: Paper, crayons or colored markers

Memory Verse: “But be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12b).

Lesson Summary

Do you know what a leader is? Leaders are very important people who influence and help guide others. What characteristics come to mind when you think of what a leader should be? (Allow each student to brainstorm leadership characteristics on a piece of paper and share thoughts.) Pastors and teachers are just a couple of examples of leaders. God uses leaders now just as He did in the Bible to accomplish great tasks for Him. Nehemiah is a great example of a leader who was used by God. He depended on God as he felt lead to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, but he did not complete the work alone. He asked others to help, and God used him to be a great leader. Nehemiah put his confidence in the Lord while calling upon God for guidance as he directed others during the rebuilding of the wall. Nehemiah even took the time to take a stand for the poor Jewish people. The people told Nehemiah that their fellow countrymen were taking their vineyards, olive groves and homes, and even taking some of their children into slavery. Nehemiah took a stand for the people demanding all things be returned to them. Nehemiah warned those treating others badly and told them that what they were doing was not right and asked, “Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God?” (Nehemiah 5:9) Nehemiah was very busy building the wall, but as a good leader, being lead by God, took a stand for what was right. God still wants to use people to be leaders for Him. He needs leaders to preach, teach Sunday School, be missionaries, witness to others, etc. God wants to raise up leaders, will you be willing to lead for Him?

Bible Point:

**GOD NEEDS
LEADERS.**

Ideas to Illuminate:

HAVE STUDENTS TAKE TURNS BEING A LEADER IN FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM. HAVE THE LEADER PERFORM SIMPLE TASKS FOR THE OTHER STUDENTS TO COPY SUCH AS CLAPPING HANDS, TOUCHING THEIR NOSE, ETC. DISCUSS THAT FOLLOWERS LOOK TO THEIR LEADER; THEREFORE, IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR LEADERS TO BE GOOD EXAMPLES BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING WATCHED.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. WHO CAN BE A LEADER FOR GOD?
2. Who should leaders trust for guidance?
3. Why do you think leaders are important?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 7:1-5; Lk. 6:41, 42; 1 Cor 5:12, 13; James 2:13

Lesson Objective: The student will learn not to judge others with condemnation.

Materials: Bible, blind fold, paper, markers, small twig or straw, tape

Memory Verse: "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." (Luke 6:37).

Lesson Summary

Jesus taught his disciples thru the parable of the mote and the beam, not to judge others with the kind of judgment that condemns. In this text the mote represents a dry twig or straw and the beam represents a large stick of timber. Jesus said hypocrites will ignore the beam in their own eye and try to take out the mote in someone else's eye. For example, a man may see a mote in his brother's eye, something wrong in his life that shouldn't be there. He should not be blind, however, to the beam in his own eye, a greater fault than that he sees in his brother's eye. Jesus says you must first remove the beam in your own eye so that you can see clearly to help take the mote out of your brother's eye. If we judge someone, it must not be according to appearance, but a righteous judgment based on God's word. We are to go to our brothers and sisters in love and prayer, not in condemnation. For we will receive the same judgment we give.

Bible Point:

I will not
condemn others



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Blind fold a child. Have him/her stand in the middle of the room. On a wall place a picture of an eye and tape a twig or straw to it. Spin the blind folded child around 3 times. Point the child in the right direction and let him/her find the eye and remove the twig/straw from the picture while still blind folded.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What do the mote and the beam represent?
2. Do we judge whether a soul goes to heaven or hell?
3. Can we judge whether someone has a Godly spirit according to the word of God?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 7: 24-27; Lk. 6:47-49; Ps. 18:2; Is. 28:16

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to build their life on a solid foundation.

Materials: Bible, bowl, rock, sand, water, small object to sit on top of rock

Memory Verse: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust." (Psalm 18:2).

Lesson Summary

Jesus taught us how to be wise by using the parable of the two foundations. The two foundations in this text are rock and sand. Jesus said those who hear His words and put them into action will be like the wise man who built his house on a rock. When the rain came down and began to flood, and the wind beat against the house, it did not fall to ruins. That is because rock is strong and doesn't move regardless of what goes on around it. But, Jesus warns, whoever hears His words and does not put them into action will be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the rain came down and began to flood and the wind beat against the house, it fell to ruins with a loud crash. That is because sand is not strong and is always shifting when pressure is applied. We must not only hear God's word but do God's word. Then God will be our rock we can stand on when storms come against us in an attempt to destroy our faith. Christ teaches the importance of doing as well as hearing. We are secure if built on that foundation which God hath laid in Zion.

Bible Point:

Jesus is my Rock



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity:

1. Place a rock in the bottom of a dish and pour sand over the top until it is completely covered. Place a small object on top of the sand. Pour water over the small object and watch how the sand washes away but the rock remains in place.

Sing:

The wise man built his house upon a rock

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What instruction does the Bible give us on how to be wise?
2. What will happen to us if our foundation is built on sand?
3. Who is our rock?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 11:16-19, Luke 7:32

Lesson Objective: The student will learn a fault finding disposition is evil.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: "But wisdom is justified of her children." (Mt 11:19).

Lesson Summary

In this parable Jesus is comparing that generation of people to a group of unreasonable children who find fault in everything. The people were given a message from the Lord by John the Baptist to repent. Instead they said he had a devil because he didn't eat or drink with them. The Lord sent Jesus who ate and drank with sinners and gave them messages of love and they called him a gluttonous man and winebibber. But, Jesus said children of wisdom accept both sides of truth in obeying the call to repentance and faith in the Savior. The people of that generation were unable to appreciate and receive God's message because of their fault finding disposition. They found something wrong in every way the Lord presented His message to the people.

Bible Point:
I will be wise
in Christ



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the children draw a picture of the crowd of grumblers with Jesus on one side and John the Baptist on the other delivering messages from God.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why couldn't the people receive God's messages?
2. What did they find wrong with John the Baptist and Jesus?
3. Are you too busy finding things wrong with the way God's messages are delivered to receive God's word?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 7: 41-43

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that much forgiveness results in much love.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencil, extra erasers

Memory Verse: "Thy sins are forgiven." (Luke 8:48).

Lesson Summary

In the parable of the two debtors, Jesus speaks of two men who owed money to the same creditor. One man owed 500 pence and the other 50 pence. When the creditor discovered the two men had no way of paying back their debt, he forgave them and set them free of their debt. Jesus asked Simon which of the two debtors will love the creditor the most? Simon answered correctly; the one who has been forgiven of the most will love the most. Jesus taught this parable to Simon because Simon was a Pharisee. Pharisees were religious men who thought they could please God by acting better than others. Jesus wanted Simon to see there was something more than just trying to be good on your own. He taught that by forgiveness of our sins, our hearts are filled with love and the works we do are then done through love and not through learned rituals. We are not forgiven because we love, but we love because we are forgiven.

Bible Point:
Much Forgiveness
Equals
Much Love



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each child a paper and pencil. Have each one draw a heart the size of the paper. Tell each child to write inside their heart all the things they need forgiveness from. Explain to the children that once they've been forgiven, everything is erased away. Have them erase what they've written inside their heart and point out all the room they now have for love.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why do you think the man with the largest debt loved the creditor more when his debt was erased?
2. We are not forgiven because we love, but we love because we are.....?
3. How can we receive the love talked about in this lesson?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 19:30; 17:4; 20:21, 22; 14:12; Mt. 28:18-20

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus came to establish here on earth, the church of God in the bible

Materials: Map or globe, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: "As my Father hath sent me, even so I send you." (John 20:21).

Lesson Summary

Easter is a time of reflection on Jesus and how he died on the cross to free us from our sins. Although this is true, it was just the beginning of the great work God sent him to do. Jesus ultimately came to establish, on earth, the church of God of the Bible. He came to preach and teach the word of God and establish people in the faith to continue the work of the church. This great work could not be done by sinners. Therefore, Jesus became the final sacrifice, making a way for us to be free from sin and to be holy before the Lord. Thus, allowing us to be worthy to carry out the work of the church. While Jesus was hanging on the cross he said, "It is finished". (Jn 19:30) He had glorified the Father on the earth and finished the work God sent him to do. (Jn 17:4) After Jesus arose on the third day, he met with his disciples. They were afraid when they first saw him in the flesh, but Jesus said, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so I send you". He then breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost". (Jn 20: 21,22) This gave the disciples authority to act as directors of the church of God. Jesus came and established the church but it is up to His people to continue the work of the church until He returns. He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (Jn 14:12) Before Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father he gave his disciples the great commission of the church. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world". (Mt 28: 18-20) Are you ready to carry out the mission of the church and complete the work God sent you here to do?

