

Elementary 2

Year 2 Book 1

*Jesus --
Master & Teacher*



Teacher's Guide and Student Worksheets

ELEMENTARY 2 YEAR 2 BOOK 1

JESUS: MASTER AND TEACHER

INTRODUCTION

This book provides an overview of Jesus' life through a study of the four gospels. In addition, it reinforces the fact that Jesus is Lord over everything, including life and death. Lastly, four important parables are analyzed to allow for greater understanding.

The main objectives for this quarter are:

- To study the four gospels to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus' life.
- To understand that Jesus is Lord over everything, including life and death.
- To learn the meanings behind the parables that Jesus taught.

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All Scripture is in NKJV unless otherwise noted.

LESSON GUIDE

The E2 lessons can be separated into 3 sections with several subsections that, as a whole, are aimed to provide a comprehensive Bible study of the selected topic.

The first section is an **introduction** to the lesson and includes the Objectives, Memory Verse, Prayer, Overview, Background Knowledge for the Teachers, and Reaching Out to Your Students sections. This section is meant for the teacher to study while preparing the lesson so that the teacher will know in which direction to guide the students while teaching.

The second section includes the **main content** of the lesson that will be taught to the students during class. Here the teacher will find the Opener, Vocabulary, Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching, Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs, Check for Understanding, Life Application, and Activity sections.

Lastly, the students will have a homework assignment to take home and complete after class as a **review** of the lesson. The students are expected to bring back the homework assignment to the next class completed and with a parent signature.

This lesson guide will list each subsection and explain its purpose, as well as how teachers should use the information in that subsection.

I. Introduction to the Lesson

1. Objectives

These are the objectives that the lesson aims to fulfill. The teacher should always remember to reinforce ideas and teachings that will fulfill these objectives.

2. Memory Verse

The teacher should go over the memory verse at the beginning of class and ask the students to have it memorized by the end of class.

3. Prayer

Go over these points with the students before beginning prayer so that they will know what they should pray for, in addition to their own prayer requests.

4. Overview

A simple lesson overview that emphasizes the important points of the lesson.

5. Background Knowledge for Teachers

Relevant biblical background knowledge that can aid the teachers in understanding the lesson.

6. Reaching Out to Your Students

This section provides an insight into how the students might react to the lesson and how to help the students understand the lesson.

II. Main Lesson Content

1. Opener // 5 Minutes

The purpose of the Opener is to ease the students into the lesson by bringing up relevant topics that will relate to the Bible study. This will give students time to calm down before the teacher goes into the main content.

2. Vocabulary

The vocabulary is provided to explain some of the more difficult terms. The teacher can choose to go over the terms before beginning the Bible study or as the terms come up during the lesson.

3. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching // 30-35 Minutes

This is the main section of each lesson. It will provide an in-depth study of the selected topic and the students will also be provided worksheets to fill in as the teacher conducts the lesson. The teacher should look at the worksheets while preparing the lesson and print out a copy to use as an answer key during class. The aim of the worksheets is to keep the students focused and to let them actively participate instead of passively listen.

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs // 2-5 Minutes

It is important to tie each lesson back to the Ten Basic Beliefs to reinforce the students' knowledge of the Beliefs; therefore, this section will briefly tie back the lesson to the Basic Belief to which it relates.

5. Check for Understanding // 5 Minutes

This section tests the students' comprehension of the teachings they just learned in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

6. Life Application // 10 Minutes

The Life Application section aims to make the lesson content more life applicable and will allow the students to relate the lesson's teachings to events that happen in their daily lives. The goal is to give the students a chance to apply what they have learned in the lesson to their daily lives.

7. Activity // 10-15 Minutes

Each lesson will include one or two activities that relate back to a teaching or story in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

III. Homework Assignment

Students are to take this home and return it the next week completed. There are four elements to the homework assignment: (1) Bible reading and prayer chart, (2) what they learned from the Bible, (3) memory verse, (4) and a lesson-specific assignment. The Bible reading and prayer chart is provided to track the students' progress during the week. In addition, the students will have to write down the memory verse and two things they learned from the Bible during that week. The last part of the homework assignment is specific to that week's lesson. It is advised that the students obtain a parent signature to make sure that the parents know what the students are learning each week.

IV. Suggested E2 Class Timeline

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 min. | Opening Prayer |
| 5 min. | Opener |
| 30-35 min. | Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching |
| 2-5 min. | Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs |
| 5 min. | Check for Understanding |
| 10 min. | Life Application |
| 10-15 min. | Activity |
| 5 min. | Ending Prayer |

Total: 1 hr. 12 min. - 1 hr. 20 min.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Upper Elementary/Primary Stage (Ages 9-11)

| Characteristics | Pedagogic Application |
|--|--|
| <p>Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generally healthy 2. Active 3. Begin to step into puberty stage, get hungry easily 4. Girls become taller than boys toward later stage 5. Increase in stamina | <p>Encourage healthy eating habits Can plan for outdoor activities/fellowships sometimes Prepare snacks if their time in church is especially long Teach them how God values their character; build healthy self-esteem Have challenging and difficult activities</p> |
| <p>Mind</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Like to collect things 2. Very creative 3. Begin to think and deduce 4. Like asking questions 5. Have good memory 6. Limited understanding of profound/abstract matters 7. Increased reading ability and comprehension | <p>Include more challenging activities Provide creative and Bible-related activities Use pedagogy that enhance critical thinking Provide satisfactory and biblical answers Encourage memorization of Bible verses Need to explain abstract terms Nurture interest in reading the Bible/Christian materials</p> |
| <p>Mood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express emotions easily 2. Short-tempered; lose patience easily 3. Like humor 4. May have feelings of withdrawal (may be scared, anxious, etc.) | <p>Provide routines that help students to quiet down and get ready to focus Teach students how to control emotions and appropriate ways to express emotions Include some humor while teaching Show more care and concern; teach them the importance of relying on God</p> |
| <p>Social Skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loyal toward friends of the same age more than parents or teachers 2. Like to make friends of the same gender 3. Loyal to groups or teams 4. Enjoy competitive games or activities 5. Like to joke around; may make fun of others 6. Admire favorite teachers and classmates | <p>Encourage friendship, but stress the importance of respecting parents and elders Can separate into girls and boys for group discussion Teach students how to discern negative peer pressure Provide competitive games where everyone can participate Encourage healthy jokes without hurting others' feelings; teach mutual respect Suggest some Christian biographies for students to read; set good examples for the students; share your personal faith and convictions</p> |
| <p>Spirituality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Express maturity in accepting the way of salvation 2. Worship heroes 3. Can study the Bible and pray 4. Can accept a deeper level of Bible teaching 5. Show concern over the souls of others | <p>Talk about salvation seriously; share with them how God changed your life Teach stories of Bible heroes and spiritual characters; provide good Christian living examples Encourage daily spiritual cultivation (pray/read the Bible) Help the students to discover the teachings from the Bible Encourage students to pray and/or bring family members or friends to the Lord</p> |

MEMORY VERSES

1. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
2. "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)
3. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)
4. "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." (Colossians 3:23)
5. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)
6. "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3)
7. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)
8. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'" (John 11:25)
9. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)
10. "A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident." (Proverbs 14:16)
11. "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31b)
12. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

LESSON 1

LEARNING ABOUT JESUS THROUGH THE FOUR GOSPELS



OBJECTIVES

1. To have a basic understanding of the four gospel books and their characteristics.
2. To understand that each gospel focuses on a different aspect of Jesus' ministry and that, although some details may seem to vary, they are never contradictory.

MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(John 3:16)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for bringing us together here to worship Him and learn His words.
2. Let us remember that Jesus came into this world to accomplish salvation for us so that we can be saved.
3. Ask God to help us to remember what we have learned and put it into practice in our lives.



Overview

1. The four gospels record the life and ministry of Jesus when He was on earth.

Each gospel depicts Jesus from a different point of view:

- Matthew—Lion—Jesus is the King
 - Teachings of the heavenly kingdom (Mt 13; 18)
- Mark—Ox—Jesus is the Servant of God
 - Jesus is always busy for God's ministry (Mk 1)
- Luke—Man—Jesus is the Son
 - Parable of prayers unique to Luke (Lk 11:5-13; 18:1-8)
- John—Eagle—Jesus is God
 - The seven "I am" show that it is only through Jesus that we can receive salvation.

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the only name that we can rely on to be saved.

3. Life Application—Testimony

4. Activity—Tell Others about Jesus



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Bible records the four living creatures, each of which had four faces, in Ezekiel 1:10, "As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle." John had a similar vision in Revelation 4:6-7: "And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle." What does all this mean?

God chose four men to write about the life of Jesus, corresponding to these four creatures. Matthew sees Jesus as the lion or king. (The lion is associated with the royal tribe of Judah to which King David and his descendants belonged.) Accordingly, Matthew begins his gospel with the words, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham," and continues by tracing King David's lineage all the way down to Jesus. What could be more fitting for a king?

Mark sees Jesus as the exact opposite: an ox and a servant. There is no genealogy or even any kind of birth story. That wouldn't be appropriate for a servant. Furthermore, few teachings are recorded in the Gospel of Mark. Mark is all about action. Jesus is serving His heavenly Father.

Luke sees Jesus as the Son. He gives us all the details about His birth, and then traces His ancestry back up to Adam, whose name means "man". It is Luke who gives us the more personal details of Jesus' life. Luke's gospel is the only one that records how Jesus was thrown out of His own city of Nazareth and how He sweated drops of blood in Gethsemane. It is also a gospel that emphasizes prayer. Two parables that highlight the importance of persistent prayer can only be found in this gospel (Lk 11:5-13; 18:1-8).

John sees Jesus as the flying eagle that soars up into the heavenly realms. This represents God. In John, the birth story differs greatly from those of Matthew and Luke. It is, simply, "In the beginning was the Word." We are seeing not man, but God. John is the gospel of "I am." This corresponds with Exodus 3:14 when God replied to Moses, saying, "I AM WHO I AM." Jesus, who is "I am," is the bread of life, the light of the world, the door, the good shepherd, the resurrection, the true vine, the way, the truth, and the life. Who but God can lay claim to these titles?



Reaching Out to Your Students

It is important for E2 students to cultivate a habit of daily Bible reading. It is often recommended to start with the four gospel books when first developing the habit of Bible reading, as they are easier to read and understand. It is important for students to know that sometimes there are differences in the recording of the events in the four gospel books. It does not mean that the books contradict one another; rather, the authors of the gospels focus on different aspects of Jesus' life and complement one another to make the records more complete.



Opener

5 Minutes

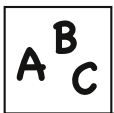
Preparations: Cut out the shape of a fish on white construction paper, and then glue it onto the center of black construction paper. Then, cut the paper into four equal pieces to create a puzzle.

Instructions

1. Using tape or a magnet, place the 1st piece of the puzzle on the board and ask the students to guess the picture.
2. Repeat step one for the 2nd and 3rd pieces.
3. Put the final piece on the board and complete the puzzle.

Often, when we only look at one or two pieces of a puzzle, it is difficult for us to know what the complete picture is. Only when all the pieces of the puzzle have been put together can we clearly see the object, and in this case, it's a fish!

This is similar to the way we understand things. If we only hear a story from one person's perspective, it is sometimes hard for us to get a complete picture of the story. In the Bible, there are four books dedicated to the story of Jesus: the four gospels. Through the four different gospels, we can have a clearer and more complete picture of Jesus and His ministry. We know that the Bible is inspired by God. God moved the four authors—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—to describe Jesus in four ways.



Vocabulary

gospel: "glad tidings," "good news"

Synoptic Gospels: the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; they include many of the same stories, often in the same sequence and similar wording



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Distribute the Bible Discovery Worksheet to the students now. The answers have been underlined and provided in this section. Keep a copy for yourself to reference.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to fill in the section about the prophecies fulfilled in the Gospel of Mark.

Answers

Mt 1:22-23 Jesus is to be born through a virgin (Is 7:14)
 Mt 2:5-6 Jesus is to be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2, 4)
 Mt 2:15 Jesus fled to Egypt to escape Herod (Hos 11:1)
 Mt 2:17-18 Herod killed all infants aged two and under (Jer 31:15)

There are four books in the Bible that record Jesus' life on earth; do you know which books these are? (They are the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.) These books are also called the four gospels.

Four reasons why the life of Jesus is recorded four times

- (1) To emphasize its importance
- (2) To corroborate the testimony to His life in the flesh
- (3) To present the different aspects of His character
- (4) To reach different classes of people

As we saw in the previous activity, we could not really guess what the object was until we saw all the pieces of the puzzle. Similarly, although the four gospels all record events about Jesus and His ministry, they record them in different perspectives to give us a more thorough understanding of Jesus.

The books of Ezekiel and Revelation record that the servants of God were like the four living creatures, each with four faces. These four faces are the faces of the lion, ox, man, and eagle, which are the four animals whose characteristics we should have when we serve the Lord! Miraculously, the four gospels also depict Jesus from these four perspectives to give us a more in-depth understanding of Jesus and His ministry.

The Gospel of Matthew

Matthew was a tax collector. He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the twelve apostles. He wrote the Gospel of Matthew for the Jews, depicting Jesus as the Messiah and King, just like the lion in the four living creatures.

Let's first look at Matthew 1:1.

Here it especially mentions that Jesus Christ is the Son of David, and hence the promised King that is to come. Throughout Matthew's gospel, we can see that he quotes many prophecies of the Old Testament and proves that Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Matthew is a handbook on the teachings of Jesus. It contains five collections of teachings concerning the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom's law, mission, mysteries, greatness, and future can be respectively found in chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 24-25.

Let's look at Matthew, chapter 13 for an example.

How many parables are recorded in this chapter and what are they? (Seven; the parable of the sower, the parable of the wheat and the tares, the parable of the mustard seed, the parable of the leaven, the parable of the hidden treasure, the parable of the pearl of great price, and the parable of the dragnet.)

Here, Jesus spoke to the people in parables, and He explained the meaning of the parables to the disciples. Without Jesus' explanation in the parable of the sower (Mt 13:1-9), all we can see is that there were four types of ground, which caused the seeds to grow up in four different ways. But let's read Matthew 13:18-23. Now we can understand that the seed in reference is the word of God. Furthermore, the different types of ground are the different hearts of men. Only when our hearts are ready to receive the word of God can the word of God grow and bear fruit in our lives! Without Jesus' explanation, it would be very difficult to understand the true meaning behind miracles.

Through the Gospel of Matthew, we can see that Jesus indeed is the King who has come to teach us about the heavenly kingdom that He has prepared for us. We need to acknowledge Him as the King of our lives and practice His word in our lives!

The Gospel of Mark

This gospel records Jesus as a powerful, suffering servant of God, who works tirelessly for the ministry of God, just like the ox in the four living creatures. This gospel is compact and action-oriented! There is no genealogy or any birth story, and the teaching passages in Mark seem condensed when compared to other gospels.

Let's look at Mark, chapter one. Underline the words "immediately," "as soon as," "now," and "at once."

We can see in Mark's recording how Jesus was very busy for the gospel of God. He had very tight schedules and often went without much rest at all. He was always on the move for the sake of the gospel. Let's look at Mark 1:21-35; here it records a Sabbath day in Jesus' life.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to fill in the section about a Sabbath day in the life of Jesus.

Answers

| | |
|------------|---|
| Mk 1:21 | Jesus entered the synagogue and taught |
| Mk 1:23-28 | Jesus rebuked the demon and healed the demon-possessed man |
| Mk 1:29-31 | Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law |
| Mk 1:32-34 | In the evening, Jesus healed the sick and the demon-possessed |
| Mk 1:35 | Long before daybreak, Jesus went to a solitary place to pray |

Throughout the gospel of Mark, we can see Jesus' active service. Although Jesus was God, He came in the lowly status of a servant in order to save us and accomplish God's salvation plan. How much more should we humble ourselves in the service of the Lord and be mindful of our heavenly Father's business!

The Gospel of Luke

Luke presents Jesus as the Son. In order to accomplish salvation, Jesus came into this world in the form of a man, thus carrying all the fleshly weaknesses of a human being; yet, Jesus did not sin, leaving us a perfect example of how one can become a Son of God in flesh. The gospel's careful narrative was written as an "orderly account" so that the reader would know the "certainty of those things," that is, the life and teachings of Jesus (Lk 1:1-4; Ac 1:1-2).

As a human being, Jesus experienced the same physical and emotional limitations of man; He was hungry and thirsty, and He cried when He was sad. Therefore, Jesus, as the Son of God on earth, also needed to pray to draw power from God. In his gospel, Luke revealed that Jesus, the Son, connected with His Father through a life of prayer. Jesus prayed at His baptism (Lk 3:21), and He often prayed in secret before and after a day's work (Lk 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28-29).

There are two parables found only in Luke that highlight the importance of persistent prayer (Lk 11:5-13; 18:1-8). Today, we will look at one of these parables.

Let's look at Luke 11:5-13.

FOR TEACHERS

After reading the passage, ask the students to answer the questions.

Answers

1. Why did the friend come to ask for bread at midnight?

A friend of his had come from afar, and he had nothing to offer him.

2. Why was the man inside unwilling to give bread to his friend?

In those days, a house consisted of only one room. During the day, all the daily activities took place in this room, and at night, after the door was shut, the family would lie down to sleep just behind the door. Therefore, in order to give his friend bread, the man would have to wake up his wife and children and make everyone move aside, just so he could open the door to pass the bread to his friend. The man was unwilling to do so in the beginning for it would be too much trouble.

3. Why did the man give bread to his friend in the end?

His friend was persistent in asking for the bread, so the man decided to give it to him.

Jesus used this parable to explain that, as human beings, we are not perfect, and when compared to God, we are "evil." However, we still know to give good things to our children. Since God is perfect and loving, how much more will God give us His promised Holy Spirit if we pray persistently!

Through Luke's gospel, we can see Jesus as the Son of God on earth. He suffered the same weaknesses as men and yet, He was without sin. His constant prayers are reminders for us that if we want to be holy and victorious in our lives as children of God, we must pray unceasingly throughout our lives!

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John, which presents Him as an eagle, is very different from the others. It is the gospel of belief, written to show the world that Jesus was the Christ, that He is God Himself. Jesus was sent by the Father to give eternal life to believers. Miracles in John are referred to as "signs." The signs are given to confirm the deity of Jesus.

Jesus made seven great "I am" metaphors in John.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to look up the verses and name the seven "I am."

Answers

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Jn 6:35 | I am the bread of life |
| Jn 8:12 | I am the light of the world |
| Jn 10:9 | I am the door |
| Jn 10:11 | I am the good shepherd |
| Jn 11:25 | I am the resurrection and the life |
| Jn 14:6 | I am the way, the truth, and the life |
| Jn 15:1 | I am the true vine |

The seven "I am" teach us that Jesus is the only way through which one can be saved. That is the theme in the gospel of John—Jesus is God. He came to save us and only through Him can we have eternal life.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Today, we learned that each of the four gospels gives us a different emphasis of Jesus' life. Matthew tells us that Jesus is the promised King; Mark portrays Jesus as a servant; Luke describes for us that Jesus is the Son, who is a man just like we are; and John tells us that Jesus is the Son of God, who has come to save us. Through the four gospels, we have a better understanding of Jesus and His ministry. As we know, one of our basic beliefs is that **Jesus is the one true God**. It is indeed wonderful that as God, He still chose to come into the world in flesh to save us so that we can be saved by believing in Him. We should always remember this wonderful saving grace of our Lord and strive to keep His word in our lives, as well as live a life worthy of His calling.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Write the name of the authors of the four gospels (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**) on the board and under each column, ask the students to use their own words to write what each gospel emphasizes.

Matthew: Jesus is the promised King, just like the lion in the four living creatures. It records a lot of fulfillment of the prophecies. It also records in length the message concerning the kingdom of God.

Mark: Jesus is the servant of God, likened to the ox in the four living creatures. Mark used a lot of words such as "immediately" and "as soon as" to illustrate that Jesus was diligent and unceasing in His ministry.

Luke: Jesus is the Son; He is also the man in the four living creatures. At times of trouble and sadness, we can learn from Jesus and pray earnestly to God for help.

John: Jesus is Christ; He is the Son of God, just like the eagle in the four living creatures. The miracles in John are called "signs" to prove His Sonship. The seven "I am" in John also show us that we can only be saved through believing in Jesus.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Testimony

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet and read the testimony to the students as they follow along. Alternately, ask the students to take turns reading sections of the testimony. After the testimony has been read, ask the students to answer the questions on the worksheet. When everyone has finished answering the questions, discuss the answers as a class.]

Discussion Questions

1. What was Brian's first prayer to Jesus?

He prayed for Jesus to relieve his father's pain, as his father was in pain due to cancer.

2. What kind of difficulties did Brian encounter after coming to church? Have you encountered any obstacles in keeping your faith?

His family regarded him as unfilial because he refused to offer incense at his father's funeral. He also had to prepare his own food during festive times, as he refused to eat the food his family offered to idols.

[Note: Allow the students to share any difficulties they have had in keeping their faith.]

3. What can you learn about Jesus—the God whom we worship—from this testimony?

He is a God who listens to prayers; He guides people to come to the true church; and He abides with the church.



Activity

Tell Others About Jesus

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind students to count the blessings of God in their lives and encourage them to share their faith with others.

Materials

- 1" x 6" strips of colored paper (one strip for each group of 2-3 students)

Instructions

1. Write a scenario on each strip of paper. The scenario should be one that can create a conversation about faith in school.

Suggested scenarios:

- During lunchtime at school, you take out your sandwich and quickly say a silent prayer. When you open your eyes and start to eat your sandwich, your friend asks you what you were doing just now...
- Your best buddy is having a birthday party on Saturday. He has not only asked you to go to the party, but he has also asked you to sleep over on Friday night to help prepare for the party. While you're there, both of you can have a movie night. You are hesitant because you know it is Sabbath...
- One day, your friends ask you, "Why do you need to go to church every Saturday? What do you do there?"


