

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Genesis 1:1-31; John 1:1-14; Ep. 3:9

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that all things were made by Jesus Christ.

Materials: Bibles, paper, crayons. *Option 1) paper plates; Option 2) clear plastic cups, soil, seeds*

Memory Verse: “All things were made by him . . .” (Jn. 1:3).

Lesson Summary

This month, we will be learning all about Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus? In the Bible, Jesus has many different titles, like Son, Savior, Lord, and King. Jesus also is called the Word or the Word of God. In John 1:1, the apostle John said that Jesus, the Word, was with God in the beginning, and he also was God. Genesis 1:1 teaches: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” So Jesus was in the beginning creating the world. When you look at the world, what do you see? We see the sky above: sun, moon, and stars. We see land, grass, and trees. We see all of the animals in the world. Most importantly, we see each other. God made mankind, and he made them male and female in his own likeness. The apostle John said, “All things were made by him” (Jn. 1:3). So everything was made by Jesus, the Word of God. We believe in Jesus Christ because he is God, and he created all things. We can trust in the one who made us, and believe that he will take good care of us when we place our faith in him. Will you believe in Jesus?

Bible Point:
Jesus made
everything



Ideas to Illuminate:

- 1) On a paper plate have the kids make a globe and color it. Around the edge you can write, “Jesus Our Creator”
- 2) Bring plastic cups, and let the kids fill them with dirt, and seeds. Explain how Jesus created everything, and how He takes care of everything. It will be fun for the kids to water them each week and watch them grow.

Questions for Class Discussion:

12. Who is the Word?
13. Where did the world come from? How did it come to be?
14. In the beginning, who was with God creating the world?
15. True or false? “All things were made by Jesus.”

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 1:1-11; John 3:16; Matthew 3:13-17

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus is the Son of God.

Materials: Bibles, paper, crayons, cotton balls

Memory Verse: “And a voice from heaven said, You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy” (Mark 1:11).

Lesson Summary

This month, we have been learning all about Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus? The Bible says that He is the Son of God. One of the most quoted verses in the Bible is John 3:16. Does anybody know what John 3:16 says? (Note: If no one answers, read it to the children). In today’s lesson, we will talk about another place in the Bible where God calls Jesus His Son. One day John the Baptist was baptizing in the Jordan River. Jesus came to him and wanted to be baptized by John, but John told Jesus, “I am the one who needs baptized by you.” Jesus told him, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus. As soon as Jesus was coming up from the water, the heavens were opened, and John saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Jesus. And then a voice from Heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” John saw the Spirit come upon Jesus, and he heard the voice from heaven. John knew that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

Bible Point:
Jesus is
the Son of God



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids to draw a picture of Jesus being baptized, the heavens opening, and the dove descending upon him. The kids could use cotton for the dove to make things fun.

Questions for Class Discussion:

9. What happened right after Jesus was baptized?
10. Who did God say Jesus is?
11. Who did the dove represent?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 3:16-17, 1 John 4:14

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus is our Savior.

Materials: Bibles, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (John 4:14).

Lesson Summary

This month, we have been learning all about Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus? Christ is many things to us, but today we will talk about Him being our Savior. The Bible teaches us that God sent His Son into this world to save us. Jesus was born a little, tiny baby. He grew up the same way you did; he had to listen to His parents just like you; and at the age of 12, he was in the temple (what we would consider now as church) telling others about God. Later, as He got older He began to minister in many ways. He became a Savior to a lot of people as they would listen to Jesus teach about God (His Father) and they would witness Him healing people. One day He gave His life for us and died on the cross. He took our place to save our souls. That’s how much He loves us. Just as Jesus was a Savior to people then, He still is our Savior today. Lets discuss some of the ways that He is your Savior today.

Bible Point:
Jesus is
our Savior



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids write a song, making up their own lyrics about Jesus being our Savior. Nursery rhyme songs are the easiest to use.

Questions for Class Discussion:

6. What does it mean to be a Savior? (It’s a person who rescues.)
7. How does Christ become our Savior? (We ask Him into our heart.)
8. What are some of the things that Jesus did while here on earth that would make others consider Him a Savior? (He died on the cross, healed people, and raised the dead.)

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 11:1-10; Rev 19:16

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that Jesus is our Lord and King, and we give Him praise.

Materials: Bibles, paper, crayons, craft sticks

Memory Verse: “And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Mark 11:9).

Lesson Summary

This month, we have been learning all about Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus? Today we will learn about Jesus as our Lord and King. As Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem He told them to go into the village; they would see a donkey tied up that has never been ridden. They were to untie it and bring it to Him; and if anyone asked what they were doing, they were to tell them they were borrowing it for Jesus and He would return it soon. They got the colt and brought it to Jesus throwing their garments over it. Then Jesus sat on it and road into Jerusalem. Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of Him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the parade, and the people all around Him were shouting, “Praise God! Blessing on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessing on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in the highest heaven!” One day we will see Jesus again, and we will declare Him still as our King of King and Lord of Lords.

Bible Point:
Jesus is our
Lord and King



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids to make palm trees out of their hands. They could attach them to craft sticks and sing, “Oh, Let’s Magnify the Lord.” When it comes to the part of “Hosanna” have the kids to wave their palm branches.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did Jesus send the disciples to get?
2. Why did the people praise Jesus?
3. Is Jesus your Lord and King?
4. How do you praise Him today?
5. When we see Jesus again what do you think the people will do?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 John 1:7-9; Acts 3:19; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 4:17

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that we must confess our sins in order to be forgiven.

Materials: Old dirty shoes, mud, and newspaper or poster board

Memory Verse: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Lesson Summary

How many of you have ever played in a mud puddle? What happened when you walked in the house after playing in mud? That is right...you made a huge mess all over the floor. Your mom knew that you had been playing in the mud puddle. There was no way that you could deny it. The bad thing about mud is that it is so messy and is not easy to clean. Nobody wants to be around a dirty muddy person. Let's pretend for a moment that the mud is like sin. In life, sometimes our shoes get very muddy. Sometimes we get stuck in bad situations. When we see a bad situation, like a mud hole, we should avoid it. But sometimes we don't because we think that playing in the mud looks like a lot of fun. In the same way mud can ruin our clothes and shoes, sin can ruin our walk with the Lord. Thankfully, mom can give those clothes and shoes a good washing. Jesus too can wash us as white as snow. Our soul can be pure and spotless. In the same way that mom won't allow us to walk on the clean floor in our dirty shoes, God will not allow us to enter Heaven with a heart spotted with sin. We should repent confessing our sins, and God will give us a pure, clean heart.

Bible Point:

Father
forgive us.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Before class, take muddy shoes and lay them on newspaper or poster board.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How can our hearts be like muddy shoes?
2. What does it mean to confess your sins?
3. What will happen if we confess our sins?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 21:22; John 3:16; John 6:35

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that they should believe that Jesus can and will perform miracles in their lives.

Materials: cardstock, markers, crayons, and glue

Memory Verse: “As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:36).

Lesson Summary

Imagine that you were sick. What do you think that your parents might do? If you had a tummy ache or your head hurt, they might give you medicine. But what if that didn't help? What if you were so sick that they thought that you might even die? They would probably take you to the doctor or even the hospital as fast as they could. Your parents would do everything in the world possible to help you. Today we are going to learn about a ruler named Jairus. He had a daughter who was very sick. He thought for sure that she would die. He had heard about a man named Jesus and knew that he could perform miracles. Jairus rushed to see Jesus; and when he came to him, he fell at his feet. He begged Jesus to come and lay hands on his daughter so that she might live. Jesus immediately followed Jairus to his home. On the way there, men came up to Jairus and told him that his daughter was already dead and that there was no need to bother Jesus. Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid, but to only believe. When they came to the house, Jesus asked the people why they were crying and told them that the girl was only sleeping. Jesus took her by the hand and told her to get up. The girl did as Jesus said. Her parents were very happy that their little girl was alive. We can see how much Jairus loved his daughter. Our heavenly father loves us even more, and would do anything to save us and give us new life. Nothing is hopeless. Anything is possible with him if we only believe.

Bible Point:

Only
believe



Ideas to Illuminate:

Help the children to cut out a shape like a little girl. You may find a template for this on the internet. On one side, have them to draw what she might look like awake, and on the other side make it look like she is sleeping. Help the kids to draw or make a three-dimensional bed and decorate it.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What was the name of the ruler in our lesson?
2. What did he do when his daughter became sick?
3. What did Jesus say to the people who were in the house that were crying?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-34; Philippians 2:11; 1 John 4:2

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that we must not be afraid or ashamed to confess to the world that Jesus is Lord.

Materials: paper, and ink pads (for stamping)

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

Lesson Summary

Throughout Jesus' life people wondered who he really was. Even today, some people argue over who he was. Jesus proclaimed God's Word to the people. His works demonstrated that he was the Son of God. He wanted the people to understand who he really was, rather than his just telling them. Because of his countless miracles performed and his teachings, many people were convinced that he was no doubt a prophet or a messenger from God. However, not everyone was convinced that he was the promised Messiah who had come to save the world. One day, Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was. Peter told him that other people thought he was a prophet. Jesus then asked Peter who he believed he was. Peter confessed that he believed Jesus was the Messiah, the promised deliverer of the world. Jesus was very pleased with the answer that Peter gave him. Peter declared that he was indeed the Son of God. Jesus wants us, as Christians, to confess to others that same belief. We are to declare God's Word and tell the world that Jesus has come to save the world from a life of sin. He has come to give us new life in him. We are to point the way to Christ. We should never be ashamed to confess that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

Bible Point:
Every
tongue will
confess.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Let the children press their fingerprints onto the paper. They may choose to incorporate their prints into a picture. Ask them to compare their prints with the other children. Explain how fingerprints are used to identify people. Discuss how no two fingerprints are exactly the same.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who revealed Jesus' identity to the disciples?
2. Who did Peter say Jesus was?
3. How did Jesus prove that he was the Son of God?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 14:15; Matthew 7:21; 2 Corinthians 2:9

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that they should always obey what God has instructed them to do.

Materials: clothes pins, cardstock, glue, markers, crayons, and scissors

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

Lesson Summary

God gave Jonah strict orders. He told him to go to Nineveh and warn the people that God was planning to punish the people because of their evil behavior. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. Instead of obeying God, Jonah tried to run and hide from him. He got on a boat with some sailors, thinking that God would not see him there. However, there is no hiding from God. God decided to teach Jonah a lesson. He sent a terrible storm that violently rocked the ship. Jonah knew that God was punishing him for being disobedient. He told the sailors to toss him off the ship, and the storm would stop. Instead of letting him drown, God sent a huge fish and it swallowed Jonah. There Jonah stayed for three days and nights. Jonah was sorry for disobeying God; he prayed for forgiveness. God caused the fish to spew, or vomit, Jonah onto the shore. Jonah was ready to obey the Lord's command this time. He went to Nineveh and told the people that they were doing wrong and that God was not pleased. In the same way God expected Jonah to obey him, he also expects us to obey his Word. Even if the task seems too big for us to do, we should always trust in the Lord and obey him. Even though we will probably never be gobbled up by a fish, God has ways of disciplining us for disobedience. Disobeying God is a sin, and we will not go to Heaven with sin in our lives. If we want to please the Lord, we must always listen and obey his instructions.

Bible Point:

Obey the
Lord.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Print out a template of a whale. Have the children color the whale. Help the children to cut the whale horizontally starting at the mouth. Glue the two pieces to the clothespin so that it looks like the whale is opening and closing its mouth when you open the clothespin. Have the children draw and cut out a tiny man to glue to the bottom back part of the clothespin. This should look like Jonah in the fish belly.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why do you think Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh?
2. How do you think Jonah felt while he was in the fish?
3. What did Jonah do when he finally got out of the belly of the fish?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 7:7-11; 6:5-8; Mark 10:13-16

Lesson Objective: The children will learn how to pray (talk) to God.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, markers

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

Lesson Summary

When you were born, you did not know how to talk. When you were hungry, sleepy, hurt, or sick, all you could do was cry. Amazingly enough, your parents were able to tell the difference between your hungry and sleepy cry, and between your hurt and sick cry. They knew exactly what to do to make you feel better. As you grew up, you learned how to talk and tell your parents what your needs were. Parents never get tired of listening to their children. God is our Father in heaven; He never gets tired of listening to His children either. God's children talk to Him through prayer. Matthew 6:8 tells us that God, our Father, knows what we need even before we ask Him. This means He knows you better than your parents do! God is an amazingly good, good Father. You shouldn't be afraid to talk to Him. You don't have to use big, fancy words to impress Him. You don't have to yell to get His attention. As a matter of fact, Jesus teaches us to go into a quiet place where you can be alone with God in prayer. He wants special one-on-one time with you everyday. In Mark 10:14, Jesus said to allow the children to come to Him, for the kingdom of God belongs to them. God has a special place just for you in His heavenly kingdom. If you want to know all about it, then all you have to do is ask (Matthew 7:7-8).