Bible Point:

**I will build
God's Church**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Tell the children about the church and our world mission. Use a map or globe to show them the different countries the church is established in. Give the children a piece of paper and crayons and have them write, or draw pictures, of how they can help spread God's word in their own community.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What has to happen to us before we can help build God's church?
2. How did Jesus make a way for us to live sin free and holy before God?
3. What did Jesus come to establish on earth?

Faith-N-Focus Theme: The Parables of Jesus for Young Disciples

Lesson: An Unclean Spirit's Return
Lesson Text: Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26
April 7, 2013

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that unbelief hardens the heart.

Materials: Rock, Clay, Paper, Crayons or Colored Markers

Memory Verse: "Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief." (Proverbs 28:14).

Lesson Summary

In Matthew 12:43-45 Jesus tells of an unclean spirit leaving a man. The spirit goes and gets seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and the spirits enter into the man to stay there. The man is worse off than ever before. Jesus had been performing many miracles including healing the blind, but most of the Jewish people refused to believe Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus tells the story in Matthew about evil spirits to show that those who would not believe in Him would become more evil than they were before He came. Like the unbelieving Jews, if someone chooses not to believe in Jesus, his/her heart can become hardened, and the devil can have more control in someone's life. What does it mean for a heart to be hardened? Who do you want to control your heart? Jesus is the Son of God, and He wants to be your Lord and Savior.

Bible Point:

Jesus is
the
Son of God!



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have a round piece of clay and a rock covered in clay. Show students and explain if we don't believe in Jesus how our hearts can become hardened like the rock covered in clay. Stress how our hearts need to be soft like the ball of clay to allow Jesus to mold us into the Christians we should be. Also, Have students draw a self portrait with a heart drawn on his/her shirt. Have students write Jesus in the hearts. Also have the students write the memory verse on their papers.

Questions for Class Discussion:

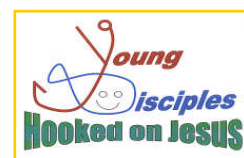
1. Who is the Son of God?
2. What can happen to our hearts if we don't believe in Jesus?
3. Who should we let be in control of our hearts?



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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 12:16-34

Lesson Objective: The student will learn there is no reason to store up treasures on earth.

Materials: Candy or small treats/prizes

Memory Verse: "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34).

Lesson Summary

Do you know what a treasure is? Do you own something that is a treasure to you? Today we are going to talk about someone who was rich and not very wise. In Luke 12:16-21 we learn about a rich man who had grounds that produced a lot of fruit. He did not know what to do with all his goods; so, he tore down his barns and built bigger ones to store his fruits. He thought he could be content knowing he had all these fruits to last years and years. Verse 19 says, "And I will say to my soul, soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." In other words, he thought he had all this food and nothing to worry about. Little did he know, he would die that night and lose all his goods. Who was he trusting in? Is that how we are supposed to think? Who are we to trust? If we put our trust in God, He is our provider. It is not smart to store up all types of things here on earth and think we will not have trouble. What can happen if all we do is store up things and build our kingdom here? (Things may get stolen, ruin, break, etc.). We are not to build up things for ourselves here as if we will live forever. Are we going to live on earth forever? The Bible tells us to lay up treasures in heaven where they cannot be bothered or stolen. And like our memory verse says, "where your treasure is that is where your heart will be also." Isn't it wonderful to think if we give our hearts to Jesus and commit ourselves to Him, one day when we make it to heaven, we will have treasures waiting for us!

Bible Point:

**Jesus is
our
Treasure!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Prior to class, hide candy in different places around the classroom. After the lesson, tell students there are treasures in the classroom. Have students bring all the found treasures and put them in the center of a table or central area. As students watch the pile of candy grow, discuss how we should store up treasures in heaven. Allow students to have a treat and have them each take one to someone outside the classroom. Encourage the students to remind someone to store up treasures in heaven as they share candy with others.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. IS IT WISE TO STORE UP STUFF WHILE WE LIVE HERE ON EARTH? WHY?
2. Who should we trust to take care of us?
3. Where should we want to lay up treasures for ourselves?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 8:5-8; Matthew 13:3-8; Mark 4:3-8

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that hearers respond to preaching in different kinds of ways.

Materials: paper crayons, glue or tape, seeds
extra activity: small cups, soil, seeds, markers

Memory Verse: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22).

Lesson Summary

If you went out to plant seeds, would you want birds to come down and eat the seeds? Why? Would you want the seeds to fall on rocky ground? Why not? What about on ground that has a lot of thorns? Why not? On what kind of ground would you want your seeds to fall? In the parable of the sower, seeds fell by the wayside, on rocky ground with no room for roots, among thorns that kept fruit from growing, and on good ground where more and more fruit could grow. The story teaches us that people respond to God in different ways. The words of Jesus are like seeds planted in our hearts. Some people refuse the teachings of Jesus. Others believe and obey but only for a short time. Some begin to want other things more than they want to serve God. But some stay committed to God and become more and more like Jesus in their lives. What kind of ground do you want your heart to be like? Do you want to believe for a little while and then eventually want other things more than God? Our desire should be to grow good fruit and be more like Jesus as we serve Him!

Bible Point:

Jesus takes

Root

in our Hearts!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students divide paper into four squares and illustrate the four types of ground in these squares. Give each student a few seeds and have them glue or tape the seeds on the type of ground they want their hearts to be like.
2. Extra activity- Provide students with a small cup filled with soil and seeds to be planted. While students plant their seeds, talk about how the seeds are being planted in good ground. Have students write the Bible point on their cups.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What are the words of Jesus like when they come into our hearts?
2. Do all people let the seeds take root in their hearts?
3. What kind of ground do you want your heart to be like?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 13:1-9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn unbelief is dangerous.

Materials: Paper, crayons, fruit, actual tree branches or pictures (one dead and one lively)

Memory Verse: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." (Isaiah 55:6).

Lesson Summary

Have you ever visited an apple orchard or picked fruit from a tree? Would you go to a tree that was full of fruit or a tree that had no fruit? A tree with no fruit, that is supposed to have fruit, doesn't seem like it is all it should be, right? In Luke 13, we read about a barren fig tree. A man had a fig tree, and he looked for fruit on the tree but didn't find any. For three years he looked for fruit on the tree and found none. He told the person taking care of the tree to cut it down. But the caretaker asked to work on it one more year to see if it would produce fruit. If it still did not produce the fruit, it would be cut down. The man had the fig tree planted because he wanted fruit. We are like the fig tree. God made us and wants us to have fruit. In other words, God wants to see good behavior in our lives. He wants us to love Him and to love our neighbor in all that we do. The only way we can do that is by turning to Jesus and believing Him. If we don't believe Him, we are like the fig tree that did not have any fruit. We are unable to do what God wants us to do. If we continue to not believe in Him, we will be forever lost and unable to have God's love in our lives. Do you have Jesus in your heart today? What kind of tree do you want to be, a living tree with fruits or a tree with no fruit at all?

Bible Point:
Unbelief
is
Dangerous



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Show each student a piece of good fruit. Then show a branch full of life with leaves and a dead branch. Have students imagine the branches are a tree and have them decide which one they think the fruit came from and why.
2. Have each student trace his/her hand (leaving the wrist area open to draw a tree trunk connected to the hand). Have students decorate the tracing as a lively tree with fruit. Also have the students copy the memory verse onto the same piece of paper.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What kind of fruit do you want to have?
2. If we have good fruit, who does that show we have living in our hearts?
3. Why is it dangerous to not listen to God?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 8:5-15

Lesson Objective: Hearers respond to preaching in various ways

Materials: Poster board, Markers, Coins

Memory Verse: " Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21

Lesson Summary

Jesus uses a parable to show how the message of Christ is received and at times rejected. In this story, a man went to sow seed in his field. In this story, the man is like Jesus and the seed is like the Word of God. Along the way, some of the seeds fell on the ground and was eaten by the birds. This is like when people who hear the good news and do not listen. Some of the seeds fell on a rock and as soon as it sprouted, it dried up because it had no roots and could not get water. The seeds that fall on the rocky ground grow quickly but then die because they can't take root. This is like people who listen to the good news at first, but they are not serious. When problems come, they give up on Jesus. Some of the seeds fell among some thorns, but could not live because the thorns took all the water. The seeds that fall amid the thorns are choked and the plants die. Some people accept God's message, but they don't fully commit to Jesus, because other things are more important to them. Some seeds fell on good dirt and began to grow and brought forth much fruit. The good soil is like the hearts of people who love Jesus, who hear the good news and rejoice. God's word takes root in their lives, and they remain faithful to God. Their faith grows and grows and they spread the news of salvation to others. As Christians, it is our job to do our part to tell others about Jesus. Even though we may spread the good news of salvation, every one that hears will not always accept this message.

