

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

**Lesson: Signs of Christ's Coming**  
Lesson Text: Mt. 24:32, Mk. 13:28, Lu. 21:29-30  
January 5, 2014  
Writer: Kara Spicer

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Mt. 24:32-44, Mark 13:28-37, Luke 21:29-36

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that Jesus will come again and we must be ready.

**Materials:** Poster board and markers

**Memory Verse:** "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37).

## Lesson Summary

Jesus continued to teach His disciples about spiritual things with parables. In the Bible, parables are stories about familiar things in everyday life, but they teach us something important about God. In this set of Scriptures, Jesus was trying to help His disciples understand that He will come one day and we who are true Christians must watch and be ready at all times. Just as they could see signs of summer by looking at the fig tree, Jesus wanted them to understand that they could also watch the spiritual signs that will tell when His coming is drawing near. We can look at the signs around us to see the seasons are changing. It might be the color of the leaves (if you live where four seasons are seen) or it could be differences in the temperature outside. In the spring and summer we know that plants bud and grow, while during the fall and winter we have a time where things look dead. Some areas might experience heavy rains or even drought during the different seasons. In the same way we recognize the signs of changing seasons, Jesus wanted His disciples to understand how important it was to watch for the spiritual signs that point to His coming. He wants us to be ready and to always live as if He is coming today! Jesus loved His disciples and wanted them to be prepared for His coming. He loves us and has given us His word to help us be ready when He comes.

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus**  
**is coming**



## Ideas to Illuminate:

**Illustration:** Divide the poster board into sections based on the number of seasons in your area. Separate the children into teams. Each team should draw or list characteristics of a season. Allow each team to share with the whole class.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

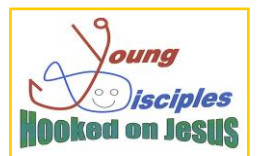
14. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to look at the fig tree?
15. What was the purpose of the fig tree parable?
16. How do we watch for the signs of Christ's coming? What are they?
17. What are we to do to be ready for His coming?



**Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services**

P. O. Box 2398  
Cleveland, TN 37320-2398  
423-476-3337

[sundayschoolservices@zionassemblychurchofgod.com](mailto:sundayschoolservices@zionassemblychurchofgod.com)



### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 24:32-44, Lu. 12:35-40

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus will come again and we must be ready.

Materials: Costumes or masks, a handkerchief

Memory Verse: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37).

### Lesson Summary

Jesus continues to explain about His coming through the parable of the homeowner and the thief. He explains to the disciples that just as a homeowner would wait up ready to keep the thief from breaking into the home, we must be watchful at all times for His coming. The Bible tells us in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Christ wanted His disciples to understand that we do not know the exact time of His coming, but we have to be ready all the time. He wanted Christians to understand the importance of living a holy life through and in Christ. We cannot afford to do wrong or sinful things because we never know when He might come to take us home to heaven. Jesus wanted us to understand that His coming could happen at any time of day or night. We have to guard our hearts against the tricks of the devil, just as we have to guard our physical homes from thieves and robbers. Jesus compares Satan to a thief in John 10:10 and says the thief comes "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." Therefore, it is important that we are always aware of the tricks of the devil. We are able to guard and watch for His coming by reading and studying His word and praying each day. Jesus knew when He shared this parable the disciples would have to be watchful and guard against the enemy.

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus**  
**is coming**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Allow the students to take turns dressing up as the thief and the homeowner, acting out the parable as you share the Scriptures. You could allow the "thief" to try to steal something from the other students as they watch. Then use the handkerchief to blindfold the "homeowner." See what happens when the homeowner cannot watch for the thief.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

10. What happened when the homeowner could see the thief?
11. What happened when the blindfold was on the homeowner?
12. Who is the thief? What is he trying to steal?
13. Why do you think Jesus used the parable of the homeowner and the thief to teach about His coming?

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

**Lesson: Be Alert for Christ's Coming**  
**Lesson Text: Mark 13:34**  
**January 19, 2014**  
**Writer: Kara Spicer**

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Mark 13:32-37

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that Jesus will come again and we must be ready.

**Materials:** Paper, tape, crayons or markers

**Memory Verse:** "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37).

## Lesson Summary

In this parable, Jesus continues to help us understand His coming. He says that He is like a man taking a long journey and leaving his home in the care of servants. He tells them to work while he is gone and to watch for his coming, but does not tell them when this will be. He says the servants will not know the time of their master's return, and that it could be in the morning, the middle of the day, or late at night. However, he directs them to watch always and be ready. This is what Christ has called us to do while He is in heaven preparing our home. He directs us to work for Him by sharing the Good News or Gospel with our friends, family, and even the whole world. While we are working for Him, we are to be watching for Him. He could come at any time, so we must always be ready in our hearts. Jesus wants His disciples to understand that He is our Master and we are His servants. We learn how to be good servants by reading and studying the Bible. The Bible gives us directions on how to live and work until Jesus comes. But serving the Lord is more than learning. We should **do** what the Bible teaches us to do. God wants us to be faithful servants willing to work for Him while He is gone. Our reward will come when He returns to take us to heaven to live with Him forever. Jesus used these stories to explain His coming. The parables were His way of explaining what will become a reality one day. He will come to take His faithful servants to heaven to live with Him. So we must work and watch!

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus**  
**is coming**



## Ideas to Illuminate:

**Illustration:** Give each student a sheet of paper. Have them decorate it with words or scenes from the last three lessons about watching for Jesus. Allow the students to roll the paper to make binoculars or a telescope. Have them recite the memory verse while looking through their binoculars or telescope.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

6. In this parable, where did the master go?
7. What were the servants to do while he was gone?
8. Who is the master? Who are the servants?
9. What is our job while waiting and watching for Jesus to come?



**Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services**

P. O. Box 2398  
Cleveland, TN 37320-2398  
423-476-3337

[sundayschoolservices@zionassemblychurchofgod.com](mailto:sundayschoolservices@zionassemblychurchofgod.com)



### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 24:36-51, Luke 12:42-48

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus will come again and we must be ready.

Materials: Awards (stickers, gold stars, ribbons, or medals)

Memory Verse: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37).

### Lesson Summary

This parable is about the faithful steward or servant. Jesus says that while the master is gone the faithful steward continues to do the things that the master has commanded. He says the master who comes and finds the servant doing those things he commanded will be rewarded. However, Jesus also explains that if the servant decides to be disobedient to the master by not doing what he commanded, then he will be punished. In this parable, Jesus is letting the disciples know that we must not only watch, but also we must be doing the right things when He comes again. Those who disobey Him will not receive the reward of heaven but will face the eternal punishment described in this parable. It is important that we are like the faithful servant and that we do not grow tired of looking for Christ's coming. We must realize that He will return for us and take us home to live with Him some day. His coming is real, and we must not doubt that it will happen. As we work for Him and serve Him in His church, we are being the faithful steward or servant. He has called each of us to do something for Him. He has given each of us talents to use in His church. So we must be faithful by using our talents for Him. If we are faithful, Jesus will someday say to us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Mt. 25:21).

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus**  
**is coming**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Make up several tasks or chores for the students to do. Tell them that you will be gone for a short period of time, but when you return you will reward those who completed the tasks. You should never truly leave the children unattended, so turn your back to them where you cannot see what they are doing. Then after a brief time, turn back around quickly to catch them in their actions. Reward them for being faithful.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What was your task? Did you complete it?
2. Did you know when I was going to return?
3. Did the servants know when the master was going to come?
4. What was the faithful servant given? What happens if the servant is not faithful?
5. How does this apply to us?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 9:16-17, Mark 2:22, Luke 5:36-38, 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that everything in his life must become new when he asks Jesus into his heart.

**Materials:** a clean cup, a dirty cup, and a container of water

**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).

Jesus uses the parable of new wine in old bottles to explain his purpose and reason for coming to Earth. This parable uses the example of an old bottle to symbolize the old religious customs under Judaism. The new wine symbolizes Christ and the redemption of sin through his death on the cross. Under the law everything was about outward works. Under the new covenant, it is an inward experience that takes place in the heart of the believer. Just like new wine cannot be put in old bottles, we cannot mix the new covenant of Christ with the old covenant of Judaism. When something new is put into something old, the new becomes contaminated by the old. This results in both of the items being contaminated. The bottle must be new and clean of anything old before the new wine can be poured into it. When new wine is placed in a new bottle, they both are preserved! There must be a change on the inside before there can be a relationship with Christ. You can't accept Jesus Christ into your heart and still desire to keep your old ways and desires. All things must become new!

**Bible Point:**  
All Things Must  
Become New



### Ideas to Illuminate

Use a dirty cup to symbolize the "old bottles" and a clean cup to symbolize the "new bottles." First, show students the dirt inside of the cup, and then explain that you are pouring clean water into the dirty cup. Notice what happens -- show them that the water has also become dirty. It is no longer new!! Next, pour clean water into the clean cup. Notice how the water remains clean and new when it is poured into the new, clean cup.

### Questions for Class Discussion

1. What does the new wine symbolize?
2. What do the old bottles symbolize?
3. What would happen if something new was placed in something old and dirty?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 25:1-12; Luke 12:40

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that we must be ready and prepared for Jesus' return.

**Memory Verse:** "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13).

Jesus often taught using parables. The parable of the ten virgins explains the second coming of Jesus Christ. This parable is based on the ancient Jewish wedding custom. The bridegroom and his friends escorted the bride from her home to the home of the bridegroom. Along the way friends of the bridegroom waited to welcome and join them. When they arrived at the bridegroom's home, they all went inside for the wedding. These weddings often took place at night which required most of the guests to carry oil lamps. The parable states that there were five wise and five foolish virgins that were waiting on the bridegroom. The five wise virgins not only had their lamps with them but they brought extra oil in case they had to wait a while. While waiting for the bridegroom to come, the five foolish virgins ran out of oil. When the bridegroom finally arrived, they were not prepared! Only those five that brought the extra oil were allowed to attend the wedding celebration. After trying to buy more oil, the five foolish virgins returned to the wedding but it was too late to go inside. Just like the five wise virgins were prepared, we must prepare ourselves spiritually for the return of Jesus! We must spend time in prayer, reading our bibles, and attending church services! Praying, reading, and hearing the word of God will prepare us for his return. We do not know when he will come!! Today could be the day of his return! Are you ready?