Bible Point:
**I can talk
to God!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have each child trace their hand on a piece of paper and cut it out. Next, allow the children to write or draw a picture about their prayer request. Give each child time to talk about their prayer request and pray together for each one. You can display the craft in the classroom and continue to pray over the requests each week until all the prayers have been answered.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why should we talk to God?
2. When and how do we talk to God?
3. Does God have a place for children in His kingdom?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 4:16-20; 2 Timothy 2:15; John 8:31-32; 14:6

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the importance of reading the Bible.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons, something to hold the papers together (string or staples)

Memory Verse: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Lesson Summary

A couple of children were asked during an interview, "Why do you think it's important to read the Bible?" One response was, "The Bible gives you more knowledge and understanding of God and His will for us." Another response was, "Reading the Bible gives you a closer relationship to God." Do you agree with these responses? Can you think of other reasons why it's important to read the Bible? The Bible is God's truth to guide you. In John 8:31-32, Jesus says if you read His Word you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free from sin! Reading God's Word and sharing it with others is what God wants us to do (2 Timothy 2:15). The Word of God is good news! It heals the broken hearted; it sets free the prisoners of sin, and gives sight, or understanding, to those that are blind to the truth (Luke 4:18). We learned last week that it's important to spend time with God in prayer every day. Likewise, it's just as important to spend time reading God's Word every day. God's Spirit helps us to understand His Word. Pray and ask God to fill you with His Spirit of understanding and to give you the ability to teach others what you know.

**Bible Point:
Read
God's Word**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Make a Bible reading plan chart for the classroom and challenge the children to read their Bible during the week. Assign a different Bible story each week and encourage the parents to get involved by reading with their children and having discussion time afterwards.
2. Make a Bible study journal and allow the children to decorate the front cover. Encourage them to write or draw pictures about what they learn from their Bible reading each week.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the ____, the ____, and the ____: no man comes to the Father, but by me."
2. In John 8:32, Jesus said, "You shall know the ____, and the truth shall make you ____."
3. Knowing the truth frees us. From what are we free?
4. What does Jesus want us to do with the truth?

March 18, 2018

Writer: Mandy Thompson

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 17:11-19; John 4:23-24

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the difference between ceremonial worship and true, heartfelt worship.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4:23).

Lesson Summary

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when he heard ten men yelling, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw that they were lepers. Lepers were people who had a skin disease that was contagious just by touching them. They were not allowed to live in cities but had to leave their homes and families to go live outside the city with other lepers. They had to stay 100 steps away from people and yell, "Unclean!" to warn others if they came near. When Jesus saw them, He told them to go show themselves to the priests. As they were on their way to see the priest they noticed they were healed. In Jewish tradition, once you were healed, you had to show yourself to the priest, make your sacrifice to God, and then you could return to your city. But one of the men, once he realized he was healed, turned back to Jesus and praised Him with a loud voice, falling on his face at Jesus' feet and thanking Him. This man was a Samaritan who did not know the tradition of the Jews. He was an example of a true worshipper of God. His worship was from the heart. He didn't need someone else to tell him he was healed. He didn't need a ceremony to offer his sacrifice of praise to God. He went directly to the feet of Jesus and laid down his life as a sacrifice. While the other 9 went through the traditional ceremony and returned to their previous way of life, the Samaritan man knew his life had a new purpose. Today, God is still looking for those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. We have the same opportunity as the Samaritan man, to fall on our face before Jesus and give our life to the One who gave His life for us.

**Bible Point:
Worship God
in Spirit
and Truth!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each child paper and crayons to draw a traffic light. Inside the red light write, "Stop and listen to God." Inside the yellow light write, "Slow, make time for God." Inside the green light write, "Go God's way every day."
2. If time permits, the children can draw a picture of the story of the 10 lepers on the back of their traffic light.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Give some examples of ceremonial worship.
2. Does God require ceremonial worship or worship in Spirit and truth?
3. How do we worship God in Spirit and Truth?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 10:25-37; James 2:8

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that if they love God, they will also love their neighbor.

Materials: Bible, costumes, paper, crayons

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells us that we can experience God's gift of life if we love Him with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus told a story to help us understand how to love God and our neighbor. There was a man robbed and badly beaten while he was traveling between towns. As he laid on the ground alone and dying, a priest came walking by. The priest saw him lying there, but he walked to the other side of the road to avoid helping him. Next, a Levite walked by. He looked at the man, but then he crossed the road to avoid helping him. Then a Samaritan man came walking by. He saw the man in distress and stopped to help him. He cleaned his wounds and took him to an Inn where he spent his whole day helping the man feel better. The next day, before he left, he gave money to the Innkeeper and told him to take care of the man until he was well enough to leave. The Priest and the Levite were only serving God with traditions. Their heart, soul, strength, and mind were not about serving God. Because of this, they had no love for their neighbor. The Good Samaritan, however, did understand how to love his neighbor as himself. He understood that his neighbor was anyone within his reach that needed his help. He loved his neighbor because he first loved God.

Bible Point:
I will
love others.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the children act out the story of the Good Samaritan.
2. Give each child a piece of paper and crayons. Have them draw a cross in the middle of the page and surround it with ideas or pictures of ways they can be a Good Samaritan to a neighbor in need.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who is our neighbor?
2. How do we love our neighbor?
3. What reward does God promise to those who love Him with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind; and their neighbor as themselves?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 6:43-45; John 15:5, 8; Matthew 13:3-8; Ephesians 5:9; Ph. 1:11; Galatians 5:19-21

Lesson Objective: Students should understand that Christians should bear good fruit, while sinners bear the destructive fruit of sin.

Materials: Paper/Poster board, pencils, markers, pictures of fruit trees

Memory Verse: "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:11).

Lesson Summary

(If possible, begin by showing pictures of fruit trees and by asking students what kind of tree each is and how they know.) You knew the type of tree I showed you because you recognized its fruit. The Bible tells us that we are like those fruit trees. Jesus spoke to us in Luke about how good trees have good fruit and bad trees have bad fruit. He was speaking of us! As sinners, Galatians 5:19-21 describes the kind of bad fruit we will produce. We are all born into sin and this means we will have the traits or fruits of a sinner. We can lie, hate, steal, and even destroy things because we have sin in our hearts. What a sad story this would be if this were our only choice! However, because of Jesus, we have another choice. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, believing He is God's son, and ask Him to come into our hearts, then we are saved and become Christians. This means our life or tree is completely changed. The Bible tells us in John 15:5 that we become part of God's vine. Through Christ, we then are able to bear different fruit. This fruit is good and righteous. Our memory verse states we are "filled with fruits of righteousness by Jesus and to the praise and glory of God." You see, this good fruit is not something we can produce by ourselves. Remember, we are born producing bad fruit; but Jesus gives us new life, and through Him we can produce good fruit that brings glory and praise to God. As Christians, we should always want to produce that good fruit so that God will be glorified! Just as fruit trees are known by the fruit they produce, we will be known by the spiritual fruit we produce. Let's ask God to help us bear good fruit!

Bible Point:
Bear
Good Fruit.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students place their arm and hand on the construction paper or poster board, and trace it to make a tree.
2. Allow students to decorate and create "fruit" for their tree with labels such as love, kindness, peace, and so on.
3. Display these in the classroom for the entirety of the unit.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How do we know what kind of fruit tree is shown in the picture?
2. How will people know we are Christians?
3. Can you give examples of good fruit and bad fruit?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ephesians 5:9-11; John 14:15-17; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13; John 14:26; John 15:26

Lesson Objective: Students will understand God's Spirit produces fruit that is good, right, and true.

Materials: Drinking straws, card stock or construction paper, glue, large mirror

Memory Verse: "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (1 John 4:13).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells us in the Bible that we are to bear good fruit, but we cannot do this in ourselves. So how do we bear good fruit? (Allow students time to respond.) God's Spirit is what allows us to bear good fruit. The Bible tells us His spirit is the one who lets us know we are sinners in need of a Savior. The Holy Spirit is real, and his job is to show us Christ and to teach us to be like him. We know that God is good, right, and true. Therefore, God's Spirit (The Holy Ghost) is good, right, and true. (Bring out the mirror.) Let's look at this mirror. When you look in a mirror, what do you see? Yes, you see a reflection of yourself. We are supposed to allow the Holy Spirit to change us to look more like Christ, but not in our hair color, eyes, or physical traits. We should look more like Christ in how we act, what we say, and the way we treat others. The Holy Spirit wants to live inside each of us to help us become more like Christ. He will change our reflection to look more like Jesus. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15). Jesus then went on to explain how the Spirit of truth or God's Spirit was sent so that we can be empowered to serve God and keep His commandments. It is God's Spirit working in us that allows us to bear good fruit. Without His Spirit, there would be no way for us to experience new life in Christ. God's plan was to send His Spirit to be our teacher, our helper, and our guide. It is through the Spirit, that we experience conviction, and then the change after we are saved. His spirit continues to help us become trees that bear good fruit known as the Fruit of the Spirit.

Bible Point:
God's Spirit



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. On card stock or construction paper, write names given for the Holy Spirit: Teacher, Spirit of Truth, Comforter, Helper, etc.
2. Cut pieces of **drinking straws for students to glue above the names, then hang them in the classroom to remind them of the work of God's Spirit. **If drinking straws are not available, you could use things in nature: sticks, small pebbles, etc. to glue above the words.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why is God's Spirit so important?
2. Can we bear good fruit without God's Spirit? Why or Why not?
3. How do we know or recognize God's Spirit?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Galatians 5:16-24

Lesson Objective: Students will learn the fruit of the Spirit and its importance in the lives of believers.

Materials: bowls, fruit (ripe, good), fruit (rotten, overly ripe), knife

Memory Verse: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Lesson Summary

How many of you like to eat fruit? (Show students the good fruit.) Why do people like fruit so much? (Allow students to respond.) Not only is fruit sweet to eat, but it is also good for you. Paul knew this when he wrote to a group of people called the Galatians. He began to describe the fruit of the Spirit as being love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (self-control). He said there is no law against these things because they are good, much like the fruit we enjoy eating. As Christians, it is important that we allow the Holy Spirit to produce these spiritual fruits in our lives in order to point others toward Christ. These good fruits will help us to win others to Christ. Paul knew these fruits or characteristics were crucial in the life of Christians. As we allow the Holy Spirit to teach and help us, we will reflect more of the fruit of the Spirit within our lives. These fruits transform us into the image of Christ. Now let's look at this other fruit (i.e. the rotten and over-ripened fruit). What do you notice about this fruit? We are going to make a fruit salad out of this fruit. This is still fruit, but it is not good fruit. We learned in our first lesson that sin has its own fruit. It is important to remember the fruit of sin is the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. As you can see, this is not good fruit, and no one wants to eat it. The world has plenty of this bad fruit: hate, envying, murders, and many others (Galatians 5:19-21). We, as Christians, are commanded to show the world God's love. We can only do that when we allow the Holy Spirit to produce the good fruits in each of us.

Bible Point:
The Fruit
of the
Spirit



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have two bowls set up. In the first bowl, cut up pieces of a variety of ripe, good fruit. In the second bowl cut up overly ripe or rotten fruit.
2. Ask students which fruit salad they want to eat. Why?

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What are the fruit of the Spirit?
2. How do we bear this kind of fruit?
3. What is the purpose of the fruit of the Spirit?

Lesson: Love

Lesson Text: John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13-14;

1 John 4:7-8

April 22, 2018

Writer: Kara Spicer

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13-14; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; John 3:16

Lesson Objective: Students will understand love is the greatest of God's commandments.

Materials: fishing line or yarn, small stick or tree limb, heart shaped cut-outs, scissors, markers, hole punch

Memory Verse: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Lesson Summary

What is love? We are commanded to love each other that the world will know we are Jesus' disciples. However, Jesus said even more about love. He not only commanded we love our brothers and sisters, but also to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). The entire Bible is full of examples and commandments regarding love. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul told the church at Corinth that if we don't have love, other spiritual gifts mean nothing! Love was the reason God sent Jesus to die for us on the cross (John 3:16). Love is an important part of the fruit of the Spirit. If we want to be known as one of Jesus' disciples, then we must have love and show it to others. How do we show love? If we want people to know we love them, not only do we tell them, but we must also show them. Loving others means putting their needs first. If we want to show love to kids at school, we cannot be selfish. We must think of others first. We also show love by being kind, not only to our friends but also to those that may not be kind to us. We can only do this by allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and help us. Showing love will help win souls to Christ!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each student a tree limb or stick and tie several pieces of fishing line or yarn on each limb.
2. Distribute heart-shaped cutouts and ask students to write examples of showing love on each one (Note: give each student several cutouts).
3. Punch a hole in each cutout and tie to the stick with fishing line or yarn. This creates a "Love Mobile" to hang in the classroom for decoration.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is love?
2. Who does Jesus tell us we should love?
3. Why is love such an important fruit?

Bible Point:
Love

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Psalm 100; Psalm 16:11; 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 5:11; Job 33:26

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that the joy of the Lord should be evident in the life of the Christian.

Materials: Bubbles or balloons, pictures of people smiling (could be personal or those found on the internet or in magazines)

Memory Verse: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Lesson Summary

Begin the lesson by either blowing bubbles or hitting balloons with the children. Have students describe how bubbles or balloons make them feel. Explain that JOY is much like happiness, but it does not depend on our circumstances. Explain that joy is from the Lord. We can experience joy, even when our life might have challenges. Relate the story of Job and how he lost everything. Then share the Scripture from Job 33:26. Explain that Job's joy came from his relationship with God, not his stuff. Describe some of the hard times David faced and then share some of the Scriptures on joy. Psalm 100 tells us to "serve the Lord with gladness." If we are Christians, we should find joy in knowing that we are saved, and serving the Lord should bring us happiness. Our lives on Earth are only temporary, but we who are saved will live with Jesus someday in heaven. This should give us joy. Joy makes us different from the world, and as part of the fruit of the Spirit, it allows Christians to witness to the world. Many people in this world are sad and hopeless. When they see us face hard times, but still have joy, they begin to want what we have. The Holy Spirit can help us have joy like Job and David. Even though these men faced hard times, they knew the God they served and trusted Him to take care of their circumstances. Jesus is our Joy!