Bible Point:

We must be good ground
for the Word to grow in us



Ideas to Illuminate:

Divide the poster board into 4 sections. Label the sections, bird food, rocky ground, thorny ground, and good soil. Let the children take turns tossing coins onto the poster to see how many they can land on good soil.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who does the man in the parable represent?
2. How do we make sure that our roots are strong and healthy?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 13:24-30, 36, 43

Lesson Objective: Good and Evil will be separated at the harvest.

Materials: Edible materials that looks alike. Such as salt, sugar, water, vinegar

Memory Verse: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Mt. 13:43

Lesson Summary

Have you ever planted a seed in the ground? Many times when a seed first sprouts, it can be hard to tell what kind of plant that it will become. One day Jesus told a parable, or a story that teaches a lesson, about planting seeds. In this story, a man planted good wheat seeds in his field. The man who planted these seeds represents Jesus, the field represents the world, and the good seeds are the children of the kingdom. While the man slept, an enemy came and planted tares, or weeds, in his field alongside the wheat. The enemy represents Satan and the tares represent the children of Satan. The man told his servants to let the wheat and the tares grow together until they were ready to be gathered for harvest. Then the reapers, the servants who pick the wheat, were to first gather the tares and burn them. Then they were to gather the wheat and bring it to the storehouse. The harvest represents the end of time when the evil people in the world will be thrown into the lake of fire, or hell, and the righteous, or good, Children of God, will be taken to Heaven to live forever.

Bible Point:
**Jesus knows
those that
really love Him!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Gather edible materials that are similar in appearance to each other and have the children tell them apart. Allow them to taste a small amount to see if their guess was correct.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who does the farmer represent?
2. What does the field represent?
3. Who does the enemy represent?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 13:18-19

Lesson Objective: The Kingdom will start small but grow much larger.

Materials: Apples, Knife for cutting apples.

Memory Verse: " But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

Lesson Summary

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? They are one of the smallest seeds of all. A mustard seed is so small that if you were to drop one, you might not be able to find it. Yet, when the seed is planted, it grows into a plant so large that birds can perch on its branches and can even build their nests in it. These plants can grow ten feet high or more! Jesus told a parable comparing the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. How can a small mustard seed be compared to the great kingdom of God? When Jesus first began preaching the message of salvation, he had no followers. Soon he had twelve disciples who also began to tell about the message of salvation. Then these disciples went out and shared the gospel. Then others spread the good news. And yet others and others shared about Jesus. Like the mustard seed, the kingdom of God had a small beginning but had soon spread and grown. Jesus started growing the kingdom of God with only a few disciples. Every follower of Jesus is a part of the kingdom and that means that you and I are a part of God's kingdom. Each time we tell someone about Jesus, we are helping to grow the kingdom. Isn't it great to know that we can have a part in growing God's kingdom?

Bible Point:
I can help to
grow
God's Kingdom



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut an apple in half and remove the seeds. Have the children to imagine that we planted these seeds and each grew into an apple tree. Tell them that an apple tree can produce from 150 to 300 apples each year it will produce apples for about fifty years. Help them to figure out how many apples that the seeds from one apple can produce.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How can we help to grow the kingdom of God?
2. Who is responsible for spreading the message of salvation?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 24:14

Lesson Objective: The Kingdom will spread throughout the world

Materials: Water, Food Coloring, Clear Glasses

Memory Verse: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

Lesson Summary

Did you know that sometimes just adding a very tiny amount of something to another thing will cause it to grow to be much larger? Sometimes a small amount of something can change something else entirely. Have you ever thought about what it takes to make a loaf of bread? The main ingredient in bread is flour; however, the most important ingredient is yeast. When yeast is activated, it causes the other ingredients in the mixture to swell up. After the dough is baked you will have a light and fluffy loaf of bread. Without the yeast, it would be flat, hard, and not very good to eat. Jesus told a parable about making bread. A woman hid a small amount of leaven, or yeast, in three measures of meal, or flour. This very small amount was enough to make all the flour swell. In a sense, the flour represents all the people on the earth. We, as Christians have the truth of God, his word, the Holy Bible. When we share this gospel of Jesus with the world, it causes a reaction and will grow and spread throughout the earth. We have to do our part as children of God to spread the Word to grow the Kingdom of God.

Bible Point:
God's Kingdom
will spread
everywhere



Ideas to Illuminate:

Add a drop of food coloring to a glass of water. You may add different colors to show how a small amount can change the appearance entirely.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How can we help to grow the kingdom of God?
2. Who is responsible for spreading the message of salvation?

Faith-N-Focus Theme: Using Your Light for Young Disciples

Lesson: Sharing the Gospel
Lesson Text: Matthew 5:15
Date: June, 2 2013

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:15, Mk 4:21, Luke 8:16, 11:33

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus is the source of our light and we are to let Him shine through us.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil, and a flash light w/batteries.

Memory Verse: "Ye are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14a

Lesson Summary

Explain that when we accept Jesus in our hearts, we are placing the source of all power inside of us. Others will see this (Him in us) and want the same source in their lives. We cannot be ashamed of our salvation in Christ because the only way that others will want Jesus in their hearts is if you let your light shine. They will see Christ in us because we will be different from the evil things that are in this world. Jesus in us is the only way we can make it to heaven one day. So we want to shine the light of Jesus to others so they will want to make it to heaven too.

Bible Point:
**Let Your
Light Shine**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Take the batteries out of a flashlight and tape Jesus on one and Christ on the other. Put the batteries in your pocket. Take the flashlight and try to turn it on. Let the kids try and examine. When they find out that there are no batteries in it, then take the ones out of your pocket and show it to the class. While putting them in correctly explain to the class how Jesus is our source of power and light.

Questions for Class Discussion:

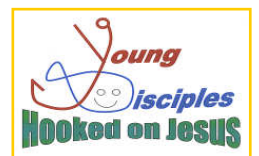
1. Where does our source of power come from?
2. What are some ways that we can let our light shine?
3. What will put out our light?



Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 13: 44

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that salvation is more valuable than anything.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil and candy or treats

Memory Verse: "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." 1 Cor. 4:20

Lesson Summary

The Kingdom of God is like a very special treasure that has been hidden. When you accept Jesus into your heart by asking Him to forgive you of all the bad things that you have done, then you have this treasure in your heart. It is so precious that you won't let anyone take it away. As a matter of fact you love it so much that you can't get enough. In this story the man found the hidden treasure, sold everything that he had and bought the area where he found the hidden treasure. He wanted no one to take it and he wanted more for himself.

Bible Point:
God's
Treasure is
Priceless



Ideas to Illuminate:

Bring a bag of candy or some kind of treats that the kids would like and hide them around the room. You could have them go on a "so called" treasure hunt giving each of them a clue only to find another clue until they find the hidden treasure.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the merchant sell everything that he had?
2. Is salvation the most important thing in our life?
3. How do you get saved?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 13: 47, 48

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that not everyone that claims to be a Christian will go to heaven.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil and a bag of pinto beans

Memory Verse: "And he saith unto them, follow me, and i will make you fishers of men." Matt 4:19

Lesson Summary

In this passage in the bible the world is like the sea and the people in the world are like fish. When we share Christ or when someone preaches the Gospel it is like casting a net into the sea to catch the fish. Out of all the fish we catch, some will be good and some will be bad. Those that choose to live by the Word of God will go to heaven and those that won't live by His Word (the Bible) will go to hell. There are many today that say they are a Christian, do good deeds, help others, etc. but do things that are against the Bible. These people will go to hell. Explain to the class how one may indeed go to heaven.

Bible Point:
**There is a
heaven and
a hell**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Take a bag of pinto beans and let the children go through them picking out all the bad ones. Let a colindar represent the net. Then explain again, how the good beans represent those that are following Christ all the way and the bad ones are the ones that say they love Jesus but in their hearts it shows different and in turn shows up on the outside.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who will go to hell?
2. Just because someone says they love Jesus, does it mean they are going to Heaven? Why or why not?
3. How can we make it to heaven?

Faith-N-Focus Theme: The Priceless Pearl for Young Disciples

Lesson: The Kingdom is Priceless

Lesson Text: Matthew 13:45-46

Date: June 23, 2013

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 13: 45-46

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that salvation is more valuable than anything.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons, paper plates, cotton balls and glue.