2. Ask students if they have tried to preach to their friends about Jesus. Encourage students to share their experiences.
3. Divide the class into groups of two or three students and have each group pick a strip of paper.
4. Ask the groups to discuss what they would do/say when they encounter the situation in the scenario.
5. Have each group act out their scenario and solution to the class, and ask other groups if they would have done anything different or if they have any other solutions.
6. Encourage students not to forget the grace of God in their lives and to be courageous in sharing their faith with others.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Matthew: Jesus as a lion; the promised King; records fulfillment of prophecies
2. Mark: Jesus as an ox; a servant of God; records Jesus' diligent and unceasing ministry
3. Luke: Jesus as man; the Son; teaches us to pray to God in times of need
4. John: Jesus as an eagle; the Son of God; records miracles/signs to prove Jesus is the Son of God; the seven "I am" show only He can save us
5. Answers may vary.

LEARNING ABOUT JESUS THROUGH THE FOUR GOSPELS

Fill in the blanks in the second column as the teacher goes over the lesson. Then, fill in the third column as your teacher asks you to complete each section.

| Gospel | Theme (Four Living Creatures) | Features |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|
| Matthew | Jesus is the _____ (_____) | <p>Name the prophecies recorded as fulfilled in the first two chapters, and the author of each prophecy.</p> <p>Mt 1:22-23 Mt 2:5-6 Mt 2:15 Mt 2:17-18</p> |
| Mark | Jesus is the _____ (_____) | <p>Write down a Sabbath day in Jesus' life.</p> <p>Mk 1:21 Mk 1:23-28 Mk 1:29-31 Mk 1:32-34 Mk 1:35</p> |
| Luke | Jesus is the _____ (_____) | <p>The parable of persistent prayer (Lk 11:5-13)</p> <p>Why did the friend come to ask for bread at midnight?</p> <p>Why was the man inside unwilling to give bread to his friend?</p> <p>Why did the man give bread to his friend in the end?</p> |
| John | Jesus is the _____ (_____) | <p>Name the seven "I am" metaphors.</p> <p>Jn 6:35 Jn 8:12 Jn 10:9 Jn 10:11 Jn 11:25 Jn 14:6 Jn 15:1</p>  |

The following is a testimony from Bro. Brian Lim in Singapore about how God guided him to come to know Him. Through this testimony, we will learn that Jesus, whom we worship, is the only true God, and that we can only be saved through believing in Him.

FROM IDOLS TO SALVATION

A DEVOUT IDOL WORSHIPPER

I am by nature very introspective and religious. At the tender age of ten, I was already asking such questions: Is there a God? How many deities are there in heaven? Where will I go after I die?

My family was Taoist and worshipped the Goddess of Mercy. I liked going with my parents, and especially my grandmother, to Chinese temples for worship rituals.

We would gather with other worshippers, chant for half an hour or more, and listen to sermons from a monk. Although I didn't understand most of what the monk said, I never grumbled about the long hours there.

Back home, I chanted three times a day and offered incense to the ancestral shrines and idols in the house. I was a staunch believer in ancestor worship even at that young age.

My first and indirect brush with Christianity came when I was twelve, and it literally ended in flames. I found out that one of my brothers had joined a very active Christian group at his college. Christian tracts were often sent to him at home, and he had to be cautious, as my father was extremely anti-Christian. I also knew where my brother hid those publications.

My father eventually discovered that my brother was part of this Christian group and lectured and nagged him daily. Seeing my father so angry and wanting to please him, I told him where the tracts were hidden. When my brother was out of the house, we dug them out and burned them. I was glad that I had pleased my father by helping him get rid of these Christian tracts.

About two years later, I had two classmates and an English teacher who were Christians. Once in a while, these classmates would talk to me about Christ, but it did not leave any impression on me.

I had been told from a young age that all religions were the same since they all taught man to do good. Moreover, I had also been taught that Christianity was a foreign religion and being Chinese, I should stick to the traditional religions, namely Taoism or Buddhism, handed down from our ancestors.

One time, a Christian classmate shocked me when he said that Christians are smarter than Taoists because Taoists are silly enough to offer food to blocks of wood. I knew that he was serious because his family had converted to Christianity. I was so offended by his remark that I stopped listening from then on whenever Jesus was mentioned.

TRYING CHRISTIAN PRAYER

That same year, when I was fourteen, my father's health deteriorated very quickly and he was diagnosed with liver cancer. By year's end, the pain was so great that he would toss and turn with each spasm. The sight of him in such agony broke my heart.

Whenever my father was in pain, I would beg the deities I worshipped to have mercy and to heal him. Oftentimes, I would plead for them to give him a moment of peace and be relieved of the pain so he could sleep well. I even hit my head against the floor as I begged. But none of my requests were granted.

One night, while my father was in the throes of pain, my Christian classmate called me. When I told her that my father was in great pain, she suggested that I pray to Jesus. The moment I heard "Jesus," I hung up on her. She called back and I hung up when she brought up Jesus again. When she called a third time, I gave in.

Since my usual deities had not listened to me, I decided that there was no harm in trying this foreign God. So I asked her to teach me how to pray. She said, "It's very simple. Start with 'In Jesus' name, I pray,' and just say whatever you want to say. That's all." Indeed, it seemed simple—no idol was needed, and I could pray anywhere.

After hanging up the phone, I went into my room. I prayed and begged with a sincere heart that Jesus relieve my father of his pain. During the prayer, I felt a great sense of peace that I had never experienced before, certainly not while chanting or praying to idols.

After the prayer, I went to my father's room to check on him. He was no longer in pain and was fast asleep! Exhilarated, I told myself that there must be something special about Jesus. My request had been granted after only one prayer to Him while my repeated requests to the idols had been ignored.

I decided not to offer incense or chant to any deities anymore. I wanted to learn more about Jesus.

MY SEARCH FOR JESUS

Back in school, I began to discuss Christianity with my two Christian classmates and ask them questions about the religion. When I did that, many of my Muslim classmates, who had never talked to me about Islam before, also came to talk to me about the Quran.

My new faith in Jesus was soon shaken by my interaction with my Muslim friends. There were times when they were so persuasive that I was tempted to join their religious classes and have their teacher explain the teachings of Islam to me. But I never went.

Instead, I turned to my Christian English teacher to clear my doubts. However, her answers could not completely reassure me and restore my faith in Christianity. I was left with many questions and no answers.

About two months later, the classmate who had taught me to pray was also looking for a church to join. She told me that she knew of a small and quiet church at Telok Kurau called True Jesus Church. She added that if one sat quietly in the pews towards the back of the chapel, people would not come up to ask questions or chat.

Since I am quite a shy person who does not like crowds, this church sounded ideal. We decided to attend a service together, so we joined a Wednesday evening service. I was quite shocked by the prayer in tongues. Still, I returned for a Friday evening service when my classmate asked me to go with her again.

During the closing prayer, I heard singing. It was an angelic sound that hovered near the ceiling, like a physical presence that swayed back and forth. It was very soothing and gave me a wonderfully peaceful sensation. From then on, all fear of prayer in tongues disappeared.

COMING HOME

I stayed in the True Jesus Church to search for the truth. I often felt that the sermons were directed at me. Sometimes, they answered my questions about life, and other times, they strengthened my conviction that this was the true church of God.

I asked many questions, including those that had surfaced after conversations with my Muslim friends. Thank God that the two brothers who studied the Bible with me were able to provide Bible-based answers to all my questions.

However, many obstacles popped up after I started going to church. It was difficult to attend services because my family still opposed Christianity, and I had to lie about where I was going in order to get out of the house.

A year after I came to True Jesus Church, my father passed away. After the funeral, I was told to offer incense to his tablet on the altar every morning. I refused, which angered my family and caused them to see me as an unfilial child.

In addition, I had to buy or cook my own meals during festive seasons as I refused to eat the food that my family had sacrificed to the idols. But through it all, I never saw these obstacles as a burden because I knew that I had to do what was right in the eyes of God.

Over the next few years, with increased understanding of the truth, I was even more convinced that I had found the true church. My discussions with classmates from other Christian denominations reinforced this belief because I found that they did not fully adhere to the Bible.

I was eager to get baptized but had to wait, since my family opposed my baptism and I was not yet twenty-one years old. As a minor, I wasn't free to make this decision on my own. But when I turned twenty, I signed up for baptism because I didn't want to delay any longer. I did not tell my siblings because I knew they would disagree with my decision. I did tell my mother, who gave me permission to proceed.

More than two decades have passed, and I still feel so very blessed that God brought me to His true church. I have had many doctrinal discussions with other Christians, even attending their services to see what their worship sessions were like. I could never feel the presence of God in these other places.

Conversely, attending worship services at the True Jesus Church is like coming home. Though I am still a shy person, I enjoy the fellowship with brothers and sisters. The truth from the sermons continues to enlighten and inspire me, and I derive so much peace and joy listening to the word of God that I try to attend all services.

Great is the Lord! He led me to know Him even though I was a sinner who once felt anger at the mention of His name. I really thank God for such deep love and mercy. All glory to Jesus!

Discussion Questions

1. What was Brian's first prayer to Jesus?

2. What kind of difficulties did Brian encounter after coming to church? Have you encountered any obstacles in keeping your faith?

3. What can you learn about Jesus—the God whom we worship—from this testimony?

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 1—Learning about Jesus through the Four Gospels

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**John 3:16**)

Short Answer

In the lesson, we learned about how the four gospels characterize Jesus and about their main themes. Please write down two characteristics for each of the four gospels.

1. Matthew

2. Mark

3. Luke

4. John

Life Application

We have also learned that we should share this gospel of Jesus with others. Please write down two experiences you have had in your journey of faith that you would like to share with your friends.

5. a.

b.

LESSON 2

GOD'S TEACHING ON THE MOUNT (PART 1)



OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize our responsibility to be the salt and light of the earth and to go the second mile.
2. To emphasize that, as Christians, we need to love our brothers and our enemies and reconcile quickly when we don't get along with others.
3. To emphasize the importance of being careful of what we say because we will face judgment in the end.

MEMORY VERSE

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

(Micah 6:8)

PRAYER

1. Thank our heavenly Father for gathering us here on the Sabbath day to worship Him.
2. Reflect on our past week to see if we have done anything wrong, and ask God to forgive us.
3. Ask God to open our hearts so that we can listen carefully to the words that the Lord Jesus taught when He came to the world.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide the class to learn the truth in the Bible.



Overview

1. Believers are the salt and light

- Salt is useful for seasoning food, preserving, and disinfecting
- A city upon a hill cannot be hidden
- A lamp on its stand can give light to everyone
- Good deeds should be done so that others will praise our Father in heaven

2. Murder begins in the heart

- "Do not murder" is one of the Ten Commandments
- Murder begins with motive: anger; calling one's brother "you fool"
- Reconcile with your brother before praying to God
- Reconcile quickly before you are judged

3. Jesus forbids oaths

- What is an oath?
- Reasons why we should not take oaths or swear
- Let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no" be "no"

4. Go the second mile

- The Law of Moses states, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," because God wants His people to act justly
- Do not resist an evil person
- Give more than what is asked

5. Love your enemies

- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
- Be perfect like our Father in heaven, who gives the sun and the rain to both good and evil people

6. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Bible is the word of God; Sacrament of Footwashing; Jesus' Second Coming

7. Activity—Christians Are the Salt and the Light



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Salt is an important mineral we use every day. At first, we might only think of salt as something we use to season our food, but it's also used to preserve food and as an antiseptic or disinfectant. Salt has been used in these ways since the ancient times. In ancient Palestine, the source of salt was sea water (i.e., water from the Dead Sea), but in order to harvest salt, people had to pour the sea water onto rocks and wait for it to dry. After the water dried, it would leave behind salt stuck on the rocks. Salt was an important part of religious offerings in the Old Testament (Lev 2:13), and symbolized an everlasting covenant with the Lord (Num 18:19). In the Bible, salt was also used for medical purposes, such as to rub newborn

babies (Ez 16:4). Elisha used salt to heal the water of a town that had become unproductive (2 Kg 2:21). In the New Testament, salt represented peace and graceful speech (Mk 9:50; Col 4:6).

Today, murder is defined specifically by the law of the country in which you commit it. In the U.S., a person who kills another person can be charged with first or second-degree murder. The definitions of these charges mostly boil down to the differences in the degree of intent to kill. In Matthew 5, the Lord Jesus warns us that murder begins in the heart; for example, being angry with, having ill thoughts of, or holding a grudge against our brother can lead to murder.

Raca is sometimes translated as "good-for-nothing" (NASB), and is an Aramaic word of contempt used to insult someone.

Taking oaths in the name of the Lord is a very serious matter not to be taken lightly. Breaking an oath that was made in the name of the Lord was equivalent to taking the Lord's name in vain, violating the third commandment.

According to the Law of Moses, the standard punishment for an injury inflicted upon another person was "an eye for an eye" and "a tooth for a tooth" (Ex 21:24; Lev 24:20; Dt 19:21). This was justice in the eyes of God and the law. However, in the NT, the Lord Jesus instructs us that if we happen to be a victim ourselves, we should not try to seek retribution.



Reaching Out to Your Students

As children develop in their late elementary years, they begin to make their own decisions about what is good and often try to live up to and even surpass higher standards. Many times, adults in their lives, such as parents and teachers, set these standards. They might hear their schoolteachers explain that they should try to go "above and beyond" what is required in their homework. Their parents might remind them that they're already grown up and should take up some responsibility (e.g., chores) in the home. At the late elementary age, children are able to control their emotions better than when they were younger, so these standards set by adults are often very good motivation for them.

Our God and heavenly Father also gives us standards in the Bible. The most basic set of standards is the Ten Commandments. However, as a Father, He not only wants us to keep the commandments, but also to go above and beyond so that we can be the salt and light of the world and strive to be perfect as He is.

In this lesson, you will not only teach the students about the standards of God, but also about the reasons why we keep these standards and how we can go above and beyond the call of duty.



Opener

5 Minutes

Write on the board certain types of people that most people would admire (e.g., doctors, nurses, firemen, etc.). Ask the students to think of some characteristics these people possess that make them admirable and write them on the board. (For example, doctors and nurses care for a person's health; police and firemen are brave; etc.). Explain that these are characteristics we often associate with these groups of people because we expect them to have these characteristics in order to be what they are. Now write on the board "Christians." Ask the students to think of some of the characteristics that are expected of Christians and write them on the board.

What does it mean to be a Christian? (Let the students answer.) Yes, it means to follow Christ, to be God's children, and to preach the gospel. One of the best ways to preach the gospel is to live up to what people think Christians should be.

In today's lesson, we will travel back to the time when Jesus walked on this earth. Many crowds came to listen to Him teach, because His teachings were very different from those of the scribes, Pharisees, and teachers of the law. He taught with authority from God. One day, Jesus, followed by a huge crowd of people and His disciples, sat on the side of a mountain and began to teach them that they should be perfect like the Father in heaven. These teachings, recorded in Matthew, chapters 5 through 7, are often collectively called the "Sermon on the Mount."



Vocabulary

judgment: a decision made by someone in authority about whether someone is good or bad, innocent or guilty

reconcile: to make up with your brother

adversary: someone who is against you; enemy

oath: a solemn promise made in the name of something that can guarantee the oath (e.g., in the name of the Lord, by the Bible, etc.)

swear: to make an oath



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Since this lesson is a combination of many life application lessons from the Lord, the Life Application and Activity have been integrated into the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching. Make copies of the lesson's five worksheets for each student. Give the students the worksheets one at a time during the lesson. Most of the instructions are written on the worksheets. The instructions and answers have also been integrated into this section. The parts that teachers need to verbally say have been described below.

"Students, please turn to Matthew 5. We will be reading parts of this chapter, one section at a time. For each section, we'll have a worksheet with questions and fill-in-the-blanks for you to work on, either by yourself or with a partner. Please follow my direction and the instructions on the worksheets."

Give the students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #1: Christians Are the Salt and Light of the World. First, work on the Section A as a class by asking the students to raise their hands to answer the first three questions. Make sure all of the students have written down their answers before moving on. Explain the importance of salt in our lives (you can read parts of the first paragraph in Background for Teachers). Finally, emphasize that being the salt of the world means having graceful, edifying speech, which is one way a Christian can be very beneficial and useful.

Next, ask the students to work on Section B. Read the instructions, and then let the students work on this section individually. Go over the answers to the fill-in-the-blank: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Finally, ask each of the students to share the pictures they drew.

Give the students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #2: Keep God's Commandments in Our Hearts. Pair the students up for Part 1 of the worksheet. After they have finished sharing with their partners, ask one or two of the pairs to share whether it matters if we are angry with others or call them names. At this point, explain (and write on the board, if you haven't already done so) the vocabulary word, "judgment."

"Students, it is very important that we understand how serious our words are, especially when calling other people bad names. We might think that it's no big deal when we call other people 'stupid' or other bad names. But in the Bible, there are many verses that remind us that we will be judged on every word we say. This is one of the important verses. In the verses we just read, Jesus compares being angry and calling people names to murder. It is like committing murder in our hearts, because if you don't have any anger against someone, you wouldn't murder them. But a person who murders another usually harbors anger towards that person. God looks at our hearts. Even though we aren't actually committing murder, in God's eyes, if we keep being angry with someone or if we call them bad names, it is like murder. God wants us to be perfect like Him, and one of the most important (and also one of the most difficult) ways is to be able to control what we say, especially when we're angry. What we say shows what's in our hearts, and God cares about what's in our hearts. Everyone gets angry, but we need to ask God to give us the strength and love to be able to calm down and think about what we say when we're angry."

Continue as a class to work on Part 2 of the worksheet. Allow the students to raise their hands to give the answers, or give them hints if they're stuck. Make sure the students have written the answers before moving on.

1. What do we do every day that is similar to offering a gift at the altar in biblical times? Pray to and worship God.

2. "First be reconciled (which means make up with) to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."
3. According to verses 25-26, what might happen if we don't settle matters or agree quickly with our adversary? Things might get worse, we will be judged, and we'll have to pay back everything.
4. Write down the part of the Lord's Prayer that relates to the verses we just read. "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

The spiritual teaching is at the end of the worksheet. Ask the students to come up with their own answers to fill in the blanks, and then give them the following answers:
God cares when I don't get along with others.
 I should be quick to reconcile with others.
 I want to keep God's commandments in my heart.

Give the students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #3: Jesus Forbids Oaths.

"Students, the next section we'll be reading about also relates to what we say. Before we go on, share with your partner about a time you or someone you know couldn't keep a promise. How did you or that person feel? Pick one of your stories and share with the class."

"Students, what is the third commandment of the Ten Commandments? Write it down on your worksheet. Now listen carefully: an oath is a solemn promise. In the Old Testament, people used to swear oaths in the name of the Lord." [If the students were listening carefully, they should have been able to fill in the blanks.]

Now ask the students to read Matthew 5:33-37 by themselves and fill in the blanks. When they are finished, go over the answers.

"But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

"Have you ever heard the phrase, 'I swear...,' at school or somewhere else? Have you ever heard anyone swear to God? Did you know that when someone says something like that, they are taking an oath in the name of the Lord? This is very serious because it means that they promise what they say is absolutely true, and that they're willing to take the consequences from God if what they say turns out to be false. Why do you think that God would not be happy with us if we take oaths and swear?" [Let students answer freely. Also, emphasize that we have already learned that every word we say will be judged.]

"Have you ever heard the phrase, 'Go above and beyond the call of duty'? Has a teacher in school ever challenged you to do your best or try even harder by saying this? Our Lord Jesus also wants us to go above and beyond, but not necessarily in our schoolwork like our schoolteachers. In what ways do you think God wants us to go above and beyond?" (To have good deeds, to be holy, to keep God's commands in our hearts, etc.) "Let's look at the next section of this lesson from the Lord."

Give the students Bible Discovery & Life Application Activity Worksheet 4: Go the Extra Mile. Have the students work on Part 1 by themselves, and then go over the answers.

Next, call on a student to read the instructions for Part 2, the Life Application section. Form groups of three or four students, and assign each group one or two scenarios (depending on your class size and time). If you have a very large class or plenty of class time and you need more stories, you may come up with some and add them to the worksheet. Give the groups five minutes to discuss how they will act out their skits. Then, have each group present their story, skit, and explanation for how their skit relates to the lesson.

"The last lesson we will learn from Jesus' sermon on the mount is to love your enemies."

Give the students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #5: Love Your Enemies. Work on the entire worksheet as a class. First, instruct the students to take turns reading one verse at a time while filling in the blanks.

"⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Now, ask a different student to read the Life Application section. During brainstorming, allow the students to give their answers freely while you write their answers on the board.

"Next week, we will continue learning about Jesus' sermon on the mount."



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Read Matthew 5:17-20. Jesus says in verse 18 that "till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass" from the Bible. The teachings of Jesus on the mount show us how important it is to keep **the word of God, the truth in the Bible**.

The **Sacrament of Footwashing** teaches us Jesus' love for His own to the end, and His forgiveness to those who want to harm Him. After washing His disciples' feet, Jesus instructed them to wash each other's feet and to love one another as He has loved them. In the same way, Jesus instructs us in the Sermon on the Mount that we should be quick to reconcile with our brothers, go the second mile, and love our enemies.

The Sermon on the Mount also reminds us that we should be careful to keep the commandments because there is a **judgment at the second coming of Christ**. Jesus reminds us to be quick to reconcile with our brothers, lest we face a more serious judgment.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Fill In the Blank

1. When Jesus taught His disciples and the crowd, He sat on the _____ (Mount).
2. Christians are the _____ (salt) and _____ (light) of the earth.
3. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and _____ (glorify) your Father in heaven.

True or False

4. In God's eyes, being angry with someone or calling them names is like committing murder in our hearts. True.
5. God would not mind if we pray to Him while we're angry with our brother. False, we should reconcile with him first.
6. We should not swear. True.
7. On the day Jesus comes again, we will be judged for every word we say. True.