**Bible Point:**  
**Be Prepared**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Play the "I'm Going on a Trip Game." Students will say, "I'm going on a trip and with me I am bringing \_\_\_\_\_." They will list items they need for their trip. For example, the first student might say "I'm going on a trip and with me I am bringing water." Each student will in turn say the same sentence, adding an item to the list. For example, the next student might add, "I'm going on a trip and with me I am bringing water and bread." Keep going and adding to the list until everyone has had a turn. If anyone fails to list all of the items in his turn, he is out of the game.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why does Jesus describe the virgins as wise and foolish?
2. How many were foolish? How many were wise?
3. What did the bridegroom tell the 5 foolish virgins when they asked to come inside the wedding celebration?
4. What can we do to prepare ourselves for Jesus' return?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Luke 12:36-38, 40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:12

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn the importance of being ready for the return of Jesus.

**Materials:** An inflated balloon

**Memory Verse:** “Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour that ye think not” (Luke 12:40).

Jesus warns us in Luke chapter 12 that we must be ready for his return. In this parable, the servant is unsure of when his master will return. Travel in those days gave the servants no idea of when their master would return. They did not have telephones, email, or text messaging to know when he was coming home. The servant had to be ready and watching for his master to return. It is important that we be ready for Jesus' return. Jesus used the example of a watchful servant to emphasize the importance of not being caught by surprise when he returns. A watchful servant prepares himself daily. He doesn't become complacent or lazy in his work. He awakens every morning as if this could be the day! He makes sure that everything is in place and presentable. We must spiritually be ready for Jesus' return. No man knows the day or hour in which he is coming! However, we must prepare ourselves each day for his return. We are to be constantly watching. A watchful servant is a faithful servant. We can be faithful in our service to him by praying, reading, and telling others about the soon coming of Jesus. For those who are prepared, his coming will be a joyous event. He will reward each person according to his work. For those who are not prepared, his coming will be sudden and unexpected. Be ready!! Jesus is coming. What will he find? Will he find a people that have made themselves ready or will he find them unprepared as if he were never returning?

**Bible Point:**

**Watch and Pray**



### *Ideas to Illuminate:*

Have the children stand in a circle. Take a balloon and toss it up in the center of the circle. While remaining in their places, have the children gently hit the balloon to keep it floating in the air and within the circle. The person that lets the balloon hit the ground is out. Remind them that they must watch and be ready for the balloon to come their way!!

### *Questions for Class Discussion:*

1. What is a watchful servant?
2. What must we do to prepare ourselves for Jesus' return?
3. What will our reward be if we are prepared when Jesus returns?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 15:1-16

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn the importance of maintaining a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Materials:** A lamp or light source

**Memory Verse:** "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In John chapter 15, Jesus explains to the disciples the importance of having a relationship with him. He uses the example of a vine and branches. A vine is a plant with a lot of branches growing from it. The branches contain the fruit that is produced from the vine. Jesus said, "I am the vine and ye are the branches." The vine provides all the nutrition needed for the branches to grow. The vine is the life source for the branches. Without the vine, the branches cannot grow or produce any fruit. Have you ever seen a branch that has fallen from tree? What does it look like? It is usually withered and dead. Can it ever bear fruit again? NO, it's good for nothing. They are weak and useless by themselves. We are the same; we can do nothing without Jesus. Jesus is the one that gives us life. Jesus wants us to abide in him. Abide means to live in or stay in fellowship with. Just like a lamp has to stay plugged in to continue to produce light, we must spiritually stay plugged in to Jesus. Are you abiding in him? Are you producing fruit? If you are abiding in the vine, then you will begin to see fruit produced from your life. It is important that we pray and ask God to help us stay connected to the Jesus!

**Bible Point:**  
**Stay**  
**connected**  
**to Jesus**



### *Ideas to Illuminate:*

After greeting the class, tell them you want to start your lesson by singing "This Little Light of Mine." While singing, hold up your lamp (unplugged). Pretend you do not know why your lamp is not shining. Hopefully one of the students will realize that it is not plugged in. Plug the lamp in and sing the song again with the light shining.

### *Questions for Class Discussion:*

1. Who does the vine represent in this parable?
2. Who are the branches?
3. Why is it important that we stay connected to the vine?



### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:9-14

Lesson Objective: The children will learn they are spiritually helpless without God.

Materials: Bible, empty cup, poster board, marker, scissors

Memory Verse: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:3).

### Lesson Summary

Jesus sat on the side of a mountain with his disciples and began teaching them about the kingdom of God. This teaching is called the Sermon on the Mount. At the beginning of his sermon, he taught the Beatitudes. We can think of these as the BE-ATTITUDES because these are the **attitudes** which should **be!** An attitude is the way a person thinks, behaves, and reacts to a situation in his life. Jesus taught that we will be blessed if we learn to have attitudes. The first beatitude says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:3). You will have God's favor if you realize you are spiritually helpless without Him. A good example of someone who realized their spiritual helplessness is the publican. When the publican prayed, he couldn't even lift his eyes toward heaven. He beat upon his chest and cried, "God forgive me of my sin!" He went home righteous in the eyes of God. We see the complete opposite in the Pharisee that was praying next to the publican. He was self-righteous and thanked God that he was not like the publican. Even though this Pharisee fasted twice a week and paid his tithes, his heart was filthy and not fit for the kingdom of God.

**Bible Point:**  
**I am nothing  
without God**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Hold an empty cup in your hand and tell it to fill itself. Encourage the children to command the cup to fill itself. Explain to the children, just like the cup can't fill itself with liquid; we can't fill ourselves with righteousness. Only God can fill us with what we need.
2. Write the memory verse on a poster board and cut it into puzzle pieces. Have the children put it in together.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who are the poor in spirit?
2. What is their reward?
3. What happens if we are self-righteous like the Pharisee?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Revelation 21:4

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that godly sorrow brings comfort.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons, poster board, marker, scissors

Memory Verse: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4).

### Lesson Summary

Last week, we learned that Jesus taught his disciples about having good attitudes. In the second Be-Attitude, Jesus taught, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4). The Lord will give comfort to us when we mourn. To mourn means to feel sorrow. Let's talk about a very important kind of sorrow. Have you ever done something bad and later felt very sad for doing it? When you feel sad enough to say you are sorry and never want to do it again, you are experiencing godly sorrow. Godly sorrow leads a person to repent: to ask for forgiveness and turn away from his bad behavior. Repentance leads to salvation – to a born again heart. When a person is born again, he is comforted in knowing he is right with God. He is comforted because he has given his heart to Jesus. This born again Christian can now walk through life, *comforted* by Jesus, no matter what happens. So even when bad things like sickness or death occurs, he can feel better by knowing his heart is right with God and God has everything under control. When a Christian goes to heaven, there will be great *comfort*, for there will be no more crying, sadness, sickness, pain, or death. Heaven will be a happy place. Don't you want to go there someday? Have you given your heart to Jesus?

**Bible Point:**  
Jesus brings  
comfort



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each child a piece of paper and a crayon. Have them draw a heart in the middle of the paper. Next, draw a horizontal line across the center of the heart. Discuss how sin gives us a hurt, broken heart. Now draw a vertical line through the center of the heart (making a cross). Discuss how Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sin and heal our broken hearts.
2. Write the memory verse on poster board and cut it into puzzle pieces. Have the children put it together. Mix in last weeks' puzzle pieces to make it more challenging.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is godly sorrow?
2. Who gives us comfort?
3. How do we accept God's comfort?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:5

**Lesson Objective:** The children will learn that being meek brings rewards.

**Materials:** Bible, trick candle, match, poster board, marker, scissors

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Mt. 5:5).

### Lesson Summary

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples to have good attitudes about daily life. First, Jesus taught them to be poor in spirit by realizing their need for God. Next, he told his disciples that by having godly sorrow they would receive comfort. The third Be-Attitude says, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Mt. 5:5). Do you know a bully? Have you ever been bullied? If so, how did you react? Did you know Jesus was bullied too? The Scribes and Pharisees bullied Jesus because he was different and taught God's word differently. Much like bullies today, they made fun of Jesus and called him names. They talked bad about him to others. They even tied him up, blind-folded him, and beat him. They nailed him to the cross and hung him there to die. How did Jesus react to those bullies? He had the power to destroy every one of them, but he didn't. He chose meekness instead. Meekness is having a sweet, calm nature in the middle of persecution. Jesus did not speak evil or fight back. God's word says if we are meek like Jesus, we will be blessed with a happy life.

**Bible Point:  
Meekness  
Wins!**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Light a trick candle and take a moment to remind the children to let their light shine like Jesus did. Each persecution that Jesus faced was an attempt by Satan to blow out his light. Give each child a chance to name a persecution Jesus faced and attempt to blow out the candle. The candle should re-light on its own each time, demonstrating the power of God over Satan.
2. Write the memory verse on poster board and cut it into puzzle pieces. Mix in the previous weeks' puzzle pieces and have the children put all three together.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did the Scribes and Pharisees treat Jesus?
2. What could have Jesus done to them?
3. What will the bullies win?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:6

Lesson Objective: The children will learn to hunger and thirst after godliness.

Materials: Bible, special snack/drink, poster board, marker, scissors

Memory Verse: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Mt. 5:6).

### Lesson Summary

The fourth Be-Attitude says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Mt. 5:6). To hunger and thirst after something is to want it very badly and to do whatever it takes to receive it. Some people hunger and thirst for money, popularity, expensive toys, or clothes. Everyone hungers for something. In Matthew 5:6, the Bible tells us that we should hunger and thirst after righteousness. Righteousness is godliness. In other words, it means "pleasing God in all we say and do." If we want to please God more than anything else, and we are willing to do whatever it takes to follow Jesus and be like him, then God will fill our hearts with his righteousness. Just as we hunger for food, we should desire to know God more. We learn how to be righteous by studying God's word. As we read the Bible, pray, and worship, we will get closer to God and want to please him. This is something all Christians should do because we want to be like Jesus and go to heaven someday. As we live to please God, it will lead others to hunger and thirst after righteousness too!

**Bible Point:**  
I want to be  
like Jesus



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Place a special snack and drink in plain view for the children to see. Just when you think they can't wait another minute to have it, lead them in a game of follow the leader (or follow Jesus). Then allow the children to sit down and enjoy the snack as you teach the lesson.
2. Write the memory verse on poster board and cut it into puzzle pieces. Mix in the previous lessons' puzzle pieces and challenge them to put all four together!

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Have you ever been very hungry or thirsty?
2. Could you think about or do anything else before you ate or drank something?
3. How did you feel after you had something to eat or drink?
4. What will happen if you hunger and thirst after righteousness?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:7, 6:14; Mark 11:26

Lesson Objective: The children will learn to give what they want to receive.

Materials: Bible, paper, marker, tape, 3 plastic/foam balls (or rolled up socks), empty tissue or shoe boxes, poster board, scissors

Memory Verse: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt. 5:7).