Bible Point:
Joy in
the Lord.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Show the pictures of people smiling and discuss why students think they are happy.
2. Talk about the difference between things that make us happy and the Joy of the Lord.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Can we have joy when we are facing hard times?
2. Where does joy come from?
3. Why do sinners need to see that Christians have joy?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:9; Romans 5:1; 12:18; Philippians 4:6-7

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God wants us to live peaceful lives.

Materials: two pocket folders or paper stapled together, and ink pens or pencils

Memory Verse: "Happy are those who strive for peace – they shall be called the sons of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Lesson Summary

Have you ever heard someone ask, "Can I get a little peace and quiet?" Peace is a word that is used often, but do we really know what true peace is? The Bible tells us we should work real hard to have peace; but we need help with having peace. In Romans 5:1, the Bible promises that when we are made right with God, we then have peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus helps us to live a peaceful life. When we have a close relationship with Jesus, our minds are calm and we are not constantly changing our moods or emotions based on what is happening around us. When we receive salvation, we become a friend of God! And as our friend, God wants to help us have peace in our lives with others too. In Romans 12:18, the Bible says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." We should always, with God's help, be peaceful and not wanting to fight others. With God as our friend, we should treat everyone else as our friend too. Do you like to talk with your friends? Of course! We should want to talk to God too because He is our friend. In Philippians 4:6-7, the Bible lets us know that we should not worry about everything; we should tell God our needs and not forget to thank God when he gives us answers. If we do this, the Bible tells us we will experience God's peace, which is so amazing that our minds can't fully understand how great God's peace is! How wonderful that God wants to give us peace; and the Bible tells us to seek God to receive His peace! God really is the greatest friend we could ever have!

Bible Point:
**God gives
peace!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have each student take a turn telling something he/she needs. After all needs are spoken, have prayer with your students. Then have each student tell something they are thankful for that God has done. Emphasize Philippians 4:6-7.
2. Have each student create a prayer journal. Have them decorate the cover. Then encourage them to write prayer requests in the journal, as well as when God answers prayer. This could be brought back each Sunday for a brief time of sharing all God is doing in each student's life.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who can help us have peaceful lives?
2. Who should we have peace with?
3. How amazing is God's peace?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 18:23-33

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God wants us to be patient and longsuffering with others.

Materials: Construction paper, and crayons or markers

Memory Verse: "With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

Lesson Summary

The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him \$10,000,000! He couldn't pay, so the king ordered him to be sold for the debt, also his wife and children and everything he had. But the man fell down before the king, his face in the dust, and said, "Oh, sir, be patient with me and I will pay it all." Then the king was filled with pity for him and released him, forgiving his debt. But when the man left the king, he went to a man who owed him \$2,000 and grabbed him by the throat, demanding instant payment. The man fell down before him and begged him to give him a little time. "Be patient, and I will pay it," he pled. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and jailed until the amount would be paid in full. Then the man's friends went to the king and told him what had happened. And the king called before him the man he had forgiven, saying, "You evil-hearted wretch! Here I forgave you all that tremendous debt, just because you asked me to – shouldn't you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?" This story found in Matthew 18:23-33 is a great example of someone who showed longsuffering and of one who did not. Longsuffering is having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially those caused by other people. After the king was longsuffering with a debtor who owed a large amount of money, the debtor did not show the same to another man who owed him a much smaller debt. We also should be patient with others even when they may have caused some trouble. We should give people a chance and not be unforgiving; and we should try to be understanding of what someone is going through. God is the ultimate example of longsuffering as He is patient with all of His creation by giving them time to turn to Him. As we follow God, He gives us the patience we need to be longsuffering with others too.

**Bible Point:
Practice
patience!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students act out the story found in Matthew 18:23-33. The teacher should be the narrator as the students act out the parts.
2. Have each student make a ticket to heaven. Already have pieces of construction paper cut into rectangles. On one side have them write "ticket to heaven" and on the other side write "cost." As you discuss Christ's longsuffering with the students, emphasize that our cost to heaven is paid in full by Christ's dying on the cross for us. Go around and write "paid in full" on each ticket as you are discussing longsuffering with the students.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does longsuffering mean?
2. How was the king longsuffering with one of his debtors?
3. If someone is causing trouble around us, should we be patient with him/her? Why?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ephesians 4:30-32; Titus 3:2

Lesson Objective: The student will learn examples of how to show gentleness to others.

Materials: Construction paper, and crayons or markers

Memory Verse: "To speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men" (Titus 3:2).

Lesson Summary

When you think of the word gentle what comes to mind? Do you think about babies or animals? Why do we want to be gentle to them? Do they seem precious or do you feel like you need to be careful with them? God feels the same about His creation too. His creation includes you and me! He does not want us to be treated in a bad way. Also, He wants us to treat each other with gentleness. How do we treat each other with gentleness? The Bible gives us some good examples of what not to do in Ephesians 4:31. The Bible tells us to stop being mean. We need to be nice and to not be quick tempered and easily angered. This does not mean we will never feel mad, but we must depend on God to help us control our feelings. If we are quick to act out when we are mad, we usually say or do something that hurts others. The Bible also tells us that fighting, harsh words, and not liking others has no place in our lives. Ephesians 4:32, the Bible goes on to tell us that instead we should "be kind to each other, tenderhearted, and forgive one another, just as God has forgiven you if you belong to Christ." If we belong to Christ, we are forgiven. We should then show forgiveness to others. May God help us to show gentleness and be quick to forgive others! If we ever question what would be the right thing to do, we can always pray to God and read His Word to find an example to follow. Where He leads us, we will follow by example. Let's be an example of God's gentleness everywhere we go!

Bible Point:
Be gentle to others.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have the students to act out being gentle and the opposite of gentleness, without making any sounds. The students can take turns like charades, and the audience can guess if they are showing gentleness or not.
2. Have the students to make gentleness cards. Have them make a list of ways to show gentleness, and they can put these in their Bibles as reminders.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How can we show gentleness to others?
2. What does the Bible tell us in Ephesians about gentleness?
3. Where should we look to find examples of gentleness?

Lesson: Goodness

Lesson Text: Luke 6:27-35

May 27, 2018

Writer: Shanda Graves

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 6:27-35

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God wants us to show goodness to others.

Materials: Rulers or construction paper cut out and marked like rulers, a poster board, and crayons or markers

Memory Verse: "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise" (Luke 6:31).

Lesson Summary

I'm sure you've heard someone say the golden rule before – "Treat others the way you want to be treated." Did you know that the golden rule is found in the Bible? It is found in Luke 6:31. Do you want others to treat you good or bad? Of course, you want to be treated good; and God wants us to treat others good as well. But what if others are treating you bad, should you treat them bad? No! Jesus taught a very important lesson in Luke 6:27-28. He told us to love our enemies and do good to those who curse us. Jesus also said to beg for God's blessing on those who hurt us. Just because Jesus taught us to treat others good no matter what, does this mean it is easy to do? You might think there's no way I can treat someone good who is treating me bad. You're right; we cannot do this on our own. So we all need Jesus to help us. He can help us by showing us the right attitude and how to treat others with goodness. When we treat others good – even when they don't deserve it – God's love is being shown through us, and this pleases God. When we truly care for others with goodness, we are acting like true children of God. People will notice when we are being kind to others who are unthankful, and when we are being good to those who do us wrong. With God's help, we should always try our best to show goodness to others. This will reflect the goodness that God has shown to us. He truly loves us, and He wants us to treat others with goodness. Why? It's for our own good as well. God wants to bless us; and he will reward us for being good to others. Let's show the goodness of God to everyone we know!

**Bible Point:
Show God's
Goodness!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each student a ruler. On one side have them to write "The Golden Rule." On the other side write the memory verse. Go over the memory verse several times, and then have each student try to quote the memory verse without looking at it.

2. As you discuss with your students how they can show goodness, create a classroom goodness guide on a poster board. Be creative! As students tell ideas about treating others with goodness, you could make them into a map (each marking on the map is an idea of goodness, like "Stop and help your neighbor"), or make each idea look like an app on a phone (the face of the phone being the poster board).

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is the golden rule? Where is it found in the Bible?
2. Is it possible to treat others good when they treat you bad? How?
3. Whose love is being shown when we treat others with goodness?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ruth 1:16; Psalm 86:15; 89:1; 100:5; 1 Samuel 12:24; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 3:3-4

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the importance of faith.

Materials: not needed

Memory Verse: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Lesson Summary

What is faith? The Bible tells us that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (He 11:1). Hebrew 11:6 reminds us that "without faith it is impossible to please" God. The story of Ruth is a perfect example of what being faithful means. Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi. Tragedy struck Naomi's family, and she lost her husband and both of her sons. Ruth remained faithful to Naomi in the most difficult time of her and Naomi's life. Ruth could have returned home to her own family after her husband died, but she refused to abandon Naomi and chose to suffer with her. Because of her faithfulness, she and Naomi were blessed abundantly. God blessed Ruth with a husband, a son, a home, food, and someone to help take care of her and Naomi. God expects us to be faithful in all that we do for him – faithful in our prayers, in Bible reading, and in church attendance! As Christians, we may have to endure some difficult times in our lives, but if we remain faithful to God he will be faithful to us. Ruth's loyal devotion to her mother-in-law should inspire us to be faithful to God, to his truth, and to his church.

**Bible Point:
Keep the Faith**



Ideas to Illuminate: Do you trust me?:

Have the students to take turns falling into the arms of the Teacher. Before each child falls into your arms, ask him/her, "Do you trust me?" Once each child has had a turn, explain to them that you were faithful in catching them. All they had to do was trust you and be obedient.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be faithful?
2. How was Ruth faithful to Naomi?
3. What can we learn from the story of Ruth?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Numbers 12:3; 1 Peter 5:5; Matthew 5:5; 11:28-30; John 13:4-5, 12-17; Philippians 2:3

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the meaning of meekness.

Materials: Straws, M&Ms (or any similar candy), and four bowls.

Memory Verse: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

Lesson Summary

Meekness is a fruit of the Spirit. It can be described as being mild, gentle, humble, tenderhearted, patient, slow to anger, controlled, moderate, not self-seeking, and self-less. The meek person is a gentle person. They do what is right before God in every situation. They do not have a dominating spirit but will often give up their rights for the good of another. Meekness prefers a brother. Meekness is being happy when others have things that you don't. A person who is not meek thinks highly of himself and isn't happy unless everyone is doing what he wants to do. When you are meek, God will make you strong. Often, people think of meekness as weakness! Numbers 12:3 tells us that "Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." This proves that meekness cannot mean weakness! The task given to Moses by God was not an easy task. He confronted Pharaoh at least a dozen times and led the largest group of grumblers through the wilderness for forty years while all along solving problem after problem for them. Moses thought of himself as a servant in relationship to God, so he quietly and gently submitted to God's will. He refused to elevate his own importance over that of God, exercising his authority in humility. He sought to glorify God in all that he did. Meekness is a part of God's character therefore we must make every effort to make meekness a part of our character.

**Bible Point:
Be Gentle**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Divide the class in to two groups. Have them to move the M&Ms from one bowl to another by sucking through the straw and getting the M&Ms to stick to the straw. The team that moves the most M&Ms at the end wins. Gentle movements are the key. If they move to abruptly the candy will fall off the straw.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is meekness?
2. Other than Jesus, who is a person in the Bible who was meek?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: James 1:19-20; Mathew 4:1-11; Proverbs 16:32; 21:23; 25:28; 1 Peter 2:23; Romans 13:14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn why self-control is important.

Materials: bubble mixture, marshmallows or any type of candy

Memory Verse: "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

Lesson Summary

Temperance or self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Do you know what it means to have self-control? Self-control is being in charge of your feelings, your actions, and your thoughts. It's being nice to someone who hasn't been nice to you or waiting patiently for something you really want now! Jesus is our perfect model of self-control. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was tempted three times by Satan. Each time he was able to resist Satan and remain obedient unto God. He resisted Satan through self-control and the Word of God. Self-control is crucial for spiritual growth. It helps us resist temptation and control our actions. Without self-control we become weak and sin will eventually destroy us. Lack of self-control is evident in the story of Cain and Abel. Cain's jealousy caused him to kill his brother. Eve's disobedience in the garden showed her lack of self-control as well. Having self-control allows us to live a righteous and selfless life that reflects Christ and brings glory to God. As Christians, we are able to display the fruit of self-control as we abide in the Spirit and trust in Christ. We are showing self-control by making wise choices and thinking before we act. So ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"

**Bible Point:
Show
Self-control**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1) Using the bubble mixture, blow bubbles and allow the children to pop them. After several minutes of bubble blowing, challenge them to not pop the bubbles even if it lands on them. 2.) At the beginning of class offer each child a marshmallow/candy that they can immediately eat or two marshmallows/candy if they choose to wait until the end of class.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What would happen to a city if its walls were broken down?
2. If we didn't have self-control, what would happen to us?
3. What areas of your life lack self-control?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Romans 6:6; 8:3-8, 13-14; Galatians 5:16, 22-25; Ephesians 5:8, 1 John 2:6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that walking in the Spirit produces fruit pleasing unto God.