Questions to Think About

8. What does it mean to take an oath or to swear in the name of God? To make a solemn promise in the name of God.
9. What should you do if someone slaps you on the right cheek? Turn the other to him also.
10. What things does God do for both good and evil people? He lets the sun shine and sends the rain.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Students should state the verse they chose and explain why they believe this verse is the key verse in Matthew, chapter 5.
2. Students should write about one of these following teachings: believers are the salt and the light; murder begins in the heart; Jesus forbids oaths; go the second mile; or love your enemies.



Activity

Christians Are the Salt and the Light

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To practice being the salt and light of the world.

Materials

- Scratch paper
- Blank, bookmark-sized cardstock (one per student)
- Pens or markers
- Hat or box

Instructions

1. Tear the scratch paper into small pieces that are big enough to write names on.
2. Distribute one piece of scratch paper to each student and have them write their name on the paper.
3. Put all of the names in a hat or box.
4. Have each student draw one piece at random (making sure it's not their own name), and instruct them not to say whose name they drew.
5. Ask the students to come up with something very thoughtful, specific, encouraging, and gracious to say to the person whose name they drew.
6. Give each student a piece of bookmark-sized cardstock, and instruct them to write what they would like to say to the person.
7. After the students have finished writing their notes, choose one student to go first (you can ask the student whose birthday is coming up next).
8. Have the student whose turn it is go to the front of the class and read aloud the message they wrote.
9. Have the student mentioned on the card come to the front of the class to get the card and hug or shake hands with the writer.
10. Next, ask the writer to sit down, and have the remaining student stay at the front of the class to read the message they wrote, and so on, until all of the students have read and received cards.

Conclusion

1. Encourage the students by telling them that they have done a great job thinking of and saying encouraging words to one another.
2. Read Colossians 4:6.

CHRISTIANS ARE THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A. The Salt

Instructions: Read Matthew 5:13 together with your class. Then, answer the following questions.

1. What are some ways you use salt every day?

2. How was salt used in biblical times?

_____ (Lev 2:13)

_____ (Eze 43:24)

3. According to Colossians 4:6, in what ways can Christians be the salt of the earth?



B. The Light

Instructions: Read Matthew 5:14-16 by yourself and fill in the blanks. When you are finished, draw a picture below of how Christians can be the light. Share your drawing with the class.

You are the _____ of the world.

A city that is set on a hill cannot be

_____. Nor do they light a

_____ and put it under a basket,

but on a _____, and it

_____ light to all who are in the

house. Let your light so _____

before men, that they may see your

good _____ and _____

your _____ in heaven.



KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS IN OUR HEARTS

Part 1

Instructions: Read Matthew 5:21-22 with a partner and work together to fill in the blanks.

When you finish, share with your partner why you think it matters whether we are angry with others or call them names.

Verse 21: This verse is talking about the ____th of the Ten Commandments.

Verse 22: Whoever is _____ with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of _____.

And whoever says to his brother, " _____!" shall be in danger of the _____.

But whoever says, " _____!" shall be in danger of _____.

Part 2

Instructions: Read Matthew 5:23-26 together as a class. Then, answer the following questions.

1. What do we do every day that is similar to offering a gift at the altar in biblical times?

2. "First be _____ (which means _____) to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

3. According to verses 25-26, what might happen if we don't settle matters or agree quickly with our adversary?

4. Write down the part of the Lord's Prayer that relates to the verses we just read.



_____ cares when I don't get along with others.

I should be quick to _____ with others.

I want to keep God's commandments in my _____.

JESUS FORBIDS OATHS

Instructions: Share with your partner about a time you or someone you know couldn't keep a promise. How did you or that person feel? Pick one of your stories and share with the class.

Write the 3rd commandment in the space below.

An _____ is a solemn promise. In the Old Testament, people used to _____ oaths in the _____ of the Lord.



Instructions: Read Matthew 5:33-37 by yourself and fill in the blanks below.

"But I say to you, do not _____ at all: neither by _____, for it is God's throne; nor by the _____, for it is His footstool; nor by _____, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your _____, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ' _____ ' be ' _____,' and your ' _____,' ' _____.' For whatever is more than these is from the _____ one."

Life Application

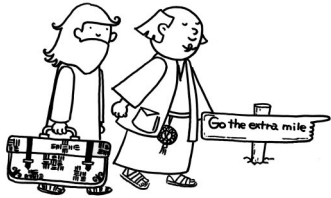
Have you ever heard the phrase, "I swear..." at school or somewhere else? Have you ever heard anyone swear to God about something? Did you know that when someone says something like that, they are taking an oath in the name of the Lord? This is very serious because it means that they promise what they say is absolutely true, and that they're willing to take the consequences from God if what they say turns out to be false.

Why do you think that God would not be happy with us if we take oaths and swear? Write down your answer in the space below.

GO THE EXTRA MILE

Part 1

Instructions: Read Matthew 5:38-42 by yourself and match the phrases from column one to those in column two.



| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Whoever compels you to go one mile... | ...turn the other to him also. |
| If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic... | ...go with him two. |
| Whoever slaps you on your right cheek... | ...let him have your cloak also. |

Part 2

Life Application

Instructions: Work with a group to complete one of the stories below.

Your teacher will assign one story for your group. Come up with an ending to your story and act it out in front of the class. Assign one person in your group to be the narrator (to read the beginning of the story), two people to be actors, and one person to explain how your story relates to the lesson. Use the blank space at the bottom of the paper to brainstorm your group's story. If you only have three group members, one member can both narrate and explain.

| | |
|--|---|
| Annie's mom usually packs her extra cookies in her lunch box because she loves her cookies! Annie's friend Christie doesn't get dessert in her lunch box. For a while, Christie has been teasing Annie for being spoiled because of her cookies. | Grace and Eddy are siblings, and they have assigned chores at home. Eddy, the younger brother, has to wash the dog in the yard every other day. It has been getting colder and darker as the seasons change, and Eddy told Grace that it's scary being out there by himself. |
| Grant is a shy kid, but he's pretty good at basketball. However, because he's shy, he doesn't have many friends. James notices that in P.E. class Grant gets frustrated and even yells at other kids when the kids don't pass him the ball. | "Hey! Can I borrow another piece of paper?" asks Lisa in a familiar whisper from behind John. This is the third day in a row that Lisa has asked John for a piece of paper in class! John looks inside his binder and finds a fresh stack of paper that his dad packs for him this morning. |

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Instructions: Read Matthew 5:43-48 together with the class and fill in the blanks.

"⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'You shall _____ your neighbor and hate your _____.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, _____ your enemies, _____ those who curse you, do _____ to those who hate you, and _____ for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be _____ of your Father in heaven; for He makes His _____ rise on the evil and on the good, and sends _____ on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you _____ those who love you, what _____ have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you _____ your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸Therefore you shall be _____, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."



Life Application

Do you have enemies? You probably don't have real enemies, but you might have rivals at school, or you might sometimes be angry with your siblings. Maybe your parents or teachers are hard on you, and you talk about them behind their backs or even get in their faces.

In the lesson today, we learned that, as Christians, we should quickly reconcile with our enemies (this can include anyone you don't get along with, you're angry with, or having a disagreement with). One of the ways that we can do this is by being careful of what we say when we're angry. We learned that being the salt of the earth means having graceful speech. We also learned that we will face judgment if we call others bad names.

In the verses above, we learned that we should bless those who curse us. But in the heat of an argument, when we're really angry, sometimes we can let slip a bad word or an insult. However, if we first let ourselves calm down and think about what to say, we can turn a situation that would've been bad into a chance for reconciliation.

As a class, brainstorm some words that we can use, INSTEAD of insults and bad words, when we are in an argument with another person. The teacher will write the ideas on the board, and you can discuss as a class how these words can be used to help you reconcile with someone.

In the space below, write down one of the phrases you think you can remember, and use it the next time you face this problem.

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 2—God's Teaching on the Mount (Part 1)

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Micah 6:8)**

1. Read Matthew, chapter 5. Choose one verse as the key verse. This verse can be one that you think is most important, or a verse that summarizes the main theme of the chapter. Write a paragraph on why you chose this verse as the key verse.

2. Every lesson we learn in the Bible is only useful to us if we put it into practice. Think of each of the mini-lessons we learned this past Sabbath. Which one(s) of these have you tried to put into practice this week? How do you feel about it? Have you succeeded or failed? Why?

LESSON 3

GOD'S TEACHING ON THE MOUNT (PART 2)



OBJECTIVES

1. To lay a foundation of Christian financial values.
2. To understand that God gives us everything we need if we seek Him first.
3. To understand that we should not worry, but ask, seek, and knock so that God can help us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7)

PRAYER

1. Thank our heavenly Father for gathering us here on the Sabbath day to worship Him.
2. Reflect on our past week to see if we have done anything wrong, and ask God to forgive us.
3. Ask God to open our hearts so we can listen carefully to the words that the Lord Jesus taught when He came to the world.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide the class to learn the truth in the Bible.



Overview

1. Lay up treasures in heaven

- Things on earth can be destroyed or stolen, but things in heaven cannot
- Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
- To do good deeds and follow Jesus wholeheartedly is to lay up treasures in heaven

2. The lamp of the body; you cannot serve God and riches

- Good eyes are ones that are fixed on one Master: God
- Bad eyes are ones that have greed, selfishness, and covetousness, will cause the person to serve money, and lead to darkness

3. Do not worry

- God will provide everything we need, just as He provides for the birds and the flowers
- Do not worry, but seek the kingdom and righteousness of God

4. Keep asking, seeking, and knocking

- Our heavenly Father will give us good gifts if we ask of Him

5. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God

6. Activity

- The "Do Not Worry" Book
- Charades



Background Knowledge for Teachers

At first glance, the teachings in Matthew 6:19-24 seem to be connected except for verses 22-23, which talk about the lamp of the body. However, when we look at the original text, we may have a better understanding of how these two verses connect to the rest of the passage. The word "good" in verse 22, "If therefore your eye is good," literally means "single" (cf. KJV). The "evil eye" in verse 23 is actually the same word for "envy" (Mt 20:15; Mk 7:22) or selfishness, greed, or covetousness (Dt 15:9; 28:54, 56; Pr 23:6; 28:22). In this context, then, the eye being single (or good) means that one is content with what one has, and therefore can wholeheartedly serve one Master: God. The eye being evil means that one is envious or greedy, and therefore split between two masters: God and riches. This kind of eye would cause a person to stumble in the darkness. A good eye, fixed upon one Master (Ps 123:1-2), is enlightened by the law of the Lord (Ps 19:8).

Solomon's glory and riches recorded in 2 Chronicles, chapter 9 are beyond what anyone can imagine today. When the Queen of Sheba visited and saw it, she was so overwhelmed that she had "no more spirit in her" (v. 4). There was so much gold that even silver was worthless (vv. 20, 27). As

magnificent as this was, Solomon's treasures were short-lived, just as he had predicted (Ecc 2:18-19). As soon as Solomon died, his son Rehoboam's foolish decision caused the kingdom to split, and the riches also eventually disappeared, including the gold shields, which were replaced with bronze shields (2 Chr 12:9-10). In contrast, when we observe God's creation, such as the lilies of the field, we are in such awe of the miracle of life: how things are born, grow, die, and regenerate under God's control.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students are most likely not at an age where they worry about money, but they are old enough to sense their parents' worries and old enough to compare themselves with their peers in terms of family wealth. Even though they are not in control of any money beyond possibly some weekly allowance from their parents, it is good for them to learn Christian financial values at this early age. In this lesson, your students will learn about priorities, God's providence, the difference between worldly and heavenly value, and what is required of us in order to serve God wholeheartedly. Impress these values and principles on them early on in their lives and they will not depart from them (Pr 22:6).

One way to reach your students is through music. There are many hymns in the TJC hymnal that relate to this lesson: "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," "I'll Put Jesus First," "God Will Take Care of You," "O Lovely Lily," and many others. There is also a praise song called "Seek Ye First". Take this opportunity to share a hymn that you like with your students and explain what the lyrics mean, or allow the students to share with the class what they think the lyrics mean. You can ask the students to memorize some of the lyrics. This will help reinforce the lesson.

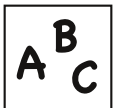


Opener

5 Minutes

"In last week's lesson, we learned about the 'Sermon on the Mount.' Who delivered the sermon?" (Jesus.) "What were some of the teachings?" (Believers are the salt and the light; murder begins in the heart; Jesus forbids oaths; go the second mile; and love your enemies.) "In today's lesson, we will continue to study Jesus' sermon on the mount."

Now give your students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #1: Lay Up Treasures in Heaven. Call on one student to read the question in "Ready? Set... Go!" "Do you agree with this statement: 'It is difficult for a rich person to go to heaven?'" Give the students a minute to think about their answer. Ask the students to close their eyes, ask the question again, and then ask the students to give you a thumbs up (if they agree), thumbs down (if they disagree), or sideways (if they're unsure or can't decide). Write the results on the board and ask the students to open their eyes. Ask the students to share why they did or did not agree with the statement.



Vocabulary

treasures: wealth, rich materials, or valuable things

master: an owner of a slave or an employer of a servant

worry: to torment oneself with or suffer from disturbing thoughts



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Since this lesson is a combination of many life application lessons from the Lord, the Life Application and Activity have been integrated into the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching. Make copies of the lesson's four worksheets for each student. Give the students the worksheets one at a time during the lesson. Most of the instructions are written on the worksheets. The instructions and answers have also been integrated into this section. The parts that teachers need to verbally say have been described below.

"Boys and girls, please turn to Matthew, chapter 6. We will be reading parts of this chapter, one section at a time. For each section, we'll have a worksheet with questions and fill-in-the-blanks for you to work on, either by yourself or with a partner. Please follow my direction and the instructions on the worksheets."

Your students already have Worksheet #1 with them from the Opener. Have the students read Matthew 6:19-21 and fill in the blanks by themselves, and then go over the answers as a class.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

"In these verses, we learned that there are two places where you can put your treasure. Which places are these?" (Heaven and earth.) "What are some examples of treasures on earth?" [Have the students answer freely, and write or draw their answers on the board. Then, ask the students to write or draw these answers down in the left column under "Treasures on Earth."] "What are some ways that people lay up treasures on earth?" [Have the students answer freely, and then ask them to fill in the corresponding box on the chart.] Now, have the students pair up and finish both the right column and the verse from 2 Corinthians 4:18. Go over the answers.

What is His treasure in heaven in Isaiah 33:6? The fear of the Lord.

How do you lay up treasures in heaven according to Matthew 19:21 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19? Sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow Jesus. Also, do good deeds and share.

"For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Cor 4:18)

"Boys and girls, from what we just read, we learned that

when we lay up treasures on earth, it's for ourselves and for our life on earth so that we can be richer and enjoy life. When people care about these things, you can really tell that's where their heart is. But when we do that, it's only temporary because this life will pass away. When we do good deeds, help with the church, whether by spending time or offering money, and follow Jesus, we store up treasures in heaven. When we care about God's business, we put our whole heart into it, and our hearts are really in heaven. Heavenly treasure is eternal. When we lay up treasures in heaven, we will be remembered by God, and we'll be able to enjoy eternal life in heaven. However, since we live on earth now, and might not be going to heaven that soon, we will face some challenges. At times, we'll feel greedy or envious because we see many rich people in this world."

Now give the students Bible Discovery Worksheet #2: The Lamp of the Body & You Cannot Serve Two Masters.

Read aloud the passage in Matthew 6:22-23 while the students fill in the blanks by drawing the icons for the words. Read the passage again if some of the students did not catch some of the words.

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

"Boys and girls, we just read that if the eye is good, then the body will be full of light, but if the eye is bad, then the whole body will be full of darkness. But what does this mean? Did you know that the 'bad eye' or 'evil eye' in the Bible also means selfishness, greed, or covetousness?" [Hint to the class that they should fill in the blanks.] "Also, the word for 'good' in 'good eye' means 'single' in the original language of the Bible. Let's keep reading to find out what 'single eye' really means."

Instruct the students to read and fill in the blanks for Matthew 6:24 on their own. Go over the answers.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

"We read in Matthew 6:24 that we can only serve one master, God. Imagine that you are a master with a servant or slave. If that servant or slave is completely loyal to you, what kind of actions would they have?" (They would

always listen to your commands; they would only think about you and your needs; they would not listen to others; they would not seek after their own enjoyment; etc.) "In other words, a truly loyal servant or slave has their eyes set on their master, ready to do whatever the master commands. This is the same as a person who has a 'good eye,' serving the one true God. Can you think of people in the Bible who were good servants of God?" [Ask the students to answer freely.] "Now we are going to study some people in the Bible who served God, but not wholeheartedly. Instead, they had 'evil eyes' and served mammon, or money, as well. Let's find out what happened to them."

Split the class into three groups, one for each character: Balaam, Gehazi, and Judas. Have each group answer the questions for their character: "Who was he? Whom was he supposed to serve? What did he do wrong? How was he punished?" Give the students about five minutes to finish. Then, have the students come up to the front of the class one group at a time and explain their answers while the rest of the students fill in the chart.

"Boys and girls, do we see a pattern in these three characters? They all were supposed to serve God (directly or indirectly), but they also served money because they were greedy and selfish. Let's read 1 Timothy 6:10 together: 'The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.' We know that money isn't evil by itself. We all need money in order to buy food and things we need. It is the love of money that can lead us to evil. A lot of people in this world actually love money, and they pursue after it as their god. However, as Christians, we know that we should pursue only after the one true God. Let's keep reading Matthew, chapter 6, and we'll find out how God takes care of us so that we don't have to worry about money."

Now give the students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #3: Do Not Worry.

"We just read 1 Timothy 6:10. Let's go to verse 6: 'Now godliness with contentment is great gain.'" [Remind the students to fill in the blanks for this verse.] "What is contentment?" (It is the satisfaction we feel with what we have; it is the opposite of greedy.)

Now have the class read Matthew 6:25-30 together. Then, have the students complete the first half of the worksheet by matching the phrases on the left to the phrases on the right. Go over the answers.

Lilies of the field don't toil or spin.
Life is more than food.
Birds of the air don't sow, reap, or gather into barns.
Solomon's glory cannot compare to lilies of the field.
The body is more than clothing.

You are of more value than birds of the air.

"Boys and girls, have you ever thought about where your food and your clothes come from? We probably buy them at a store with the money that our parents make by working. When your parents buy food and clothes for you, are they caring about the food and the clothes, or are they caring about you? Of course, our parents work hard to make money, but if we think about it, it is God who gives us the things that we need. God is the one who gives our parents the strength and opportunity to be able to work and make money. God is the one who makes the plants and animals that eventually turn into food on our plates or clothes on our bodies. In the verses we just read, God takes care of all of His creation. What are the examples that Jesus used in these verses?" (He takes care of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field.) "Since we are His children, and much more valuable than birds or lilies, we need to believe that God loves us and will take care of us. Therefore, we do not need to worry, no matter what happens in our lives."

Now have the students read Matthew 6:31-34 by themselves and fill in the blanks. Go over the answers.

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

"Jesus tells us to not worry, but instead to seek something first. What is it?" (The kingdom of God and His righteousness.) "What do you think this means?" [Have the students answer freely while you write on the board. Answers may include: serving God, obeying God's commandments, going to church, putting God first in your life, etc.] Now, have the students think of three very specific and concrete ways they can seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. [If the students have trouble thinking of any, ask them to think of one thing that they are capable of doing at their age, one thing they see others in their families or in the church doing, and one thing that is their goal when they get older. You may do Activity 2 now or later, at the end of the lesson.]

Now give your students Bible Discovery & Life Application Worksheet #4: Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking. Instruct them to read Matthew 7:7-12 by themselves and put the phrases in order. For example, they should write "1" next to "Ask, and it will be given to you;" and "2" next to "seek, and you will find," etc.

Then, tell them the answers (from top to bottom): 14, 8, 3, 6, 13, 17, 11, 2, 10, 16, 9, 4, 7, 5, 12, 1, 15.

"Boys and girls, we just learned that we don't need to worry about anything, because God will take care of us when we seek Him first. But does that mean that we don't need to pray?" (No.) "We should still pray to God every day, because praying is like making a phone call to God and talking to Him. When we pray, we can tell God all of our troubles and everything we're worried about, but after we pray, we should leave our worries to God. We can tell God, 'Lord, I don't know what to do about this, but I believe You will help me.' Prayer also draws us closer to God. We should believe that God loves us and will always give us the best. Sometimes, God's answer to our prayer is 'Yes,' sometimes it's 'No,' and other times it's 'Wait a little while.' That's because sometimes the thing we want is not always what we need or what is best for us. Only God knows what's best for us, and He will answer us with the best. We should not give up asking, seeking, and knocking. Let's read today's memory verse in Philippians 4:6-7."

"Boys and girls, do you know what 'anxious' means? Let me give you a hint: there is a word from the previous worksheet that is a synonym for anxious." (Worry, or worried.) "Do you know what a request is?" (Something you ask for; usually something you need or want.) "Please write these down on your worksheet." Go over the answers.

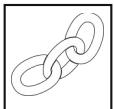
"Be anxious (synonym: worried) for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests (meaning: what you want or need) be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and

minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7).

"This week's memory verse is two verses long, so in order to help us memorize it, let's try to figure out the meaning of this memory verse piece by piece. 'Be anxious for nothing' means 'do not worry.' 'But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving' means 'everything we might worry about, we should put in our prayers.' Furthermore, supplication is another word for prayer, and we should always be thankful in our prayers. A lot of times people worry because they're not happy with what they have, or they are not content, so they want more, which makes them even more worried. One easy way not to worry is to be content with what we have, and one way to be content is to be thankful. 'Let your requests be made known to God' means 'tell God what you need or want.' Up to here it's pretty easy to understand, right? Don't worry, and ask God for help in your prayers. Next, 'and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus' means 'God will let our hearts be peaceful even though it doesn't make sense to be peaceful.'"

[Now is a good time to have the students memorize the memory verse.]