Memory Verse: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

Lesson Summary

In this parable Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a merchant looking for fine pearls. He will look and look, examine and examine until he finds the one that is of the greatest value. In order to find the kingdom of God there must be a search. Jesus wants us to understand that we must search for the kingdom, but he also wants us to know that God is looking for us, too! The kingdom of God is something that we must look for with all our hearts. It should be worth more to us than anything else. The amazing thing is that God is looking for people who want to be in His kingdom—and he was and is willing to give up everything he had to find us! That is why He sent Jesus to die on the cross so that He could set up His kingdom in our heart.

Bible Point:
**We must
Search for
God's Treasure**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a paper plate let them color the bottom however they would like. Fold the plate in half, then on inside have them glue the pearl (cotton ball) on one of the halves in the center.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How do we get the kingdom of God in our heart?
2. Where does the kingdom of God live?
3. What is God willing to give for us?



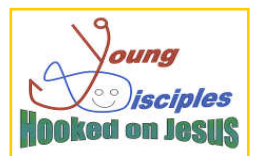
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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 13: 52

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the importance of being ministers of Truth.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons, and some kind of small treat

Memory Verse: "For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."
John 1:17

Lesson Summary

In this parable Jesus reveals the important task of being ministers of God. The "scribes" were religious Jews who would read and explain the Old Testament Law to those who would listen. So Jesus was comparing scribes to New Testament ministers because they have the same important task. Jesus also said that the ministers were householders. That meant that they were the leaders of their home--- they had the spiritual authority and responsibility over their house. Also, Jesus says that the minister uses both the Old and New Testaments to reveal the will of God to man. The Old Testament was given for our example and the New Testament was given for our instruction to live pleasing before God.

The ministry (working within the government of the church) has a great responsibility to tell the world about Jesus and His love for them. And Jesus desires to use each one of us to be the ministers of truth. That is why studying the Bible, praying, and attending church (and paying attention to all that is said and done) is so important. Be ready for at any time Jesus may want to use you to declare His Truth!

Bible Point:
God's Truth
is Important



Ideas to Illuminate:

Ask a series of bible true or false questions to the kids and see if they know the answers. When they are right you can reward them with a piece of candy or something if you'd like. If they get wrong let them know the correct answer (the truth).

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why is it important to be a minister of God?
2. What does it mean to be leaders of their home?
3. Why is studying your Bible, praying and attending church important?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 9:14-15, Mk. 2:19, Luke 5:34-35

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus was the Messiah sent to save the world and bring joy to the hearts of those who believe.

Materials: Party Supplies (balloons, paper streamers, anything used to celebrate), invitations

Memory Verse: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."
John 6:47

Lesson Summary

When the Pharisees and the scribes came to Jesus, they were always trying to trick Him with words from the Law. They were very angry with Christ and His disciples. On this occasion, they came to Him asking why His disciples did not fast as the Pharisees did or as John's disciples did. To "fast" means to go without food or water for a period of time. Jesus knew the Pharisees and scribes were trying to trick him and He told them a parable. Remember a parable is a story with a meaning. Jesus knew the Jews would understand a story involving a wedding. The Jewish people celebrated a wedding for a long time. This was a time of great joy and celebration with lots of food much like the parties we have around Thanksgiving or Christmas with our families. Jesus wanted the Pharisees and scribes to see how foolish it was to consider fasting while He was with his disciples because he was the "Bridegroom". Therefore, it was a time of celebration and joy greater than any party because the Messiah had come. This parable tried to point the Pharisees and scribes to the true identity of Christ, but they refused to believe. However, for the one who believes, we can find great joy in the fact that Christ was the promised Messiah sent to save the world!

**Bible Point:
Christ's
Companionship
Brings Joy.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Decorate the room with some party supplies and give each student a written or verbal invitation to come to the party. Tell them all about what is going to be at the party, including the food. Pick one student to be the bridegroom. Tell the others that they can only celebrate if the bridegroom is with them. If he/she is gone no one can eat or play. You can have the bridegroom leave the room for children to experience what it is like without the bridegroom.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the Pharisees question Jesus about fasting?
2. Did the scribes know who Jesus was? How do you know?
3. Why did Jesus tell the story of the bridegroom?
4. Why should Jesus' coming bring joy to those who believe?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 9:16, Mk. 2:21, Lk. 5:36, 2 Cor. 5:17

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that with a true confession of faith, Christ makes us a new creature.

Materials: 2 shirts (one nice & one with lots of holes), scissors, needle & thread, glue, markers, paper

Memory Verse: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson Summary

Jesus has performed many miracles prior to His discussion with the Pharisees and scribes. However, they continue to try to find fault with what He does and even question why He is with the sinners and Publicans. Jesus always responds by reminding them of who He is and what He was sent to do. He tells them He was sent to save the lost and heal the sick. This only makes them angrier and they continue to close their eyes to the truth of the Messiah that was foretold so long ago. The scribes and Pharisees continue to follow the old customs and laws of the Jewish faith. Jesus tries to help them see with the parable in today's lesson. He describes the foolishness of trying to sew pieces of a new garment onto an old torn used garment. He says you then have destroyed two garments. He is trying to help the scribes and Pharisees to see that they are in need of salvation that only comes through Christ. We can never repair our old garment of sin with new works and traditions. Sacrifices, fasting, and even prayers are no good unless we have come to know Christ. When we accept Him and ask Him into our hearts, only then is our old garment of sin thrown away and replaced with the new garment of righteousness. This comes not from works or deeds, but through the saving blood of Christ.

Bible Point:

**Jesus makes
all things new.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Sit or stand in front of the class and show them the two shirts you have with you. Explain that you need to repair the old shirt because you can't wear it like it is. Show them the holes and torn places in the shirt. Then hold up the new one and explain that you are going to cut pieces of the new shirt and sew it on the old.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Do you think it is a good idea to cut up the new shirt to sew on the old? Why or why not?
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees hate Jesus?
3. Why do you think they would not listen?
4. What does it mean when the Bible says we are made new in Christ?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:25, Luke 12:58, Luke 6:27, Matthew 5

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will judge us harshly if we do not forgive even our enemy.

Materials: paper, pencil

Memory Verse: "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you." Luke 6:27

Lesson Summary

Jesus began to teach some really radical ideas in the beginning of Matthew 5! He told the people that it was not only a sin to commit murder, but also if you just thought about it in your heart and mind. This was not what the Pharisees and scribes wanted to hear. They tried to appear holy before men, but this new teaching forced them to look at the sin in their hearts that no one could see. Jesus knew this because He knew what was in their hearts. As He began to teach, it became clear that we must guard our hearts from sin that no one can see. One of the teachings of Jesus came in the form of a parable about a man and his enemy or adversary. Jesus tells us in this parable that we must forgive our enemy quickly to avoid being brought before a judge (God) and sentenced to prison. Jesus was trying to help the people see that God would judge those who did not forgive—even their enemies. This is not easy to hear and it made the Pharisees even angrier with Jesus. Only those who truly wanted to know the Messiah would listen to this kind of teaching. Jesus knew this was the only way for us to truly be free from the one true enemy of mankind, Satan. Satan wants us to hold grudges, to hate, and to do bad things that will cause us to die in sin. However, Christ came to lead us into truth and give everlasting life.

Bible Point:

**Forgive
Your
Adversaries.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Tell your students you want them to think of someone who has done something wrong or bad to them. Discuss some of things that could be included. Ask the student to choose one of those people and write a letter telling them that they forgive them. (Younger students can draw a picture and you can write for them.)

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Is it easy to forgive people who do bad things to us?
2. Why did Jesus say we must forgive others when they do wrong to us?
3. How can we ask God to help us forgive others?
4. What happens if we don't forgive others?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 18:23-35, Matthew 5, Matthew 6:15

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will not forgive those who will not forgive others.

Materials: poster board, markers, note cards or index cards

Memory Verse: "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:15

Lesson Summary

Peter came to Jesus with a question. He asked Jesus how many times do we have to forgive our brother? Jesus' response was "seventy times seven" or as many times as he asks. Jesus then began to teach using another parable or story about king and his servants. Jesus tells them that a servant came to the king and was to be sold with his family because he could not pay the debt he owed the king. The servant begged for mercy and the king actually forgave the whole debt. He did not have to pay the king back and his family was saved! Some time later, this same servant went out and found a fellow servant that owed him only a small debt. The fellow servant could not pay, and the servant became very angry took him and had him cast into prison. He did not forgive the servant as the king had forgiven him. The king soon found out and became very angry. He told the servant since he did not forgive, he would not be forgiven until he paid back all the debt. Jesus used this parable to teach us that in God's Kingdom we have been forgiven a great debt when we are forgiven our sins. You see we cannot pay the debt owed and God was moved with compassion to forgive us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. That is our payment for sin. However, if we don't forgive our fellow servant (our brothers in Christ), God will not forgive us.