Materials: Blind fold, and items for obstacle course.

Memory Verse: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

Lesson Summary

Throughout the Bible, we are warned about our flesh and the consequences of following the desires of our flesh. In Galatians chapter 5, the Bible tells us that if we walk in the Spirit, we will not give in to the desires of our flesh. What does walk in the Spirit mean? How can we walk in the Spirit? To walk in the Spirit means to follow the leading of God's Spirit. It means to deny our desires and to walk in line with the commandments of God. When we are yielding to our flesh, we produce bad fruit. When we are being led by God's Spirit, we produce the fruit pleasing unto God. We cannot do as we please and follow Jesus. We know that we are walking in the Spirit when our life begins to show the fruit of the Spirit. It is impossible to walk victoriously in the Spirit without spending unhurried time in fellowship with the Lord. We must spend time in his Word (i.e. reading the Bible), time in prayer, and time listening for his direction. To be like Jesus, we must walk in the ways of God's Spirit and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Bible Point:
Live to
Please God



Ideas to Illuminate:

Pick a child to blindfold. Have another child give directions to the blind-folded child in order to help him reach a designated spot in the classroom. If possible, design an obstacle course to make it a little more difficult. Explain that we must become as the blind-folded child and become completely dependent on God for our direction.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
2. How can we walk in the Spirit?
3. Can we be pleasing unto God if we aren't walking in the Spirit?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 1:9; John 11:25; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

Lesson Objective: Students should understand that the Gospel or “Good News” is the message of Jesus Christ and the salvation he alone brings.

Materials: Sheets of yellow, black, red, white, and green construction paper, stapler

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” (John 3:16).

Lesson Summary

What happens when we have some good news? Maybe we got a really neat gift for Christmas or our birthday. Perhaps we made really good grades or received a reward for something. When we see our friends or speak with people, what do we do with that news? We have been given the greatest news that mankind has ever known – the good news that Jesus, the Son of the one true and living God, came to Earth. He then died for us on the cross so that we might be saved. Saved from what? Mankind was born into sin. This means we do things naturally against God’s laws, and that comes with a punishment. We cannot live in heaven with the Lord if we are sinners separated from God by our sins and wrongdoings. However, when Jesus died on the cross, he did it to save us from our sins. His blood has the power to cleanse us and take away our sins. He then was buried and on the third day rose again. His resurrection gives us the promise that one day we will rise again to go to live with him in heaven. If we tell Jesus that we are truly sorry for our sins and believe that he is God’s only Son, we can receive his salvation from our sins. Then we can turn from our sins and live a life that follows his teachings. Because of Jesus, we can live in heaven one day! This is great news for all of us! So the Bible tells us that we are supposed to tell everyone about the gospel, or “good news” of Jesus. This commandment was given to us by Jesus and is sometimes known as “The Great Commission.” Missionaries share this good news with people all around the world, and you and I are to share this good news as well. If we love Jesus, we should tell others!

**Bible Point:
Jesus Is the
Good News.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Place the sheets of paper in order (from top to bottom): yellow, black, red, white, and green.
2. Fold the construction paper in half to make a book (you could make two books from each sheet by cutting them in half, then folding); staple to hold pages in place.
3. Yellow represents heaven where we want to go; black represents sin keeping us from heaven; red represents the blood of Jesus; white represents justification by faith in Jesus that removes sin; and green represents new life in Christ. Students can use this book to share the gospel with others.

Question for Class Discussion:

“What is the gospel?” [Have students to practice answering this question by using their books and sharing the gospel until they can comfortably talk about each color.]

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-18; Luke 5:3-11; Matthew 16:24

Lesson Objective: Students should understand following Christ will lead us to new places and to new people.

Materials: Poster board or construction paper, pencils, scissors, markers or crayons

Memory Verse: “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

Lesson Summary

When Jesus began his ministry, he called twelve disciples, those who would follow him closely and learn his teachings. Then later on, they shared his teachings with others and began building God’s church. When Jesus called the disciples, their immediate response was to leave everything they were doing and literally to follow after him. They did not hesitate to GO when Jesus called. They left their jobs, their family, and all they knew to follow Jesus. They left the cities or towns they lived in and their homes to obey the Messiah. Today, Jesus is still calling disciples. He calls us to accept the gospel and then to follow him. This means we, like the disciples, must be willing to GO wherever he tells us to GO. Some of us may be asked to GO to new places and share the gospel with new people. Others might be asked to GO into the community or town you live in, and to share the gospel with those around you. The most important thing to remember is that when we accept Jesus into our hearts, we must also be willing to follow Jesus and to GO wherever he leads us. There is an old song that says, “I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.” To GO where he leads us is part of being a good disciple. By following and obeying Christ, we show him how much we love him. As we GO with the gospel, he then uses us to share the good news of salvation with others. So let’s follow Jesus, and let’s GO with the gospel.

Bible Point:
Go with
the Gospel.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students to trace their shoes/feet on the poster board or construction paper.
2. Allow students to cut out the shape of his shoes/feet.
3. Write the memory verse on the cutout (shoes/feet) to remind us to follow Christ wherever he tells us to go.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did the disciples do when Jesus called them?
2. How is this important for us today?
3. What does it mean to follow Christ?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 24:14; 1 Chronicles 16:24

Lesson Objective: Students should understand that the gospel is meant to be shared with the entire world.

Materials: Map of the world, pushpins or thumbtacks, copy of world handout, crayons

Memory Verse: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19).

Lesson Summary

[Note: If available, show students a map of the entire world. Ask them if they recognize what it is (depending on their ages). Then ask them to identify the place they live. Have them to look at their spot on the map, and then look at how much of the world remains.] When we look at the Great Commission, Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel.” Have you ever thought about what it takes to share Jesus with people all over the world? What barriers or obstacles must be overcome to share the gospel with people around the world? Jesus commanded that we do just that. We have learned that we have the gospel or “Good News” about Jesus, and we are commanded to GO! Now we have to understand that going means to the whole world. The Bible says in 1 Chronicles 16:24, “Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.” We are to testify of God and tell what he has done in our lives wherever we may go in this great big world—the whole world needs to know about Jesus. When Jesus gave this command, he wanted to make sure we understood that the message was for the whole world. Remember John 3:16 states, “For God so loved the world...” He loves all the people of the world the same. He looks on all of us and wants everyone to have a chance to know about the gift he gave—his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. So God doesn’t love one group of people or one nation more than others. He loves the entire world, and he wants them to know the good news of Jesus and his salvation.

Bible Point:
The gospel is
for the world.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. If you have space available, hang a map of the world and then have students help to place pushpins in countries where Zion Assembly has churches.
2. Give every student a copy of the world with countries (if possible).
3. Color the countries that we have reached in Zion Assembly. Count the number of countries we have not reached. Discuss the results.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God say to go into the whole world?
2. What are some challenges we face in spreading the gospel to the world?
3. How do we tell the world about Jesus?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Romans 10:13-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 10:5-7; Acts 1:8; Isaiah 61: 1-3

Lesson Objective: Students should understand that we are commanded to preach and teach the gospel, as Jesus did while on Earth.

Materials: none

Memory Verse: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound” (Isaiah 61:1).

Lesson Summary

Isaiah the prophet wrote of the work that Christ will do when he comes to Earth. In Isaiah 61, we learn that Jesus is the savior that will save people from their sins. He will heal the brokenhearted, bring freedom to those who are bound to the chains of sin, and then set them free. This is what Jesus came to Earth to do for each of us. As disciples of Christ, we are supposed to be like him. We are to continue what he started while he walked on Earth. We are to preach the gospel. What does it mean to preach? The word “preach” actually means to publicly proclaim or teach. We see that in the gospels, Mark wrote “preach,” but Matthew used the word “teach.” This lets us know that the words mean the same. When we are teaching, we are fulfilling the command Jesus gave before he went back to heaven. We are also doing what Jesus said when we “publicly proclaim” or testify about what God has done for us. When you share what Jesus has done for you, telling people that he will do the same for them, then you are fulfilling the Great Commission. God has called preachers and teachers in his church, but he has commanded all of us to tell who Jesus is and what he has done for us. When we do this and others learn about him, we are truly acting as disciples of Christ. We have the Good News of salvation that everyone needs to hear. Let’s go into the whole world and preach the gospel. This should be our purpose as Christians because it’s the job Christ called us to do.

Bible Point:
We Must
Preach the
Gospel.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Ask students to think about what God has done for them.
2. Have them practice testifying in front of the class.
3. If students are old enough, give them a memory verse from this month and ask them to explain what it means.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to “preach?”
2. How do we “preach” the gospel?
3. Why are we supposed to share the Good News with others?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 3:6; Romans 10:13-14; John 12:32

Lesson Objective: Students should understand that the gospel is for everyone.

Materials: poster board/paper, pencil, markers

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

Lesson Summary

When Jesus came to Earth, he did not come for only one group of people. The Jews thought the Messiah would come for them, but God had a bigger plan. Jesus was for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles. He ate with sinners, rescuing people who had done terrible things. He healed lepers that were considered unclean and not allowed to be part of the community. He dined with the rich, but he also took care of the poor. Jesus rebuked the disciples when they tried to keep him from the children. He ministered to women, men, boys, and girls from all walks of life and all nationalities. For this reason, it is no surprise that he commanded us to preach the “gospel to every creature.” This means we take it to everyone—not just to people we like or are like us. We are to share Christ with the poor, the rich, the sinners, and with people of all nations. Everyone is to be told about Jesus. Luke 3:6 says, “And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” When we look at the Word of God, we realize that it is full of examples where Jesus reached out to those no one else wanted to help. Think about your school or town. Think about the kids you see everyday. Some may not dress like you, look like you, or even act like you. Some might even be mean to you and to others. God’s Word says we are to share the gospel with all creatures, or everyone. How do we share with those who are so different from us? How do we share with those who are not kind? Jesus showed love to men and was moved with compassion for the needs of others. Remember, we are to be like Christ, so we must tell everyone the Good News of Jesus!

Bible Point:
The gospel is
for everyone.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students to brainstorm and to create a list of people they know that need to hear about Jesus.
2. Make a list on a poster board in class. Begin to pray for these people.
3. Discuss how students can share the Gospel with those on the list.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Does God want us to share Jesus with only certain people? Explain.
2. How did Jesus set the example for us?
3. Do we share Jesus with people who are different from us? Why?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 2:15-17; Luke 19:1-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that building friendship is a great way to share salvation.

Materials: Poster board and marker

Memory Verse: "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house" (Lu. 19:5).

Lesson Summary

[Note: read the story of Zacchaeus to the students in Luke 19:1-10.] Life is always better when you share it with a friend. Friends like to share gifts, stories, hugs, toys, secrets and many other things. But of all the wonderful things that we could share with others, the best thing that we could share is Jesus. Jesus taught us by his example how to be the best friend that we could ever be. He spent time eating and visiting with those who needed salvation – people like Zacchaeus (Lu. 19:1-10; Mk. 2:15-17). Zacchaeus was a tax collector and considered a bad sinner, but Jesus picked him out of the crowd and wanted to be his friend. He went home with Zacchaeus and spent time talking with him. On that day, Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house" (Lu. 19:9). Friendship is a great way to reach others with salvation. If we truly care about others, then we should take time to visit with them and share Jesus with them. We need to build strong friendships with one another in the Lord. The more we share Jesus with each other, the closer we will become to the Lord and the closer we will become to each other. As we encourage one another in the Lord, we will then have help along the way – someone to stand beside us and support us in our faith. Friendships in Christ have a strong and lasting bond. So remember, when we share Jesus, we share the most wonderful gift. Good friends like to share many things with each other. Best friends share Jesus!

Bible Point:

Be a friend and
share Jesus!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. At the top of a poster board write "Be a Friend." Have the students to make a list of all the ways we can be a friend to others, and write them on the poster board. Help them to think of creative, yet practical ways to be a friend. Hang the poster in the classroom. 2. Act out a modern story of Zacchaeus like it is happening on a school playground. Zach is a new student, an outsider, and nobody likes him. You – a Christian – see him hanging out on the playground. Being a Christian, how can you reach out to Zach and be his friend?

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. In today's story, Jesus stopped and talked with whom?
2. What did the people of Jericho think of Zacchaeus? And why?
3. What did Jesus think of Zacchaeus?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 1:9; Psalms 56:3-4; Isaiah 44:8; Ezekiel 2:7; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:27; Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:7-8

Lesson Objective: We should not be afraid to talk about Jesus to our friends and to people we meet.

Materials: None

Memory Verse: "But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter . . ." (Mark 1:45).