"Boys and girls, have you ever prayed for something and God answered you? For example, what happened when you received the Holy Spirit? Has God ever healed you or a family member? With a partner, take turns and share your testimonies about how you asked, sought, and knocked. Write down your partner's testimony in the space at the bottom of your worksheet." Pick one or two volunteers to share their testimonies with the class.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

In today's lesson, we learned the difference between earthly and heavenly wealth. We learned that God is the **one true God**, the only Master we should serve, and that He will provide everything we need in our lives.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

1. Treasures on earth are eternal. False.
2. If we put God first in everything we do, God will give us everything we need. True.
3. Since God knows everything we need, we shouldn't ask for it. False; we should keep asking, seeking, and knocking, but we don't need to worry.
4. A "bad" or "evil eye" also means "greed, covetousness, and selfishness." True.

Fill In the Blank

5. If your eye is good, then your whole body will be full of _____ (light).
6. Balaam, Gehazi, and Judas were punished because even though they served God, they also served _____ (money, mammon, or riches).
7. The love of _____ (money) is the root of all kinds of _____ (evil).

Questions to Think About

8. What is one way to lay up treasures in heaven? Do good deeds, give to the needy, and follow Jesus.
9. Jesus tells us not to worry because the heavenly Father takes care of which animals and which plants? He takes care of birds and lilies.
10. What is one word in the memory verse that means "to be worried?" Anxious.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. godliness: the quality of being godly or devout
contentment/content: being happy with what you have/with your current situation
snare: a trap
lusts: pleasures, delights
perdition: hell; damnation
2. haughty: blatantly and disdainfully proud
uncertain: dubious; untrustworthy, not reliable
foundation: an underlying base or support; the basis upon which something is built
3. Answers may vary. Be sure to check for the two verses used.



Activity

1. The "Do Not Worry" Book / 2. Charades

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To practice being the salt and light of the world.

Materials

- Magazines or newspapers with lots of pictures of nature that can be cut out
- 8.5" x 11" cardstock or thick construction paper (at least one sheet per student, plus one sheet for the cover)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers, pens
- Stapler

Preparations

Before class, prepare a page as the book cover and also prepare one sample page for the book (see instructions).

Instructions

In Matthew 6:25-34, the Lord Jesus reminds us not to worry because God takes care of everything in the world, including the plants and animals that He created. He used two examples of God's creation; can you name them? (Birds and lilies.) The heavenly Father feeds the birds and clothes the lilies. Can you think of some of His other creations and how He takes care of them? For our activity today, we will make a book where each student will write one page. Each of you will get to choose one creation of God from the magazines and cut it out. You will need to think of how God takes care of them. On your page, you can paste the picture anywhere and write anywhere:

"Do not worry about _____. Look at the _____, for they do not _____. Yet your heavenly Father _____ them."

Example: Choose a picture with a dog. "Do not worry about what you will wear. Look at the dogs, for they do not buy clothes. Yet your heavenly Father gives them a beautiful fur coat."

In the end, we will collect the pages from each student and bind them in a book.

2. Charades "Seek first the kingdom and righteousness of God"**Materials**

- Pens
- Scratch paper, three pieces per student
- Container for the papers (hat, box, etc.)
- Timer

Instructions

On Worksheet #3, the students were to write down three ways they could seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. We will be acting out those ways in this activity.

1. Give each student three pieces of scratch paper and have them write one way on each paper. Then, fold the pieces, and put them in the container.

[Instruct them to be as simple as possible with the wording. For example, if they wrote on Worksheet #3, "I will seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness by praying twenty minutes and reading one chapter of the Bible every day," then for the game they could shorten it to "Pray and read the Bible daily." This will make it simpler for the game.]

2. Separate the class into two teams. If there are enough students, you can have one volunteer to keep score. Otherwise, the teacher will keep score.
3. Have each team pick a volunteer to play rock-paper-scissors to determine which team plays first.
4. Set the timer to one minute and give it to the volunteer from the losing team (Team B). Ask the volunteer from the winning team (Team A) to draw one paper from the container.
5. Let Team A finish reading the paper first, and then ask Team B to start the timer.
6. Instruct Team A to start acting (without talking or writing) and have Team A's members guess.
7. If they are able to guess correctly before the timer is up, the actor from Team A can quickly choose another paper from the container and try to score again until the timer goes off. Each correct guess earns one point, so the scorekeeper must keep track of this.
8. When the timer goes off, the teams switch and a volunteer from Team B goes. Make sure everyone on each team gets a chance to act.

Alternately, you can play this game as Taboo, Pictionary, or "fishbowl" (a combination of taboo, charades, and password). Please look up the rules to each game and adjust according to your class' abilities.

LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Ready? Set... Go!

Do you agree with this statement: "It is difficult for a rich person to go to heaven"? Why or why not?

Instructions: Read Matthew 6:19-21 by yourself and fill in the blanks.

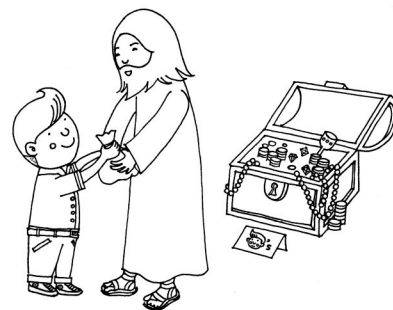
"Do not _____ up for yourselves treasures on _____, where moth and rust _____ and where _____ break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves _____ in _____, where neither _____ nor _____ destroys and where thieves do not _____ in and _____. For where your _____ is, there your _____ will be also."

Instructions: Work with the class to complete the left side of the chart below, and work with a partner to complete the right side of the chart.

| Treasures on Earth | Treasures in Heaven |
|---|---|
| Draw or describe examples of treasures on earth | What is His treasure in heaven in Isaiah 33:6? |
| How do you lay up treasures on earth? | How do you lay up treasures in heaven according to Matthew 19:21 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19? |

For the things which are _____
 are _____,
 but the things which are _____
 _____ are _____.

(2 Cor 4:18)







THE LAMP OF THE BODY

Instructions: Read Matthew 6:22-23 with your class and fill in the blanks using the icons in the word bank.

The of the is the . If therefore your is good,
 your whole will be full of . But if your is bad, your
 whole will be full of . If therefore the that is in you
 is , how great is that !

Word Bank

| | |
|---|---|
| body  eye  | lamp or light  darkness  |
|---|---|

In the Bible, an evil eye is the same word as _____, _____, or _____.

(Pr 23:6; 28:22; Mk 7:21-23; Mt 20:15)

YOU CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS

Instructions: Read Matthew 6:24 by yourself and fill in the blanks.

No one can _____ two _____; for either he will _____ the one and _____ the other, or else he will be _____ to the one and _____ the other. You cannot _____ God and _____.

Instructions: Work with your group or partner to complete one column below. Then, share with the class and fill in the other columns when other groups report their answers.

| | Balaam Jude 11; 2 Pet 2:15 | Gehazi 2 Kgs 5:20-27 | Judas Mt 26:14-16; Lk 22:3-5 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Who was he? | | | |
| Whom was he supposed to serve? | | | |
| What did he do wrong? | | | |
| How was he punished? | | | |

The _____ of money is the root of all kinds of _____.
 (1 Tim 6:10)

DO NOT WORRY

Now godliness with _____ is great _____. (1 Tim 6:6)

Instructions: Read Matthew 6:25-30 together. Match the phrases in the left column to those in the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lilies of the field don't... | ...food |
| Life is more than... | ...sow, reap, or gather into barns |
| Birds of the air don't... | ...birds of the air |
| Solomon's glory cannot compare to... | ...clothing |
| The body is more than... | ...lilies of the field |
| You are of more value than... | ...toil or spin |

Instructions: Read Matthew 6:31-34 by yourself and fill in the blanks.

"Therefore do not _____, saying, 'What shall we _____?' or 'What shall we _____?' or 'What shall we _____?' For after all these things the _____ seek. For your heavenly _____ knows that you _____ all these things. But _____ first the _____ of God and His _____, and _____ these things shall be _____ to you. Therefore do not worry about _____, for tomorrow will _____ about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own _____."

Instructions: Write down 3 ways you can "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

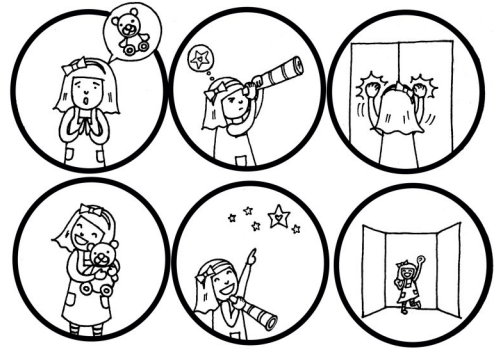


KEEP ASKING, SEEKING, KNOCKING

Scrambled Scriptures!

Instructions: Read Matthew 7:7-12 by yourself and put the following phrases in order by writing a number next to each phrase. The first one has been done for you.

_____ how much more will your Father who is in heaven
 _____ if his son asks for bread,
 _____ knock, and it will be opened to you.
 _____ and to him who knocks it will be opened.
 _____ give good gifts to your children,
 _____ do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
 _____ will he give him a serpent?
 _____ seek, and you will find;
 _____ Or if he asks for a fish,
 _____ Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you,
 _____ will give him a stone?
 _____ For everyone who asks receives,
 _____ Or what man is there among you who,
 _____ and he who seeks finds,
 _____ If you then, being evil, know how to
 _____ 1 Ask, and it will be given to you;
 _____ give good things to those who ask Him!



Instructions: Fill in the memory verse blanks.

"Be _____ (synonym: _____) for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your _____ (meaning: _____) be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7).

Instructions: Have you ever prayed for something and God answered you? With your partner, take turns and share your testimonies about how you asked, sought, and knocked. Write down your partner's testimony in the space below.

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 3—God's Teaching on the Mount (Part 2)

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Philippians 4:6-7)**

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NKJV). Then, look up the definitions of the following words and write them down below.

godliness:
 contentment/content:
 snare:
 lusts:
 perdition:

2. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NKJV). Then, look up the definitions of the following words and write them down below.

haughty:
 uncertain:
 foundation:

3. Do you agree with this statement: "It is difficult for a rich person to go to heaven"? Write two paragraphs on whether you agree or disagree, and why. Use at least two verses from Matthew 6-7 and 1 Timothy 6, or any other Bible verse.

LESSON 4

GOD'S TEACHING ON THE MOUNT (PART 3)



OBJECTIVES

1. To learn not to judge others, but instead look at our own faults in humility.
2. To remember that we serve God and help the needy out of love, not for praise.
3. To learn to control our emotions in everyday life.

MEMORY VERSE

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

(Colossians 3:23)

PRAYER

1. Dear God, teach me to show love and compassion to others, and help me to examine my own life in order to be aware of the many weaknesses that I have.
2. Help me to see my own weaknesses, and to realize that I am not any better than others You have created.
3. Strengthen me each day so that I can have better control over my emotions and glorify You.



Overview

1. **Jesus teaches us about not judging others (Mt 7:1-5)**
 - Let us not judge, or we too will be judged
 - Look to see our own faults and seek improvements first
 - Build each other up, not tear each other down
2. **Jesus teaches us about fasting (Mt 6:16-18)**
 - Meaning of fasting
 - Having the right attitude when fasting
 - Examining our motivation when serving God
3. **Jesus teaches us about how to deal with anger (Mt 5:21-26)**
 - Anger moves us further away from God
 - Let us take up the challenge to control our emotions
4. **Jesus teaches us about giving to the needy in secret (Mt 6:1-4)**
 - Being a cheerful giver without boasting
 - Becoming imitators of Christ when we give
5. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—The Sacrament of Footwashing
6. **Life Application**—"What Would You Do?"
7. **Activity**—Secret Angel



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Judging Others

The seventh chapter of Matthew begins with the teaching about judging others. Webster's dictionary indicates that judging means "to form an opinion about through careful weighing of evidence and testing of premises." However, Jesus warns us that if we judge others, then we will be judged by the same measure. The text from Matthew makes it clear to us that we must first address the sin in our own lives before we can begin to pass judgment upon others. Jesus tells us that we are hypocrites if we don't examine our own sins first.

Fasting

Many religions throughout the world practice fasting. During the time of Jesus, fasting was a common ritual done in order to bring people closer to God to find His will in their lives. Many religious leaders abused the procedure and used it to gain recognition and power. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus was not condemning fasting, but hypocrisy—fasting in order to gain public approval. Fasting was in fact mandatory for the Jewish people once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Lev 23:32).

Anger

One expert has written that anger is "an emotional state that varies in intensity from mild irritation to intense fury and rage...when you get angry, your heart rate and blood pressure go up, as do the levels of your energy hormones, and adrenaline." Besides money and finance, anger is probably one of the most destructive forces known when it comes to relationships, friendships, and even business success or failure. One point to remember is that, once a temper is lost, the damage done is hard to reverse.

Giving

The Bible teaches us to be cheerful givers. However, the Bible clearly does not support giving just to gain the attention of others. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continues to warn us against hypocrisy and outward show in religious duties. What we do must be done from an inward principle so that we may be approved by God, not men.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Many children at this age have started to become more sensitive about what others think of them. The pressure to "fit in" and "look cool" among their peers may cause stress in their school and home life. As their teacher, find opportunities to remind your students that there are many ways to say "no" to such peer pressure. Knowing what values God wants to instill in our hearts will help your students combat such stress. Encourage them to take the time to examine the motivations behind their decisions every day. Questions they could ask include:

- Am I doing this just to look good in front of other people?
- Am I doing this to gain praise from others?
- Am I afraid of saying "no" to friends when they ask me to do things that do not please God?
- Will God be proud of what I do?

Controlling emotions, especially anger, can also be a great challenge for children in their pre-teen years as they begin to seek independence. Talk to your students about what they can do to have better control over their emotions. Some tips that may be helpful to them are as follows:

- Recognizing warning signs
- Learning about anger triggers
- Saying a prayer and talking problems out
- Learning calming techniques



Opener

5 Minutes

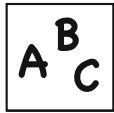
[Bring in a bag of animal crackers, jelly beans, or any bite-sized snack to class. As students get ready for class, go around the room and pass out the snacks to each student. Give some students large portions and others very small portions. Wait a moment to see what reactions you get from the students. It's likely that many will start complaining to you about not being fair. Take this opportunity to begin talking about what making a judgment means, and how easy it is for us to judge others. Help students see that we should be glad for what we have and not look to criticize others.]

Boys and girls, I see that some people are not very happy about the number of snacks they got. Before I tell you why I gave more to some, and fewer to others, I want you to first share with me what was on your mind when you saw that you had received fewer snacks. [Encourage those who received fewer to talk about their feelings.] Some of you may have felt sad that you didn't get as many. Some of you may have gotten upset and felt like you were being treated unfairly. Or some of you may have even thought that the teacher was showing favoritism.

When you have these kinds of thoughts, you are being "judgmental." You were **judging your teacher** when you began to make opinions or conclusions about this snack situation without knowing the full situation. Those who received fewer may have even begun to think, "This teacher is so mean! S/he isn't fair." What if I told you that some students got more because they came early this morning to help tidy up the classroom for our class? Would you still be as upset? The

point we are making here is that we often **judge** others by jumping to conclusions too quickly. It's so easy to think wrongly of others based on appearances when we don't have all the information.

In today's lesson, we are going to continue studying the Sermon on the Mount to learn more about how we should not judge others; do things to please God, not men; control our emotions; and help others with a cheerful heart. [At this time, please give more snacks to the students who had received smaller portions so that everyone can enjoy a quick, and equally distributed, snack.]



Vocabulary

judge: to form an opinion or conclusion about something or someone

fast: to refrain from eating as a religious observance

hypocrite: i) one who sees the faults of others without seeing one's own faults; and ii) one who appears to do good, but only does so to look good in front of others

reconcile: to make up after an argument, or restore friendly relations

anonymous: unidentified



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Print out all the Bible Discovery worksheets before class. Students will be filling them out as you go through the lesson. Instructions for the worksheets have been included in this section. Hand out Worksheet #1 now.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to go back to Part II of Worksheet #1, and write down three things they want to improve on in order to become a better Christian. Remind students that this is for their own self-reflection only, so they should just write down their points quietly without sharing with others. Take three minutes to complete the worksheet. Instruct students to put their pencils down when they are done. No further discussion is needed for this activity. Feel free to move on to the next part of the Bible Discovery content right away.

Do Not Judge

While you quickly finish your snack, please take a few minutes to work on Part I of Worksheet #1. Take a moment to think about what just happened with the snack scenario, and how you may have reached your own conclusions before I explained why some students received more snacks than others. Now, imagine that you were the teacher. How would you feel when your students call you a mean teacher, and believe that you are insensitive and unfair? [Let students answer the question. After a few minutes, share how it feels to be misjudged or misunderstood—very unpleasant, sad, and hurtful.]

Now, let's turn to **Matthew 7:1-5**, and read the verses aloud together. Here, the Lord Jesus gives us a serious warning about being quick to judge others. He says it's like trying to get a speck of dust out of our friend's eye when we have a huge stick in our eye. We should first take care of our problems and faults before we tell others how to fix theirs. Jesus tells us that if we don't do this, we become hypocrites. What does a hypocrite do? [Encourage students to answer.] A hypocrite is someone who is always judging others for their faults, but does not see that their own faults may be even greater. Do you want to be known as a hypocrite? We shouldn't judge what others do or don't do. Instead, we should make sure we are doing what is right in the eyes of God.

Jesus Teaches about Fasting

Have you ever fasted before? In what situations would you fast and pray? [Encourage students to share.] We choose to give up food so that we can fully concentrate on praying hard for certain matters, such as praying for the Holy Spirit, people who are sick, or things we truly need God's help on. Fasting is not an easy thing to do, and it does take a lot of self-discipline to do it. However, when you do it, you can often experience great power from God.

So, if you ever decide to fast and pray, what kind of attitude do you think you should have in doing so? Let's turn to Matthew 6:16-18, and read the verses together. Jesus does not want us to be like hypocrites. Before, we talked about hypocrites as those who easily see the faults of others, but not their own. Now, we learned that hypocrites do good things, like fasting, in front of others, in order to gain others' praise. The Pharisees used to make themselves look pale and gloomy to show everyone that they were fasting so that people who saw them would compliment them on their holiness. Jesus says that these people who seek praise from others will not receive their reward in heaven.

Our prayers to God should always be sincere and humble. If we try to make a show of it, God will not be pleased with our prayers at all, because we are seeking the praises of man. This attitude applies to our service at church as well. Whenever we do God's work, such as helping out at church, we need to check our hearts to make sure we have the right attitude. Let's take a minute to take a look at our hearts! Are we serving with the right attitude?

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to complete the "Look Inside Your Heart" section on page 2 of Worksheet #1. Again, instruct students to do this quietly and individually as a reflective activity. Then, pass out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2.

Controlling Anger

Constantly checking our hearts is indeed an important thing to do! There is something else that we also need to keep a close eye on—our anger!! Now, please get into groups of three or four, and brainstorm answers to the two questions on Worksheet #2.

FOR TEACHERS

Prepare two posters with one question written on each, and tape them on the classroom wall.
Poster 1: Why do people get mad at each other? (List reasons people get mad...)
Poster 2: How do people usually get mad? (List ways people get mad...)
 Allow students to work in groups of 3 or 4. Students should brainstorm their answers in groups, but write them down individually on their own worksheet. Have one student from each group to come up and write down the group's answers on the two posters on the wall. Discuss the answers as a class.

Wow, we really get angry at each other for a lot of different reasons, don't we? And when we are angry, things can get ugly!! We might say harmful words, just for the sake of hurting others. So, what does Jesus teach us to do when we get into such situations? Let's turn to **Matthew 5:21-26**, and read the verses together.

Here, Jesus made such a strong statement when He said that we must forgive and "reconcile" with our brothers and sisters before God will accept our worship and prayers. What does this mean? This means that God wants us to forgive those who wrong us, and to reconcile, or rebuild, our relationship with them when we get into a fight. We know for sure that anger can cause great damage! But by relying on God's Spirit within us, we can avoid falling into the trap of negative emotions.

It's not easy to forgive people who have hurt us, but it takes even greater courage to fix a relationship if we were the ones who hurt others. Jesus wants us to be brave, and be the one to take the initiative in fixing problems. Take a minute to reflect on this and close your eyes to think about

these two questions:

1. Who do you need to make things right with?
2. How are you going to do it?

FOR TEACHERS

Give students a minute or two to think about the questions quietly. When ready, have them write down their plan on how to make things right on page 2 of Worksheet #2. This activity should be done individually. Hold students accountable by putting a timeline on their pledged actions. After the students have completed the worksheet, move on by handing out Bible Discovery Worksheet #3.

Anonymous Giving

Now, can anyone come up with a definition for the word "anonymous"? [Allow students to answer if they can.] It means to keep your identity unknown. When you do things anonymously, you are doing things without letting people know that you actually did it. In Jesus' sermon on the mount, He stresses the importance of giving to and helping the needy in secret. **What do you think is the reason why we might want to help others in secret instead of in public?** [Call on a few students to share their thoughts.] **Matthew 6:1-4** tells us exactly why! Please turn to these four verses, and read them closely. As soon as you finish, close your Bible, and see how much content you remember by filling in the blanks.

FOR TEACHERS

Have students look at their worksheet and fill in the blanks without consulting their Bibles. When students are done, have each student exchange their worksheet with a neighbor. They can then share with their neighbor one thing they learned from these verses.

So, how does one do good in secret? [Allow students to answer.] You can do a chore without announcing to everyone that you did it. You can send an unsigned note to cheer someone up. Sometimes people will find out, and that's okay. The point is that you help people without caring whether people know you did. God knows, and He will be pleased. Remember, our true reward is from above!