Bible Point:

The Forgiven
Must
Forgive.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Divide a poster into 2 halves and draw a line down the middle. On one side write the word "Punishment" and on the other side "Mercy". Come up with several scenarios that illustrate someone doing something wrong to us. Have to students respond with what we think should be their punishment and then on the other side what would illustrate God's mercy.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Is it hard to forgive and show mercy to others? Why?
2. What does the parable teach us about forgiving others?
3. Why does Jesus use this illustration to answer Peter's question?
4. What was the debt he forgave for each of us who have accepted Him?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 10:25-37

Lesson Objective: The student will learn who his/her neighbor is and verbalize ways they can show love toward their neighbor

Materials: Band-Aids, costumes to act out story

Memory Verse: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27

One day a lawyer asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. He also asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus tells a story about a Samaritan that showed love and compassion to his neighbor. A Jewish man was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was robbed and beaten and left to die along the road. Three people passed him by but only one was willing to help him. A priest saw the man but passed him by on the other side of the road. A Levite also came by and even stopped and looked at the man but stepped over him and kept walking. Finally, a man from Samaria came and saw the man. He saw how he was badly injured and needed help. The Samaritan took the man to an inn and washed his wounds and took special care of him. He even paid the host at the inn to take care of him until he was feeling better. This was an extraordinary deed by the Samaritan because Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. The Jews were mean to the Samaritans. This Samaritan showed the true meaning of loving your neighbor! At the end of the parable Jesus then asked, "Which of these was a neighbor to the man that fell among the thieves?" The lawyer answered saying "he that showed mercy upon him." Jesus then instructed him to go and do the same thing! Jesus wants us to love our neighbor. Remember that your neighbor is anyone you meet. We must show love and compassion to all we meet. Every person we meet needs to feel the love of Christ! It's up to his people to let the love of Christ shine through in all we do, not only to those we love but to those who may mistreat us also. It's the love of Christ that will save the Lost!

Bible Point:
**Love Your
Neighbor
As Yourself**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Band-Aid Relay: Divide your class into teams. Have one child be the injured man and let the others be the Samaritan man. Each team member must race to place Band-Aids on the man before the allotted time ends. The first team to place the most band aids on the man wins.
2. Role Play: Have your children act out the story.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Which of these three men was a neighbor to the injured man?
2. Who is your neighbor?
3. Why is it important that you love your neighbor?

Lesson: Follow the Road to Life
Lesson Text: Mt 7:13-14, Luke 13:24
Date: August 11, 2013

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt 7:13-14, Luke 13:24

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that there are two paths in life that we can choose from but only one leads to Heaven.

Materials: paper or any material needed to make a road, snacks or prizes

Memory Verse: Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Luke 13:24

While Jesus was journeying through cities and villages toward Jerusalem, one of his followers asked him a question. He asked, "Lord are there few that be saved." Jesus answered him by using a parable of two paths to describe the way into the Kingdom. On one, the gate is straight and the path is narrow while the other, the gate is wide and broad is the path. The straight gate and narrow path leads to Heaven. Jesus said few there be that find this path. The word straight means difficult. The gate that leads to destruction is wide. This gate is easily seen and probably very attractive. It draws people in! This gate is an easy gate to go through and an easy path to take. This path does not require any type of obedience to God and His Word. However, this is the gate that will lead to Hell. Sadly, this is the gate that most people will choose. Picture a road with a lot of people walking down it doing bad things. These people are living a life filled with sin yet believe they are on the right path. This is the road to Hell!!! Now picture a road that only has a few people on it but these people love God with all their hearts and are obedient to all his commandments. These people are on the path that will lead to eternal life! This is the path to Heaven! We must be sure that we have chosen the right path. If the path you are on provides a life that is contrary to the word of God, then you must turn around and go the other way!! There is only one way to heaven! It's not an easy path to choose but it is the path that we can't afford to pass by! We must choose the straight and narrow way—God's way!!

Bible Point:
**There Is Only
One Way to
Heaven**



Ideas to Illuminate

Using several sheets of paper, make two paths. One should be wider than the other. Let the children choose a path. One should lead to a dead end or closet (Hell) while the other leads to a snack or prize (Heaven). If possible do not let the children see the end result of the paths.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. How does Jesus describe the path that leads to Heaven? Destruction?
2. How can we be sure we are on the right path?

Faith-N-Focus Theme: Parables of Jesus for Young Disciples

Lesson: Jesus Is the Only Way to God

Lesson Text: John 10:1-16

Date: August 18, 2013

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 10:1-16; John 14:16

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus is the only way that we can be saved and have eternal life.

Materials: costumes for role play.

Memory Verse: Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6

What is a door used for? We use doors to help us get inside a room, to keep strangers out, to keep the cold/hot air out, and to protect us from things outside. Doors are the proper way to enter into a room or building. Jesus spoke using a parable to teach those without understanding of his word. He stated "I am the door: by me if any man entereth in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out, and find pasture." He also stated "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth some other way, the same is a thief and robber." The sheep know the shepherd's voice and follow him. There are many people that say they are a Christian but have not truly accepted Jesus into their hearts. They may even tell you that there are many different ways to be a Christian. People try to use all sorts of things to get to God like good works, giving lots of money, and giving their time to church activities. However, God says there is only one way to get to God, and that is through His Son Jesus Christ!! In him alone are we able to have communion with God and make it to heaven one day!! Jesus is like a door, we must come through him if we want to know more about God. It is through Jesus that we find forgiveness, peace, happiness, love, healing, and heaven. If people tell us that we can get to heaven by any other way then we know that they are like the thieves in Jesus' story in John chapter 10. We can't buy our way into heaven or even be a really good person and make it to heaven. We must ask Jesus into our hearts and live for him! He must become our Shepherd! We have to be willing to follow him and listen to his voice at all times.

Bible Point:
**Jesus Is The
Only Way**



Ideas to Illuminate

1. Play a game of follow the leader.
2. Allow one child to be the shepherd and one to be the thief /wolf. Let the others be the sheep. Let them act out the story of the Good Shepherd.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. Who is the Good Shepherd?
2. Is it true that we can work our way to heaven by good deeds and giving money?
3. What must we do to make it to heaven?
4. Why does Jesus say "I am the door of the sheep?"



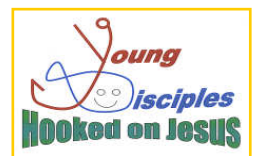
Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

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Date: August 25, 2013

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 11:5-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to be persistent in prayer

Materials: anything to act out the story

Memory Verse: And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Luke 11:9

In Luke chapter 11, we read about a man who came to a friend in need of bread. He needed some bread because he had a friend coming to his house and he did not have anything to feed him. . However he waited until it was really late to go to his house and ask for this bread. When he got to his friend's house, he knocked and asked for the bread but the friend told him he could not give him any bread. It was late and all his family was asleep and he didn't want to disturb them. However, the man kept knocking and asking for the bread!! He was persistent. The bible says that the friend finally gave the man the bread, not because he wanted to be a good friend but because he was persistent. He would not leave the man alone! The bible tells us that we are to be persistent in our prayers unto God. We are to ask, seek, and knock until we get the answer!! Sometimes when we pray we expect for God to answer our prayer right then. However, sometimes we have to be patient and continue to ask. We have to be willing to pray as long as it takes to get the answer we need from God. It is our persistence in our prayer that will get the attention of God! It's important not to give up or get discouraged. We need to ask boldly knowing that Jesus hears our prayers and trust he knows what's best for us.

**Bible Point:
Never Give
Up**



Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1 Have the children act out the story.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did the man need from his friend?
2. Why did the friend tell him "No" at first?
3. What caused him to change his mind?
4. What Does Jesus tell us to do?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 14: 7-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to choose to be humble.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6).