### Lesson Summary

The fifth Be-Attitude says, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt. 5:7). God had mercy on us and sent his only son, Jesus, to die on the cross, so we can be forgiven and free from sin. We don't deserve that mercy, but God has given it to us because He loves us. If we want to receive the mercy of God, we must also show mercy to those who don't deserve it. Mercy is showing love, patience, and forgiveness in our thoughts and actions toward others. The Bible tells us in Matthew 6:14, that if you forgive others for the wrong they have done to you, God will also forgive you for what you've done wrong. Mark 11:26 teaches, if you refuse to forgive others, then God will not forgive you. Without God's forgiveness, we will not enter into heaven. After Jesus had been beaten and hung on the cross to die, he prayed and asked God to forgive the ones who treated him so badly. We should follow Jesus' example and pray for those that hurt us. We should show them mercy daily, so that we may receive mercy from our Father in heaven.

**Bible Point:**  
I will show  
mercy



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Write MERCY on a piece of paper and tape it to a wall. Have the children line up against the opposite wall. Choose someone to be the unmerciful one and place them to the side with 3 balls. One at a time the children will attempt to make it across the room to the MERCY sign without being hit by the unmerciful one. If they get hit they must recite the memory verse to become unfrozen and complete the task. To make it more challenging, have the children wear empty tissue or shoe boxes on their feet.
2. If time permits, make another memory verse puzzle and mix in the previous lessons. Challenge the children to put all five in order!

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did God show mercy to us?
2. How do we obtain mercy?
3. How do we show mercy?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:8; 1 Peter 1:22

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn Jesus can make our hearts pure.

**Materials:** paper, scissors, red crayons or markers

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Mt. 5:8).

### Lesson Summary

Where do you want to go when this life is over? We should set heaven as our goal and be learning what it takes to get there. We must first know Jesus as our personal Savior, but this relationship does not stop there. Thankfully, we have the Bible to guide and teach us. Here in Matthew, Christ is teaching a group of people that followed Him up onto the side of a mountain. They thought Jesus was going to take care of them physically and rid them from all their earthly trouble. Instead, Jesus spoke to them about how they should act. He told them that blessings come from serving and obeying the true living God. In verse eight of Matthew chapter five, the Bible says, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." We must have our hearts full of God's love. If we have our hearts truly filled with God's love, we will act like Him! We will not want to do selfish things but want to do what God wants us to do. This includes putting others before ourselves. 1 Peter 1:22 tells us to "love one another earnestly from a pure heart." We will forgive others just as Christ forgave us. When our hearts are pure and full of God's love, it becomes easier to understand how we must live like Christ at all times. We read the Bible because we want to become more like Jesus. Some may say the Bible is just a bunch of dos and don'ts. But when God's love is making your heart pure, you want to serve God, and the Bible becomes your way of life. You want to know what it takes to please God because His is your All in All. If we want to see God guiding, blessing, and working in us now, and if we want to be in His presence in heaven, we must keep our hearts pure. Let God rule your heart and one day you will see Him!

**Bible Point:**  
*Make my heart pure,  
Jesus!*



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students cut a heart out of white paper and write the memory verse on the heart with red crayon or marker. Remind students that when Jesus comes into our hearts, he washes us white as snow.
2. Come up with different scenarios and allow students to choose how they should respond if their hearts are pure. For example: Someone hurt my feelings.  
A) I should forgive the person. B) I should not forgive and stay upset.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. If our hearts are full of God's love, who should we act like?
2. Why should we forgive others?
3. How can we know how to please God?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:9; Romans 5:1-12

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn we can keep peace with others when our hearts are right with Jesus.

**Materials:** strips of paper, pens or pencils

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Mt.5:9).

### Lesson Summary

Do you know who a peacemaker is? A peacemaker is someone who tries to help those who fight or disagree to get along and have a good relationship. Do you know anyone who is a peacemaker? When Jesus comes into our hearts, He brings peace to our lives between us and God. Do you think children of God should be fighting and not getting along with others? No. If we have God's love in our hearts, we will want to be a peacemaker by getting along with others. We will want to see others having good relationships too. If we know Christ, it should bother us to see others who cannot get along. With God's love in our hearts, we will want others to experience this same peace. We can use the Word of God to help speak peace into the lives of those who are having trouble getting along. The wisdom of God's Word helps bring understanding of how to live and directs people toward Jesus, the Prince of Peace. God will bless as we try to keep peace with others even if others are not trying to get along with us. Let's be peacemakers for Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

**Bible Point:**  
Let's keep  
peace!



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Pass out strips of paper to students and have them write down something they can do to be a peacemaker. (Help children brainstorm.) An example might be to pick up something, like a crayon, someone drops at school or hold the door open for someone who has his/her hands full. Encourage students to do a peaceful task sometime in the coming week and report back next Sunday.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What are some characteristics of a peacemaker?
2. When Jesus comes into our hearts, He brings peace between us and who?
3. Should we try to keep peace with others?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:10-11; Acts 7:51-60

Lesson Objective: The student will learn if we live for Jesus, we will have a great reward in heaven.

Materials: paper and crayons

Memory Verse: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:10).

### Lesson Summary

Has anyone ever been mean to you? What happened? How did it make you feel? (Allow class discussion.) The Bible tells us that sometimes we may be mistreated for following and obeying Jesus. In Acts chapter seven, Stephen is preaching about Jesus and the people do not like what he is saying. The stronger Stephen proclaims the Truth, the more upset the people become because they did not have God's love in their hearts. Stephen looked up and told the crowd he saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God. The people got so angry they cast him out of the city and threw stones at him. Just before Stephen died, he called upon God saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." When he had said this he fell asleep (Acts 7:59-60). We may not have to suffer like Stephen did, but this story can help remind us to stand strong if we are made fun of or treated wrongly for doing what is right for Jesus. We must remember that if we live for Jesus, we will have a great reward in heaven!

**Bible Point:**  
**Stand strong for**  
**Jesus!**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Think of good and bad scenarios your students might be faced with. For example, some students are made fun of because they will not say bad words and others are rejected for trying to talk to someone about Jesus. Have the children to draw a smiley face on one piece of paper and a sad face on another. When you tell a scenario, the children choose to hold up the happy or sad face to show how they would feel in each situation. Allow time for class discussion. Stress how Christ can help us in all situations.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Can we sometimes be mistreated for following Jesus?
2. Why should we stand strong for Jesus?
3. If we live for Jesus, where do we have a great reward?



### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:12; Romans 12:12

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn if we know God we can truly rejoice at all times.

**Materials:** paper, colored pencils, markers or crayons, stickers

**Memory Verse:** "Rejoice and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven" (Mt. 5:12a).

### Lesson Summary

Can you think of something that would make you so happy you want to jump because you are full of gladness? When we become a child of God and receive Jesus into our hearts, it is a time to rejoice. We feel so glad that our sins have been washed away. Our love for Christ and a relationship with Him starts at salvation, but we must grow deeper in God. Romans 12:12 says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulations, be constant in prayer." Christ came to die for all of us. He wants us to let Him rule our hearts completely, and when we do we have hope in Christ which helps us all the time. It helps us be joyful when things are going great and to be patient even when times are bad. How can this be? Is there something we must do to help keep our hope in Christ? Yes, the last part of Romans 12:12 says "be constant in prayer." We must pray to keep our hope in Christ. If we stop praying, our hearts can start to drift away from Jesus and we will put our hope in other things such as money or people. Reading the Bible is also important in keeping our hope in Christ. When we read the Word and tuck scriptures away in our hearts, they come to our minds and help us keep our hope in Christ. The Word of God comforts and guides us in life until we reach our reward in heaven. As we keep rejoicing while serving the Lord and growing in our relationship with Christ, we can store up treasures in heaven. We can rejoice in knowing that if we are a child of the King, we have a reward to receive when we make heaven our home.

**Bible Point:  
Rejoice!**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Ask the students if they are familiar with "to do" lists or reminders. Give each student a piece of paper and have each student make a daily reminder to pray and read their Bibles. Provide students with stickers and other items to let each student personalize their reminders. Encourage the students to put their reminders in a place they will see each day to remind them to read their Bibles and pray everyday!

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Has there been a time when you have felt really happy?
2. What are two things we must do to keep our hope in Christ?
3. If we serve the Lord, where will our reward be?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** 1 Jn. 1:5, Jn. 3:16-21, 2 Sa. 22:29, Ps. 27:1

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that Jesus is the light in a world of darkness.

**Materials:** scarf or other material to use as a blindfold

**Memory Verse:** “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (Jn. 9:5)

### Lesson Summary

Have you ever tried to find something in the dark? It is nearly impossible to find what you are looking for in complete darkness. Searching in the dark makes you feel hopeless, helpless, and sometimes even confused. You may also be afraid. Sometimes all you need is a small amount of light to find what you are searching for. Our lives can be compared to someone searching for something in the dark. The world is covered in darkness or sin. The Bible tells us that every one of us from the youngest to the oldest, from the richest to the poorest – everyone on every inch of the earth – was born into sin. But the good news is that Jesus is the light. Jesus is the only light, the only hope for this world filled with darkness. He was sent to the earth to save us from sin. Unless we have the light, or Jesus, we will wander in darkness for our entire lives. He is our help in times of need. With him, we have no reason to fear. He is our light and our salvation. He is the light that will light the path on our way to Heaven. Without him, we would die in our darkness and would be lost forever. If we want our life to be pleasing to the Lord, then we must walk in his light and avoid anything that may look like sin.

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus is  
the light.**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Using a scarf or other material, blindfold a child and have him to complete several tasks, such as, walking to the door, turning on the light, writing his name, and so on. Discuss how difficult it is to do something without being able to see. Give each child an opportunity to complete a task while wearing the blindfold.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does darkness represent?
2. Who does Jesus say that he is?
3. What do we need to do to have the “light of life?”

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ep. 5:8, 1 Pe. 2:9

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that when we accept Christ, we become the light to help others.

**Materials:** Construction paper, scissors, tape, markers, pipe cleaners (chenille wire)

**Memory Verse:** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 Jn. 1:7)

### Lesson Summary

Have you ever seen a lighthouse? A lighthouse is a tower-type building which has a light at the very top. The light can be seen from several miles away. These lighthouses are often built on shorelines and are also built in the middle of a body of water. The purpose is to warn the captains of ships of dangerous coastlines or hazardous waterways. They are also used to light the way so that a captain can safely steer his ship into harbor or port. Without the help of these important buildings, many ships would certainly be lost at sea, wandering aimlessly in the dark sea. There are several stories of captains and crews who were saved because they were led to safety by the glow of the light of a lighthouse. As Christians, we are in a way like a lighthouse. We have the light of Jesus that shines for all to see. If we are indeed true Christians, then we would be proud to let our light shine. Jesus himself said that we are the light of the world. We should use that light to lead others to Jesus, who is the giver of light. The Bible says that we should walk as children of light. This means that we should do all that we can to follow in Jesus' ways. As Christians, we are called to be different. We should always give praise and honor to him who has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. Let your light shine so that you can help to lead the lost to Jesus.