Conclusion

In today's lesson, we have learned that instead of being critical towards others, we should show compassion to them. Rather than finding fault with others, we should ask God to help us look inside and detect our own weaknesses. For everything we do, let's check our motivations. Are we just doing things to gain earthly praises, or out of a sincere heart? Let's not forget to show our love and care to those who are in need, and help in such a way that others would not know about it. Now, after learning so many wonderful life principles from our Lord Jesus, let's encourage one another to practice every one of them in our everyday life! When we put God's word in our hearts and hold ourselves accountable to actually doing it, we will continue to improve day by day.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The **Sacrament of Footwashing** encourages us to be followers of Christ, who has set forth a great example in His love, holiness, humility, forgiveness, and service. We pray to God to fill our hearts with compassion so that we can love and forgive with a sincere heart. We also ask God to give us the right attitude when serving Him so that our work will be remembered in heaven.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Why shouldn't we judge others?** Because we will also be judged by the same measure in front of God.
2. **What do "speck" and "plank" in the eye mean?** They refer to small and large faults made by people.
3. **What does a hypocrite do?** i) A hypocrite tells people not to do certain things, but still goes and does those things anyway; or ii) a hypocrite does good things, but only to gain the praise of others.
4. **When do you fast and pray? Please share examples.** Answers may vary.
5. **What kind of attitude should you have when you fast and pray?** Pray with a sincere and humble heart.
6. **True or False: Jesus equates being angry with killing someone.** True.
7. **True or False: Jesus wants us to worship Him first before we make peace with our brothers and sisters.** False; Jesus wants us to reconcile with our brothers and sisters before coming before Him.
8. **What is the difference between earthly praises and heavenly rewards?** Earthly praises, which come from men, are temporary, but heavenly rewards, which come from God, are everlasting.
9. **Why would you want to help the needy in secret instead of in public?** To be considerate of others and seek heavenly rewards.
10. **What have you learned about the overall attitude of serving God in today's lesson?** Answers may vary.



Life Application

10 Minutes

What Would You Do?

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet and ask the students to read the scenarios and answer the questions that follow. When they have finished the worksheet, ask the students to volunteer their answers, and then go over the provided explanations as a class.]

This was what Micky did throughout her day...

Scenario One...

Just like most kids, Micky moved to the other side of the classroom, away from Sharon, where the majority of the class had gathered. Micky felt bad for walking away, yet she couldn't convince herself to partner up with someone as different as Sharon. Then, she noticed another girl walking up to Sharon with a big smile on her face, asking to be Sharon's partner. This girl didn't seem to mind Sharon's "oddness." Micky saw them exchanging information cheerfully. She started feeling even worse for not having the love and courage to care for someone whom others disliked.

Scenario Two...

When Micky saw Sharon sitting by herself, she felt her heart being pulled in different directions. On the one hand, she felt that she should sit with Sharon to keep her company because this was the "right" thing to do. On the other hand, she almost felt embarrassed to be seen as "Sharon's friend." That would just not be the cool thing to do... As soon as Mrs. Clark walked into the cafeteria, Micky remembered her teacher's encouragement for them to show kindness to one another. She also remembered how bad she felt earlier when she lacked the courage to be Sharon's partner. Micky took a deep breath and walked over to Sharon's table. "Now is my chance to do the right thing," she said to herself.

Scenario Three...

Micky felt so MAD at her little sister for taking things out without her permission. The worst thing was that Minnie had even dared touch the lollipop that Micky had been saving up for, not to mention Minnie's eating it... Micky stormed into Minnie's room to ask why Minnie had done this to her. She felt like screaming her lungs out and telling Minnie how upset she was, even though she knew this wouldn't help a bit. Mom heard the commotion from the kitchen, and came over to intervene. Little Minnie was certainly in trouble then! She not only ended up having to apologize to Micky, but she also had to repay Micky by sharing some of her own favorite treats with her big sister.

**Activity****Secret Angel***10-15 Minutes*

Objective: To learn to show love and care in secret without seeking praises from men, but rewards from God.

As a concluding activity, you are going to be someone's secret angel today to pass on your love and care in secret! Your task is to put together a care package with a self-designed card inside. Take a minute to think of a person whom you want to cheer up. This can be someone who is sick, sad, in need of help, or someone you care about. Once you know to whom you want to give the care package, you can begin making a card for that person with your caring words. Feel free to draw pictures to make it look nice! The most important thing is to figure out how to deliver the package anonymously.

Materials

- Small brown bag or gift bag
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Any novelty items, stickers, etc.
- Ribbon
- Pencils
- Markers
- Bags of assorted candy

Instructions

1. Be someone's secret angel and prepare a care package today! Think of a person whom you can cheer up. This can be someone who is sick, sad, in need of help, or someone you care about.
2. Make a card for him/her with your caring words and pictures. Use construction paper and any available supplies to design your card.
3. Remember NOT to sign your name on the card, so you can remain anonymous!
4. Once you are done with the card, put the goodies and your card in the bag.
5. Brainstorm on how you are going to get your care package delivered anonymously.

At the end of the activity, ask the students how it makes them feel to give a special gift to someone "in secret." Encourage them by saying that God's reward for us will be great when we care for others out of a sincere heart!

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY**Short Answer**

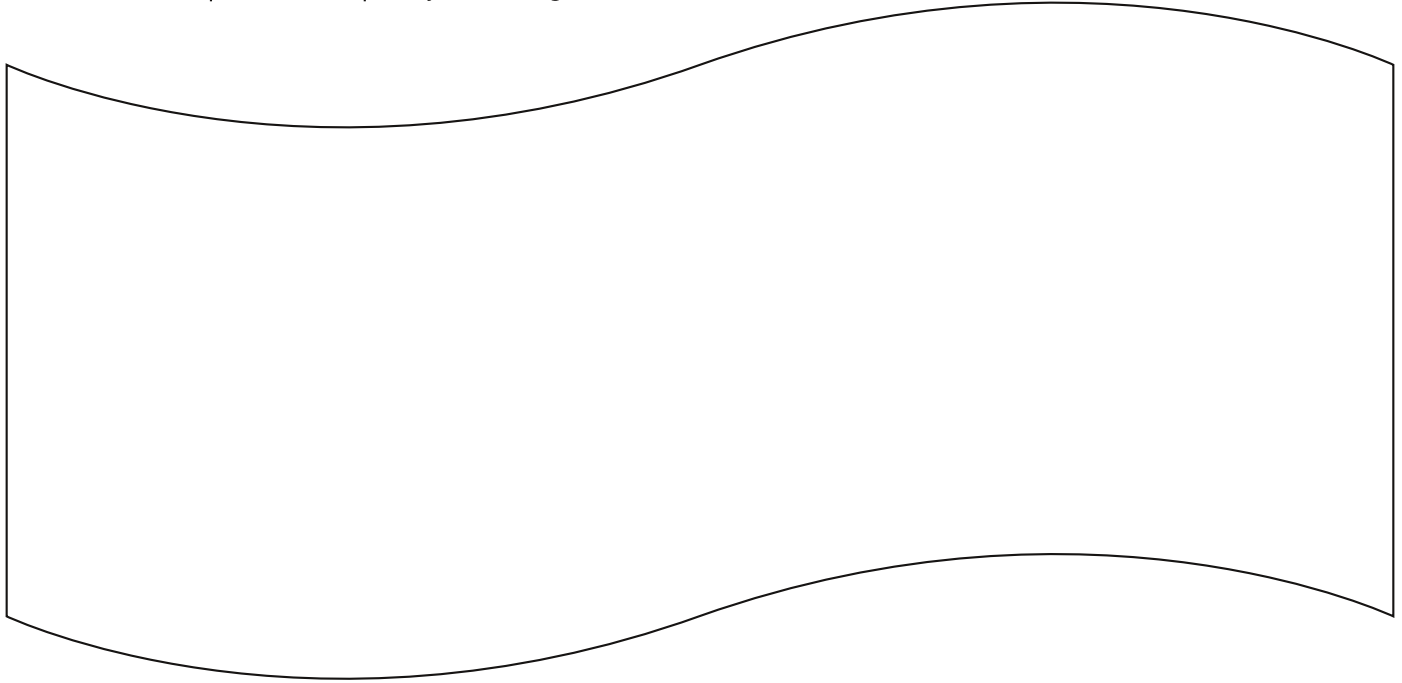
1. Answers may vary.
2. Matthew 6:16-18
3. Because God wants us to focus on loving and forgiving others first.
4. Answers may vary.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

- | Across | Down |
|------------------|------------------|
| 5. authority | 1. pearls |
| 6. pure in heart | 2. merciful |
| 10. treasures | 3. judged |
| 13. comforted | 4. repetitions |
| 14. masters | 6. peacemakers |
| 15. basket | 7. righteousness |
| 16. inherit | 8. kingdom |
| 17. persecuted | 9. enemies |
| | 11. hypocrite |
| | 12. light |

SELF-REFLECTION TIME**Part 1**

Take a moment to reflect on the snack situation. Imagine that you were the teacher. Your students started calling you a mean teacher, and they thought that you were showing favoritism to some students. How does this make you feel? You can use words or pictures to express your feelings...

**Part 2**

What are three things you want to improve on to be a better Christian?

1.

2.

3.



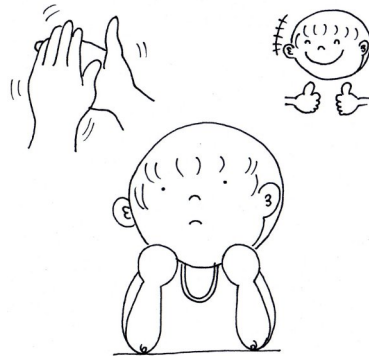
LOOK INSIDE YOUR HEART...

Are you helping out at church to "look good" or to gain praise from people? If not, what are your motivations?

I help, because I...

I help, because I...

I help, because I...

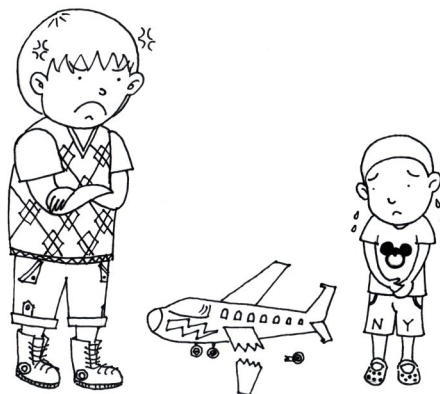


CONTROLLING YOUR ANGER

Work with your group to brainstorm answers to the following two questions. Write your answers down individually. When your group is done, select one student to come up and write down your group's answers on the two posters on the wall.

Why do people get mad at each other? (List reasons people get mad...)

How do people usually get mad? (List ways people get mad...)



MY PLAN TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT...

Who do you need to make things right with?

How are you going to do it?

Who?

What happened?

What can you do to make things right?

Step 1...

Step 2...

Step 3...

I will put my plan into action by _____.
(Date)

(Sign your name here)

GIVING IN SECRET

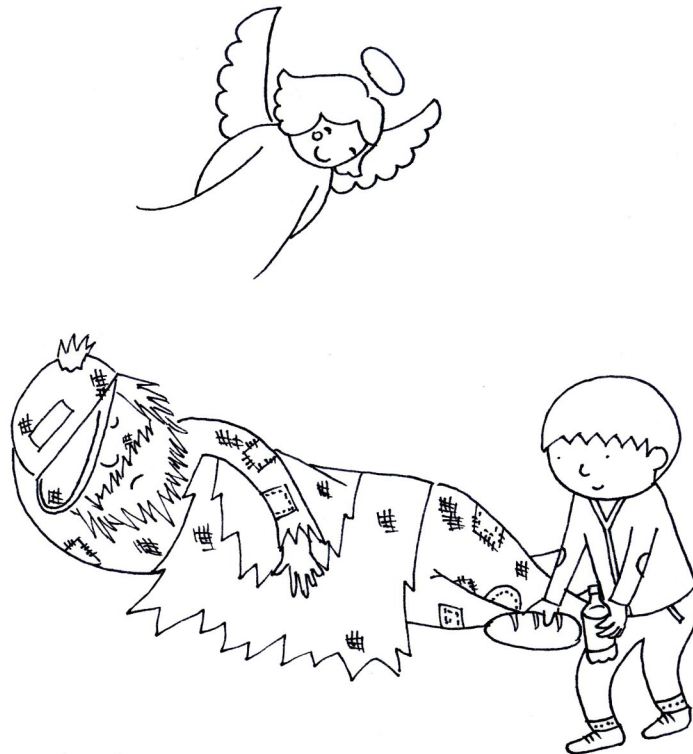
Open your Bible to Matthew 6:1-4 and read these four verses carefully. When you're done reading, close your Bible, and use the word box below to help you fill in the blanks. The first one has been done for you!

sees ~~heed~~ glory charitable deed heaven reward secret

1. "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no _____ from your Father in _____.
2. "Therefore, when you do a _____ deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have _____ from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable _____, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in _____; and your Father who _____ in secret will Himself reward you openly."

What to do when you are done...

- Exchange your worksheet with your neighbor.
- Open the Bible to check your neighbor's answers.
- Share with your neighbor one thing you learned from these verses.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Four Life Principles to Take to Heart...

1. Not to pass hasty judgment on others, but humbly look out for our own faults in life
2. To examine our hearts, so as not to serve God simply to look good in front of others
3. To control our emotions in everyday life
4. To help those in need without seeking earthly praise

Instructions: Read the following scenarios and answer the questions that follow.

Scenario One...

It was Micky's first day of school in fourth grade. She entered her classroom and felt a bit nervous when she saw all the unfamiliar faces there. Quietly and without looking at anyone, she quickly found her desk and sat down. After a few minutes of settling in, Micky started looking around her classroom. All of the sudden, she heard some strange noises coming from behind. Micky turned her head to see who could be making such noises when she saw Sharon, the little girl who sat right behind her. Micky thought there was something different about Sharon. Micky quickly turned around, but, after a few moments, found that she couldn't resist looking back at Sharon again. Micky thought to herself, "What's wrong with Sharon? Why is her face so crooked, and why does she keep her mouth open and make all those strange noises?" Then, Micky started feeling sorry for herself for having to sit right in front of Sharon. She would have to listen to Sharon's unpleasant sounds all year long!

At this time, Mrs. Clark, the teacher, called for her students' attention. Mrs. Clark welcomed everyone warmly, and asked the students to find a partner and introduce themselves to each other. Micky started looking for a partner, but she couldn't help noticing that everyone was trying to avoid getting too close to Sharon. Micky felt bad for Sharon, but on the other hand was not sure if she really wanted to be Sharon's partner, either...

What would you do if you were Micky?



Scenario Two...

After the Get-to-Know-Each-Other activity, Mrs. Clark stressed the importance of everyone helping and caring for each other in class. Mrs. Clark went on to talk about how every child is different, and how some children may have special needs. She encouraged all of her students to find ways to show kindness to one another. Finally, Mrs. Clark said that she would be giving out awards at the end of the week to those who actually offered a helping hand to others, inside and outside of the classroom. "Awards! How cool would it be if I could get an award," Micky thought to herself.

Before long, it was lunchtime. Micky walked into the cafeteria, lunch bag in hand. She looked around the crowded cafeteria to find a place to sit. Again, she noticed that Sharon was sitting by herself at a table. At that point, Mrs. Clark walked in and began greeting some of her students...

What do you think Micky was thinking when she saw Sharon?

What do you think she was thinking when she saw Mrs. Clark?



Where do you think Micky ended up sitting, and why?

Scenario Three...

After a long day at school, Micky couldn't wait to go home. Micky had a little sister, Minnie, who was just a kindergartener. Minnie adored her big sister, and loved to hang out in Micky's room, whether or not Micky was around. While Micky liked her sister, too, she really didn't like it when Minnie went into her room without her permission. Minnie could make quite a mess of things!

As Micky walked in the door, she saw a trail of her things on the floor—her hair clips, her coin collection, her sticker book, and "Oh, no..." her favorite fruit-flavored lollipop she had been saving for a special occasion had been half-eaten already!!! Micky could feel her face turning red and her eyes welling up with tears. Micky was really MAD, and she knew exactly who was to blame...

Would you feel angry as well in this situation?

In this story, what can Micky do to control her anger?



E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 4—God's Teaching on the Mount (Part 3)

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

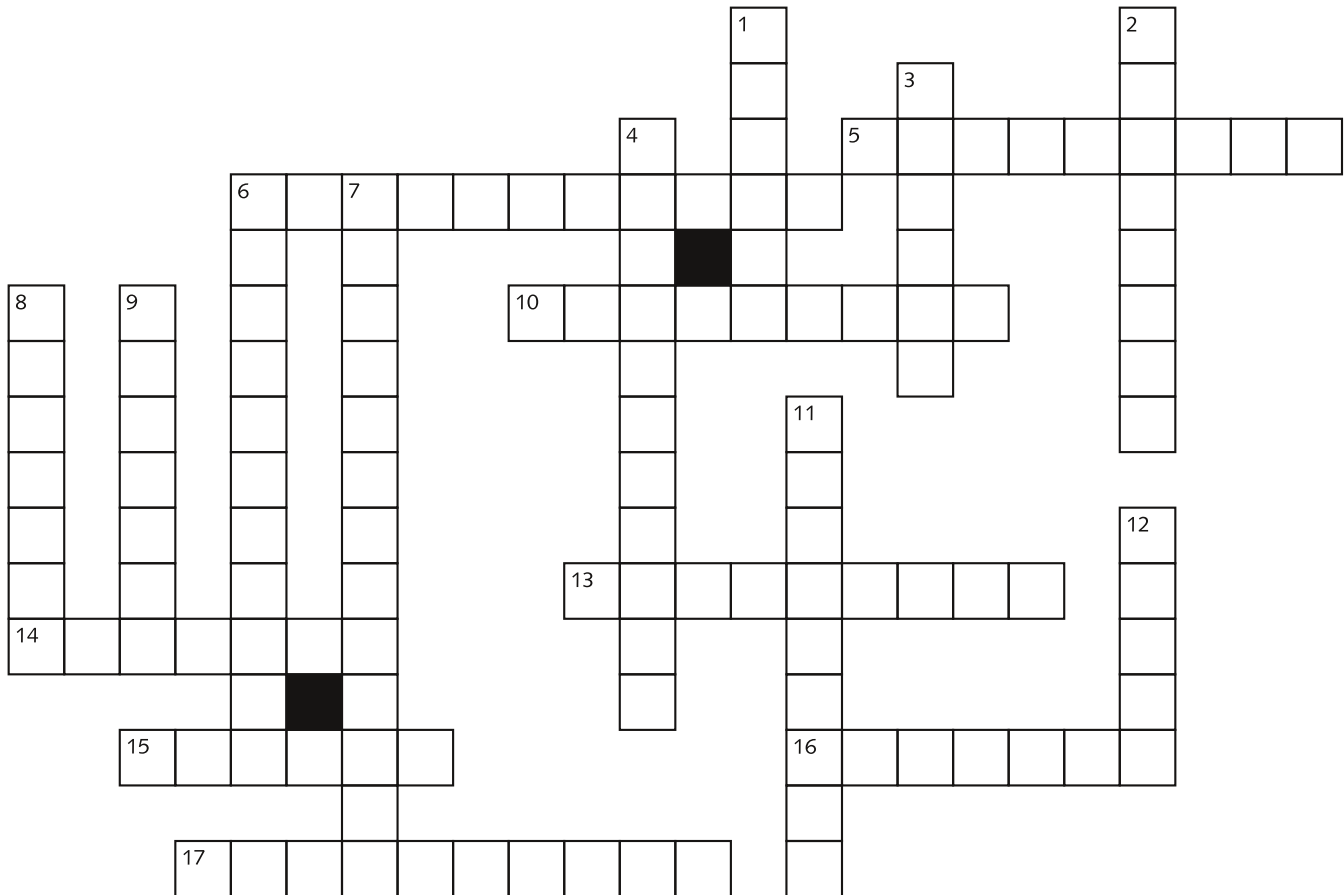
Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Colossians 3:23)**

Short Answer

1. Use your own words to explain Matthew 7:3-4, "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck out of your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?"
2. Which three verses in Matthew, chapter 6 describe the right attitude we should have during fasting? Write the reference.
3. Why does Jesus want us to reconcile with our brothers and sisters before we offer gifts/sacrifices to God?
4. Take a minute to reflect on all the teachings you have learned from Jesus' sermon on the mount in the last three lessons. Please read through Matthew, chapters 5-7, and pick out three things that you want to improve on in your life.

Quick Review on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

This crossword puzzle will help test your knowledge of the Lord Jesus' sermon on the mount as recorded in Matthew, chapters 5–7. Let's see how much you have learned in the past few weeks! Feel free to use your Bible to help you find the answers!



ACROSS

5. Jesus taught not as the scribes, but "as one having ____." (7:29)
6. "Blessed are the ____ ____, for they shall see God." (5:8)
10. "Do not lay up for yourselves ____ on earth." (6:19a)
13. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be ____." (5:4)
14. No man can serve two of these. (6:24)
15. We should not hide our light under a _____. (5:15)
16. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall ____ the earth." (5:5)
17. "Blessed are those who are ____ for righteousness' sake." (5:10a)

DOWN

1. We should not cast these before swine. (7:6)
2. "Blessed are the ____, for they shall obtain mercy." (5:7)
3. "Judge not, that you be not ____." (7:1)
4. "And when you pray, do not use vain ____ as the heathen do." (6:7)
6. "Blessed are the ____, for they shall be called the children of God." (5:9)
7. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for ____, for they shall be filled." (5:6)
8. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the ____ of heaven." (5:3)
9. We should love not only our neighbors, but also our _____. (5:44)
11. What is a person who does not first cast out the plank in their own eye, but rather focuses on others' problems instead? (7:5)
12. "You are the ____ of the world." (5:14)

LESSON 5

JESUS IS LORD OVER NATURE

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that Jesus, who has the power to do what is humanly impossible, is truly the Son of God.
2. To learn that God alone has the power to help us overcome all of our problems.
3. To gain faith in God and put away our fears by trusting Him with all our hearts.

MEMORY VERSE

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for bringing us together on this Sabbath day so that we can rest and worship Him.
2. Ask God to increase our faith.
3. Ask God to help us to trust in Him to overcome difficulties.