Lesson Summary

Jesus was invited to eat at the home of one of the chief Pharisees on the Sabbath Day. Jesus watched and saw how the other invited guests were scrambling to be the first to sit in the most popular seats. Jesus then told them a story to teach them a lesson about humbleness. In this story, there was a wedding and guests were invited to attend. Jesus taught that it is better for the guests to choose to sit in the unpopular seats. Then, if they are asked to move to a popular seat, they and everyone around them will be happy. But, if the guests chose to sit in the popular seats and are asked to move to the unpopular seats, they will be embarrassed and ashamed. Jesus wants us to see that when we put ourselves in places of honor and think of ourselves as more important than others, we have a proud spirit. The bible says, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble". (James 4:6)

Bible Point:

**I choose
to
be humble.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Using a piece of paper and crayons, have each child make a placemat with the bible verse on it. Keep them in the classroom to use for the next several lessons.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Which guest had a proud spirit?
2. Which guest had a humble spirit?
3. Do you think sitting by the most important people makes you important?
4. Is humbleness sitting in the unpopular seat and looking sad?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt 22:2-9; Acts 13:46

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to accept the call of God.

Materials: Bible, party decorations (keep decorations for next week), invitations, special snack, placemats from last week, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13).

Lesson Summary

In the parable of the Wedding Banquet, Jesus is teaching us that we must accept the invitation to salvation that has been provided. There are three invitations to salvation spoken of in this story. All three unfold to reveal the call God has sent out to gather His people; and the great lengths He has gone thru to reach the lost souls. The first invitation was delivered to the Israelites by the prophets and Jesus. Israel did not accept the invitation and did not turn their hearts toward God. The second invitation was delivered to the Israelites by the disciples after Jesus was crucified. It included the message, "all things are ready". Israel still did not turn their hearts towards God. Some had business interests that were more important to them. Some even killed God's servants for delivering the invitation. The third invitation has been given and continues to go out today; being delivered by followers of Christ. The invitation is no longer just for Israel, but now for everyone who will accept it. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13).

Bible Point:
**I will accept
the call of
God and be
saved.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Decorate the room for a party. When the children come in tell them you are expecting some very special guests. Have the RSVP invitations in your hand. After everyone sits down, read the RSVP notes to find out that everyone who was invited is too busy to come. Enjoy your special snack as you teach the lesson.
2. The children can make an Invitation to Salvation. (Ex)
To: Whosoever will
From: Jesus
For: Salvation and freedom from sin
Bring: Repentance

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is the call of God?
2. Who is invited?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt 22:10-14; Eph 4:24; Col 3:10,12; Rev 3:4;19:8

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the necessity of purity.

Materials: Bible, white robes, decorations and placemats from previous lessons

Memory Verse: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph 4:24).

Lesson Summary

The invitation to salvation is for everyone. It doesn't matter how you dress or how you behave before you receive the invitation. We were all once sinners and needed to repent and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Once we accept Him we are clothed in wedding garments and are worthy to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The wedding garment represents righteousness and holiness, which only come by the presence of God in our lives. In the parable of the wedding garment the Lord comes to see the guests who have accepted their invitation. He finds that all the guests have put on their wedding garments except one. This man has a rebellious spirit and thinks he can enter into the kingdom his own way. He has no intentions of being clothed in the appropriate garment. The Lord tells his servants to tie the man's hands and feet and throw him out into the darkness forever. He was not found worthy to enter. There is only one way to enter the kingdom of heaven and that is through Jesus Christ. When we accept Jesus into our hearts we put on the wedding garment which says, I am not my own; I am a new man clothed in God's righteousness and holiness.

Bible Point:

**I will be
clothed in
righteousness.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Using your party decorations and placemats from the previous lessons, clothe all but one child in a white robe and act out the story from the lesson.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does the wedding garment represent?
2. Who can wear the wedding garment?
3. Why was the man not clothed in the wedding garment?
4. What was he trying to do?
5. What is the only way to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt 18:12-13; Lk 15:4-7; 1 Pet 2:10,25; Lk 5:32

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to rejoice in recovering what was lost.

Materials: Bible, stuffed sheep, Adult shepherd costume, optional special snack

Memory Verse: "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." (Mt 18:11).

Lesson Summary

Jesus refers to lost souls as lost sheep. Before we are saved, we have no shepherd to protect us, and are in grave danger of the enemy. Jesus came to save all the lost sheep on earth. Every time a lost soul is saved, great rejoicing takes place in heaven. We, too, should always rejoice when we see someone give their heart to Jesus. As young disciples we can help Jesus find lost sheep by telling them about Jesus and what he's done for us.

Bible Point:

**I will rejoice
when what's
lost is found.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Before class hide the stuffed sheep somewhere in the class. After you read the lesson have someone come in dressed like a shepherd who is looking for his lost sheep. The children can help the shepherd look for the lost sheep and celebrate with a special snack once the lost sheep is found.
2. Have the shepherd sit in the middle of the circle of children. Every child should put their hands behind their back and the shepherd should close his eyes. The leader places the stuffed sheep in one of the children's hands. The shepherd opens his eyes and has three chances to guess which child has the lost sheep.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Have you ever found a lost toy or something you really liked? How did it make you feel?
2. What does Jesus refer to as lost sheep?
3. What does it mean to be found?
4. Are you a lost sheep or a found sheep?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 14:28-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to calculate the cost of following Jesus.

Materials: Bible, blocks or anything stackable

Memory Verse: "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Mt 24:13).

Lesson Summary

Think of yourself as a tower. After you are saved and begin to serve the Lord, the building process begins. You love the Lord for what He's done for you, and you read your bible and pray every day. God starts building walls on your strong foundation. He is in control of everything and has all the construction plans and materials needed to complete the work. During the building process you start to realize there are sacrifices to serving God. Your tower can't be completed unless you allow God to have complete control of your life. You must decide if you are willing to make the sacrifices needed to allow God to complete the work, no matter the cost. He is either Lord of all or He's not Lord at all.

Bible Point:
**Jesus is
worth it
all.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Allow the children time to build a tower on their own. Then, give the children specific instructions on how to build a strong tower.
2. Take two plastic cups the same size and cut on in half. Pour water to the top of the whole cup to demonstrate a good, complete strong tower that can be used by the Lord. Pour the water from that cup into the half-cup and watch the water spill out to demonstrate how a half built tower is of no use to the Lord.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Have you given your heart to Jesus?
2. Are you willing to make sacrifices to follow Jesus?
3. Are you allowing Him to be in control of your life?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 15:8-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn there is joy in recovering one that is lost.

Materials: 10 coins or items of teacher's choice.

Memory Verse: "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

Lesson Summary

Have you ever lost something that was important to you? (Allow students to respond.) How did it make you feel? In Luke 15:8, we read that if a woman had ten pieces of silver and lost one piece, would she not sweep her house and look and look until she found it? The Bible goes on to say in verse 9 that when she found the piece of silver, she called her friends and neighbors together telling them to rejoice with her that she found what she had lost. How did you feel when you found something important to you that you had lost? Did you want to tell others and were you super happy? Do you know when a sinner repents and becomes a child of God, the angels are very happy because someone who was lost and separated from God has been found. There are billions of people on the earth, yet it is a big deal when just one person repents and becomes a child of God. It is a big deal to God and His angels! Isn't it amazing to think when we repent and become a child of God, heaven rejoices over us? Not only does it bring joy to those around us, but it also brings joy to the angels of God! Do you know Jesus? Does He rule your heart? Ask Him to be your Savior and Lord, so that you can bring joy to the angels of heaven and rejoice with your loved ones too!

**Bible Point:
Rejoice!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Bring 10 coins or other items to class. Hide one item in your classroom area for a student to find. Have students take turns finding the lost item. When the item is found, have all the students rejoice together!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Are you happy when you lose something?
2. How do you feel when you find something you had lost?
3. When someone repents, who rejoices?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 15:11-32

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God wants to have a right relationship with him/her.

Materials: Balloons, streamers, and treats or snacks for students.

Memory Verse: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

Lesson Summary

In Luke 15:11-32 the Bible tells us about a son who asked his father to give him his part of his inheritance. His father gave it to him, and the son moved away, wasted all his goods, and lived a bad life. The son ended up having to feed pigs as his job. He got so hungry that he was ready to eat the pig's food. Seeing how bad his life had become, he decided he would go back to his father. He decided to tell his father he had done wrong and that he was no longer worthy to be called his son. He traveled back to his father, and when his father saw him, he ran to him with compassion. His father rejoiced and celebrated with festivities that his son had come home. Do you know God feels the same way about us, if we turn from living a bad life and run home to Him? No matter what bad things we have done, God still wants us to come to Him, ask forgiveness, and recognize He is our Father. Like the son in this parable, people have forgotten God, lived wrong and messed their lives up. Maybe they have no money, no family, and no job. But guess what? God can still fulfill all the needs they have in their lives! God wants to be our All in All! When we do turn from our bad lives and run to Christ, he is so happy that we have come home. God, like the son's father, has his arms wide open waiting to embrace us. God desires for us to have a loving relationship with Him, our heavenly Father!