Lesson Summary

[Note: Begin class by reading the story in Mark 1:40-45.] In our story, a leper – a man with a terrible skin disease – came to Jesus for healing. Lepers were unclean and outcasts – nobody wanted to go near them. But Jesus touched this man and cleansed him from leprosy. He was instantly healed. What did this man do after he was healed? He went out and told everyone about all Jesus had done for him. That's what we all should do! We need to be God's workers on Earth and help bring people to the truth. We should not be shy. Sometimes God tells us to talk to a friend, classmate, or even a stranger about Jesus, but we become afraid. We should not fear because God will help us. The hardest part is getting the first word out, but once we do, it will be easier. Even though Jesus expects us to share our faith, many Christians today find it difficult...even scary. Maybe we don't want people to view us as odd or different, but we are actually called to be different. Because we have the Holy Ghost as our constant companion, we should not be afraid. We should never be ashamed to talk about Jesus and about what he has done for us. We all have friends and family who don't know Jesus. We live beside them, go to school with them, and may even go to church with them. Often we just don't know how to bring up the subject. It may feel awkward or too personal. But it doesn't have to be that way. The gospel is already simple. Think about it. Christ died on the cross for our sins. He was buried but then he rose again. We need to believe in him, accept what he did for us on the cross, and turn from all that is wrong. We just need to ask for his forgiveness and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It is just that simple. We do not have to be a preacher or a Sunday school teacher to talk to others about Jesus. We don't even have to be a grown up. Kids can tell others about Jesus. We can tell anyone about Jesus, not just other kids. Wouldn't it be great to lead someone to the Lord? Jesus was not ashamed to die on the cross for our sins, so we should not be ashamed to talk to others about him.

Bible Point:
Talk about
Jesus



Ideas to Illuminate:

Pair up the students. Let them take turns telling each other about Jesus. As their teacher, walk around the room, coach them, and help them learn about being a witness by suggesting things they can say about Jesus. You could give each pair of students a specific scenario to act out, like witnessing to a best friend or to a teammate, or talking to a total stranger. To make it fun, come up with some creative scenarios, like talking to someone about Jesus while riding a rollercoaster or while fishing.

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 10:27–37; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:17

Lesson Objective: Helping people in need is a great way to share the love of Jesus.

Materials: index cards or slips of paper, and a marker

Memory Verse: “And [he] went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him” (Lu. 10:34).

Lesson Summary

In Luke 10:27-37, we read the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus taught about being a neighbor and loving one's neighbor. A Jewish man traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho, but he was robbed and beaten by thieves, and left half dead. Both a priest and a Levite (i.e. Jewish ministers) saw him as they passed by, but neither helped him. Finally, a Samaritan man passed by, had compassion on him, and helped him. He treated his wounds, and cared for him. The Jews and the Samaritans were enemies. But the Samaritan man was a better friend and helped him when his own people refused to lend a helping hand. Clearly, the Samaritan was a true neighbor and showed God's love by caring for his enemy in need. Have you ever needed help with something? Have you ever helped someone else? Everyone at one time or another needs some kind of help. There are so many different ways that we can give our help to others. Did you know that when we help others that we are sharing the love of Jesus? You may think that a kid like yourself could not possibly help someone. Being so young, sometimes you need help yourself. But each of us has something to offer. Even if we don't have a job or our own money, we can always do something to help others. Maybe we can rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Maybe we can help a classmate who is having problems with his schoolwork. We can make a card for a sick person. We can also write a letter to a soldier who is away from home. We can make crafts or bake cookies to raise money for church missions. We can be a friend to someone who doesn't have very many friends. There are so many ways to help someone and to share the love of Jesus at the same time. Jesus always helped those in need. In fact, he commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. This means that if we see someone who needs help and we are able to help, that we should want to do just that. Even if we think that we are unable to help, we can always pray for others. To be a Christian means to be like Christ. He spent his entire life helping and giving to others. He was the greatest example that we could ever have. Jesus rewards us when we help others. He will surely help us if we help others in need. Plus helping others gives us a wonderful feeling. So be ready and willing to help others without expecting anything in return.

Bible Point:

Help
Others



Ideas to Illuminate:

Write various scenarios of someone in need on index cards or on slips of paper; have a student come forward, pick a card, and read it to the class. Then ask the students to explain how they could be a good neighbor and help the person in need. [Note: When we teach children about helping people in need, we also need to caution them about stranger danger.]

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When have you needed someone to give you special help?
2. Have you ever felt like helping someone, but you did not know how to help or did not feel like you could do anything about it?
3. Are you willing to help anyone, even an enemy?
4. What could you do this week to be neighborly and to help someone?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 14:16-23

Lesson Objective: We introduce people to Christ by bringing them to church.

Materials: paper and pencils

Memory Verse: "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Lu. 14:23).

Lesson Summary

In Luke 14:16-23, Jesus told a story about having a great supper; but the people who were invited did not come. They all made excuses and did not show up for the supper. Of course, the man who prepared the supper was so disappointed. What would he do? He sent his servant out into the streets to invite the poor, the lame, and the blind. But there was still room for more guests. So he sent his servant out again to invite anyone and everyone he could find. He wanted his house to be filled. Like this man who made a great supper, God also wants his house to be filled with people. We can help to fill up God's house by inviting people to church. Have you ever been invited to a party? Getting an invitation is exciting! It makes you feel happy that someone wanted to invite you to a special event. People invite other people to programs, movies, games, barbecues, dinner, activities, and birthday parties all the time. It is a very special feeling when you receive an invitation. Perhaps the best invitation that you could ever offer someone is to invite him to join you in Sunday School or church. It's easy to give out invitations to a party. You may not find it as easy to invite someone to church, but it is much more important than any party. We can ask God to give us boldness and the courage to ask others to come to church. If you are a Christian, then you have already received the greatest invitation. You were invited to follow Jesus. Thank God that you accepted that invitation! As a result of what God has done for you through Christ, you should want to share that message of God's love with others. We should want to invite others to church and hope that they will someday accept this great invitation to follow Jesus. Ask yourself, "Who do I know – a friend, neighbor, classmate, family member, or acquaintance?" Ask yourself, "Who is God is putting on my heart to invite to church?" Then just do it! Some people need to be asked more than once. Don't get frustrated or discouraged if they do not accept your invitation at first. Don't give up! Just keep on reaching out and inviting people to church – it's a great way to introduce people to Jesus.

Bible Point:
Invite
people
to church



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have each student to brainstorm and make a personal list of all the people he/she could invite to church. Then have them to circle than names of the people they believe are most likely to come. Encourage them to begin by first inviting the circled names to a specific event at church (e.g. revival, gospel singing, children's event, Christmas play). Encourage them to keep the list and to continue inviting the remaining names as they have opportunity.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did you begin attending church? Did someone invite you or bring you to church?
2. Have you ever invited anyone to church? Was it easy to invite them, or did you find it difficult? Did they accept your invitation and come to church with you?

Faith -N- Focus

Adult Bible Studies

September 2018

“Pneumatology: Spiritual Gifts, Part 2”

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“Pneumatology: Spiritual Gifts, Part 2”

Monthly Summary

In this month of Faith-N-Focus, we continue our study on spiritual gifts. God has placed the gifts of the Spirit in the church to edify the body and enable the ministry and mission of the church. God desires to speak to and through the members of the church. The Holy Spirit anoints and inspires individual members to declare the word of God in order to build up the whole body with words that comfort, direct, and strengthen the people. We can readily hear and receive the word of God with confidence when the gift of discernment is operating in the church, enabling us to know the truth through the Spirit. Moreover, the Holy Ghost speaks by tongues and interpretation of tongues, enhancing divine communication in the church.

The Spirit dynamically works through individual believers to build up the body and to confirm the word of God. Jesus explained that supernatural signs will follow believers, and those signs and wonders will serve to establish and strengthen the proclamation of the truth. However, to keep the church spiritually balanced, and to prevent the church from being overly preoccupied with spiritual demonstrations – signs and wonders – Paul emphasized that the greatest gift of the Spirit within the church is LOVE. The operation of all of the spiritual gifts should be motivated by divine love.

Finally, in cultivating a healthy, balanced spirituality within the church, Paul called attention to proper order in regard to the spiritual gifts. No gift, particularly tongues, should take priority over the word of God, or stand on its own over against the word of God. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of truth. All of the spiritual gifts administered by the Spirit should therefore support the church in its ministry of prophesying the truth.

September 2, 2018

“Prophecy and Discernment”

Main Point

Through the gifts of prophecy and discernment, the church can hear from God freely with confidence and assurance in knowing the truth.

Introduction

In 1 Corinthians 12:10, Paul identified the gift of prophecy and the gift of discerning of spirits. In today’s lesson, a general explanation of these two gifts will be provided, and then the relationship of these gifts to each other will be explained. As we will see, these gifts are essential to the healthy functioning and spiritual balance of the church.

Key Verse

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith” (Ro. 12:6).

Lesson Summary

First, what is the gift of prophecy? Down through the ages, God has spoken by his Spirit through prophets revealing his will for mankind (He. 1:1-2; 2 Pe. 1:21). Although the *office* of prophet is no longer needed since the foundation of the church has been laid (Ep. 2:20; 1 Co. 3:10), God nevertheless speaks through “prophets” today. We typically call them “preachers.” Moreover, though God has finished speaking in as far as the Holy Scriptures are complete, he continues to speak through individuals by his Spirit to the church today through the gift of prophecy (Ro. 12:6). The Holy Ghost anoints individual believers to speak God’s word with power and authority (1 Co. 2:4-5; 1 Th. 1:5). In the gift of prophecy, believers declare the Word and will of God with the unction of the Holy Ghost (Ac. 2:18; Re. 19:10; Ac. 21:10-11). On the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke by the gift of prophecy when he “lifted up his voice” and preached the baptism with the Holy Ghost to the multitude: declaring their experience to be the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Ac. 2:12-18). The gift of prophecy continues to work in this same manner – the Spirit clarifying and declaring the mind of God in the church. Second, what is the gift of discernment? To discern means to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil, truth and error. Discernment therefore requires righteous and spiritual judgment in the church (1 Co. 2:15; 5:12). The church has the responsibility of both “**proving** what is acceptable unto the Lord” (Ep. 5:10) and **reproving** “the unfruitful works of darkness” (v. 11). We must be able to prove the right and

reprove the wrong. The gift of discerning of spirits is the divine ability to distinguish the nature of spirits, whether they are of God or not (1 Jn. 4:1). Of course, the one exercising this gift must himself know the truth and word of God, for by knowing the Spirit of Truth, one recognizes spirits of error. Reasonably then, the gift of discernment has as much to do with discerning truth as discerning error (1 Jn. 2:21; 4:5-6). Third, what is the relationship between the gifts of prophecy and discernment? The gift of prophecy is the divine enablement to speak the words of God by the special inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It functions to provide divine understanding and guidance for the ministry and mission of the church. God speaks by this gift of the Spirit through individual members to direct the course of the church. The potential danger regarding the gift of prophecy is when someone speaks in error and leads the church contrary to God's will. The apostle Peter decisively warned against false teachers who follow after greed and the lust of the flesh, being "presumptuous" and "self-willed" (2 Pe. 2:1, 3, 10). Likewise, the apostle John implored the faithful to "try" (test, prove) the spirits "because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1). Hence, the gift of discerning of spirits is given to keep the church from such error. On this note, we should keep in mind that the Spirit of prophecy is also the Spirit of discernment. Therefore, the church should not be fearful of the gift of prophecy because the same Spirit has also given to the church the gift of discernment (1 Co. 12:4). These two spiritual gifts provide the necessary check and balance within the church. The church should be neither spiritually gullible nor suspicious. Instead, we should give the Spirit complete liberty to speak in the church (1 Th. 5:19-20), because we are enabled to discern fully the true Spirit of the Lord (v. 21).

Scripture Study

The gift of prophecy – He. 1:1-2; 2 Pe. 1:21; Ro. 12:6; 1 Co. 2:4-5; 1 Th. 1:5; Ac. 2:12-18; Re. 19:10; Ac. 21:10-11

The gift of discernment – 1 Co. 2:15; 5:12; Ep. 5:10-11; 1 Jn. 2:21; 4:1, 5-6

Balance in the church – 2 Pe. 2:1, 3, 10; 1 Jn. 4:1; 1 Co. 12:4; 1 Th. 5:19-21

Conclusion

Clearly, the gifts of prophecy and discernment should operate in the church for the edification of the whole body. When the word of the Lord goes forth with the inspiration and power of the Spirit by the gift of prophecy, and the saints exercise the gift of discernment in their spiritual experience, the church can then hear from God freely with the confidence and assurance of knowing the truth.

September 9, 2018

“Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues”

Main Point

Tongues and interpretation of tongues are given by the Spirit to enhance divine communication in the church.

Introduction

Tongues refer to spoken language. When thinking of languages, several typically come to one’s mind. But literally thousands of languages are actually spoken in the world today. Some languages, like English, are widely international and intercultural, and extend worldwide geographically, while other languages like Telugu in India are more limited to an ethnicity or people group. Spoken languages are complex, yet basic and elemental to human interaction and communication (Ge. 11:1-9). Thus, the ministry of the church centers on the exercise of language among us. In today’s lesson, we will see how the Spirit supernaturally uses language to speak through us and to us in order to edify the church.

Key Verse

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues” (1 Co. 12:10).