Overview

1. Jesus Walked on Water (Mt 14)

- The disciples were caught in a storm (vv. 22-24)
- Jesus walked on water and comforted the disciples (vv. 25-27)
- Peter walked on water, fell, and Jesus helped him (vv. 28-31)
- Jesus stopped the heavy winds (vv. 32-33)

2. Jesus Calmed a Storm (Mk 4:35-41)

3. Jesus Performed Many Types of Miracles

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God

5. Life Application

- Finding Our Faith: How do we increase in faith? The relationship between prayers and the building up of our faith.
- A Testimony of Faith: God alone has the power to help us overcome all of our difficulties and problems.

6. Activity—Write a Testimony



Background Knowledge for Teachers

In the two Bible stories to be discussed today, the disciples met with great danger caused by nature. Matthew 14:22-33 records a time when the disciples were tossed by waves. They saw the heavy winds and the storm. Water filled their boat, threatening their lives. In these situations, Jesus showed that He is Lord over nature: He walked on water and calmed the storm just by speaking to it. Jesus told His disciples to have faith. Jesus asked the disciples why they feared and lacked faith. The disciples needed to trust in Jesus, and believe in His almighty power.

Hebrews 11:1 records that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is having full conviction or belief, without seeing it happen. In both Bible stories, Jesus reached out to the disciples and helped them although they lacked faith. Out of His great love and mercy for the disciples, He helped them. In John 20:29, Jesus said that those who have believed without seeing are blessed. Jesus blessed those who had faith in His resurrection before they saw Him post-resurrection.

In our lives today, it may be easy to see difficulties as the disciples did. After all, when difficulties occur, they are always so real, right before our eyes. However, the Bible encourages us to trust in the Lord, to look to Jesus instead of looking at our difficulties and worries. For, if we have God, we have nothing to fear.



Reaching Out to Your Students

In life, we will inevitably encounter difficulties and problems. Students at this age may begin to notice their family members experiencing health problems, or they themselves may experience stress in school, peer pressure, or other issues. It is important that they learn to connect their troubles with their faith, to understand that with faith and trust in God, everything will be well.

Jesus is Lord over all, as discussed in today's two Bible stories. There is nothing too difficult for our Lord Jesus, and we must have faith in Him. Encourage your students to bring any worries and difficulties to God. Whenever we are worried or scared, we should remember Philippians 4:6-8: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." When we bring our worries to God in prayer and thanksgiving, God will fill our hearts with peace.



Opener

5 Minutes

Sing and then analyze the hymn "He Will Hide Me" from our church hymnal. Some of the following questions can be used as warm-up questions for discussion: Have any of you seen huge, raging waves in person? Imagine that you were very close to the sea or right in the middle of a raging sea, how would you feel?

A lot of times, life has been compared to a raging sea, with troubles towering over us at times. Think about times when you felt overwhelmed with situations beyond your control or ability to change. What did you do?

Let's see what this hymn encourages us to do. [Talk about the lyrics and use this hymn as an entry point to the Bible stories for today.]



Vocabulary

boisterous: strong

perishing: dying

stern: the back of the boat



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. The students will fill it out during the lesson. Keep one copy to reference during the lesson. The answers have been underlined in this section.

Why did Jesus come to this world? [Give students time to answer.] Out of His great love, Jesus Christ came to preach the gospel and died on the cross to save mankind so that they can have eternal life. Of course, He cared also for man's well-being on earth. One day, there were more than 5,000 people who listened to Jesus Christ preach the gospel. Afterward, they were hungry. Jesus Christ took care of the people and fed them.

Afterward, Jesus instructed the disciples to go into a boat and start sailing to Bethsaida. Then, Jesus sent the people away and went up to a mountain to pray alone. On the way to Bethsaida, the disciples met with danger. **Let's read Matthew 14:24.**

"But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary."

The boat was in the sea, far from land, and caught in heavy winds. Also, it was nighttime. Since the winds were blowing against the disciples, they had to row very hard (Mk 6:48). Can you imagine how the disciples must have felt then? [Let students respond.] Yes, the disciples

were probably very frightened and tired.

Jesus saw the disciples on the boat. **Let's continue reading Matthew 14:25-27 to see what happened next.**

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.'"

When the disciples were caught in a storm, Jesus walked on the water. Is it humanly possible for a person to walk on water? No. Through this, Jesus showed the disciples His great power. Jesus showed that He is God, Lord over nature. For man, walking on water is impossible, but for Jesus, nothing is impossible. **Let's continue reading verses 28-32. We'll refer to the worksheet and fill in the blanks.**

"And Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' So He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased."

Why did Peter start to sink? He saw the boisterous wind and became afraid. It was then that Jesus taught Peter to have faith. **Let's read verse 33.**

"Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God.'"

After all these things happened, the disciples worshipped Jesus. They knew that He is the Son of God.

Now, we'll discuss another time when Jesus also showed that He is Lord over nature. One evening, Jesus and His disciples sailed across a lake (Lk 8:22).

Let's read Mark 4:37-38.

"And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'"

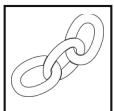
From this, we can see just how frightened the disciples were. They saw the great storm, the boat filling with water, and thought they were going to die. And, they saw Jesus sleeping through the storm! **Let's continue reading verses 39-41.**

"Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!'"

Jesus is truly Lord over nature. He stopped the great storm just by speaking to the wind and waves! Jesus also taught His disciples to have faith! Even in such a frightening situation, the disciples needed to have faith and not be scared, for they needed to believe in Jesus' almighty power. When the disciples were scared, they did not have faith, for faith and fear are opposites. To have faith is to cast all our fears to the Lord, and let Him take charge of whatever situation we're faced with.

FOR TEACHERS

Now, refer to the Bible Discovery Activity teacher handout for a corresponding activity. Go over with the students some other instances in the Bible of how Jesus is the Lord over nature.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Jesus is the **one true God**. He is the Lord over nature. Through His almighty power, Jesus was able to calm the storm. Only the one true God, the Creator of the heavens and of earth, can have power over nature. That is because He was the one that created nature in the beginning. No human or machine has the power to control nature.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **In the first Bible lesson we learned about, why weren't Jesus and the disciples in the boat together?** Jesus had told the disciples to sail to Bethsaida first while He went up to a mountain to pray alone.
2. **How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on the water and why?** They cried out in fear because they thought Jesus was a ghost.
3. **True or False: After the disciples knew that Jesus had walked on water, they all wanted to walk on the water.** False.
4. **Peter started walking on water but then became afraid. Why?** He saw the strong winds.
5. **What did Peter do when he started to sink?** He cried to Jesus, "Lord, save me!"
6. **What did Jesus say to Peter after he cried out?** He said Peter had little faith and asked why he doubted.
7. **Why did the disciples worship Jesus after they first saw Him walk on water and then stop the storm?** They had seen Jesus' power and knew that He was the Son of God.
8. **In the second Bible lesson, how did the disciples react when they saw the boat filling with water?** They woke Jesus up and asked if He cared that they were all dying.
9. **How did Jesus calm the storm?** He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!"
10. **What did Jesus say to the disciples after calming the storm?** He asked why they were scared and didn't have any faith.
11. **What can we learn from the answer above?** We must have faith in God's almighty power and trust in Him at all times, even in times of danger. We should not fear.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[First, go over Worksheet #1 with the students as you read the passages and answer the questions as a class. Then, go over Worksheet #2 by reading the testimony with the students and discussing the questions that follow.]

1. Finding Our Faith

Today, we learned two Bible stories in which there was great danger caused by nature. The disciples were fearful because they saw a great storm. Today, we may not always find ourselves in the middle of a natural disaster. However, a great storm for us can come in the form of any trouble or difficulty. Sometimes, we may feel fear from these troubles and difficulties. However, our Lord Jesus can help us with any kind of difficulty. We must bring our difficulties to God and have faith in Him, for there is nothing too difficult for God. Let us remember this verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Pr 3:5-6).

This brings us to one important question. We know we ought to have faith in God. However, how is faith developed? How do we strengthen our conviction and faith towards God? Let's look at our Life Application Worksheet for today.

1. **How do you define faith? Write down your response without referring to the Bible or discussing it with your classmates.**
2. **Read Hebrews 11:1. How is faith defined in this passage?**
Faith is the belief that what we hope for will happen, even when we can't see it.
3. **Read Hebrews 11:6. Why is it so important to have faith?**
Those who come to God must believe that He is God and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Let's consider how faith is developed.

A. Let's read Mark 9:14-29.

- a. **Why did the father ask the Lord Jesus for help?**
- b. **What did he say to the Lord Jesus in verse 24, and what does this verse teach us about faith?** "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" It teaches us that faith can be prayed for and that the Lord can grant us faith.

B. Let's read Hebrews 12:1.

In chapter 11 of Hebrews, the author cites many examples of faith. Here in 12:1, we're told that we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. What does this verse tell you about how we can gain faith?

The followers of God in the Old Testament, the disciples and believers in the New Testament, plus many believers in our current times have all experienced God in their lives. When we read about them or hear testimonies of God's acts in their lives, we need to meditate and remember. If God took care of them, surely God will care for us according to His great mercy!

C. What effects did the two events in which the Lord Jesus walked on water and calmed the raging storm have on His disciples? Their faith was strengthened.

Indeed, we need spiritual experiences for our faith to be strengthened. Now, I'm guessing you must be thinking in your minds: How can we have spiritual experiences? Well, the answer is, you need to allow God to work in your life.

If you're facing struggles, whether emotional, physical, or in another aspect of life, you need to kneel down and pray. Then, what? You need to learn to wait. There are many instances in the Bible that teach us to wait for the Lord to act. For example, Psalm 40:1 says, "I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry."

Sometimes, even in prayers, we can feel the Holy Spirit guiding us, transforming our hearts and minds to understand our situation better. This requires deep prayers, with patience and calm, meditating upon God's words as we pray. Such experiences will strengthen our faith, and we will know that we can fully entrust our problems to God, for He will surely work something out for us.

D. Let us read this short testimony. [The testimony has been provided on the worksheet.]**Discussion Questions**

1. What are your prayers about? Do you have a list of requests for God to fulfill, or do you think about (meditate upon) God's words in relation to things in your life?
2. Have you ever experienced how praying actually gives you peace or changes your ideas about certain things so that you know you are in tune with God's will?
3. What are the characteristics of a good prayer that is acceptable and pleasing to God?

2. A Testimony of Faith

We have mentioned that faith can be strengthened by learning about God's work in others' lives. Let us now read a testimony of how God cured a boy of an incurable disease. The testimony is about a boy who was very sick. His parent was very worried and scared at first. However, God comforted them in times of fear and helped them.

Life Application Questions**1. What did the boy's parent do when he was heartbroken?**

He called the wife of his colleague, who was a True Jesus Church member, to ask her to pray for his son.

2. Why was he facing an impossible situation?

The doctor had no confidence that his son would live, and treatments did not help him at all.

3. How did God comfort the parent?

The parent saw a ray of light during prayer, the son wanted to be baptized, and the sister from church said the pastor thought the boy should be baptized.

4. What are some things that the parent learned?

To trust and rely on God. Blessed are those who love and believe in God. God listens to our prayers.

Through this testimony, we can see how God guided and comforted the boy's parent. Although the parent faced a situation as big and dangerous as a storm, God calmed the storm for him. We must trust in the Lord and bring our worries and difficulties to Him.



Activity

Write a Testimony

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reflect on God's power and care for us.

Materials

- Lined paper
- Pencils

Instructions

1. Have the students think of a time when God helped them with a difficulty.
2. The students will write a testimony.
3. Remind them about how to begin and end a testimony
 - Begin: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify.
 - End: May all the glory be unto God.
4. If time permits, have the students share their testimonies by reading them aloud to the class. Alternately, group students into pairs and have each pair exchange testimonies.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. They cried out in fear because they thought Jesus was a ghost.
2. He saw the strong winds.
3. They had seen Jesus' power and knew that He was the Son of God.
4. He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!"
5. We must have faith in God's almighty power and trust in Him at all times, even in times of danger. We should not fear.
6. Answers may vary.

Other Events in Which the Lord Jesus Showed Power over Nature—Bible-reading and Sharing among Students

Preparations

1. Prepare index cards and write down the following passages, writing one on each index card. If there are more students than passages, please repeat the passages and have two index cards with the same passages. (Or, you can use other miracles performed by the Lord Jesus and write down the biblical references.)
2. Put all the cards in a box or envelope so the students can take turns to draw a card.
3. After drawing a card, they will read the passage they have picked, and then share about what they have read, according to the questions you will ask.

Bible passages

- Mt 21:19-21
- Lk 7:11-17
- Jn 2:1-11
- Lk 17:11-14
- Mt 9:27-29
- Mk 1:21-27

Say to the students: "From the two events on the sea, we have seen that the Lord Jesus is Lord over the forces of nature. Now, we're going to do a short exercise and look at other events in the Bible that also testify to the fact that our Lord Jesus is Lord over nature."

I have here with me [number of] index cards. These cards contain Bible passages. I'd like for each one of you to come up and pick one card. Read the Bible passage written on the card, and then share with your classmates what the passage is about. In particular, please focus on the following question."

Discussion topic: How does this passage/event show that Jesus is God and that He can solve all types of problems?

[The students will read the card, describe what happened in the passage, and then answer the discussion question. Each passage should be shared about at least once.]

Explanations to the students during discussion:

- **Jesus cursed the fig tree (Mt 21:19-21)** – No human can make a tree wither at will.
- **Jesus healed the lepers (Lk 17:11-14)** – Leprosy may be curable today, but it requires strong doses of a combination of drugs. In the days when Jesus was on earth, there were no such drugs, yet Jesus cured the lepers by just His words.
- **Jesus raised the son of the widow at Nain (Lk 7:11-17)** – No one but God can raise a dead person and bring him back to life.
- **Jesus healed two blind men (Mt 9:27-29)** – There are other instances of the Lord healing the blind.
- **Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana (Jn 2:1-11)** – There is no "magician's trick" behind this; water simply changed into wine!
- **Jesus cast out an evil spirit (Mk 1:21-27)** – A lot of emotional and mental diseases are works of the devil. Jesus, being God, has power over evil spirits, too.

Conclusion

The miracles performed by the Lord Jesus varied greatly. He healed sicknesses. He restored disabilities. He even raised the dead to life. We are so blessed to know Him, and to be His children. We can turn to Him for every trouble we face!

Let's read Romans 8:31-32. Let us have faith in God, for He will help us in everything, and will give us the best according to His will.

JESUS IS LORD OVER NATURE

Instructions: Follow along with the teacher and fill in the blanks when necessary.

Fear

Have Faith

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Matthew 14:30 "But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was _____; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'"</p> | <p>Matthew 14:31 "And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of faith, why did you _____?'"</p> |
| <p>Mark 4:38 "But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are _____?'"</p> | <p>Mark 4:40 "But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have _____ faith?'"</p> |

In both Bible stories, what threats did the disciples see?

Matthew 14:24 "the boat was t_____ by waves."

What danger did Peter see?

Matthew 14:30 "the wind was b_____."

Although the disciples feared and saw danger, Jesus encouraged them to have faith. He wanted them to see and believe in Jesus' great power instead of seeing the dangerous end to the situation.



FINDING OUR FAITH

1. **How do you define faith?** Write down your response without referring to the Bible or discussing it with your classmates.



2. Read Hebrews 11:1. **How is faith defined in this passage?**

3. Read Hebrews 11:6. **Why is it so important to have faith?**

Let's consider how faith is developed.

A. Let's read Mark 9:14-29.

a. Why did the father ask the Lord Jesus for help?

b. What did he say to the Lord Jesus in verse 24, and what does this verse teach us about faith?

B. Let's read Hebrews 12:1.

C. What effects did the two events in which the Lord Jesus walked on water and calmed the raging storm have on His disciples?

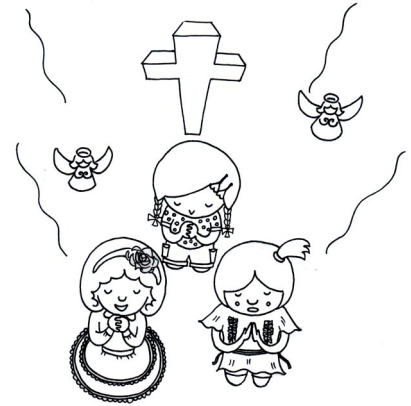
D. Let us read this short testimony.

Sis. Susan had gotten into a conflict with a brother in church. She thought the matter had blown over when she approached the brother and said she hoped that the misunderstanding would clear up and that they were still friends. Unfortunately, the situation worsened because the brother did not think it was a small matter, and he even said unkind words to her.

Susan was very troubled at heart. She went through quite a bit of an emotional roller coaster. She was full of anger against that brother. She prayed, but her anger could not be abated, so her mood was affected. She also felt wronged, and even grew hateful in her heart. Nevertheless, she knew that she had to remember God's words, and not sin against God in her anger (e.g., Eph 4:26a "Be angry, and do not sin.") She knew that she must not grieve the Holy Spirit by sinning, either with her speech or her actions. That was the least she could do to let the Holy Spirit guide her as she waited for God to help her through her emotions. She knew that prayers should not be all about what one feels or has complaints about. Rather, deep prayers should be done with meditation on the words of God.

To help herself, she asked for two good spiritual friends to pray with her. One day, after praying, one of the sisters who had been praying with her shared with her some encouragement about the need to forgive and let things go. After the long sharing, Susan had a long prayer by herself, thinking through her possible weaknesses that prevented her from letting the matter go. She realized that it was her pride that caused her to feel that the brother should be the first to apologize. She realized that her own ideas should be secondary to the importance of having peace between brothers and sisters. Such realizations were the work of the Holy Spirit, for Susan herself could not have thought in this direction.

In her prayers, she repented before God. She understood that her own ego must go. Her own ideas must go. Only God's glory should prevail. And, to bring glory to God's name, she must humble herself and take the initiative to make peace, never mind what the other party thought or felt. Right after making such a decision and promise to God in her prayers, Susan felt completely at peace.



Discussion Questions

1. What are your prayers about? Do you have a list of requests for God to fulfill, or do you think about (meditate upon) God's words in relation to things in your life?
2. Have you ever experienced how praying actually gives you peace or changes your ideas about certain things so that you know you are in tune with God's will?
3. What are the characteristics of a good prayer that is acceptable and pleasing to God?

A TESTIMONY OF FAITH

Wonderful Grace

Tezen Ye Ming

One day during the year when my son was in second grade, he came home from school complaining that his leg hurt him very badly. I discovered that his tonsils were also swollen. Three months later he complained of pain in the right of his abdomen. I took him to see a doctor. The diagnosis was that he had leukemia (blood cancer). Some days were good for him; some bad. This unstable state was so uncontrollable that the doctor said there was no surety that he would live another day. So, we were living from day to day. I, being a faithful Buddhist, was heartbroken. I had never been a terribly bad person so I could not figure out why this tragedy had happened to my only beloved son.

Then I remembered the wife of my colleague who was a very religious Christian in the True Jesus Church. I called her, and explained the situation to her in the hope that she could offer some help through prayers. She immediately came to the hospital the next day to pray for my son. She had also come with many members of the True Jesus Church. During the next few months, they came often to pray for my son.

After about four months, there was still no improvement in my son's condition and the doctor kept increasing the amount of drugs for him, finally reaching what was 54 times the original dose, from 25cc to 1350cc. I was very shocked, but that doctor said that was his only hope for survival and if he did not respond he would die anyway.

My son bled continuously, and every couple of minutes, a nurse had to wipe the blood off his mouth. One day when I was carrying him to the washroom, his body just went totally out of control, and his eyes turned up so that only the whites showed. After we prayed for a while, he became calm but seemed so weak that I thought death was near. Three days later, early in the morning, I was praying in his hospital room when I saw a ray of light beaming upon my head. After my prayer, I was wiping some blood from my son's mouth when all of a sudden, my son sat up and, in a loud voice, said that he felt much better and wanted to be baptized. At that moment, the wife of my colleague came in and coincidentally announced that the pastor felt that my son should be baptized.

After he was carried into the water and baptized, my son walked to the car by himself and started playing with the steering wheel. Later that night, he wanted to eat cake and drink milk. He had not been able to eat for four days already. His temperature was back to normal again. Since then, his visits to the hospital were only for checking up on his progress. He later returned to school and was an energetic child.

Praise the Lord! Jesus is the Almighty God; He is merciful and powerful and will listen to our prayers. Blessed are those who love Him and believe in Him. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Life Application Questions

1. What did the boy's parent do when he was heartbroken?

2. Why was he facing an impossible situation?

3. How did God comfort the parent?

4. What are some things that the parent learned?

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 5—Jesus Is Lord over Nature

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

Short Answer

1. How did the disciples react when they saw Jesus walking on the water and why?
2. Peter started walking on water but then became afraid. Why?
3. Why did the disciples worship Jesus after they first witnessed Him walking on water and stopping the storm?
4. How did Jesus calm the storm?
5. What can we learn from the answer above?
6. Did you have any difficulties this week? How did you trust in God to help you overcome them?

LESSON 6

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONS

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God has authority, and that nothing can happen without His permission.
2. To understand the importance of having faith and relying on God by bringing our worries and fears to Him.
3. To give glory to God by telling others about what God has done for us.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in You."

(Psalm 56:3)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for guiding us during the week and for gathering us together to worship Him.
2. Acknowledge that God is almighty and that nothing is impossible for Him. Ask Him to strengthen our faith and guide us to know Him more.
3. Ask God to help us bring our worries and difficulties to Him, no matter how small they may be.



Overview

1. Jesus healed a man with an evil spirit (Lk 8:27-39)

- Jesus met a demon-possessed man
- Jesus cast the demons out of the man and into the swine
- The healed man and the people around him had different reactions

2. Jesus cast a demon out of an epileptic child (Mt 17:14-21)

- Jesus emphasized the importance of faith

3. Jesus healed a woman bound by Satan (Lk 13:10-13, 16-17)

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God

5. Life Application—What Can We Entrust to God?

6. Activity—Bible Verse Bookmarks



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jesus refers to Satan as the ruler of this world (Jn 12:31;14:30). But as powerful as Satan may be, Jesus has already shown us that the way to overcome Satan's influence is to rely on God and obey His commands. We have also been given the Holy Spirit to help us resist and overcome Satan. The stronger we are in faith and spirituality, the less influenced we are by Satan. Likewise, the weaker we are in faith and spirituality, the more Satan can influence us.