Bible Point:
**Come home
to Jesus.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Decorate the classroom with a few items such as balloons, streamers, and so on. Have students take turns acting out the roles of the father, the lost son, and the party guests. Serve light snacks with the students as a celebration of coming home.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. If we have lived a bad life, will God forgive us?
2. What must we do to have Jesus as our Savior?
3. How does God feel when we repent and return home to Him?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 16:1-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn we must do the best we can with what God has given us.

Materials: Paper, colored markers or crayons.

Memory Verse: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Lesson Summary

The parable in Luke 16:1-8 is about a dishonest steward. A steward is a person who takes care of another person's business, properties, or money. This steward got into big trouble with his boss and lost his job. After he lost his job, he did his very best to make sure his life here on earth would be okay. He found ways to gain money, places to stay, and so on. He wanted to gain all this to better himself on earth. He was not thinking of others or his eternal inheritance. He was only focused on his life on earth. We must be wiser than this steward! We must be wise with what God gives us to work with. Our money, possessions, and talents need to be used to be a blessing and to help others. We must do our very best to do everything the right way so we will be ready to get our heavenly reward. We must always be mindful of who we are working for, not ourselves, but for God. Let's remember to use all we have to make it to heaven and help others along the way!

Bible Point:
**Do everything
to honor God.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have students sketch pictures of things they have such as possessions, money, or talents, and allow students to share how they can use these to help others.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who are we working for?
2. Who should receive the glory in all we do?
3. Who will judge what we did on earth?
4. What should we use to glorify God and help others?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 16:19-31

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we must put God first in our lives.

Materials: Bibles, paper, crayons or colored markers.

Memory Verse: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33).

Lesson Summary

What is most important to you? — Money, family, helping others, God? Let's read Luke 16:19-31 to find out what was most important to a certain rich man. After reading our text, what was the most important thing to the rich man? He loved having money and buying goods. He lived a comfortable life here on Earth. Whom did the rich man not help? (Lazarus) But where did the rich man end up in eternity? The rich man was in hell because he did not love God with all his heart and have a relationship with Him. He put other things before God. What did you learn about Lazarus? He was a beggar who wanted only a few crumbs from the rich man's table. Lazarus did not have an easy life or have the comforts like the rich man had. But where did Lazarus go when he died? The Bible says he was carried by angels to be with Abraham. He may not have had a great life on Earth, but because he had a right relationship with God and loved Him, Lazarus entered into rest for eternity. On the other hand, we see how the rich man had a comfortable life on Earth for a short time, but later he was tormented forever. Even though Lazarus' life on Earth was miserable with poverty and sickness, he would be comfortable and resting forever. Once you die and enter eternity, it is fixed. You cannot change your place. Heaven is better than riches because it is everlasting. Riches in this world are for only a short time. If you value money over God's kingdom, then you will be in torment forever. There are no breaks and no changing your situation. What's more important, something short lived or something that lasts a long time? Continue in His kingdom until the end of this life because His kingdom will last FOREVER!

Bible Point:
Put God first.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a piece of paper. Fold the paper in half. On one half, draw a picture of the rich man on Earth, and then draw Lazarus on the other half. Flip the paper over and draw pictures of how the men lived in eternity.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who must be first in our lives?
2. Is there anything/anyone more important than God?
3. What's more important, something that is short lived or lasts for a long time?
4. Once you enter eternity, can you change where you are?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 22:34-40; Ephesians 2:8-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to serve God like an obedient servant.

Materials: Pipe Cleaners (chenille wire)

Memory Verse: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Lesson Summary

Jesus begins this parable by asking his disciples a question. He said, "Would a master ask his servant to sit down and eat when he comes in from working in the field, or would the master require the servant to prepare and serve his meal first?" In Bible times, a servant was actually more like a slave. The master owned the servants and they were bound by the law to do whatever the master commanded them to do. This included planting crops, working in the field, looking after sheep, as well as, preparing and serving meals. In return, the master took care of providing for the servant's needs, such as food and shelter. The servant did not expect to be thanked for performing his tasks. Those duties were simply his job which he was required to do. A master did not wait on his servant. Instead, the servant was required to wait on his master and complete every task to the best of his ability. This parable suggests that even the very best we can do for God is nothing more than our duty. We do not serve God expecting to be thanked. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. Instead, we owe our lives to God because He has redeemed us by the blood of His own Son. As obedient servants, we must serve and love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37).

Bible Point:
Obey God's
Commandments



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. After discussing the questions, give each child three pipe cleaners (chenille wire). Allow the children to bend the wires into different shapes to represent ways we serve and obey God.
2. Play a game of "Simon Says." A leader gives the class commands and the students must complete the required actions. You may desire to rename the game, "The Master Says."

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What were servants required to do for their masters?
2. What are Christians required to do for God?
3. What could the servant expect from the master in return for completing his duties?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Colossians 3:23-25; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will reward every man according to his work.

Materials: Candy, small treats, etc.

Memory Verse: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells a parable about a man who set out to hire men to work in his vineyard. He hired some of them early in the morning, some in the middle of the day, and some he hired just before quitting time. When it was time to pay the workers, he paid them all the same amount. The workers who were hired early in the morning began to complain because they didn't think that it was fair that they worked all day and were paid the same amount as those who only worked a small part of the day. The owner of the vineyard told the men that they received exactly what had been promised to them. The lesson of this parable is that there are some people who trust in Jesus and serve him almost all of their life. The reward for their faithfulness is a home in heaven. Then there are other people who are sinners for most of their lives. But just before their life ends, they ask the Lord for forgiveness. Their reward is the same as one who has served the Lord all of their life. Jesus says that any "laborer" who accepts the call to work in his vineyard (the Kingdom of God), no matter how late in the day, will receive an equal reward. Jesus is coming soon. Will He find you working for Him? What will be your reward?

Bible Point:
Work for
Jesus



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give out candy or small treats to the class. Be sure to give a larger amount to a few of the children. Hopefully, the children who received less will complain that they did not get as much as the others. Use this opportunity to reflect on how the workers who were hired first may have felt. Be sure, however, that each child ends up with the same amount.

Note: Ask each student to prepare to share a special talent for next week's class. The talent may be drawing a picture, bringing homemade cookies, singing a song, reciting a poem, or playing an instrument.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Which workers were paid the most for their labor?
2. What does the vineyard in the parable represent?
3. Why were the workers complaining who were hired first?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 15:16; Hebrews 13:21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to be faithful with what he has been given.

Materials: Ribbons or Certificates

Memory Verse: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10a).

Lesson Summary

In this parable, Jesus tells of a rich man who went on a long trip. He left his three servants in charge of his wealth. He gave one servant five talents, another servant two talents, and the last servant only one talent. A talent was an amount of money. When the man returned, he was pleased to find that the first two servants had used the talents to earn twice as many talents as they had been given. However, the third servant did not use the money, but rather buried it in the ground. The master was angry because the servant had been lazy and had not used the talent that was given to him. He took that talent from the lazy servant and gave it to the first servant. What can we learn from this story? We need to use whatever "talent" God has given us. It might be money or a special ability. If we use it wisely, God will increase it so that our lives will glorify Him. This lesson is not about money as much as it is about using our gifts that God has given us. The master gave a large amount of money to each of his servants according to their abilities. Like the talents in this Bible story, the gifts and abilities which God gives to us are very valuable. If we are lazy or afraid to use our gifts, God will take them away and give them to someone else. Let's glorify God by giving Him our very best!

Bible Point:
Give God
your best



Ideas to Illuminate:

Sunday School Talent Show

Allow adequate time for each student to share his unique talent or ability with the class. Reward each student with a ribbon or certificate with the words "Well done" printed on it.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How many talents did the master give to each of his servants?
2. What did the servant who was given only one talent do with his talent?
3. What will happen if we do not use the talents or gifts that God has given to us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrew 11:6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Christians should never stop praying.

Materials: Small treats, candy, etc.

Memory Verse: "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

Lesson Summary

Jesus told a parable of a widow woman who went before a judge to ask him for protection from her enemies. This judge was not a godly man, and he did not have much compassion for people. At first he would not hear her petition, but she was persistent and kept pleading with the judge. He finally granted the woman her request, but only because he was tired of her asking over and over again. In this parable, Jesus explained that if an unjust, evil judge will help a widow because she is persistent, how much more will our loving God bring about justice for those who continually come to him in prayer? We must be persistent in praying. The Bible says to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Continuous prayer is a sign of our faith in God and His Word. We must believe that God will hear and answer our prayers. We tend to stop praying when we stop believing that a prayer will be answered. So we must not give up hope. We must pray in faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please" God (Hebrews 11:6).