Lesson Summary

Tongues and interpretation of tongues have to do with divine communication: our communicating with God and his communicating with us (1 Co. 12:10). Most of the time, when we pray we talk to God in our own native tongue or in a language we already know and speak. Because we who speak and those who hear us already know the language, everyone understands and benefits from what is communicated in the church. But at times, the Holy Ghost prays through us supernaturally in “unknown” tongues which we do not know and cannot speak by our own ability; for we speak directly to God in the Spirit in mysteries and thus are individually edified by the Spirit in a special way (1 Co. 14:2, 4, 14). All Spirit-baptized believers speak with “unknown” tongues because tongues-speech is the evidence of the baptism with the Holy Ghost (Ac. 2:4; 10:44, 46; 19:6). There is also the gifts of divers (that is, diverse or different) tongues and interpretation of tongues, which the Spirit may exercise and demonstrate in the church as he wills (1 Co. 12:10). Through the gift of diverse tongues, the Holy Ghost can speak through Spirit-baptized believers in languages which are actually known and understood. Although the individual who speaks has no understanding of what is spoken, someone in the gathering of the saints may fully comprehend the language because it is his own native

tongue (or a language he understands). For example, all of the saints who are gathered together may speak Spanish, except for a few who speak Swahili and cannot understand the worship. The Holy Ghost can speak Swahili through one of the Spanish-speaking members in order to edify the whole body. We find an example of this spiritual gift on the day of Pentecost when every man heard the wonderful works of God in his own language (Ac. 2:4-11). When the Holy Ghost fell on the saints and they spoke with other tongues, the nearby crowd was ethnically diverse because the Jews from many nations had traveled to Jerusalem for the feast. The gift of diverse tongues operating through individual believers enabled the onlookers to understand what was being spoken by the Spirit (v. 11). Of course, this manifestation of the Spirit served as a powerful witness for Jesus Christ (Ac. 2:38-39; Jn. 15:26). Nevertheless, the majority of the times when we speak in tongues, as evidenced by Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 14, we speak in "unknown" tongues (that is, no one but God understands what we are saying). Therefore, we primarily speak to God in mysteries when we speak in tongues. Unless the Spirit is speaking by the gift of diverse tongues to someone who already understands the spoken language, the only other way we can understand the tongues is by the interpretation of the Spirit. God has given the gift of interpretation of tongues in order to provide understanding for the edification of the whole church (1 Co. 14:5-14). Paul instructed the church to pray for the operation of the gift of interpretation (v. 13). When thinking about tongues and interpretation of tongues, we should keep in mind that the Spirit is not limited by any language for God understands and speaks all languages. Thus, that which God speaks by the Spirit, he can also interpret by the Spirit. Yet when no interpretation is given by the Spirit, the individual believer should be quiet in the church (the *ekklesia*) and speak "to himself, and to God" (vv. 27-28).

Scripture Study

Tongues – 1 Co. 14:2, 4, 14; Ac. 2:4; 10:44, 46; 19:6

Diverse tongues – Ac. 2:4-11, 38-39; Jn. 15:26

Interpretation of tongues – 1 Co. 14:5-14, 27-28

Conclusion

The apostle Paul's emphasis on spiritual gifts is the edification of the body. Speaking in tongues edifies individual believers. The gift of diverse tongues edifies those who understand the spoken language. The interpretation of tongues edifies the whole body. How does Paul sum up his teaching on tongues and interpretation of tongues? "Forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Co. 14:39-40).

September 16, 2018

“Signs Following Believers”

Main Point

Miraculous signs of the Spirit serve to confirm the word of God.

Introduction

Signs are an important means of communication. They convey thought, ideas, principles, direction, and so on. The significance of any sign is not the sign itself, but the idea it communicates and represents. For example, the purpose of a street sign is not its cosmetic appearance, but rather to identify a location. Therefore, an attractive sign bearing the wrong street information has no value and is confusing. In fact, it may even cause you to go in the wrong direction. In today’s lesson, we will see the importance of “true” signs following believers in the mission and ministry of the church.

Key Verse

“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen” (Mk. 16:20).

Lesson Summary

Miraculous signs and wonders accompanied Jesus’ earthly ministry. The Spirit worked all kinds of miraculous signs through him, signs which confirmed that he was indeed the Christ, the Son of God, the Word made flesh (Jn. 1:1, 14, 32-34; 14:9-11; Mt. 11:1-6; Lu. 4:18-19). Jesus taught that his disciples would continue in this same ministry of miraculous (supernatural) signs through the power of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost (the Comforter, the Spirit of truth) would indwell and enable believers to do mighty works in Jesus’ name, “that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (Jn. 14:12-17). After Christ’s resurrection and before his ascension, he instructed the church regarding signs following believers, providing a representative list of miraculous wonders. Believers will cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, be protected if they drink something deadly, and lay hands on the sick and heal them (Mk. 16:14-19). Indeed, the Holy Ghost manifested great wonders through the ministry of the New Testament church. For example, Peter did so many signs among the people that they brought their sick into the streets, hoping his shadow would fall on them when he

passed (Ac. 5:12-16). Also, Paul sent handkerchiefs or aprons (“prayer cloths”) to the diseased and spiritually tormented, and they were healed and delivered (Ac. 19:11-12; see also 28:1-10). Such mighty works of the Holy Ghost characterized the New Testament church. Nevertheless, while Jesus taught about miraculous signs and wonders that follow believers, he also warned in the last days of deception and false prophets with their “great signs and wonders” (Mt. 24:4, 11, 24). Understanding that “signs” and “lying wonders” can be deceptive (2 Th. 2:8-11; Re. 13:11-16), how then should we think about miraculous signs in the mission and ministry of the church? A miraculous sign must communicate (corroborate, confirm) truth in order to be a true sign. Miraculous signs follow believers, but they actually serve to confirm the preached word, rather than the messenger himself (Mk. 16:20). Therefore, when we witness a manifestation of the Spirit, a supernatural work of God, our focus should not be on the messenger, per se, but rather on the Word of God, for signs serve to confirm the Word, Jesus Christ (Ac. 4:29-30; 6:7-8; 8:4-7, 12-13). Moreover, only when the preached word aligns with the truth of God’s Word should we accept any accompanying signs as a true work of God. Christians who automatically accept outward manifestations as a confirmation of the messenger place themselves at a great risk for deception. By keeping our focus on the Word and the Spirit, not the signs or the messenger, we avoid this critical error.

Scripture Study

Jesus and miraculous signs – Jn. 1:1, 14, 32-34; 14:9-17; Mt. 11:1-6; Lu. 4:18-19; Mk. 16:14-19

The New Testament church and signs – Ac. 5:12-16; 19:11-12; 28:1-10

Lying wonders – Mt. 24:4, 11, 24; 2 Th. 2:8-11; Re. 13:11-16

Signs confirm the Word – Mk. 16:20; Ac. 4:29-30; 6:7-8; 8:4-7, 12-13

Conclusion

Although signs and wonders serve an important function in the witness of the church in these last days, we should not be overly preoccupied with miraculous signs, but rather focused on proclaiming the truth of God’s Word in the power of the Spirit. As we declare the truth with God’s anointing and power, the Spirit will confirm the Word with signs following, as needed.

September 23, 2018

“A More Excellent Way”

Main Point

The Holy Spirit’s most excellent gift is love.

Introduction

In Zion Assembly, we want to be our very best – we want to excel in all that we endeavor to do for Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are vital when striving for excellence because these gifts enable us to minister beyond our own human capabilities. While all of us have certain God-given gifts and abilities, the gifts of the Spirit take us beyond ourselves and limitations, giving us supernatural ability to minister to others and build up the body of Christ. In today’s lesson, we will consider the Spirit’s most excellent gift.

Key Verse

“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way” (1 Co. 12:31).

Lesson Summary

The spiritual gifts are operated by the Holy Ghost through individual members of the church in order to build up and strengthen the whole body of Christ. Although the nine spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 are extremely important to the spiritual health of the church and to the fulfillment of the mission of the church, the apostle Paul showed us “a more excellent way.” He instructed the saints to “covet earnestly the best gifts,” but emphasized the superior gift of God’s Spirit – LOVE. Paul explained that the love that God demonstrated toward us in Jesus Christ is being poured out in our hearts by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Ro. 5:5, 8). From the moment we are gloriously saved (that is, justified and regenerated by the Holy Spirit) we experience God’s great love in our hearts. When we are sanctified by the same Holy Spirit, we are immersed deeper into the love of God in Christ. When we are baptized with the same Holy Ghost, we are immersed even deeper into the love of God in Christ. Even as we are refilled with the Holy Ghost, again and again, we continue to plunge into the greater depths of God’s love in Christ. In fact, the immeasurable love of God can be known only in Christ through the inner-working of the Holy Spirit (Ep. 3:16-19). Thus, every Spirit-filled believer possesses the divine enablement to go “deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus.” Indeed, no other

gift of God furthers the mission of the church and builds up the body of Christ like the love of God. Paul described divine love as the superior gift in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. He emphasized love above speaking in tongues. The ability to speak in diverse tongues, even in angelic, heavenly languages, has no value whatsoever without divine love. Such tongues are nothing more than a loud, reverberating noise, like a gong (v. 1). The apostle also elevated love above other gifts like prophecy and faith. Although we might consider someone with deep prophetic revelations and supernatural manifestations of faith to be highly important, still such an individual is nothing without love (v. 2). Moreover, divine love is greater than any charitable and sacrificial work that we do. Unless God's love abides in the believer through the indwelling Spirit, even the most virtuous acts provide no eternal benefits (v. 3). Essentially, Paul placed divine love above the spiritual gifts, because these gifts are meaningless apart from God's love. Furthermore, the apostle clarified the qualities of divine love. The love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Greek: *agape*) is distinctly different from mankind's love (Greek: *phileo*), because man's love can be motivated by fleshly, sinful passions and desires. Such worldly, fleshly love is inferior, and may even be hypocritical, impure, self-centered, and subject to change (Ro. 12:9-10). When Paul described the last days, he explained that people will be "lovers of their own selves" (*philautoi*), "covetous" (*philarguroi*, those who love money), "without natural affection" (loveless, perverted affections), "despisers of those that are good" (*aphilagathoi*, those who do not love the good), "lovers of pleasures [*philedonoi*] more than lovers of God [*philotheoi*]" (2 Ti. 3:1-4). On the contrary, the love of God is steadfast and true, devoted, pure, selfless, and unailing (1 Co. 13:4-8).

Scripture Study

A more excellent way – 1 Co. 12:31; Ro. 5:5, 8; Ep. 3:16-19

Love: The superior gift – 1 Co. 13:1-3

The qualities of divine love – Ro. 12:9-10; 2 Ti. 3:1-4; 1 Co. 13:4-8

Conclusion

A well-noted hymn of the church reads, "O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure, the saints' and angels' song." Love is a more excellent way – the superior gift of the Spirit excelling all others. Let every member of the church desire to excel in spiritual gifts, and above all, seek to excel in love.

September 30, 2018

“Prophecy”

Main Point

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of truth. Spiritual gifts should therefore support the church in prophesying the truth.

Introduction

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Truth. His work in part is to teach the truth, testify of Christ, and guide into all truth (Jn. 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13). The many manifestations of the Spirit are given to comfort the believer and confirm the word of God, the truth. In today’s lesson, reflecting on the gifts of the Spirit, we will consider the priority of the spoken word of God.

Key Verse

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy” (1 Co. 14:1).

Lesson Summary

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, the apostle Paul taught about spiritual gifts, encouraging the saints to desire them (v. 31), because the gifts of the Spirit edify and build up the body of Christ. The gifts are necessary for the health of the church. Nevertheless, in chapter thirteen he went on to explain that spiritual gifts in the absence of divine love prove to be meaningless and profitless for the church (vv. 1-3). Paul then urged the church to make love its first priority, rather than spiritual gifts (1 Co. 13:13; 14:1). Nevertheless, he again exhorted the saints to desire spiritual gifts but then gave greater emphasis to prophesying (14:1). In other words, Paul was attempting to establish divine order in the church in regard to the operation of spiritual gifts. We must be yielded to the Holy Ghost in order to be used by God, but we, as instruments of the Spirit, are not out of control in the exercise of spiritual gifts. The Spirit desires order in the church; otherwise, Paul would not have taught order (1 Co. 14:39-40). Specifically, Paul contrasted prophesying with speaking in tongues (vv. 1-5). He considered both prophesying and speaking in unknown tongues to be divinely inspired communication. In both cases, God is speaking through individual members of the body. However, Paul gave the greater importance to the one who prophesies, simply because his words are spoken with understanding, whereas speaking in tongues remains a mystery without an interpretation (vv. 2, 5). Speaking in tongues edifies the one who speaks, but prophesying edifies all who hear. Speaking in tongues spiritually builds up the

individual believer, but prophesying builds up the whole church (vv. 3-4). Clearly, Paul wanted the saints to have the freedom to speak in tongues when they gathered together, but his greater desire was that they prophesy in the church (vv. 5, 18-19), because the spiritual goal in our gathering together as one body is the edification of the whole church. Personal spirituality and communion with God are expressed in deep and mysterious ways, even humanly inexpressible ways, and thus the need for speaking in tongues. Paul declared, “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all” (v. 18). But our corporate spirituality in the church must attain a practical, applicable, and meaningful expression in order to benefit the whole body. In other words, individuals may speak in tongues, weep and groan in the Spirit, and shout and rejoice with joy unspeakable, and while this is spiritually edifying for the individuals who are so exercised of the Spirit, yet if such expressions do not produce something concrete, tangible, and beneficial for the whole church, many believers will not receive what they need in order to thrive spiritually. Paul explained it thus, that not only people, but inanimate things have sound. For example, instruments have distinct sounds by which they are identified. If their sounds have no distinction, then they cannot be identified for particular purposes, as when an alarm is sounded. In the same way, when we speak in the church, we must speak in distinct ways that communicate something concrete and understandable. Otherwise, people depart from the house of God spiritually unfulfilled (vv. 6-11). Therefore, when addressing spirituality in the church, Paul’s focus was not on tongues, but rather on the spoken word of God. When the Word is declared among the saints with the inspiration and anointing of the Spirit (that is, when we prophesy), the church is greatly strengthened in the will and mind of Christ. Prophesying edifies, exhorts, and comforts the church when it is done decently and orderly (vv. 3, 29-33).