In today's lesson, one of the places that Jesus visited was Gadarenes, a region that was predominantly Gentile and polytheistic (worshipping many gods) about six miles southeast of the southern end of the Sea of Galilee. The inhabitants of Gadarenes (also called Gerasenes) and the surrounding countryside were predominantly non-Jewish. In such a place, where people did not know God and worshipped idols instead, Satan could work more freely and the people were unable to resist. An unfortunate example of this is the demon-possessed man whom Jesus encountered. Controlling the man's actions and will, Satan caused the man to hurt himself. But our Lord Jesus is greater than Satan! In His great mercy and authority, Jesus freed the man from his suffering by simply commanding the evil spirit to come out.

Gadarenes was one of the cities of the Decapolis. The Decapolis were ten Greek cities that shared a common political and commercial organization. They regarded Rome as their benefactor. Nine of the cities were situated east of the Jordan and one lay to the west of it. These cities were cosmopolitan (worldly and sophisticated) due to their commerce and history. Their religion was generally polytheistic. Cultural

life was lively; philosophy and the visual, literary, and performing arts flourished. Roads were lined with columns, and huge amphitheaters accommodating four thousand to five thousand people were not uncommon. The way of life for those in the Decapolis was very different from that of the Jews. The two cultures were geographically separated by the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee.



Reaching Out to Your Students

There are times in our lives when we may feel that God can't or won't work for us. In times of trials, we often wonder where God is. But when we truly come to understand who He is, we will realize that He helps us deal with all the problems we face. The Bible records many examples of God's power to overcome sickness, evil spirits, and even death. He is willing to help if we only ask Him.

Of course, remind your students that God doesn't only help those with enormous tribulations. There is no problem too great or small for Jesus. They should never think that their problems are too small for God to care about, or that He has more important matters to tend to. Reassure them that God always listens and cares. Even if they are asking for help on an upcoming test or for strength to overcome their fear of the dark, God will help them if they ask earnestly. He is always there, even when we least expect it. He will carry us in our times of need.

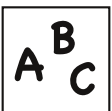


Opener

5 Minutes

Begin by telling the students about fears you had as a child (being in the dark, being alone, monsters in the closet or under the bed). Then, ask each of the students to name one thing they are afraid of. Write them on the board as they list them out. Tell them that they cannot name something that is already on the board. Ask them what it is about these things that make them feel afraid. Do they feel good when they are afraid?

Tell the students that Jesus knew long ago that we would have many fears in this world. One of the reasons why Jesus revealed His power to heal and perform miracles was so that we would put our trust in Him. All of Jesus' power is recorded in the Bible to remind us of Him whenever we are afraid. We also have the Holy Spirit to remind us. Jesus hopes that we will remember to rely on Him whenever we feel afraid. Today's Bible lesson is about how Jesus is greater than Satan. Look at the list of fears on the board and explain that today's lesson will show that we do not have to fear anything, especially Satan.



Vocabulary

authority: power

swine: pigs

epileptic: someone who has a disorder that involves uncontrollable movements and changes in consciousness

mute: unable to talk



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Print out the lesson worksheets before class. Distribute Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. The students will fill it out during the lesson. Keep one copy of each to reference during the lesson. The answers to Worksheet #1 have been underlined in this section.

Students, do you know what authority means? [Give time for students to respond.] Authority means power. Matthew 28:18 tells us that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. So, we know that Jesus has power over everything. Today, we will talk about three instances when Jesus cast out demons and healed the sick.

The first story we will learn about today is about a time when Jesus healed a man who had many demons inside him. Jesus and His disciples sailed to the country of the Gadarenes. When Jesus walked onto the land, there was a demon-possessed man. His life was miserable since he was under the control of demons. He didn't wear clothes or live in a house. Instead, he stayed in the tombs. The man was bound by chains and shackles, but he broke them because the demons were so strong. Then, the demons drove him into the wilderness. He even cut himself with stones and cried out. Nobody could control him. Let's read about what happened next.

Let's read Luke 8:28-29a: "When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!' For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man."

Now, let's read verses 30-33: "Jesus asked him, saying, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Legion,' because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned."

There were many demons in the man. Although they were so powerful and able to control the man, God is even more powerful than demons. Jesus has authority over demons. The demons asked Him for permission to enter the swine. They couldn't enter without Jesus' permission. Because of Jesus Christ's love for people, He allowed the demons to enter the swine. To Jesus, the man's life was more valuable than the swine's. However, the people of the city did not

think in the same way.

Let's read about their reaction in verses 34-37: "When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned."

The man had been healed and was able to live a life free from Satan's bonds! Instead of rejoicing with him and wanting to know more about Jesus and His great power, the people of Gadarenes were concerned about themselves. They were fearful of the loss of their swine, an important part of their livelihood. This caused them to beg Jesus to leave! Little did they know that losing Jesus was a much bigger loss than the loss of their swine.

Let's read about the man's reaction in verses 38-39: "Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.' And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him."

After the man was healed, his life completely changed. He begged to follow Jesus. However, Jesus had another plan for him, which was for him to spread the news and testify about how Jesus healed him. That is exactly what he did after he left. He proclaimed what Jesus had done for him to the entire city.

The second Bible story we will discuss today is about a time when Jesus healed an epileptic child who was demon-possessed. The demon controlled the boy and he was suffering. The father of this child begged Jesus to help his son.

Let's read Matthew 17:14-17: "And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Then Jesus answered and said, 'O faithless and perverse generation,

how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

Let's read Mark 9:21-24 to see what Jesus and the father talked about before Jesus healed the child: "So He asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.' Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'"

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to answer the question on the worksheet.

How did the father's request change after Jesus talked to him? He initially asked if it was possible for Jesus to heal his son. Afterwards, he asked with determination. Also, he asked Jesus to strengthen his faith (help his unbelief).

Jesus told the father that he needed to have faith. We can see how important it is to have faith! The father of the boy had some faith, but he also had some doubt. With tears, he pleaded with Jesus to help him fully believe in Jesus' power.

Let's return to Matthew 17:18: "And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour."

Jesus has authority over demons—He commanded the demon and it obeyed. Why couldn't the disciples cast the demon out?

Let's read verses 19-21 to find out: "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.'" "

Again, we can see how important it is to have faith. Jesus taught the disciples and us today that we must believe in God's power and authority over demons in order to drive out demons. Also, it is so important to fast and pray to cast out demons. We can see how powerful fasting and praying truly is.

The last story we will discuss today is about how Jesus healed a crippled woman.

Let's read Luke 13:10-13: "Now He was teaching in one

of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."

Let's also read Luke 13:16-17: "'So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?' And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him."

Jesus healed a woman who was crippled for eighteen years! Jesus freed her from the bondage of Satan. After she was healed, she gave glory to God, the One with authority over sickness and demons. The people rejoiced after seeing Jesus' miracles.

Now that we've read the stories, let's look at their reactions. Let's refer to Worksheet #2.

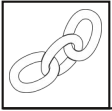
FOR TEACHERS

Distribute Worksheet #2 to the students now. Keep one copy for yourself. The students are to read the passages and complete the worksheet. Ask the students to share what they have underlined in each of the passages.

Short Answer

- 1. Why were the people of the Gadarenes afraid?**
They feared because they had lost their swine, an important part of their livelihood. Their fear of the loss of their swine prevented them from receiving Jesus and seeing the powerful work of God.
- 2. What can we learn from the man's actions after he was healed?**
His life had been changed completely. After he was healed, he sat at Jesus' feet and begged to follow Him. Jesus instructed him to tell his family about what God did for him; he told even more people by proclaiming it to the entire city.
- 3. What did the woman and the people do after they saw Jesus heal the woman?**
The woman glorified God and the people rejoiced because of all that Jesus did.

It is important to give glory to God when God has blessed us. The man whom Jesus healed went all over the city to testify to others about how God healed him! We should also share our blessings with others by telling them about God's power, grace, and love.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Jesus, the **one true God**, has authority over everything, including Satan. He is Lord over demons and is greater than Satan. Jesus alone can cast out demons.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Why was the name of the evil spirit Legion?** Many demons had gone into the man.
2. **How did the man who had been demon-possessed react after he was healed?** The man was thankful, devoted, and obedient to Jesus. He had experienced firsthand the power and love of God and he wasn't about to give that up! The man sat at Jesus' feet and when Jesus was leaving, the man begged to go with Jesus. When Jesus sent him away to tell his family how much God had done for him, the man obeyed.
3. **How did the people of the city react? Why?** They begged Jesus to leave. The people let their fear of losing their swine prevent them from receiving Jesus.
4. **Why couldn't the disciples cast the demon out of the epileptic boy?** They had unbelief. Also, they had to fast and pray in order to cast out the demon.
5. **How did the father of the epileptic child respond when Jesus told him to believe?** He asked Jesus to help his unbelief—to strengthen his faith.
6. **How was the woman freed from Satan's bondage?** Jesus healed her.

What can we learn from today's lesson?

1. Today, we learned about Jesus' mighty power! Matthew 28:18 records that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. Jesus is Lord over demons. Jesus cast out demons and healed the sick. Even when nobody else could heal the epileptic child, Jesus did!
2. So, anytime that we are scared, worried, or frustrated about anything, let us bring it to God, for He is omnipotent and almighty. If we are worried about a test, let us pray about it! If we are frustrated because our friends are pressuring us to do something that we think is not right in God's eyes, let us bring it to Him! We don't need to fear anything, because Jesus is Lord over all and He is with us.
3. We must have faith in our Lord. Truly, there is nothing that is too difficult for God. If we have some doubt, we should ask God for more faith, just like the father of the epileptic boy.
4. Let us share God's blessings with others, just as the man whom Jesus healed did. He told everyone in the city about the miracle and great blessing Jesus had given him.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Testimony

[Please hand out the Life Application worksheet at this time. Read the testimony aloud as the students follow along, or have the students take turns reading.]

Let's read about a testimony from a sister who experienced God's amazing power.

Life Application Questions

1. Why did this sister decide to go to the True Jesus Church?

The sister was demon-possessed, so one of her brothers, a member of the True Jesus Church, suggested that she go there to get help.

2. How did the demon leave her?

Two weeks after she first went to church, after the laying of hands by preachers and deacons, and through the prayers of the brothers and sisters in church, the demon left the sister.

3. What did she determine to do after she was baptized?

She determined to know the truth and understand the Bible better, so she attended service every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Through attentive listening of the sermons and guidance by the Holy Spirit, the sister slowly came to understand the Bible better.

4. How did the sister rely on God to preach to her family?

In order to bring her family to church, the sister started fasting and praying for her family every Monday morning. After her father started coming to church, the sister focused more intensively on bringing her mother to church. She prayed for her mother and shared many testimonies with her.



Activity

Bible Verse Bookmarks

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind students that they can bring all their fears and worries to God.

Make copies of the Activity handout for the students. Ask the students to fill in the chart, and then answer the question that follows. After discussing that question with the class, begin making the bookmark by following the instructions below.

Materials

- Pencils
- Activity handout
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- Ribbon or yarn
- Single hole punch
- White cardstock
- Rulers
- Contact paper (2¼" x 5¼" piece for each student)
 - o You can use clear packaging tape if you don't have contact paper.

Instructions

1. Pick a verse from the matching activity handout. (If the student wants to pick two verses, they can write one on the back of the bookmark.)
2. Cut the cardstock into a 2" x 5" piece.
3. Write the verse(s) on the cardstock and decorate it.
4. Paste one piece of contact paper onto each side of the cardstock, making sure to cover the entire bookmark.
5. If there is extra contact paper on the sides, cut it.
6. Punch a hole at the top.
7. String a piece of yarn or ribbon through the hole and tie a knot.
8. Time permitting, have the students share with the class the verse that they picked.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Answers may vary; possible answers: Praying to God to help solve the problem, or reading the Bible to seek comfort.
2. Answers may vary; possible answers: It means that Jesus has control over everything. He has the power to give orders to demons and to nature, and they must listen to Him.
3. Answers may vary; possible answers: God has blessed me by giving me a loving family that takes care of me when I am sick, by creating animals and plants so that I have food to eat, and by creating a wonderful world for me to enjoy every day.

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONS

Instructions: Fill in the blanks as you listen to the teacher go over the lesson.

| Jesus Has Authority and the Importance of Faith | |
|--|--|
| <p>Luke 8:32 "Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they _____ Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He _____ them."</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">The father Mark 9:22b</p> <p>"But _____ You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark 9:24</p> <p>"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; _____ my unbelief!' "</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Mark 9:23</p> <p>Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are _____ to him who believes.'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark 9:25b-26a</p> <p>"He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: 'Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!' Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him."</p> |

Short Answer

In Mark 9:24, how did the father's request change after Jesus talked to him?

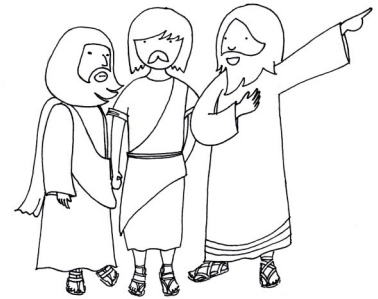
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|--|--|
| <p>Matthew 17:18 "And Jesus _____ the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour."</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">The disciples Matthew 17:19</p> <p>"Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not _____ it out?"</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Matthew 17:20-21</p> <p>"So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have _____ as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and _____.'"</p> |
| <p>Luke 13:12-13 "But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and _____ to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."</p> | |

REACTIONS AFTER THE MIRACLE

Instructions: Read the reactions of the man and the people of Gadarenes below. Underline the differences.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>The man's reaction Luke 8:38-39</p> <p>"Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.' And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him."</p> | <p>The people's reactions Luke 8:37</p> <p>"Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned."</p> |
|--|--|

1. Why were the people of the Gadarenes afraid?

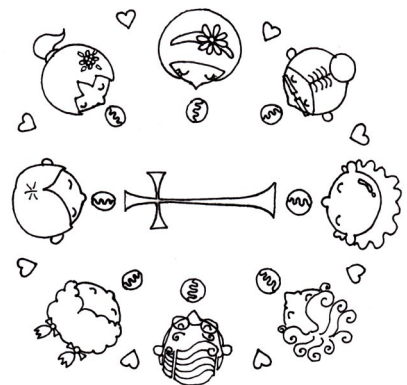


2. What can we learn from the man's actions after he was healed?

Instructions: Underline what the woman and the people did after Jesus healed the crippled woman.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>The woman's reaction Luke 13:12</p> <p>"But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."</p> | <p>The people's reactions Luke 13:17</p> <p>"And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him."</p> |
|--|---|

3. What did the woman and the people do after they saw Jesus heal the woman?



TESTIMONY

All Things Are Possible with God

Sew Chan Lee—Singapore

LIVING IN DARKNESS

It all seems so far away now, almost an unbelievable bad dream. My eyesight started to deteriorate when I was in my mid-twenties, and by 2006, I was totally dependent on other people's assistance in my daily life. I chafed at my helplessness. Enveloped by a despair that I could not shake off, I often felt that life was meaningless. Worse, I became demon-possessed. It was truly and literally a time of darkness.

Pained by my suffering, one of my brothers suggested that I seek the help of the church he attended—the True Jesus Church—to drive out the demon from me. I was so tired of living in my shell of a life that I was willing to try anything. But when I came to church, I came with sorrow in my heart. I also felt so useless because I needed the assistance of our brothers and sisters to bring me to church.

FINDING THE LIGHT

Miraculously, through all the prayers of brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as the laying of hands of preachers and deacons, the devil left my body just two weeks after I came to church in August 2006. Approximately two months later, God granted me the precious Holy Spirit. Thank God, I was baptized into the church on November 26, 2006.

I resolved to myself: "Since I have this precious opportunity to come to church, I must pay attention with all my heart, to know the truth and to understand the Bible better." In this way, I prepared myself to go to church every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. I was determined to learn God's word in order to change and truly become a new creation. By listening attentively to sermons and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I came to understand the Bible better. The word of God was like a light—shining and bringing joy into my heart. Moreover, I learned to trust in God and rely on Him in my life. I tell Him all my sorrows in my daily prayer and ask Him to lead me in all things.

About one year after my baptism, I realized that the sorrow and emptiness in my heart had been replaced with happiness, peace, and contentment! My bad dream had turned into a marvelous new life in Christ. When my other brother saw the miracle that had happened to me in the True Jesus Church, he left his old church and came to the true church to "have a look." After careful observation, he was convinced that the truth and the works of God abided in our church, and, after a year, he was baptized into the True Jesus Church.

The downpour of the Lord's abundant grace did not just stop at my brothers and me. It was soon my son's turn to see the light. Given my poor eyesight, my son took it upon himself to pick me up after service and take me home. Since he had to come to church anyway, he decided to come earlier and listen to the sermons. Convinced that there was truly a living God in the True Jesus Church, he was baptized in 2010.

BRINGING THE LIGHT TO OTHERS

Having tasted such wondrous joy and contentment, and seeing the grace on my family, I then resolved to redouble my efforts to pray for my parents and their salvation.

My mother was a Buddhist and my father an atheist. One day, I was talking to one of my brothers about how to preach to our parents. But my brother was skeptical, "How can you preach to an atheist? You will never convince him! You'd probably have to wait for the day that he has an incurable disease." Despite his words, I was not deterred and decided to put in more effort to pray for our father. So, in January 2011, I began to fast and pray for my family every Monday morning.

In June 2011, I returned to Malaysia to attend my mother-in-law's funeral service. During the funeral, I preached to my father. My father's response was unbelievable—he told the rest of my family that he wanted to go to church. The whole family just couldn't believe their ears. When I heard his words, I literally jumped for joy!

I informed the local church and very soon after my conversation with him, various Malaysian preachers began visiting my father. In July 2011, he finally stepped into the True Jesus Church.

On just his second visit to our church, my father saw a vision of Jesus Christ in a bright robe. When he went home that day, he joyfully told my mother that there is indeed a living God in the True Jesus Church. This incident motivated my brother and me to intensify our preaching to our mother. However, she was a tougher nut to crack—she firmly refused to give up Buddhism.

One day in August 2011, my father was driving his motorcycle along a very narrow road that could only accommodate one vehicle at a time. So when he saw a car coming towards him, my father immediately swerved to the left to avoid the car. To his horror, he suddenly realized that he was about to roll down a very deep ravine. At that moment, he felt a strong force pushing his right arm, which caused him to swerve the motorcycle back onto the road, thus saving his life. When he returned home, he told my mother about his close shave with death.

After that incident, my brother and I continued to share many testimonies with our mother. Finally, in September 2011, my mother suddenly announced that she wanted to go to church. Seeing the grace of God upon my father and hearing us continually share God's word had finally changed my mother's mind and motivated her to believe in Christ.

By October 2011, all the idols in my parents' house were taken away. When my father asked to be baptized, the church persuaded my mother to be baptized at the same time. Thank God, in November 2011, both my parents were baptized into Christ. I am now continuing to pray for my parents to receive the Lord's promised Holy Spirit.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

Through this personal experience, I have learned precious lessons of patience and trust. All things are possible with our Almighty God. He can change a nightmare of existence into a beautiful and meaningful life.

Moreover, our loving heavenly Father is not willing for anyone to perish—so even the most stubborn of our loved ones can come to believe in Jesus Christ if we persistently rely on God and ask for His guidance. Praise Him for all His goodness. Amen!

Life Application Questions

1. Why did this sister decide to go to the True Jesus Church?
2. How did the demon leave her?
3. What did she determine to do after she was baptized?
4. How did the sister rely on God to preach to her family?

BIBLE VERSE BOOKMARK

Please look up the following verses:

Matthew 28:20b

John 14:27

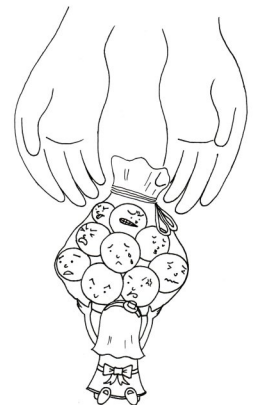
Romans 8:28

Romans 8:35

Philippians 4:13

1 Peter 5:7

Why is it so important to bring our worries and fears to God? Please write one paragraph



E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 6—Jesus Is Lord over Demons

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Psalm 56:3**)

Life Application

1. Did you have any worries or difficulties this week? How did you rely on God to help you? (If not this week, write about a time when God helped you in the past.)

2. We know that Jesus has authority over everything. What does that mean to you? When have you experienced His power before?

3. How has God blessed you? What is one thing that God has done for you that you can share with others?

LESSON 7

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASES

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that Jesus is the ultimate healer and helper.
2. To trust and believe in the Lord with all our heart.
3. To be reminded that God rewards those who have faith in Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

(Hebrews 11:1)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for giving us a healthy body and a sound mind to learn more about God's words.
2. Know that Jesus is almighty, and that He is Lord over sicknesses; pray for those who are in need of God's healing and mercy.
3. Ask God to help us have more faith in our everyday living so that we can trust in Him wholeheartedly.



Overview

1. **Jesus heals a paralytic, a man who was let down through a roof by his unfailing friends (Mt 9:1-8; Mk 2:1-12)**
2. **Jesus heals a centurion's servant based on his master's great faith (Mt 8:5-13; Lk 7:1-10)**
3. **Jesus heals a bleeding woman (Mt 9:18-22; Lk 8:43-48)**
4. **Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsaida (Mk 8:22-26)**
5. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—Salvation is given by grace
6. **Life Application**
 - Build Our Faith in God: We must cultivate our faith daily.
 - A Message of Hope: A testimony about turning to God for help.
7. **Activity**—Pictionary; Faith Painting



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jesus' Healing

In the Bible, healing is a continuous theme running throughout human history from Genesis to Revelation. However, miraculous healings were especially prevalent during Jesus' time. They were recorded in detail to show Jesus' compassion and power toward those who were in need. Jesus' miracles of healing also helped establish His absolute credibility as the one sent from God. It built faith into those who saw His healings firsthand and into all who read about them years later. Healing was also utilized to express Christ's ultimate power over life and death and to help preach the gospel in a powerful way.