Bible Point:
Ask
Seek
Knock



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Memory Verse Practice

Have the children practice saying the memory verse until they can recite it by memory. Discuss the importance of being persistent and never giving up. When they can recite the verse by memory, reward them with a treat.

2. Role Play

Allow the students to take turns acting out the Bible story. Let the class decide which student was the most persistent in his asking.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did the widow do when the judge did not grant her petition?
2. Why did the judge finally grant the widow's petition?
3. What does it mean to be persistent?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 18:9-14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God wants us to have humble hearts.

Materials: Bible, balloons

Memory Verse: "For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18: 14b). ("For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." Amplified)

Lesson Summary

In this parable, Jesus compares the prayers of a prideful Pharisee and a sinful Publican. A Pharisee was a religious leader, and a Publican was a tax collector. Jesus told this story to teach the importance of being humble. The Pharisee and Publican were both in the temple praying. The Pharisee spoke to God with a prideful spirit. He told God how thankful he was that he was not like this unjust tax collector. This religious leader thought he was more important to God because of his fancy prayers. He looked down on sinful people. Then Jesus used the prayer of the publican as an example of how to be humble. The publican would not even lift up his head. He asked God to have mercy on him. Jesus wanted the people to understand that His love is not based on how good we look or act. Therefore, we shouldn't look down on others or think too highly of ourselves. God forgives those who are sorry and ask for forgiveness with a humble heart.

Bible Point:

Be humble



Ideas to Illuminate:

1) Act out this story. Assign one child as the tax collector and one as the Pharisee. Then, read the story as narrator. Have the children mime the actions as you read the story.

2) Illustrate the story by using balloons. Pass out a deflated balloon to every child. Talk about how each balloon is pliable, easily moldable and very flexible. Have the children put the balloon in their pockets, under their feet and then stretch the balloon around their wrists. Now, allow the children to blow up their balloons. Tie them off. Discuss how flexible the balloons are now. Will the balloons fit in your pocket or wrap around your wrists? Explain that a proud attitude is like the "puffed-up" balloon. God desires a humble attitude. **Caution: This activity requires adequate adult supervision. Please be safe with balloons, especially around younger children!**

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Was the publican or tax collector a sinner?
2. Why did God forgive him?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 21:28-32

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus wants us to be obedient.

Materials: Bible

Memory Verse: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells the parable of the two sons. The story illustrates to us the difference between obedience and disobedience. The first son said he would not obey when his father asked him to work in the vineyard. Later on, he felt bad for not obeying so he went and did what his father had asked. The second son said he would obey, but then later, he did not. Which son was obedient to his father? Jesus used this story to explain how some people do wrong, but when they hear the truth, they repent to God and then begin to do right. But others say that they are doing right, only to go and do wrong again. In Jesus' day, the Pharisees, who were religious leaders, thought they were so smart in the things of God, yet they did not recognize the truth in Jesus when they saw it with their own eyes. They were not willing to obey God, and their actions proved it. They rejected Jesus. He spoke very clearly to the Pharisees. He told them that they had seen the truth, but they simply would not believe. Sometimes people are just stubborn. They see and hear the truth about Jesus, but they are not willing to accept Jesus into their heart and change the way they live.

Bible Point:

**Actions speak
louder than words**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Play games such as, Simon Says or Mother May I to see who listens and obeys.
2. Play a game of charades. Allow the students to take turns acting out ways that we obey Jesus such as, reading our bible, praying, or helping others. The other children will guess the answer only by the actions and gestures.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who should we obey?
2. How can others know that we are Christians?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7, Matthew 1:23

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that prophets told of Jesus birth long before His great coming.

Materials: Bible, crayons, paper, and pencils.

Memory Verse: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). (NASB is a good version for this Scripture also.)

Lesson Summary

Long before Jesus was born, His coming was prophesied (foretold) about. Isaiah, a prophet in the Old Testament, told about many things that would happen in the future. Some of these things which He spoke about, particularly Jesus' birth were fulfilled in the New Testament. When Isaiah lived, Jesus had not been born; but because Isaiah was used of God, he was able to share the news of Jesus' birth with others. The people were waiting and watching for this child to come who would be wonderful, mighty, and a great King. He would be the King of all Kings. Isaiah also referred to Jesus as "Immanuel," which means, "God with us." What a joy to know that God loved us so much that He would send His only Son to be with us. It was more than 500 years after Isaiah lived that Jesus would be born. We see in the New Testament where a woman named Mary was visited by an angel. This angel told her that she was going to give birth to a son and His name would be called "Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23).

Bible Point:
**The King
is Coming!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Fold several pieces of paper in half to make a booklet. Divide the booklet in two sections. Label the first section for the Old Testament and the second for the New Testament. On each section, have the children draw and write about things which were told in the Old Testament and then happened in the New Testament. This will help them see His foretold birth.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Was the Old Testament written before Jesus' birth?
2. If you were told that Jesus would be a wonderful, mighty, King, then what would you expect him to look like? How would you think He would come?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-11; Luke 1:30-33, 2:8-20; John 14: 1-3

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus came (Christmas) and He will return for us.

Materials: Bible, M&M's

Memory Verse: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Lesson Summary

Last week, we read about an angel that came to a woman named Mary. He told her that she was going to have a son. This child was the Son of God. The shepherds were told by the angel to go see him. Later, three kings (Wise Men) followed a bright star to find baby Jesus. They brought gifts and bowed down to worship Him. As Isaiah had prophesied, this baby came into our world as a gift to us. He is and was the greatest gift anyone could ever receive. This gift came to teach us about His Father (God), and to give us eternal life. He did great miracles while He was here on Earth, but many did not believe that He was the Messiah. Since they did not believe who He was, they killed Him. His death had also been prophesied. After being buried for three days, Jesus arose from the grave. He met with His disciples and told them that He had to go back to His Father in Heaven. He promised that He would prepare a place for us and that He would come back to get us, so that we could live there with Him forever. Today, we celebrate Christmas because Jesus was born as a gift to us. Just like those that waited for Him to come the first time, we are waiting for Him to come again.

Bible Point:
**The King
is coming!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

The M&M Christmas Story (Give each child an M&M candy to hold in his hand as you read this poem aloud.)

"As you hold this candy in your hand, and turn it, you will see; The M becomes a W, an E, and then a 3. They tell the Christmas Story, it's one I'm sure you know. It took place in a stable a long, long time ago. The E is for the East where the star shone O so bright. The M is for the Manger where the baby Jesus slept that night. The 3 is for the wise men bearing gifts, they say they came. W is for worship, hallelujah praise to His name. So as you eat these candies or share them with a friend, remember the Spirit of Christmas, and never let it end." - Adapted from poem written by Pam Ridenour

(Give each child a small bag of M&M's to enjoy.)

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why do we celebrate Christmas?
2. What is the greatest gift that we could ever receive?
3. What is this place that Jesus is preparing for us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that he should receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons and paper

Memory Verse: "The said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him" (Lu. 20:13).

Lesson Summary

Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a large garden where grapes are grown and harvested. Instead of working in the vineyard himself, the owner hired some men to live there and take care of it for him. When it came time for the harvest, the owner sent a servant for the fruit, but the workers treated him very badly. They beat him and sent him away. He sent a second servant, and even a third, but the wicked men also beat them and refused to give the fruit to the owner of the vineyard. Finally, the owner, the lord of the vineyard, decided to send his own son whom he loved dearly. He thought the workers would respect and receive his son when he came for the harvest. But these wicked men rejected his son and decided to kill him and take the vineyard for themselves. When this happened, the lord of the vineyard came and destroyed these wicked men, and then he gave his vineyard to others who would serve him faithfully. This is what happened to Jesus when he came into this world. God sent his only begotten Son into the world to bring salvation to all who would receive him as Lord and Savior. Sadly, most of his own people (the Jewish people) rejected him and did not receive him. Although they refused to believe in Jesus, many others from nations all around the world have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Bible Point:
**Receive
Jesus Christ**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids create/write a song explaining the story of today's lesson. Pick an easy tune for them to write to. Nursery songs are sometimes easy to put lyrics to.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the lord send servants to the vineyard?
2. What happened when he sent them?
3. Who did he finally send to get the fruit of the harvest?
4. What did they do to his son?
5. What should they have done when his son came to the vineyard?
6. Have you received Jesus, God's Son, as your Lord and Savior?