**Bible Point:**  
**Let your  
light shine.**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Fold the construction paper horizontally (long ways). Starting at the folded end, cut slits vertically about an inch apart all the way up to about one inch from the top. Unfold the paper and tape the ends together like a lantern. Tape a pipe cleaner or strip of construction paper on one end to create a handle. Decorate with the memory verse.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is the purpose of a lighthouse?
2. How are we to be like lighthouses?
3. What are some ways that we can let our lights shine?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ps. 18:28, Lu. 11:33, Mk. 4:21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we should spread God's light or truth to others.

Materials: Construction paper, markers, empty soup cans, tea light candles, tape or glue

Memory Verse: "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (Jn. 1:4).

### Lesson Summary

When we become Christians, we receive the light of Jesus. This light represents the truth of God's Word. Jesus compares this truth to a candle. Just as a candle is lit for a purpose, we are given the truth of God for a purpose. Jesus does not intend that we keep this great news to ourselves. A candle is placed upon a candlestick to spread its light as far around the room as possible. As Christians, we are to spread God's truth of love and salvation to as many people as we can. We should never be ashamed of the light that God has given to us. We should never hide God's truth, but should proclaim it in each and every part of our lives. We should want to let the flame of our candle ignite or light up the candle of everyone around us. We must take good care of our candle and protect it, so that the flame cannot be extinguished or blown out. A candle that no longer burns is of no use. Just as a candle will not burn forever, we will not live forever on the earth. We should always do our best to lead others to Christ so that his light, the truth, will shine throughout the entire world. After Jesus died on the cross, before he went back to the Father in Heaven, he told his disciples to go into all the world and teach all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. What he expected of his disciples, he still expects of us today. Take your candle and go light your world!

**Bible Point:**  
Light  
your  
world.



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut the construction paper to fit around the empty soup can. Let the children write the memory verse on the paper and decorate. Tape or glue the paper to the tin can. Put a tea light candle inside the can for a personalized candle holder.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does a candle represent?
2. What does God expect us to do with our "candles?"
3. What are some ways that we can spread the light or God's truth to others?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: 2 Co. 4:6; Ps. 37:5-6

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that we are to let our light shine so that others can see Jesus through us.

**Materials:** Yellow construction paper, markers

**Memory Verse:** "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee" (Is. 60:1).

### Lesson Summary

As Jesus taught the multitude on the mountainside, he told them to let their lights shine so that others could see their good works. What does it mean to let your light shine for Jesus? If we have his love and his Word in our hearts, then we will shine the light of his love and salvation in all that we say and do. Jesus wants us to shine our light to everyone, whether rich or poor, even to the ones that may not be so friendly to us. There is a song that says, "Red, brown, yellow, black, and white, they are precious in his sight." Jesus truly does love everyone in the world. He came to give his life to save the world from their sins. How else will those who are living in darkness ever know about his love and salvation unless we light up the path for them to see? When we have the light of Jesus, he will help us to be joyful and to care for others, even when we are not having a great day. He will also give us wisdom and courage to make the right decisions that are pleasing to him. We must keep the flame of our candle burning brightly and not allow Satan to blow it out. As Christians, we should shine and light the way that leads to Christ. He is the love, life, and light of the entire world. When others see the light of Jesus in our lives, they will want that light also.

**Bible Point:**  
**Shine**  
**for**  
**Jesus.**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Cut the construction paper into the shape of a light bulb. Allow the children to decorate and write the memory verse on their light bulb.
2. As the children are working on their craft, sing "This Little Light of Mine".

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When are we supposed to let our light shine?
2. What will happen when others see Jesus' light in our lives?
3. How do others see Jesus' light in us?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** 1 John 4: 9-16

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that God is love

**Materials:** Bibles, crayons, paper, scissors, and pencils

**Memory Verse:** "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:8).

## Lesson Summary

God's love is perfect. He loves even when someone may not look so pretty, have a nice car, or live in a fancy house! He loves no matter who you are and no matter where you come from. God even loves the sinner (but He hates the sin). Because God's love is perfect He teaches us how to love and how to love the right way. His word says that if we love Him then we must love others, even those that treat us bad and don't love us back. Sometimes that is hard to do, and if you don't have Jesus in your heart it's even harder. Jesus shows us that we can love everyone just as He loves everyone, even those who hated and killed Him. Just like His Father, Jesus loves you so much that it doesn't matter who you are or what you have done. If we ask Him to forgive us, He will. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, He will show us how to love like Him. This love is like His Father's . . . perfect!

**Bible Point:**  
**God is love**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Fold a piece of construction paper back and forth like an accordion. Draw a heart on the top fold which extends to the edges. Cut out the heart without clipping the side edges. Unfold the paper and the hearts will be linked together. By doing this you can illustrate how God's love is ever-lasting. Have the children write on the hearts the names of people we are supposed to love.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who should we love?
2. Why should we love everyone?
2. Who gave us a perfect example of love?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** John 3:16

**Lesson Objective:** The children will learn that God sent Jesus because He loves us so much.

**Materials:** Bible, crayons, paper, scissors, and pencils.

**Memory Verse:** "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

## Lesson Summary

We can see in many stories in the Bible how God loves His children. His love is greater than any other love. He even loves you more than your mom and dad. He loves us whether we are little or big, loud or quiet, and even if we have done sinful things. Although God hates sin, He loves the sinner. The Bible teaches us that everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23). God knew that we needed to be saved from our sins, so He sent His only Son, Jesus, to save us. Jesus suffered and died on a cross for you and me. He took our sin and punishment so that we could be forgiven and made free from sin. Jesus taught that anyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Think about it. He was willing to die for us, so that we could live forever. That's how much He loves us.

**Bible Point:**  
**God loves you**



## Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Now would be a great opportunity to introduce salvation. There may be some in your class that have never accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Take advantage of this time.
2. Have the children use their Bibles to look up verses that contain the word "love." Allow them to read it.
3. Fold a piece of paper in half to make a card. Allow the children to decorate the outside. On the inside, write "God loves you." Ask the children to give the card to someone in need.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to believe in Jesus?
2. Have you asked Jesus into your heart?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:43a; 22:33-40

**Lesson Objective:** The children will learn that God is love and He wants us to love others.

**Materials:** Bible, crayons, paper, pencils, poster board, scissors, and tape

**Memory Verse:** "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

## Lesson Summary

In today's lesson we read about the commandments. There was a group of people called the Pharisees who were trying to trick Jesus. They asked Him to tell them which one of the commandments was the greatest. Jesus replied by telling them to love God and to love their neighbor. He told them that if people keep these two commands they will obey all the other commandments. Jesus' answer showed that all of the commandments are important. Each commandment is about doing something toward God or toward someone else. If we love God, we will want to do everything that we can to obey His Word. If we love our neighbor, we wouldn't want to do anything bad to them or hurt them in any way. God wants us to love others the way that He loves us.

**Bible Point:**  
**Love your  
neighbor**



## Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Read the Ten Commandments to the class. Ask the students whether each commandment is towards God or their neighbor.
2. Cut a poster board in half. Hang the two pieces on the wall to represent the two tablets. Write the commandments on strips of paper. Put a piece of tape on the end of each strip of paper. Blind fold a student and have him to stick the commandments on the tablets. Give each student a turn.

## Questions for class Discussion:

1. Where are the commandments written in the Bible?
2. How many commandments are there?
3. Which is the greatest?
4. Why is loving our neighbor so important?



## Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:44

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that God wants us to love as He loves.

Materials: Bible, crayons, paper, and pencils.

Memory Verse: "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

## Lesson Summary

Jesus is telling us to do something that at times seems very hard. How do we love someone that doesn't love us? Jesus gave us the perfect example when He died on the cross for all of mankind. Just before He died, Jesus prayed to the Father (God) and asked Him to forgive all those who tortured and crucified Him. He said, "They know not what they do." Today, most people don't really know what they are doing. They don't understand that by rejecting Jesus they are serving the enemy. They will say things to us or do things that are very hurtful. But the Bible says that we are not battling flesh and blood (people), but we are battling against spiritual wickedness and rulers of the darkness (Ep. 6:12). By His example, Jesus showed us how to love our enemies. He also taught us to bless and pray for our enemies. If we will trust Him and ask for His help, Jesus will give us the strength to love and forgive them. When we do good to our enemies, we let Jesus' love shine through us. Others will realize that this love is special. When they ask us why we can return good for evil, we will be able to introduce them to the love of Jesus.

**Bible Point:**  
**Love your enemies**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the students to write a song about loving their enemies to an easy tune that they know. For example: "Joshua Fought the battle of Jericho" might go: "Jesus said to love our enemies, enemies, enemies, Jesus said to love our enemies, That we might be just like Him."
2. Help the students to think of real life situations where they can show love to those who do them wrong. Allow the students to act out several scenarios.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why should we love our enemies?
2. Who are we battling with?
3. What should we do when it is difficult to love our enemies?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:45-47; Matthew 5:38-42

**Lesson Objective:** The children will learn that God wants us to love others.

**Materials:** Bible, crayons, paper, pencils, poster board, and a mirror.

**Memory Verse:** "God is love" (1 John 4:8).

## Lesson Summary

As children of God we have a big responsibility. We learned last week that Jesus told us in His word to love our enemies. We know that this can be really difficult sometimes. There are times when a brother, sister, or friend can do us wrong, and it hurts. Your father, mother, or teacher may ask you to apologize, even if you didn't do anything wrong. That's really hard to do. But as a child of God, we should treat people the way Jesus would treat them. When we say we are a Christian we are representing Jesus. So what we say, what we do, and how we react reflects Him. We want people to see His love shining through us. Christ is our example on how to do this. He taught us the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you want them to do unto you" (Mt. 7:12). If everyone would live by this rule, then the world would be a happier place. When we love others the way Jesus wants us to, we show that we are the children of God.



## Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Bring a mirror to class and pass it around. Allow the children to look at themselves for a minute. Then ask each child to write down on a piece of paper what she/he hopes that others will see when they look at him. (Note: You may need to direct them to think spiritually not physically). If they don't mind, read some of them out loud.
2. Spell out the word "Christian" on a poster board. Help the students to think of words to describe what a Christian is like by using each of the letters in the word. For example: "C" = caring; "H" = honest; "R" = righteous.
3. Sing the song, "I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N."

## Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be called a Christian?
2. Why are we to love others?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:1-2; Acts 20:35; Deuteronomy 15:11; 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Lesson Objective:** Students will understand the importance and reward of giving to others, especially when done without boasting or bragging.

**Materials:** Poster board, markers, one paper coin for each child

**Memory Verse:** "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

### Lesson Summary

Throughout scripture, we are commanded to give to those in need. This can be a brother, a neighbor, the poor, or even the widow. The Bible is full of examples of those who gave generously with a willing heart. They did not give to receive praise from men, but gave because they loved God and their neighbor. The story or parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) gives us an example of one willing to give to even a stranger. However, during a special sermon called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6 that when we give to others, we should not brag or boast about it. We should seek only to please God by giving from our hearts. Then, we know that He will bless and reward us for giving. Giving to others can include sharing what we have with friends and neighbors, especially with those who might be in need. It can also include the mission work in the church. This giving helps the church to share the message of Christ with a lost world. We must remember that giving can include our money, but also can include our time and talents. If we share Christ and His love with those around us, we are giving the greatest gift of all. By giving, we put others first and this pleases God. However, we must remember that God sees our hearts and He loves a cheerful giver. We will learn that Jesus taught many important truths in the Sermon on the Mount. By studying what Jesus said and then doing it, we please our Heavenly Father.

**Bible Point:**  
Give  
to  
others



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. On the poster board, have the students to make a list of things they can do to give to others.
2. Let each student choose one thing from the list to do during the next week and write it on his or her paper coin.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does God command us to do when we give?
2. How do we know when to give?
3. What are some examples of giving that could help others?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 6:20

**Lesson Objective:** Students will learn that honoring God with our actions and deeds is most important.

**Materials:** Note cards, pencils, crayons, or markers

**Memory Verse:** "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

### Lesson Summary

In Matthew 6:3-4, Jesus continues to teach us the importance of honoring God (not ourselves or man) in our actions and good deeds. The Bible teaches us that God should receive all the honor and glory. To honor someone means to give reverence or respect. We know that God alone deserves our reverence and we give this to Him by obeying His word. Our deeds (the things we do) and our actions (the way we behave) should bring honor to God. Our goal should never be to have others bring honor to ourselves by telling us how good we are. The Bible tells us in Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." Jesus is our example and He brought honor to God the Father, not himself. As we learn and grow in Christ, we must always remember that if we do anything good it is only through Him. When Christ comes to live in our hearts, we should want to please God. This means that we want to honor Him even more than we honor our earthly mother and father. We all want to please our mom and dad. We want to do what they tell us to do and make them proud. We try to listen to them and be obedient sons and daughters. When we ask Jesus into our hearts, God becomes our Father. He teaches us through the Bible and speaks to our hearts. We honor Him by doing the things He says in his word and we only do those things to please Him. God is pleased when we honor Him above all others. He knows our hearts and the reason for our actions and deeds.

**Bible Point:**  
**Honor  
God**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Prepare a list of deeds or actions, both good and bad. Give each student a note card. Have each student write the word "honor" on one side of his note card and "dishonor" on the other. Then as you read the list have the students to respond by showing the correct side of the card.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to honor someone?
2. How do we honor God?
3. Are there things we do that bring dishonor to God? Explain.

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:5-6; Luke 18:10-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**Lesson Objective:** Students will learn that praying to God is personal communication with our Heavenly Father.

**Materials:** Notebooks, stickers, markers

**Memory Verse:** "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

### Lesson Summary

How do we talk to our family and friends? What is the purpose of talking to them? The purpose of talking to our family and friends is to show them we care and to know them better. We don't talk to them just to tell them about ourselves or to show them how well we can use big words. It is the same way with God. We pray to talk to God and to tell Him how much we love Him. He hears our prayers, but not because we say the right words. He looks at our hearts and knows if we are sincere in what we pray. The Bible tells us that we are not to pray just so others can hear how good we are with words. We are not to draw attention to ourselves, but we are to be sincere and earnest before God. God hears us when He knows our hearts are seeking to know Him and to do His will. Jesus prayed throughout the scripture and even gave us an example of how we should pray. However, first our heart must be sincere. We should use our time in prayer to praise God or give Him honor for who He is as our Creator and Savior. We should also use our time to confess anything that is wrong in our hearts. Confessing our sins and asking His forgiveness allows us to have a right relationship with God. We should also thank Him for all the things He has done for us. Thanksgiving is an important part of prayer. We can then ask Him for things that we need. This could include asking Him to save our families and friends, or to help us be good Christians at school. We can also ask Him to provide healing for sickness. God loves it when we pray to Him with a sincere heart and not to impress others around us.

**Bible Point:**  
**Pray**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students decorate notebooks with stickers or pictures and write their names on the outside.
2. Ask them to use the notebook as a prayer journal where they can write requests and how God answered their prayers.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is prayer?
2. Why do we pray?
3. Does God hear our prayer? How do you know?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:7-8, Hebrews 11; James 5:15; Matthew 17:20

**Lesson Objective:** The student will understand what faith is and why it is important when we pray.

**Materials:** Cups, mustard seeds, potting soil, markers, and stickers

**Memory Verse:** “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you” (Matthew 17:20).

### Lesson Summary

Faith—what is it? The Bible tells us, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) So this means faith is believing without seeing. Faith in prayer means that not only do we believe in a God we don’t see, but also that He can answer our prayers. The Bible tells us that we are saved through faith and that without it, it is impossible to please God. We must believe just as Abraham did. God spoke to Abraham when he was very old and told him he was going to have a son and that his descendants would be more than the stars he could count in the sky. Abraham could not see this with his eyes, but he believed God. We must have faith like Abraham. Sometimes, we may pray and ask God to do something that seems really big. This might be saving someone who is living in sin, or healing us from sickness. When we pray and ask God to do these things, we must believe He can and will. He has promised that if we believe nothing is impossible. We may ask how to get this kind of faith. The answer is through the Word of God or the Bible. The Bible tells us in Romans 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” We get faith by reading and hearing the word of God. It is important that we open our ears to hear what we are taught from God’s word by our pastors, teachers, and parents. We must also read the Word of God ourselves to help build our faith. Prayers of faith are powerful and God rewards our faith with answers to our prayers.

**Bible Point:**  
**Have**  
**faith**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Show the students a grain of mustard seed. Discuss how it will grow when planted.
2. Have each student to write the Bible point on his cup and decorate with markers and stickers.
3. Then allow students to plant the seed in the small cup to take home.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is faith?
2. Why is faith important?
3. Will our prayers be effective without faith? Why or why not?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:9-10, Luke 11:1-2

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that we must seek God.

**Materials:** Music (optional to use while playing the game)

**Memory Verse:** "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10).

### Lesson Summary

Jesus wanted to teach his disciples the correct way to pray. He warned them not to be as the hypocrites who pray so that everyone will look at them. He warned them not to be as the heathens who repeat the same words to make their prayers sound fancy. There is not just one way to pray or certain words we must use when we pray. Jesus wanted to teach his disciples to approach God with a reverence yet knowing that he is our heavenly father and that he cares for us. He listens to our prayers and wants to meet our needs according to his will. Just like a father loves his children and desires for them to be happy, so does our heavenly father. That's why he said to start with "Our father which art in heaven." We must understand whom we are praying to. He is a father who loves us with an everlasting love and one whose ears are attentive to his children when they speak. Next Jesus said, "Hallowed be thy name." The word "hallowed" means holy. God is holy. We are praying to the almighty God, the maker of heaven and earth. His name is to be magnified and glorified above all. He is worthy of all honor and praise. It is important that we lift up his name in all the earth. Because he is God, we must desire that his will be done in our lives. We must seek God for his guidance and for our lives to be pleasing unto him. When we pray we should pray that his desires be our desires. We must pray that his kingdom be established in us. Jesus wanted them to understand the importance of desiring that his kingdom be established here in earth. We should pray that God will reign everywhere, that his commandments should be obeyed, and that the gospel will go forth until all the earth is filled with his glory as it is in heaven!!

**Bible Point:**  
**Seek God**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Play a game of "telephone." Have the children sit in a circle. The first player should think of a phrase and whisper it into his neighbor's ear. Have the children continue whispering what they hear until it reaches the last child in the circle. Have the last child say out loud what was whispered into his ear. Next, have the first player to tell what he actually said. In all likelihood, it will be different. Explain that God hears our prayers and he knows exactly what we are saying when we pray.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus pray "our father which art in heaven?"
2. What does the word "hallowed" mean?
3. Why is it important that we pray for his kingdom to come?

\*\*\*The next four lessons will cover the Lord's Prayer. Practice each week reciting the Lord's Prayer for the final lesson.

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:11; John 6:1-35; Philippians 4:19; Exodus 16; Matthew 14:14-21

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that God is able to meet all of our needs.

**Materials:** chairs

**Memory Verse:** "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

### Lesson Summary

In the previous lesson, we learned about the importance of seeking God. In today's lesson, the Lord's Prayer focuses on our needs. Jesus instructed the disciples to pray that God would give them the food and necessary things to be able to live healthy lives. In Bible times, bread was served at every meal. It was more plentiful than meat and very filling. The people relied on bread to live. Although we may eat more than bread now, everything we have comes from God. He is our provider. God has always provided for his people. In the Old Testament, God rained down manna from heaven for the children of Israel (Ex. 16:4, 14-15). He taught the people to depend on him for every meal. In the New Testament, Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish (Mt. 14:14-21). The people gathered to hear Jesus preach, but he also realized that they needed bread for their physical bodies. Jesus wants us to ask for the things we need. In John 6:35, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." He will feed our hungry souls. But not only will he provide for our spiritual needs, he will also provide our daily bread. However, we should remember that our needs are different than our wants. Our needs include food, clothing and shelter. Just because we ask for a new toy, game, or car doesn't mean that God will give us those things. God wants us to trust in him for all of our needs. We must ask and believe that he can and will supply our every need. God is our provider.

**Bible Point:**  
**God is My  
Provider**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

**Bread Basket Turnover:** Set up chairs in a circle. There should be one less chair than the total number of children playing. Pick one child to be "it" and have that child stand in the middle of the chairs. Give the other children names of food before starting. There must be two children with every food name. Have the "it" child call out a food. Every child with that name must get up and find a new seat. "It" must find a seat also. The child left without a seat will be "it" next. At any point, the child that is "it" can say, "bread basket turnover," and every child must get up and find a new seat.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, "I am the bread of life?"
2. What is the difference between our wants and needs?
3. What are some physical needs that God has provided for you? Spiritual needs?



### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:12, 14-15; Matthew 5:7; Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 4:20

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that we must forgive others if we want to be forgiven.

**Materials:** washable marker or pen, hand sanitizer, and napkin

**Memory Verse:** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

### Lesson Summary

Jesus gave us the greatest example of forgiveness. He willingly died on the cross for our sins that we might be forgiven. He loved us enough to look past our faults and provide a way of salvation. This week’s lesson on the Lord’s Prayer has two parts. The first is asking for God to forgive us of our sins. The second is asking God to help us forgive those that mistreat us. When we pray we should ask God to search our hearts and forgive us of anything that is not pleasing to him. Without asking for forgiveness of our sins, we cannot make it to heaven. This is how we receive salvation. But forgiving others is just as important as being forgiven. Have you ever had your feelings hurt by someone? Have you ever had a friend at school do something that really upset you or even made you mad? It’s very easy to quit talking to that person or to mistreat them. However, this is not what God expects of his children. God wants us to forgive those that mistreat us just as he has forgiven us. Forgiveness is when you know someone has hurt you but you choose not to be mad or have bad feeling towards them. We forgive others for the things they do that hurt us because Jesus forgives us. We did not deserve the forgiveness but because he loved us, he was willing to forgive! Jesus said that if we can’t forgive those that hurt us, that he will not forgive us. It is okay to let others know that they have hurt your feelings, but you must forgive them even if they don’t ask for forgiveness. Forgiving others is more for our own benefit than for the individual that needs to be forgiven. If we choose not to forgive, then our hearts will eventually become full of anger and hate. A heart that is full of anger and hate has no room for love! What if Jesus would have decided that he didn’t want to forgive us? Our sins were very hurtful to Jesus, yet he still gave his life for us. His love toward us saved our souls from eternal punishment. Where would we be if Jesus hadn’t loved us enough to forgive us? Pray and ask God to give you a forgiving heart!

**Bible Point:**  
**I will forgive**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

**Jesus Says (Simon Says):** Give instructions to the children prefaced with “Jesus Says.” For example, “Jesus says jump.” If you give out an instruction without saying “Jesus Says,” the child that carries it out is eliminated. Put an “X” on the eliminated child’s hand and have him to sit out a few rounds. After a few more are eliminated, give the eliminated children a chance to tell what they did wrong. If they confess their wrong doing, then wipe off their “X” and allow them to enter the game again. Explain that if we confess our wrong doing to God, he will forgive us. This is also true when others ask us to forgive them for something they did wrong to us. We should always forgive others and give them another chance.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How many times should we forgive someone?
2. Why is it important to forgive?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:9-13; 26:41; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9; James 1:12-14; 4:7; Luke 4:1-13

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that through Jesus we are able to resist the devil.

**Materials:** Blanket or sheet, rolled up socks, paper, and markers.

**Memory Verse:** "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

### Lesson Summary

In our previous lessons, we have studied many important teachings including seeking God, praying for our needs, and forgiving our enemies. This week's lesson is on temptation. Every child of God will endure temptation. Temptation does not come from God, but from Satan. Temptation is when you think about doing something wrong. The temptation is not a sin, but when you decide to do the wrong thing, this is sin. Think about something your parents would not let you have, like a new toy. You really wanted that toy. So, maybe you thought about stealing the toy. This is a temptation. Jesus said that we should pray for God to deliver us from temptation. We should ask God to help us not yield to temptation because this is how we let sin enter into our lives. Although the devil will never stop tempting us, we have been promised a way out!! God promised to deliver us out of every temptation if we resist the devil (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7). We resist the devil through prayer and reading our Bible. Both of these help to prepare us for the devil's tricks. When Jesus was tempted, he used the Scripture, and Satan was not able to make him give in to the temptation. Therefore, Satan fled. We can do the same. By reading and praying, we will gain spiritual strength and wisdom that we need to resist the devil. But without prayer and reading our Bibles, we are sure to fall into the temptations of the devil. This is why Jesus said to ask for help from temptation when we pray. We will receive the crown of life if we endure temptation. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have been given the power to defeat Satan and overcome the world (1 Jn. 5:4-5). If Satan were to come to you today, would you be able to resist him?

**Bible Point:**  
**Resist the devil**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Before class, roll up pairs of socks to resemble a ball. Write on a large blanket or sheet "The Word of God" (or you can pin a sign on the sheet/blanket with those words). Ask a volunteer to walk across the room while another volunteer tries to hit the person with the rolled socks. Then, ask the children if they think you could walk across the room without being hit. At this time, you will walk across the room holding the blanket/sheet in front of you. The socks will hit the blanket, but not you.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is temptation?
2. Where does it come from?
3. What can we do to help us resist the devil?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 6:13b; 8:23-27; Revelations 4:11; Romans 14:11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory.

Materials: Poster board, markers, scissors

Memory Verse: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

### Lesson Summary

The last part of the Lord's Prayer is about giving him the praise he deserves. God is worthy to receive all of our praise, honor, and glory. We praise God not because we think he needs it but because he deserves it. Think of all the many things God has blessed us with! The closing of the prayer also reminds us that God is in control of all things. He is able to provide the things we need both physically and spiritually. He gives us food for our bodies. God gives us the strength we need to withstand Satan's tricks. God is in control of our lives. He has the power over everything; he has the power to accomplish all that we ask. We are weak within ourselves, but he is the almighty God and all things are possible with him! The Bible says, "That even the winds and the sea obey him" (Matthew 8:27). One day every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Romans 14:11). When we pray, we should proclaim that all power and glory belongs to God. Finally, Jesus closes the prayer with the word "Amen." Have you ever wondered what that word means? It means, "So be it." In other words, you are asking that God fulfill the request you made to him in your prayer. If God never grants another request, he has still done enough by giving his son Jesus. Glory to his name!

**Bible Point:**

**GOD IS WORTHY  
OF ALL PRAISE**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Divide the Lord's Prayer into 6 sections. Write each section on the poster board and then cut it into strips making a total of six strips. You will need two poster boards (one for each team). Divide the children into teams. Pass the strips out among the teams. When the teacher says "Go," a player will take a strip to the other side of the room from each team. Continue the game until all the strips are carried and placed in the correct order. The first team to correctly complete the prayer is the winner.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why is it necessary for us to praise God?
2. Is there anything that God cannot do? If so, name it.
3. What does the word "Amen" mean?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:7; Matthew 19:16-22

**Lesson Objective:** The students will learn to desire heavenly treasures.

**Materials:** Bible, Paper, Crayons

**Memory Verse:** "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

### Lesson Summary

Do you have something very special that you think you can't live without? It may be a special toy, blanket, video game, or cell phone. You probably know where it is at all times so it won't get lost, broken, or stolen. The truth is, no matter what you do to protect it, it's never completely safe. The Bible calls these things earthly treasures that moths and rust can destroy and which thieves can steal. Jesus warns us that if we treasure these things, our hearts and minds will miss the heavenly reward He has prepared for us. In 1 Timothy 6:7, Paul says, "We brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it." Jesus is warning us not to fall in love with the things in this world. Instead, He wants us to love Him with our whole heart. There was a rich man who came to Jesus and wanted to know how he could have eternal life. He had obeyed all of God's commandments since he was young but felt like there was something more he must do. Jesus told the man to sell everything he owned, give all his money to the poor, and follow Him. The man turned and walked away very sad because he didn't want to do what Jesus told him to do. His heart loved earthly treasures more than God. Jesus tells us to count the cost of following Him before we even start. Are you willing to lay down your earthly treasures and give your heart completely to Jesus? When we stop living to please ourselves, and start living to please the Lord, we will receive heavenly treasures that no moth or rust can destroy, or thief can take away. We will live with Jesus in heaven forever! We may not have treasures here on earth, but our heavenly treasures are worth waiting for!

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus Is  
My  
Treasure**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) Give each child a piece of paper and crayons and have him draw a picture of a heart. Inside the heart he can write or draw pictures of what his heavenly treasures are. Pray with each child that his love for God will be greater than his love for earthly treasures.
- 2) Treasure Hunt: Hide small candies or toys throughout the classroom. Give the children time to hunt for them. Make sure every child receives a treasure.

### Student Response:

*True or False (stand for true/sit for false)*

1. We are to love God more than we love ourselves.
2. We are to love God more than we love our family.
3. We are to love earthly treasures more than we love heavenly treasures.

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 6:24; Joshua 24:15; Matthew 4:10; Romans 6:16

Lesson Objective: The children will learn they can only serve one master.

Materials: Bible, 2 cups, water

Memory Verse: “. . . As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

### Lesson Summary

Have you ever thought about what you want to be when you grow up? Maybe, you've been asked that question by family members or teachers. A good way to think about it is to ask yourself, "What does God want me to be when I grow up?" After all, the Bible tells us that God created every one of us for His purpose. That means God already has a plan for your life and it's better than any plan you could ever come up with on your own. We must allow God to be the master of our lives. What is a master? A master is someone you obey or work for. So a master is like a boss or employer. The Bible tells us we can't serve two masters. Think about this. If you work all day to earn money to buy a big house, a fancy car, expensive clothes, and to take vacations, when will you have time to do what God wants you to do? What master are you serving? Everything we have belongs to God, so our time and money should be used to glorify Him. God provides us with food, clothing, and shelter when we serve Him. But best of all, He provides a heavenly home as our reward.