Scripture Study

Divine order in the church – 1 Co. 12:31; 13:13; 14:1, 39-40

Prophesying rather than tongues – 1 Co. 14:1-5, 18-19

The spoken word of God – 1 Co. 14:3, 6-11, 29-33

Conclusion

Believers prophesy in various ways, such as in preaching, teaching, witnessing, testimonials, praise, and prayer. Moreover, many powerful messages from the Lord have been given from the pew (members), as well as the pulpit (ministers). When members of the body are yielded to the Holy Ghost, he will inspire them to declare the word of God in many wonderful ways in order to establish the church in the truth.

Faith-N-Focus : *E-quip Your Faith*

Bible Study Curriculum *"Justification"*

Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

Introduction “Why Justification?”

The salvific work of grace encompasses several interrelated aspects of our salvation. When sinners are convicted by the Holy Ghost and repent of sin, they are spiritually prepared to be justified by the grace of God (Ro. 3:24). While justification is a big word, its basic meaning resides in a much smaller word, **JUST**. The essential meaning of just is “right.” Through justification, individuals who repent of their sins are made right before God. This lesson will explain why justification is a necessary part of salvation.

Key Verse

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Ro. 3:19).

Lesson Summary

Why is our justification necessary for our salvation? How does justification fit into the order of salvation? What is the importance of justification in the life of the believer? The law of God confirms that the whole world is guilty before God through disobedience (Ro. 3:19). In Romans chapter two, Paul renders humanity inexcusable in its sinful practices (v. 1). He develops the inescapable reality of God’s righteous judgment against sin (vv. 2-6; 2 Pe. 2:9). Paul declares “indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil” (vv. 8-9). Ultimately, he places all of humanity in the same standing before God, quoting from the psalmist David, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one” (Ro. 3:10). The apostle Peter concurs with Paul’s understanding of humanity’s judgment when he speaks of the judgment of the unjust who are reserved for punishment (2 Pe. 2:9). Justification is God’s remedy for humanity’s guilt. Because we have committed sin, we stand condemned in the sight of God, and our standing must be made right or just before him. In Romans 4, Paul specifically explains how we are made right before God. We are not right because of “works of righteousness which we have done,” but rather God imputes righteousness to us (vv. 6, 11, 22-24). To impute means to count (vv. 3, 5). Though we were not righteous, righteousness is now counted toward us by God. Therefore, in Christ, righteousness is not something to be worked for, but it is imputed to those who believe in Jesus Christ. In other words, God declares us righteous before him without works (Ro. 4:6). Nevertheless, he justifies us in order to bring forth good works in and through us (Ep. 2:8-10).

Scripture Study

God’ righteous judgment against humanity’s sin – Ro. 2:1-12

Justification is imputed righteousness – Ro. 4:5-8, 20-25; Ps. 32:1-2

Conclusion

Reasonably, one cannot be made righteous before God without first experiencing conviction by the Holy Ghost. Why? Conviction of sin is necessary because justification presupposes the knowledge and repentance of sin. Clearly, one cannot be made righteous while continuing to live unjustly (Ga. 2:17-18). This being the case, conviction and repentance are concurrent with justification. Quoting from the *Abstract of Faith* on page four, “Justification is the state of being void of offense toward God” (see Ac. 24:16). Thus, a true convert can never justifiably live in sin.

Faith-N-Focus : *E-quip Your Faith*

Bible Study Curriculum

"Justification"

Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

“The Basis of Justification”

Introduction

How is justification made possible? What is the basis of our righteousness before God? Paul declares, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Ro. 5:19). Through Adam’s disobedience, all are made sinners, but through Christ’s obedience, believers are made righteous. What obedience is Paul talking about? Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, saying, “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Ph. 2:8). In this lesson, let us consider what the death of Christ accomplished on our behalf.

Key Verse

“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Ro. 5:9).

Lesson Summary

Although Jesus’ disciples understood that he came to bring salvation, they could not fathom that his death would be a necessity for our salvation (Mt. 26:51-54; Jn. 18:10-11). His sufferings and death were predicted by the prophets (Is. 53). As the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world, his death was evident through the type and shadow of the sacrificial system under the Old Covenant. Even Jesus himself foretold his suffering and death (Lu. 9:22). Yet, God’s purpose in the Lord of glory was hidden from the princes of this world (1 Co. 2:8). When Jesus kept the Passover with his disciples, he instituted the Lord’s Supper. He symbolized and memorialized the significance of his death through this observance, identifying the bread with his body and the cup (juice) with his blood. Jesus said, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Mt. 26:26-28). Being superior to the sacrificial practices of the Old Covenant, in Hebrews nine the Bible explains how the single sacrifice of Jesus Christ with the shedding of his blood has cleansed us from sin and unrighteousness. Moreover, the apostle Paul explains our justification by the blood of Christ as a propitiatory sacrifice. Jesus’ blood satisfies God’s righteous judgment against humanity’s sinful deeds (Ro. 3:23-26). Being justified by his blood, believers are saved from God’s wrath and judgment against sin (Ro. 5:9). John explains the blood of Christ as the basis of our justification, saying, “the blood . . . cleanseth us from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7). Thus, we see how God is both just and the justifier of all believers who repent, confessing their sins (Ro. 3:26, 1 Jn. 1:9). Through the precious blood of Jesus Christ, we truly are made righteous before God (1 Pe. 1:19; Re. 7:9-17; 19:6-8).

Scripture Study

The shedding of blood – Mt. 26:26-28; He. 9:7-14, 22-26

Justified by the blood – Ro. 3:23-26; 5:9; 1 Jn. 1:7

Conclusion

The Bible offers no substitute for the blood of Christ. The righteousness of the saints is made possible only through faith in his shed blood. His blood is the basis of God’s plan of salvation from the foundation of the world (Re. 13:8). For this reason, the blood and the preaching of the cross is the central message and theme of the church of God (1 Co. 2:2). To remove the blood from our message or even to minimize its importance is to deny the source and hope of our salvation!

Faith-N-Focus : *E-quip Your Faith*

Bible Study Curriculum

"Justification"

Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

Introduction

“Justified by Faith”

In Romans 4:20-22, Paul speaks of Abraham, saying, “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.” As we have already studied, justification can be defined as being made righteous before God. By what means was Abraham made righteous? Abraham’s faith was counted toward him for righteousness. In other words, Abraham was justified by faith. Let us examine justification by faith.

Key Verse

“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith” (Ga. 3:11).

Lesson Summary

We are the spiritual children of Abraham. Abraham was justified by faith before the law was given by God. His justification came not by keeping the law but rather by placing his faith in the Word of God (Ro. 3:20-23). Abraham believed that God would deliver on his promise (Ro. 4:21). Because he believed God, the Lord counted his faith in him for righteousness. Paul uses Abraham’s righteousness by faith to illustrate our justification by faith (Ga. 3:6-11). He quotes from the prophet Habakkuk, saying, “The just shall live by faith” (Hab. 2:4). Paul teaches faith unto righteousness as the foundational principle of the gospel of salvation (Ro. 1:16-17). Abraham was justified righteous before God without the works of the law. That is, Abraham had done nothing meritorious other than to believe the Word of God when his faith was counted to him for righteousness. Justification says, “We cannot work our way to heaven.” Nevertheless, how is our faith established or validated as the real thing? The doctrine of justification insists that we are not made righteous by works, but by continuing in the faith of Jesus Christ (Ga. 2:16-17). Though righteousness comes by faith and not by the works of the law, we should understand that righteousness by faith always produces obedience. Faith and obedience go hand-in-hand. Our faith in Christ unto righteousness is only made perfect or complete through righteous works (Ja. 2:22-24). The Hebrew writer says, “By faith Abraham, when he was called . . . obeyed” (He. 11:8). In other words, we know Abraham believed the Word of God because he obeyed the Word. True faith in Jesus Christ is faithful to God’s Word; but unbelief produces disobedience (He. 3:12-14). For this reason, we must “continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel” (Col. 1:21-23).

Scripture Study

Justified by faith – Ga. 3:6-11; Ro. 1:16-17; Hab. 2:4; Ro. 3:20-23;
Continue in the faith of Christ – Ga. 2:16-17; Col. 1:21-23; He. 3:12-14

Conclusion

Certainly, we are made righteous by faith. Moreover, our justification depends on an ongoing relationship with faith in Jesus Christ. Those who are justified will continue in the faith. While works cannot save us, true faith in Jesus Christ works righteousness. Like faithful Abraham, the just who live by faith will be faithful and obedient to God’s Word!

Faith-N-Focus : *E-quip Your Faith*

Bible Study Curriculum *"Justification"*

Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

“The Results of Justification”

Introduction

Justification is a necessary part of our salvation because of past sins we have committed. We are guilty before God, and therefore, we must be justified or made right in the sight of God. Our justification is made possible through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ: “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 Jn. 2:2). Through faith in Christ’s atoning sacrifice, we are made righteous. Justification accomplishes two definite results in the believer: 1) pardon from past sins committed, and 2) peace with God (reconciliation).

Key Verse

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Is. 53:5).

Lesson Summary

Justification defines God’s merciful act of forgiving (pardoning) a sinner who repents, confessing his/her sin. (Ps. 32:1-5, 103:8-13; Is. 55:7). In justification, God does not excuse sin or overlook it; rather past sins are pardoned. For Christ’s sake, the sins of those who repent are forgiven by God. In Isaiah fifty-three, the prophet describes Jesus Christ as the sacrificial offering for sins. The language of Isaiah depicts Christ as the sin-bearer, taking away transgressions and iniquities (vv. 4-6, 10-12). Through faith in his blood sacrifice, our sins are forgiven (Ep. 1:7; Col. 1:14). The extent of our forgiveness is a full pardon: “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:12). When the Lord forgives, he does not call to remembrance our past sins (Jer. 31:33-34, He. 10:17-19). Moreover, the absolution of sin and guilt produces peace with God through Jesus Christ (Ro. 5:1-2). Faith and imputed righteousness yields peace with God (Is. 32:17). In Isaiah 59:2, the prophet cries, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” Sin causes a separation between God and humanity. When walking in sin we are enemies of God, but through faith in Jesus Christ we are reconciled to him – we are brought into fellowship (a relationship of peace) with God (Ro. 5:1, 9-10; 2 Co. 5:19-21; Ep. 2:12-17; Col. 1:20-21). Briefly, in the experience of justification, when repentant sinners place their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, God imputes righteousness to them, forgiving their sins (pardon) and reconciling them to himself (peace). This experience in the believer is the flip-side of regeneration or the new birth. Regeneration will be the theme for our next study.

Scripture Study

Pardon from past sins – Is. 53:4-6, 10-12; Ep. 1:7; Col. 1:14; He. 10:17-19

Peace with God – Is. 32:17; Ro. 5:1-2, 9-10; 2 Co. 5:19-21; Ep. 2:12-17; Col. 1:20-21

Conclusion

By now, the student should understand that justification is more than a judicial act of God in clearing the guilty. Rather, God actually forgives our past sins and removes our guilt in order to reconcile us to himself. Justification restores a right relationship with God. But our right standing before God depends on continued fellowship with him through walking (abiding, living) in the light of God’s Word (1 Jn. 1:5-7)!

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Deuteronomy 31:8; Ephesians 1:3-4; John 3:16

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that God keeps his promises.

Materials: kick ball or soccer ball

Memory Verse: "The righteous cry, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

Lesson Summary

God's people fell into a continuous cycle of abandoning him, being punished by God, becoming slaves of the enemy, crying out to God, and God delivering them. Because of this, Israel had been in bondage to the Philistines for 40 years. However, God had a plan to deliver his people. In spite of their behavior, God remained faithful and sent another judge to save them in their time of crisis. One day an angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Manoah and his wife. The angel promised they would have a son named Samson, and he would rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. But Samson would not be like other people. He would be a Nazarite, even from his mother's womb. A Nazarite was set apart for God's service. As long as he was a Nazarite, he could never cut his hair! So before he was even born, God set him apart to do his work. God kept his promise to Manoah and his wife. God gave them a son. However, this was more than just a promise of a son. Samson was the promise that would bring deliverance to God's people. God is faithful and knows how to take care of his children. Even though the Israelites turned their back on God, when they cried out to him and repented of their sins, he was faithful to answer their prayers. This is also true for us today. God sent his only begotten Son to rescue us from sin. Let's believe God's promises!

Bible Point:
Believe God's
Promises



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the children form a big circle. Place a ball in the center and have each child kick the ball to another student while shouting out a promise of God. It may be helpful to discuss promises listed in the bible before beginning the game.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the Israelites spend 40 years in bondage to the Philistines?
2. What was God's plan to deliver Israel?
3. What was the name of the deliverer God promised to Israel?

Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 18:2; Psalm 3:3

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God is our strength and help in times of trouble.