**Bible Point:**  
**God Is  
My  
Master**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) Trying to serve two masters is like trying to drink out of two cups at the same time. Give each child two cups with a little water in each one. Have him try to drink the water out of both cups at the same time without spilling. Discuss how you have to choose one cup to drink from just like you have to choose serving God or serving the world.
- 2) Play a game of "Simon Says." Now change the game by having two students give commands. Discuss with the children the difficulty of following both leaders.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How do you know what God's plan is for you?
2. Do you want God to be your Master?
3. Have you given your heart to Jesus?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:25-31; Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

**Lesson Objective:** The children will learn how to depend on God through prayer.

**Materials:** Bible, paper, crayons, scissors, glue

**Memory Verse:** "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

### Lesson Summary

In 2 Chronicles 32, we learn that Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, took his army to fight against Hezekiah, the King of Jerusalem. When Hezekiah saw the Assyrian army, he began making plans and preparations for battle. He took away the water supply to the Assyrian army, repaired and built more walls around the city, made more weapons and shields to fight with, and appointed men as captains of war to protect the people. He also comforted his people with words of reassurance that God was with them. Sennacherib sent messengers and letters to Hezekiah and the Jews, making fun of their God. Sennacherib told them no nation or God had ever kept him from winning a battle. King Hezekiah and Isaiah, the prophet, began to pray and cry out to God for help. God heard their prayer and sent an angel who destroyed the Assyrian army. Jerusalem was saved and unharmed. All the plans and preparations King Hezekiah made were not needed. Sometimes we are like King Hezekiah; we think we can fight our own battles with what we know and what we can do. All the while, God sees us and knows our needs. He even has the solution to our problems. But He wants us to realize our strength is not enough so we will cry out to Him for help. The Bible teaches us not to worry about our problems; instead, we should pray about them and trust the Lord. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

**Bible Point:**  
Prayer  
Changes  
Things!



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a piece of paper and a crayon. Trace both of their hands on the paper and cut them out. Glue the hands together to look like prayer hands. The children can decorate them with crayons or stickers, etc. Write the memory verse and bible point on the hands to remind the children to pray.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Did Hezekiah's preparations save Jerusalem from their enemies?
2. What happened when Hezekiah stopped depending on himself and started depending on God?
3. Do you depend on God for all your needs?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 6:32-34; Genesis 22:1-14

**Lesson Objective:** The children will learn to seek to be right in the sight of God.

**Materials:** Bible, paper, crayons

**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

Abraham was a man who lived to serve God. When he was 100 years old, he was blessed with a son named Isaac! Abraham loved his son very much. One day the Lord told Abraham to go to the land of Moriah and offer Isaac as a sacrifice. He obeyed God and began the three-day journey with Isaac. When they arrived, Isaac asked Abraham where the sacrificial lamb was. Abraham told him that God would provide one. Abraham built the altar, bound Isaac and laid him on the altar as the sacrifice. As Abraham lifted his hand, the angel of the Lord called to him and stopped him. As Abraham looked around, he saw a ram caught in the bushes by his horns. He took the ram and offered it as a sacrifice instead of his son Isaac. God wanted to see if Abraham was totally committed to serving Him no matter what He asked him to do. Abraham was righteous in the eyes of God, and God provided for his needs. Righteousness is when your heart is right with God. You must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God and to seek His righteousness. As your heart grows with love and obedience to God, He will make sure you are always taken care of in this life and for eternity.

**Bible Point:**  
**Seek God**  
**First**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Jehovah-jireh means "The Lord our Provider." Abraham believed God would provide for him and obeyed without any worry. Draw or write on a piece of paper the things that could cause you to worry. Then write, "The Lord my Provider," to remind yourself to seek after the Lord and trust Him to provide for your needs.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What should we seek first?
2. How do we do this?
3. Do you believe God takes care of His people?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** 2 Samuel 9; Luke 6:35-38

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn God wants us to show mercy to others.

**Materials:** paper, scissors, markers or crayons, popsicle sticks, and glue

**Memory Verse:** "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

## Lesson Summary

Have you heard someone use the word mercy? Maybe you've heard someone say, "Lord, please have mercy." You may have heard a preacher speak about mercy. But do you know what mercy is? We are going to look at a story in the Bible of someone who showed mercy. See if you can get an idea of what mercy is. In 2 Samuel 9, we read how David wanted to show kindness to someone in Saul's family. David asked Saul's servant Ziba if there were any people still alive who were part of Saul's family. David finds out Saul's grandson was still living. His name was Mephibosheth. He was lame on both his feet and did not feel as though he deserved the kindness of King David. But David gave Mephibosheth all that pertained to Saul and his family. Then King David told Mephibosheth he was always welcome to eat bread at his table. David told Ziba, Saul's servant, to grow fruits for Mephibosheth to have food to eat. In other words, David made sure Mephibosheth would always be well cared for. David had compassion on Mephibosheth and sought him out to take care of him. David was merciful to him. As Christians, we should be merciful to others because God is merciful to us. People like Mephibosheth could usually be overlooked by someone like King David. But like King David, we should be willing to help people in need.

**Bible Point:**  
**Be merciful**  
**to others!**



## Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have children cut a cross out of paper or have two popsicle sticks glued together to form a cross. Have students write the memory verse (Luke 6:36) on the crosses.
2. Have students think of a time they showed mercy or mercy was shown to them. Have them draw a picture and then have them share their experiences with each other.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who did David show mercy to? How did David show mercy to him?
2. What does mercy mean?
3. How can you show mercy to someone else?



## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** 2 Corinthians 13:5-8; Matthew 7:3

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn we must stay in good standing with Christ.

**Materials:** index cards, markers or crayons, stickers

**Memory Verse:** "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Co. 13:5a).

## Lesson Summary

Have you been to the doctor to get an examination? The doctor checks you over really good, doesn't he? He looks at your ears, nose, eyes, throat and listens to your heart. He makes sure you are healthy from head to toe. Do you know the Bible tells us to examine ourselves? But when the Bible tells us to examine ourselves, it is dealing with our hearts in a spiritual way. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." We must give ourselves a checkup and make sure we are in tune with God. We must make sure our hearts are right with Him and read our Bibles to make sure we are obeying His commands. We must continually examine ourselves by reading our Bibles and praying to be sure we know God and are doing what He wants us to do. How can we help others if we are not doing well? We will just make people doubt God if we try to tell them what they are doing wrong while we are not pleasing God ourselves. It is very important to have a good report on our heart checkup (having a right relationship with Christ). If our hearts are right with Christ, we can be ready at all times to present the Gospel to others and help lead them to Christ! Remember to keep your checkups regular with Christ by reading your Bibles and praying everyday!

**Bible Point:**  
**Look at**  
**yourself**  
**first!**



## Ideas to Illuminate:

On an index card, make a checkup reminder for each student. On the top of the card, write "Checkup reminder: When should you read your Bible and pray? EVERYDAY!" Then list the days of the week on the left side of the card. Draw 2 boxes beside each day of the week, so the students can check off each task after completing it. Have the students to decorate their cards.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why do we need a spiritual checkup?
2. How can we examine ourselves?
3. What can we do everyday that will help us stay in tune with God?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** John 14:15; Galatians 6:9-10

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn God requires us to do good no matter what.

**Materials:** cardstock, paper, markers and crayons

**Memory Verse:** "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

## Lesson Summary

Have you ever heard of the "golden rule?" It says, "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you." That rule is based on Matthew 7:12. So what this means is we should treat others nice only when they treat us nice, right? No! We must always treat others how we would want to be treated all of the time. If we have Christ in our hearts, we should want to do right and show God's love to others at all times. Galatians 6:10 says, "Let us do good unto all men." When we have Jesus in our hearts and do good to others, we are showing God's love and being a great witness for Christ. Can you think of any commandments in the Bible? How about "love your neighbor?" Who is your neighbor? We call people who live near us our neighbors and yes we should love them, but your neighbor is everyone! We must love everyone! Should you steal, lie, or covet? Jesus tells us in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments." It all fits together like a puzzle, doesn't it? If we keep God's commandments, we will love others and treat them good. We will be doing what is right because we will be keeping God's commandments. Let's do what's pleasing to God!



## Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students make bookmarks out of construction paper or cardstock and write the "golden rule" on them. Have students color their bookmarks gold and write the verse in another color. Encourage students to put their bookmarks in their Bibles.
2. Write the memory verse on a piece of paper and cut the piece of paper into puzzle pieces. Have students work together to put the puzzle together to find out the memory verse.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When should we treat others good?
2. Who is your neighbor?
3. How can we keep God's commandments?

**Bible Point:**  
**Do what's**  
**right!**

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 5:14-16

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn we can help others do right by leading them to Christ.

**Materials:** construction paper and markers

**Memory Verse:** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

## Lesson Summary

Last week we talked about doing what is right and how we should treat others the way we want to be treated. It is so important that we have a good attitude and treat others with kindness. You know why? Other people are watching our behavior. If we tell others we are Christians, then we should want to do good to others and obey God's commandments so our lights are shining bright for Jesus. When others notice our goodness, they may ask us how we can be so good. That is a wonderful opportunity to tell others the good news about Jesus. When Jesus is our Savior, He makes our hearts pure, and we want to do what's right. We can tell others how Christ directs our paths and helps us to do what's right. We should set the example. Hopefully we can help lead others to Christ so they can do what's right also. It's not our job to point out all the wrong that others may be doing, but it is our job to love others and help lead them to Jesus. Jesus can change their hearts so they will not want to do those bad things anymore. How exciting to think we can help others to do what's right by leading them to Christ! Do others see Jesus in you? Let your light shine; so others can see Jesus in you!



## Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students to play the game of "follow the leader" (allowing each student to have a turn as leader). Stress the importance of how others are watching us and how we should be a good example at all times in hopes of leading someone to Christ.
2. Have students brainstorm ideas of how they can help lead others to Christ. Make a list as students share and post the list in the classroom as a reminder.

## Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How should we treat others?
2. Can we do what's right on our own?
3. Should we always be looking to tell others what they are doing wrong?
4. If someone is doing wrong, who should we try to lead them to?

**Bible Point:**  
**Help others  
do right!**

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 21:22, Jn. 14:14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we should ask the Lord for what we need.

Materials: paper, pencils

Memory Verse: "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Mt. 21:22).

### Lesson Summary

Have you ever asked your parents for something that you really wanted? Perhaps there was a new toy that you just had to have? We have all seen something that we wanted so badly that we would do almost anything to receive it. I am sure that you have asked your parents for whatever it was that you wanted, and even begged for it. Chances are that you received it either as a gift, a reward, a special occasion, or perhaps just because your parents love you and want to make you happy. Did you know that our heavenly Father does the same for us? The Bible tells us to ask and it shall be given you. God wants his children to be happy and will give us all the desires of our heart when our prayers are pleasing to him (1 Jn. 5:14-15). Even though God knows our needs, He still wants us to ask and believe on his word that we will receive.

**Bible Point:**  
**Ask**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the children make a list of things that they could pray about.
2. Play a game of "Mother may I?" Let the children take turns being the "mother."

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. If we need something, what should we do?
2. What does the Bible say will happen if we ask?
3. What kinds of things should we ask for when we pray?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Hebrews 11:6; Luke 15:8-9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we must diligently seek the Lord.

Materials: Index cards, pen, markers, etc.

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

### Lesson Summary

How many of you have ever lost something that was very important to you? Some things are very valuable or even irreplaceable. If you were to lose something important, you would no doubt search every possible place that it could be. You would not give up. You would continue your search until you found what was lost. Did you know that the Bible talks about seeking? Do you remember the parable of the lost coin? The woman who lost this coin was very poor and so this one coin was very valuable to her. She searched and swept every corner of the house until she found it. We must seek God diligently in prayer to receive what we need from him. We cannot give up on our prayers. We must seek him and his ways. We must want his will in our lives and seek him in order for our lives to be pleasing to him. We must never give up on seeking the path of righteousness if we want to make heaven our home.