Materials: paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Memory Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Lesson Summary

Last week we learned about God's plan to deliver Israel from the Philistines through the birth of Samson. Samson grew and became very strong and favored by God. One day a lion tried to attack him, but he killed the lion with his bare hands! That's a strength that can only come from God. The Philistines feared Samson. Against his parents' wishes, Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman. Samson told his father, "Get her for me for she is right in my eyes." While at his wedding, he challenged the Philistine men with this riddle, "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." He made a promise to give the men 30 pieces of fine linen and 30 pieces of clothing if they could guess the answer to his riddle. But if not, then they would give these things to him. When the men couldn't figure out the answer, they tricked Samson into telling the answer to his wife. This made Samson really mad. The spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he mightily slew 30 Philistine men, took their garments, and gave them to the men who explained the riddle. This was just the beginning of the destruction of the Philistine army! Although Samson married a woman who was not of God's people and she betrayed him, God still had a plan to use Samson to bring deliverance to Israel. God's love for his people is greater than we could ever understand. Just as Samson returned to his father's home feeling betrayed and angry, we have a father we can go to in times of trouble and when we are feeling alone. There is help and strength for us in God. Even when we make mistakes, God still desires to accomplish his plan through our lives. Let's look to Jesus for the strength we need.

Bible Point:
God Is Our
Strength



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the children to list or draw a picture of the different times God has taken care of them or helped them in a difficult situation.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. How did the young men find out the answer to the riddle?
2. What was the riddle?
3. Why do you think Samson went to his father's house?
4. Where can we go when we are in trouble and need help?

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Romans 12:17-21; Matthew 5:38-39; Proverbs 24:29; Mark 11:25

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that revenge has no place in the life of a Christian.

Materials: paper, pencils, crayons

Memory Verse: "See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

Lesson Summary

After spending some time at his father's home, Samson decided to return to the place where his wife lived. He hoped to reunite with his wife, but when he arrived his father-in-law would not allow him to see her. She had a new husband now – a Philistine husband. Samson became angry and desired revenge! He found 300 foxes, and tied them together by their tails putting a firebrand (torch) between every two foxes. He released these foxes into the Philistine's crops! The crops were soon to be harvested and now they were gone. This made the Philistines really mad! They killed Samson's wife and her family, and they sought to kill Samson as well. Samson said, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease." Even though Samson sought revenge on the Philistines, he brought revenge to his wife and her family as well. Revenge is never the answer for a Christian. Getting even is not a way to solve a problem. Wouldn't it be easier to just turn it over to God and let him be the Judge? When we allow God to be the Judge, we can be sure that it will work out according to his plan. The next time someone wrongs you, pray for him, and allow God to work out all the rest. God is our Judge.

Bible Point:
God Is
Our Judge.



Ideas to Illuminate:

At the beginning of the class, give the children a piece of paper and have them to write the word "Revenge" on it. Have them to write scenarios in which they feel they would be tempted to seek revenge (someone hits them, says mean things to them, or steals from them, and so on). At the end of class discuss possible solutions.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to get revenge?
2. What did Samson do to get revenge on the Philistines?
3. How does God feel about revenge?
4. What should we do instead?

Zion Assembly Church of God – Sunday School Services

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:31-32; 7:7-8; John 4:14; Romans 10:13

Lesson Objective: The students will learn that God is our provider.

Materials: construction paper, crayons, makers, pencils, scissors, stapler, tape, and glue

Memory Verse: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Lesson Summary

Samson had just slaughtered a great number of the Philistine army. Not long after finding a place to rest near Judah, he was once again faced with the threat of the Philistine army. Fearing what may happen to them, the men of Judah desired to capture Samson and bring him to the Philistines. Samson did not fear the Philistine people, he willingly agreed to be bound and taken captive. The Philistine people began to shout in victory when Samson was brought to them. They thought they had finally captured the one that had brought so much destruction to them. However, once again, God had a different plan. The Spirit of God came mightily upon Samson! The cords and bands that bound him broke. With the help of the Lord and a jawbone of a donkey, Samson slew 1000 men. Wow! Tired and thirsty from the battle, Samson cried out to God for something to drink. God provided water for him. Samson was refreshed and revived in his spirit. We have an enemy of our soul. Sometimes, we get tired and weary from our battles. However, when we call upon the name of the Lord, he is always there to provide refreshing for our souls. Just as he provided a jawbone and water for Samson, he will supply all of our needs as well.

**Bible Point:
God will
provide.**



Ideas to Illuminate

Cut several colored strips of construction paper. Have the children write prayer request or needs they have on the strips. Using a stapler or tape, form the strips into circles linking them to form a chain. Have the class pray for each need. The children can pick one link each week to pray about. Remind the children that God is able to supply all their needs!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did Samson use to kill the Philistines?
2. How many did he kill?
3. How did God strengthen Samson at the end of the lesson (story)?

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Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 3:5; James 4:7; Ephesians 6:11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn the importance of resisting the enemy.

Materials: construction paper, pencil, colored markers, glue, scissors

Memory Verse: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Lesson Summary

We learned from the lesson on Samson's birth that he was to be a Nazarite all the days of his life. God gave him great strength and used him to bring deliverance to his people. But he was never to cut his hair, or his strength would leave him. For 20 years, he was the judge for God's people when the Philistines were in power. No one knew where Samson's strength came from except Samson. Eventually he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines desired to find a way to defeat Samson. They had to find out where his strength came from. So they promised to pay Delilah a large amount of money to get the answers. Although Samson avoided telling her at first, eventually he gave in to her evil desires and told her everything. While Samson was fast asleep, Delilah called for a man to come and cut Samson's hair. When he awoke, his strength was gone. He was no longer able to withstand the enemy. The Philistines blinded him, put him in chains, and worked him like an animal. But his hair began to grow back! Then the Philistines made a great sacrifice to their false god, and they called for Samson to make fun of him before the people. Samson knew that his only help was God. He repented and asked God to restore his strength. God did as Samson asked. God allowed Samson to regain his strength for one more victory over the Philistines. He destroyed more Philistines that one day than in all his battles. Even though Samson made a terrible mistake, God was faithful when he repented, and God restored what the enemy had stolen. Let's learn from Samson's mistake. We should pray that God will help us to resist the temptations that we face. We can be victorious through Christ!

Bible Point:
Resist
the Devil.



Ideas to Illuminate: Ten Finger Prayer

Have the children to trace both hands. Then cut them out and glue the hands to another piece of construction paper. Write the memory verse, one word at a time, on the fingers. Remind the children that with God all things are possible.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why couldn't Samson cut this hair?
2. How did the Philistines find out where Samson's strength came from?
3. What happened to Samson when Delilah cut his hair?
4. After his hair grew back, what happened when Samson repented and asked God to restore his strength?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Judges 10:6-18; 11:1-11, 29, 32-33; Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that we are victorious when we live for Jesus.

Materials: Bible, paper, markers, scissors, stop watch

Memory Verse: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Lesson Summary

Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses died. After Joshua died, there was no one to lead Israel, and they soon began to do evil things. For some 400 years, God used judges (people inspired by God to do His will) to lead the Israelites. One of the judges was a man named Jephthah. Now Jephthah's dad was Gilead, and he and his wife had many sons. But because Jephthah had a different mother, his brothers ran him off. He went to the land of Tob and became the leader of a gang of bad people. Today, there are similar situations happening. People are not serving God, families are being torn apart, and gangs are being formed as a substitute for family, safety, and security. But the real truth is they don't offer these things at all. Jephthah probably thought this was going to be his way of life forever, but God had other plans. Jephthah was a mighty warrior. When Israel was under attack from the Ammonites, the elders from Gilead came to get him. They wanted him to come home and be their leader. They said he would be the leader over all of Gilead if he would come home and help them fight. Jephthah went back home, became their leader, and with the Spirit of the Lord defeated twenty towns. The Lord gave us the story of Jephthah's harsh life and his rise to leadership in order to show us what He can do in our lives. Romans 8:28 tells us "that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." If you are looking for love, hope, peace, and safety, you won't find it in the things of this world. However, you will find these and so much more when you give your heart to Jesus. You can be born again as a son or daughter of the King and receive a royal inheritance that can not be taken away. You may be in a situation where you feel like this is your way of life forever, but the Lord has other plans. He has a place for you in His family and has a purpose for your life. Surrender yourself to the Lord, seek God's plan in your life, and you will have victory in Jesus.

Bible Point:
I have victory
in Jesus!



Ideas to Illuminate: All Things Work Together

Write the memory verse on a piece of paper and cut it into puzzle pieces. Have the children work together to put the memory verse puzzle together. Split into teams to see who can solve it the fastest.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is valor?
2. How did Jephthah have valor?
3. How can you have valor?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:18-21, 26

Lesson Objective: The children will learn to give themselves to the Lord for his service.

Materials: Bible, paper, colored pencils

Memory Verse: "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod" (1 Samuel 2:18).

Lesson Summary

In 1 Samuel we read about a woman named Hannah who was married to Elkanah. She was very sad because she didn't have any children. Every year, they traveled to the house of God in Shiloh to worship and to make a sacrifice to the Lord. One year, while praying at the house of God (temple) at Shiloh, she was so bitter in her soul that she wept and prayed from her heart that God would give her a son. She promised that she would give him back to the Lord for God's service all the days of his life. When she finished praying, she was no longer sad. She woke up early the next morning and worshipped the Lord before returning home. Now in time, God answered Hannah's prayer, and she had a son. She named him Samuel, meaning "asked of God." When Samuel was a little older, Hannah took him to the priest Eli at the temple in Shiloh. Hannah explained that she had prayed for a son and promised him to the Lord; and the Lord had answered her prayer. Therefore, she was keeping her promise and giving Samuel back to the Lord for his service. Samuel remained at the temple to live with the priest and to serve God. Today, you may be praying for God to change something in your life. You may not be seeing the change you want to see right now. Commit yourself to serving God anyway. Find that place with God that Hannah found. He took away her bitterness and sorrow **before** he answered her prayer for a son. Hannah was committed to worshipping and serving God no matter what. She gave herself to God first, and when she received a son in answer to her prayer, she then gave him to God's service. So Samuel began serving under Eli the priest at God's house from a really young age. The Lord honored Hannah for her giving, and God blessed Elkanah and Hannah with three sons and two daughters. What can we learn from the story of Hannah and Samuel? Don't hold back, but give yourself and all your gifts and abilities to the Lord. He will bless you when you give yourself to him.

Bible Point:
I give my life
to Jesus.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the children to draw a picture of the gift/talent the Lord has given them and how they can use it to serve Him.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did the Lord do for Hannah **before** he gave her the son she desired?
2. How did Hannah give her son back to the Lord?
3. How did God bless and honor Hannah for her giving?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 2:1-14; John 3:16; Romans 10:13; Mark 16:15

Lesson Objective: The children will learn the good news of God's grace.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencil, crayons

Memory Verse: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Lesson Summary

The night Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord came to the shepherds who were watching their sheep. The presence of the Lord shined all around them, and they were very afraid. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The angel was telling the shepherds to rejoice because of the good news of God's grace. God sent a Savior, which is Jesus Christ! "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" (John 3:16). The angel told the shepherds that this grace is for everyone in the whole world. "For whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). This is the good news of God's grace! God gave us the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. That is the greatest gift you will ever receive. The greatest gift you could ever give someone is to tell them about the good news of God's grace in Jesus. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). He is the gift that keeps giving!

**Bible Point:
A Savior is born!**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give each child a piece of paper, pencil, and crayons. Create the front page of a newspaper with the headline, "The Good News of God's Grace." Then let the children draw pictures and write the story of Jesus' birth.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is the good news of God's grace?
2. Have you received the greatest gift of all (i.e. Jesus as Savior)?
3. What is the greatest gift you could ever give?
4. How can you give the good news of God's grace to others?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-21; 7:15-17

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that they can hear God's voice by listening to God's Word.

Materials: Bible, paper, pen, bowl, scissors

Memory Verse: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

Lesson Summary

Samuel's parents served the Lord. His mother passionately prayed for a child, and Samuel was the answer to her prayer. She dedicated him to the Lord before he was even born and took him to live at the temple with Eli the priest, so that he could learn how to serve the Lord. Like Samuel, you are here at church today because someone loves you and has a strong desire to see you learn how to serve the Lord. Even though Samuel's parents knew God and he lived with Eli at the temple, he still needed to have his own relationship with the Lord. One night, as he lay in bed, he heard a voice saying, "Samuel, Samuel!" This happened three times; and every time he ran to Eli, thinking he was the one calling him. But Eli realized it was the Lord trying to get Samuel's attention. He gave Samuel instructions on how to answer God. The fourth time the Lord called out, "Samuel, Samuel," Samuel then answered back, "Speak; for thy servant hears." From that day until Samuel died, he had a strong relationship with God. He listened to God's Word; and God used him to Judge Israel. In John 10:27, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Just like Samuel, you can know the voice of the Lord. Will you be like Samuel and listen to God's Word?

Bible Point:
I will hear
God's voice.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Play a game of "Jesus Says" where one person gives commands and the rest of the children do what he/she says.
2. Write on little pieces of paper things that God would say and things that the devil would say. Have the children take turns pulling the pieces of paper out of a bowl and reading them out loud. Let the children decide if it's something God would say or something the devil would say.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How do we know God's voice? (Through the Word of God – 1 Samuel 3:21)
2. Can we make it to heaven without a relationship with God?
3. Can our parent's or our pastor's relationship with God get us into heaven?
4. Did Samuel rely on other people's relationships with God or did he have his own?