**Bible Point:**  
**Seek**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Before class, write each word of the Bible verse on an index card. Hide the cards around the room. Let the children seek them and put the verse in order.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. If we want to find something, what must we do?
2. How do we seek?
3. What kind of things do you seek for when you are praying?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 11:5-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn, if we knock the door will be opened.

Materials: construction paper, markers, crayons

Memory Verse: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Mt. 7:7).

### Lesson Summary

We have all been to someone's house for a visit. Usually, the first thing that a person does when they visit someone is to knock on the door. This is how the people who are in the house know that someone is on the other side, wanting to come in. If we did not knock, then it could be a long time before they knew that we were there – that is, if they ever knew that someone was there at all. Sometimes we have to knock more than once before the door is opened. The Bible tells us to knock and it shall be opened unto you. This is not talking about an actual door, but it is referring to prayer. We have to "knock" on heaven's door, and God will hear our prayer and will answer. The answer may not come right away or be the answer that we had hoped for, but God will hear and answer according to his will.

**Bible Point:**  
**Knock**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) Have the children to draw a door and write the memory verse on the door. Decorate with crayons or markers.
- 2) Allow the children to dramatize the story in Luke 11:5-10.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. In the Bible, what does it mean to knock?
2. What does the Bible say will happen if we knock?
3. How many times should we knock?

### Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** James 1:17

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that God's blessings are his gifts to his children.

**Materials:** paper, crayons, markers

**Memory Verse:** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

### Lesson Summary

How exciting is it to receive a gift? Have you ever heard it said that it is better to give than to receive? It makes us feel good to give a gift to someone. We take the time to carefully select the perfect gift. We ask ourselves if they would like it. Sometimes it may take some time to decide what to get because we want the gift to be special and make them happy. Parents especially enjoy giving things to their children. Parents work hard to provide for their children, and it gives them joy to see the faces of their children light up with smiles. Our heavenly Father also likes to give us gifts. These gifts are called blessings. He wants to see his children happy and see them prosper. To receive some of these blessings, we have to ask or seek God for them. But God gives some blessings to us freely without our asking for them. He knows our hearts, and he knows the things that we need. If we serve God and obey his word, then he is faithful and will give us the desires of our heart.

**Bible Point:**  
**Receive**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the children to draw a picture to give as a gift to someone. Have the children to label the drawing with "to" and "from."

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What are God's gifts called?
2. How can we receive God's blessings?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:15; Ephesians 4:7

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that eternal life through Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Materials: paper, markers, small empty boxes, wrapping paper, ribbon, tape, and scissors

Memory Verse: "Every good gift and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).

### Lesson Summary

What is the best gift that you have ever received? I am sure that whatever it was, that you were very happy when you received it. Did you know that the greatest gift that was ever given was given to every person on earth? The Bible says that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. Eternal means forever or never ending. Does this mean that we will never die? Of course it doesn't. It means that if we have Jesus in our hearts that we will live eternally with him forever. God gave his one and only son, who came from heaven to earth to be a sacrifice for our sins. There is a song that asks, "Was ever a gift like the Savior given? No, not one. No, not one." No gift that has ever been given can last forever. However, God promises that if we will believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, and live according to his word, then he will give us this gift of everlasting life. All we need to do is simply receive his gift by faith. The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Ro. 10:13). Call on Jesus and believe in him for eternal life.

**Bible Point:**  
Jesus is the  
greatest gift!



### Ideas to Illuminate:

On pieces of paper, write the word "Jesus." Give one to each student. Have each student to place this piece of paper inside of his box. Help each child to wrap his box like you would a gift. Then talk about God's gift to us and how the gift that they decorated is a reminder of his promise. Allow the children to exchange "gifts" with a friend to take home as a reminder of the lesson.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What was the greatest gift that was ever given?
2. What must we do to receive this gift?



### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 7:13; Proverbs 4:14-19; 16:25

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that there is only one way to heaven and that way is Jesus Christ.

Materials: Bible, clear glass jar with lid, water, food coloring

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

### Lesson Summary

When Jesus was living here on earth He was doing what His Father (God) wanted him to do. He taught people how to serve God and walk in His ways. Many had their own ideas of how they were supposed to live; and when they heard what Jesus had to say, they didn't like it very much. In the gospel of Matthew, the crowd gathered to hear Jesus. He told them that there was only one way to heaven. Jesus told them that in order to get to heaven they must not follow the broad way. The broad way leads to the destruction of our lives, and that is what the devil wants. It leads in many directions but never the one that leads to Jesus because the broad way goes against His word. Those who choose the broad way of sin will go further and further down the path of destruction. Sinning will only lead to hell. So Jesus warned us not to follow the way of the crowd. Sometimes, the broad way may even seem easier, but in the end it leads to death. Don't choose the broad way, but follow Jesus!

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus is the only  
way to heaven**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) You will need a mason jar (or some kind of clear glass) with a lid, food coloring, and water. Have the kids name sins that lead people to destruction. Each time they name a sin, drop some food coloring into the water. Explain to the children how choosing to sin causes their hearts to get darker and darker.
- 2) Play charades. Give each child a turn to act out a sin or temptation that will lead him down the broad way.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

- 1) What is the broad way? (Answer: The path that leads to destruction.) Read the text verse for the answer.
- 2) What leads people in the broad way?

### Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 7:14; 1 Samuel 12:23-24; Psalm 86:11; 119:30, 105; Proverbs 4:18; 1 John 1:7

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that there is only one way to heaven and that way is Jesus Christ.

Materials: Bible, pencils, crayons, poster board, candy, tape, and paper

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

### Lesson Summary

In last week's lesson we learned about the broad way and how this way leads to destruction. But today, we will learn how Jesus wants us to follow Him and walk in His way. Jesus called this the narrow way. The narrow way is straight, and it is the way that leads to heaven. When we ask Jesus into our hearts, we begin to walk in the narrow way. This way isn't always easy. Our friends and family may not walk in this path. But the narrow way is the right way. The Bible is God's map that leads us to heaven. His word shows us how to live so that we stay on the right path and remain in the narrow way. Today, many think that they can do whatever they want and still make it to heaven. But Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments, which means we will follow His map (the Bible, the word of God). Sadly, there are **not** a lot of people walking on the straight path, and they are lost. But Jesus tells us in His word that He is the way of everlasting life. If we follow Him in the narrow way, we will make it to heaven.

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus is the only  
way to heaven**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) On a piece of poster board, draw a map with a starting point and a finishing point – connect the two points with a winding dotted line to create a path. Tape a piece of candy to the finishing point. Draw an "X" several places along the dotted line to create stopping points. Lead the children down the path reading one of the following verses at each stopping point (Mt. 7:14; Jn. 14:6; 1 Sa. 12:23-24; Ps. 86:11; 119:30, 105; Pr. 4:18; 1 Jn. 1:7). When the children get to the finishing point, everyone gets a piece of candy.
- 2) Give each child a piece of paper. Ask him to draw a line down the center dividing it into two sections. On one half, have the child write the word "Broad Way" and on the other write the word "Narrow Way." Then allow the children to draw a picture to show what each pathway looks like.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

- 3) What is the narrow way?
- 4) What leads people in the narrow way?
- 5) How many ways are there to get to heaven?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 1:21-23, Luke 2:8-18, Matthew 2:8-11

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that there is only one way to heaven and that way is Jesus Christ.

**Materials:** Bible, Pencils, crayons, thick paper or poster board, scissors, glue, glitter, and stickers

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

## Lesson Summary

We have discussed this month two different paths that we have to choose from. One path is the broad way that leads to destruction, and the other is the narrow way that leads to eternal life. We learned that Jesus is the one that leads us in this narrow path. Jesus was born to be our Lord and Savior. He is the way for us to come to God the Father. His life gave us an example of how to live and walk in the narrow path. When Jesus was born many were looking for him. The shepherds were told by the angel of the Lord to go to Bethlehem to find the baby in a manger. When they found Him, they rejoiced and then told others about this wonderful child who had come to be the Savior of the world. The wise men saw a star and followed it until they found the place where the Christ child was. Are you following after Christ in the narrow way? Today, many have found this narrow path; God's Spirit leads us and guides us through His Word to help us stay in the narrow path to Heaven. Follow Jesus – he is the only way to heaven.

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus is the only  
way to heaven**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) Cut thick paper or poster board into the shape of a star. Make one for each child. Have the kids to decorate the stars. Be creative! Provide a variety of craft items to decorate the stars such as markers, glue, glitter, and stickers.
- 2) Play "Follow the Leader." Have one child hold his decorated star above his head. He will be the leader. The other children will line up behind him and follow his star wherever it leads.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

- 6) How did the shepherds find Jesus?
- 7) What led the wise men to Christ?
- 8) How many ways are there to get to heaven?

## Teacher Preparation

**Readings:** Matthew 7:14; 16:24; John 14:6

**Lesson Objective:** The student will learn that there is only one way to heaven and that way is Jesus Christ.

**Materials:** Bible, pencils, crayons, scissors, and paper

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

## Lesson Summary

Over the past month, we have been discussing the broad path and the narrow path. We find that each has an ending that is completely different. Jesus said to His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mt. 16:24). In essence, Jesus was telling them that in order to make it to Heaven they must be willing to follow Him no matter what it takes. Many people call themselves "Christians" (which means Christ-like), but they are not following in His path. They are trying to do what they want to do and not what His word says to do. Jesus is the only way to Heaven. Following his path will lead us to eternal life. Just like the disciples, we too will have to deny ourselves in order to stay in the straight and narrow path to Heaven. When we ask Jesus into our heart, we are beginning a lifelong journey of obeying His word and following His example until we make Heaven our home.

**Bible Point:**  
**Jesus is the only  
way to heaven**



### Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) Let the kids discuss the importance of Jesus being the only way to heaven. Have them trace their feet and write "John 14:6" on one side. Then on the other side, have them to write what the narrow way means to them.
- 2) Make an obstacle course for the children to complete. Place a chair or table in the pathway for the children to walk around or crawl under. At the end of the course have a sign with the word "Heaven" written on it. As each child completes the course, rejoice with him. Continue the activity until every child has a turn to complete the course.

### Questions for Class Discussion:

- 9) How do we make it heaven?
- 10) What are the two paths spoken about in Matthew 7:13-14?
- 11) Where does each of these two paths lead?