The Paralytic

This incident took place in a town called Capernaum, which was Jesus' hometown during His adult years. Archeologists have noted that the city of Capernaum developed about two hundred years before Jesus' arrival. At the time when this miracle occurred, most houses were well constructed with dress stones, plastered walls, and hardened mud roofs. The story tells us that the paralytic had four caring friends who would do anything to bring their friend to Christ. They didn't mind the hard work of uncovering the roof of the house where Jesus was visiting in order to bring their friend to Jesus for healing. It was their persistence, love for a friend, and faith in the Lord that helped their friend get healed.

The Centurion

The title of "centurion" was used in the Roman army to designate an officer who was in charge of around one hundred men. A centurion was held in high esteem for his experience, skills, and trustworthiness. The

centurion that was mentioned in Luke 7:1-10 was one who loved the Jewish people and had even built a synagogue for them to worship God. The Jews also had affection for the centurion, as they testified to Jesus on his behalf and told Jesus that he deserved to receive the healing he requested for his servant.

The Bleeding Woman

This bleeding woman lived in the Galilee region of Israel. Her age was unknown, but she was probably old enough to be a wife. She was a desperate woman who suffered from a chronic bleeding condition, which made her physically weak and emotionally weary. She was considered an “unclean” person who was not welcomed anywhere. The Bible recorded that she had spent all she had but could not find a cure. She was destitute. However, she believed Jesus could and would help her. She used all her might to reach out to Him, and in the end, it was her faith that saved her.

The Blind Man in Bethsaida

Mark 8:22-26 gives the only biblical record of the healing of the blind man of Bethsaida. It was also the only miracle in the life of Christ that was not immediate, for it took two attempts in order to bring the man perfect sight. This blind man’s healing was not for the multitudes but for the disciples. Jesus demonstrated how the initial healing of salvation does not always mean perfect vision. This comes from steady spiritual growth and communication with God, which will give God the opportunity to touch your life more.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Faith can be described as being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real, even if we cannot see it. When children are younger, it seems to be easier for them to believe in biblical teachings with a simple mind. However, as our precious ones advance in age, it becomes a challenge to persuade them to accept the invisible and believe the unexplainable.

Here are some tips to help our students and us to grow in faith continually:

- 1. Firsthand experience.** Help students recall any personal experiences of Jesus’ healing in their family. When was the last time someone got a stomachache, and through prayers, received healing? Encourage students to count their blessings as they vividly recall God’s amazing grace in their family.
- 2. Teachable moments.** Oftentimes, when children face situations filled with emotions, such as fear, sadness, anger, or wonder, they are ready to grow in faith. Help them see God’s presence in all circumstances, and take advantage of these teachable moments to show them Christ’s footsteps in the sand.
- 3. Daily prayers.** Prayer does wonders! Pray for and with your students constantly to ask God to change our unbelief and to soften our hardened hearts. The Lord listens to our prayers. We just need to keep at it every day.



Opener

5 Minutes

[Place a blank sheet of paper and a pencil on each student’s desk.]

Students, close your eyes for thirty seconds, and form an image of a superhero in your head. When that image is clear, raise your hand. As I tap your hand, open your eyes, and without speaking a word to your neighbor, quickly draw that image on your paper. [Walk around the room to tap on students’ hands once they are raised. Encourage them to draw the image with simple sketch. Allow another two to three minutes for them to draw before asking more questions.]

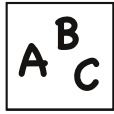
Now, who can tell me what a superhero is like and what they do? [Hear a few responses from them.] That’s right! They usually have superpowers. They often show up when people are in need of help.

Would anyone like to share your drawing with the class and tell us what is special about your superhero? [Hear from two or three students. Write the words “**Jesus vs. Superheroes**” on the board, and encourage students to make comparisons.]

So, how is our Lord Jesus the same as the superheroes that you had in mind? Jesus definitely has superpowers. He also

helps those who are in need. How is Jesus different from the superheroes we know? [Encourage students' responses.]

This is what we are going to learn in our lesson today. Keep this question in mind as we explore Jesus' amazing healings. We will come back to it at the end of the lesson, and you should all be able to answer this question at that time.



Vocabulary

faith: belief that is not based on proof

paralytic: someone who cannot move or use a part of their body

centurion: a commander in charge of one hundred soldiers

salvation: deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Please print out the Bible Discovery worksheet before class, and bring in a few dictionaries for students to use to complete the first half of the worksheet. The students will be filling out the entire worksheet as the lesson goes on. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version as reference.

Define "Faith"

In the several stories we are going to learn today, a key word will keep appearing again and again, and it is the word "faith." [Write "Faith" on the board.] Now, think about this word and turn to your neighbor. Then share with your neighbor your own definition of "faith," and write it down on the worksheet. [Allow a few minutes for students to discuss and write down their own definition of "faith" before passing out the dictionaries.]

Now, look up the word "faith" in the dictionary and see what the definition says; write it down on your worksheet. My dictionary tells us that having "faith" means believing in something or trusting in someone without seeing any proof.

In fact, faith is often one of the key factors that prompts Jesus' healing. Lord Jesus performed many miracles to heal the sick because of their faith, or to build up other people's faith. Finally, how does the Bible define "faith"? Please look up Hebrews 11:1 and write down the verse on your sheet. How is your own definition of faith different from the dictionary and the Bible's definition of faith?

With this in mind, let's move on to learn more about the wonderful miracles that Jesus performed to teach us about the true meaning of "faith."

Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Mk 2:1-12)

This story took place in the seaside town of Capernaum,

which is located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The news quickly spread that Jesus was coming back to bring more blessings to those in need. Before long, a great crowd gathered and packed the house where Jesus was going to be. **Let's turn to Mark 2:1-12** to read the story. [Have students read the verses together.]

What does it mean to be paralyzed? [Take some responses.] It means that you can't move your body at all. You can't walk or sit on your own. You need constant help from others to get dressed, buy food, drink water, travel from place to place, etc. You can't be independent, as you always need someone to take care of your daily needs. You would probably feel like a burden to others, depressed and distressed all the time. How dreadful it would be to live a paralytic's life!

Let's focus on verses 3-4. "Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying."

This paralytic was one lucky man! He had friends who had great faith in Christ and truly cared about him. When they heard that Jesus was coming, they believed that Jesus could heal their friend. They weren't afraid of trouble but quickly carried their friend on a mat to see Jesus. However, they soon faced the challenge of not being able to get through the doorway, since a huge crowd was blocking it.

Though they might have felt discouraged, the friends didn't give up. Instead, they climbed up to the roof. Imagine these friends having to maneuver up narrow stairs while carrying the mat. It must have been difficult, yet they were determined to bring their sick friend to Christ.

Little by little, they dug away pieces of the roof to make a hole, and then slowly and firmly lowered their friend through it, down to Jesus' feet.

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you'" (Mk 2:5).

It was their faith that touched Jesus. They believed wholeheartedly that as long as they came before Jesus, their friend would be healed. They put their faith into action and were determined to bring their friend to see Jesus, regardless of any obstacles they might encounter on the way. In the end, the paralytic was able to receive Christ's powerful and complete healing for his body and soul.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Paralytic and His Four Friends" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant (Lk 7:1-10)

Not far from where the paralytic was healed in Capernaum, Jesus performed another miracle. **Let's read Luke 7:1-10.** Here, the story tells us about a man who trusted in Jesus for something he hoped for but couldn't yet see. This man, a centurion, was powerful; he commanded one hundred soldiers. One day, one of the centurion's favorite servants was sick and about to die. The centurion heard about Jesus and His mighty healing. Without delay, he quickly sent some Jewish elders to ask Jesus to come and heal the servant. The Jewish elders pleaded with Jesus, telling them that the centurion was a good man who loved the Jews and had built their synagogue. Jesus agreed to go with them.

When Jesus was near the house, the centurion sent some friends to Jesus to say: "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed" (vv. 6-7). Let's also look at verse 8. The centurion understood what it meant to have authority, because he himself had soldiers under him. He knew that whatever commands he gave his own soldiers, they would follow. The centurion knew that Jesus had even greater authority over illnesses and diseases. He trusted that if Jesus said that his servant would be healed, that's what would happen. The centurion's faith was so great that he didn't even feel that it was necessary for Jesus to step foot in his house.

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith. He said, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel" (v. 9). When the centurion's friends returned to the house, they found the servant completely well! Again, faith works wonders! Based on the centurion's firm belief,

Jesus healed the servant with just a word, without even laying eyes on the sick man.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Centurion's Servant" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

The Bleeding Woman (Lk 8:43-48)

As Matthew 7:7-8 says, "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." The Scripture tells us this in such a firm voice, full of assurance. Are we determined enough, like the paralytic's four friends, to seek after Jesus' healing? Can we be like the centurion and believe first without seeing?

In another incident, Jesus also granted healing to a bleeding woman, who showed determination and sincerity while seeking and knocking on the door of faith. **Let's read Luke 8:43-48.**

Here, we have someone who had been dealing with a chronic illness for twelve years. Her family might have abandoned her since her bleeding condition was considered "unclean" in society. She was desperate to get well, but too weak to regain physical strength and too sad about not being welcomed anywhere. She spent all she had but still could not find a cure. She felt ashamed and without hope. However, she knew deeply in her heart that Jesus could heal her. Her faith cured the bleeding and made her well. She used all her might to reach out to Christ and was greatly rewarded in the end.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Bleeding Woman" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

The Blind Man in Bethsaida (Mk 8:22-26)

The miracle that took place in Bethsaida, recorded in **Mark 8:22-26**, is another great lesson that Jesus taught about faith. Let's read the story together. Why do you think Jesus led the blind man outside the town? It's possible that Jesus wanted to avoid the crowd and heal this man discreetly.

When they were outside the village, Jesus did something that was unheard of—He "spit on his eyes and put His hands on him." Then He asked, "Do you see anything?" This is a very important question because it indicated that Jesus did this purposely to make a point. The man said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then Jesus put His hands on him again and the man's sight was completely restored.

Unlike any other miracles recorded in the New Testament, Jesus took two attempts to heal this person. Why do you

think Jesus chose to perform the miracle this way? [Have students turn to their neighbor to discuss and share with the class.] Perhaps Jesus was teaching His disciples about faith, and how faith can grow to receive even greater blessings.

After Jesus touched the blind man the first time, the man could see, but not clearly. But the second time around, he received full vision. Would the story have been different if the blind man started doubting Jesus' ability to heal him? Possibly! This is to teach us that healing comes when we believe in God without doubt. Jesus knows our pain and wants to help us, but we have to trust Him completely and cultivate our faith so that it does not waver.

FOR TEACHERS

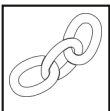
Ask students to fill out "The Blind Man in Bethsaida" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

Final Thoughts

So, how is our Lord Jesus different from the superheroes in comic books and movies?

From the story of the paralytic, we learned that Jesus can not only heal our bodies, but also save our souls. He has the authoritative power to forgive sins and give us a new beginning in life. In the story of the centurion, we learned that Jesus can command diseases to go away using His words alone. In the story of the bleeding woman, we saw Jesus' compassion and sympathy for those who suffered greatly, and His blessings to those with great faith. In the story of the blind man, Jesus performed His healing in stages, showing us that we can cultivate our faith in Him.

In all the stories, we recognize that Lord Jesus is the ultimate healer and helper; He wants us to trust and believe in Him with all our heart, and He rewards those who have unwavering faith in Him.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation Is Given by the Grace of God through Faith

God wants us to grow in faith as we grow in body and spirit. In the stories we studied today, their strong faith gained themselves favor in front of Christ and brought them absolute healing in the end. Let's remember that our eternal salvation is also given to us by the grace of God through our faith. Are we ready to embrace this special blessing from God? If yes, let's believe without doubting, and open our hearts completely to receive Christ into our daily life.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What does "faith" mean?** Believing in something without seeing any proof.
- 2. What was the paralytic's physical condition?** He was unable to move at all. He needed constant care from others to survive.
- 3. How was the paralytic more blessed than others who were also sick?** He had four friends who truly cared about him, had faith, and were determined to bring him to Christ for ultimate healing.
- 4. What did the centurion do for a living?** He commanded 100 soldiers in the army.
- 5. How did the centurion treat his Jewish friends?** He loved them and built a synagogue for them to worship God.
- 6. How was the centurion's faith different from others?** The centurion believed in the absolute power of Christ, and that Jesus' words alone could heal his servant.
- 7. Why did the bleeding woman need Christ's healing?** She had been troubled by her chronic bleeding condition for twelve years, and had spent all her money trying to find a cure to no avail.
- 8. How did the bleeding woman gain her healing?** She reached out to Christ with all her might, and her firm faith and earnest heart moved Christ.
- 9. How was the blind man's healing different from other miracles recorded in the Bible?** This was the only miracle in which Jesus took two steps to heal a person.
- 10. What can we learn about faith from the stories above?** Answers may vary.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Build Our Faith in God

We sometimes forget that the easiest and best solution to all our problems in life is to simply trust in God—to trust that everything happens for a reason, and have faith that our heavenly Father is there to watch over us and help us face all our challenges.

In the stories we learned today, we talked about different dimensions of faith, and how God rewards those who truly believe in Him. But how can we apply this faith in our daily life? What can we do to grow in our faith? Let's learn from Judy's story below. We will see that as we begin to experience God's incredible doings in our daily life, our faith gets strengthened.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 at this time. Have students take turn reading the two scenarios. After they have finished reading the scenarios, instruct them to complete the interview exercise on the Life Application worksheet.

Ask students to follow Judy's footsteps in finding out the answers to the two questions on their own. Find three or four people in church who can answer these two questions. Ask students whom they plan to interview so that they don't overlap. Instructs students to use the Life Application worksheet to complete the exercise and come back to the classroom to share their findings. Allow about fifteen to twenty minutes to conduct the interviews, fill out the worksheet, and share. After students share their findings, you can share with the class Judy's discovery of how to cultivate faith. You can print out Judy's findings, and have students take turns reading. If the students cannot conduct the interviews during class time, allow them to complete the worksheet during the week or after class is over.]

Judy's findings...

Answers from an older college student

Having faith in God keeps your spiritual body strong! You need to continue to cultivate your faith to keep your spiritual life healthy. It's like how you keep your physical body strong. To stay healthy, you need to work out, eat healthy, keep your mind sharp, and do things right. The same applies to our faith in Jesus Christ. We need to use our faith in Him. We do that by doing what He has asked us to do, and following His example in all things.

Answers from an RE teacher

If you have a desire to increase your faith in Jesus Christ, try to do it. Start by praying. Read His words in the Bible, even if it's only a few verses a day. Try to put what you read into practice. For example, the Lord Jesus told us to "love one another." Try and follow that teaching. Be nice to others, help people who might have less than you, smile, etc.. As you do so, you will notice a change come over you. You might feel more peace in your life, a calm entering your mind, or a warm feeling that seems to say that you're doing the right thing. These experiences help you realize that your faith is growing. Faith is an action word. If you put actions behind your belief, you will find that it will grow.

Answers from an Uncle

Someone I respect a lot once asked me, "Aside from Jesus Christ, whom do you have faith in?" I replied, "My mom." "Why do you have faith in her?" I thought about the question, and responded, "Well, because I know her. I know who she is, and what she's like." And then he continued to teach me a profound lesson that I will never forget. He taught me that in order to have faith in Jesus Christ, we must get to know Him, just as I have gotten to know my mom. Faith starts with a belief and is cultivated by experiences, experiences that come through experimenting with different ways to know God better. As a child, I must have believed that my mom would take care of me. This belief led me to knock on her door in the middle of the night after I had a nightmare; she scooped me up and stayed with me the rest of the night. My belief that she would help me led me to knock on her door. The experiment of knocking on her door led to me having the experience of her taking me into her arms and calming my fears. This experience led me to trust her. So, how does this apply to cultivating faith in Christ? We start with a belief that He will hear us if we pray, or teach us as we learn about Him, which will lead us to experiment with ways of knowing Him, such as through praying, attending services, or reading the Bible. These experiments will lead us to have real experiences. Once we have experiences, we will realize, "Hey, the experiment worked!" Then, we will keep experimenting.

2. Testimony: A Message of Hope

[Hand out copies of Life Application Worksheet #2 and take turns reading the testimony with the students. Afterwards, discuss with the students how Dn. Solgot never gave up on God and continued to completely rely on Him. Ask the students to share their reflections on the testimony.]

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Students should write a testimony of a time when they turned to God and received an answered prayer, or of a time when they placed trust in God and felt God's guidance afterward.



Activity

1. Pictionary / 2. Faith Painting

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To learn from the examples of those whose great faith was recorded in Hebrews 11.

Materials

- Sheets of paper
- Pencils

Instructions

1. Play Pictionary using the characters found in Hebrews 11, the Bible's "chapter of faith." [Teacher: please take some time to read through Chapter 11 to review what each character accomplished by faith. Prepare a piece of paper with the following list of characters and references.] The characters are as follows:
 - Abel offered a better sacrifice (Heb 11:4)
 - Enoch did not see death (Heb 11:5)
 - Noah built an ark (Heb 11:7)
 - Abraham obeyed God and left his hometown, then later offered his only son Isaac (Heb 11:8-10, 17)
 - Sarah bore a child at an old age (Heb 11:11)
 - Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau (Heb 11:20)
 - Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born (Heb 11:23)
 - Moses rejected Pharaoh's palace, and led the Israelites out of Egypt (Heb 11:24-28)
 - Israelites crossed the Red Sea (Heb 11:29)
 - The walls of Jericho fell (Heb 11:30)
 - Rahab protected the spies and was saved (Heb 11:31)
 - Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel conquered kingdoms and overcame weaknesses to become God's prophets and kings (Heb 11:32-38)
2. Separate the students into two (or more, depending on class size) teams.
3. Have the "artists" for each team come up to the teacher, who will show them the biblical character they should draw. (Make sure the students cannot see the other characters on the list when you show them which character to draw.) Students should read the verse to know enough about the character to draw a related picture (teacher can give them more details as needed).
4. The "artists" will each draw their pictures for their teammates, who will try to guess who is being drawn.
5. The first team to guess the character correctly gets a point. Ask teams to switch artists, and then start the next round. The chance to draw should be spread evenly among the team members.
6. Play as many rounds as time allows, and then close by discussing how each character was an example of faith.

2. Faith Painting

Objective: To reflect what faith is through painting or drawing.

Materials

- Pencils
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Blank paper

Instructions

1. Share with students that having faith means believing in something that they have not seen, and trusting that it is so. Some people believe everything they are told. Others require proof for everything. Most people cannot have faith in something unless they know something about it. God has always provided man with lots of proof of His existence and His love to help us believe in and put our faith in Him.
2. Ask students to take some time to form a picture in their head of what faith really means to them. If they were to use a concrete object or action to represent faith, what would it be? Help students to brainstorm some ideas before they start drawing.

For example, they can draw a symbol of faith from the Bible, like the dove in the story of Noah, the rainbow after the flood, or the rod that Moses held up in front of the Red Sea. They can draw a scene from one of the stories in today's lesson. They can also think about all the characters mentioned in Hebrews, chapter 11 and their examples of faith. Likewise, students can choose to draw a scene from a testimony of their own, of their family members, or of church brothers and sisters. Other ideas are great as well!

3. Encourage students to make a sketch using pencil first before using watercolors to paint.
4. Take some time at the end to allow students to share their artwork with the class.

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASES

Instructions: Answer the following questions, and then fill in the charts as you follow along with the lesson.

1. Turn to your neighbor and discuss what faith means to you, and then write down your own definition.

Answers may vary.

2. How does the dictionary define "faith"?

Having "faith" means believing in something or trusting in someone without seeing any proof.

3. What does the Bible say about faith? Please turn to Hebrews 11:1 and write down the verse.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The Paralytic and His Four Friends

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|--|--|--|
| <i>He was paralyzed; he couldn't move his body at all.</i> | <i>He said, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."</i> | <i>Complete faith; the paralytic immediately followed Jesus' command and arose to go to his house.</i> |

The Centurion's Servant

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|---|--|---|
| <i>The centurion's servant was paralyzed, sick, and ready to die.</i> | <i>Without even laying eyes on the sick person, He healed him, because of the centurion's faith.</i> | <i>Complete faith; the centurion believed that Jesus did not even need to see the person to heal him. He believed that Jesus could heal just by speaking.</i> |

The Bleeding Woman

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|--|--|---|
| <i>She had a constant flow of blood for twelve years for which no one could find a cure.</i> | <i>The woman touched the hem of His garment and was immediately healed by His power.</i> | <i>Complete faith; the woman believed that as long as she just touched Jesus' garment, she would be healed.</i> |

The Blind Man in Bethsaida

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|---|---|--|
| <i>He was blind.</i> | <i>He first spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, but he was only partially healed. He then put His hands on him again and this time, he was fully healed.</i> | <i>Complete faith; the blind man did not question Jesus after He had partially healed him the first time. He had faith that Jesus could heal him completely.</i> |

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASES

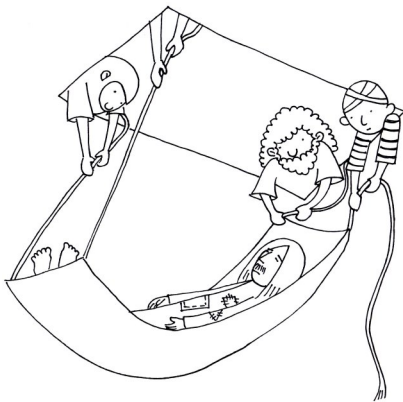
Instructions: Answer the following questions, and then fill in the charts as you follow along with the lesson.

1. Turn to your neighbor and discuss what faith means to you, and then write down your own definition.

2. How does the dictionary define "faith"?



3. What does the Bible say about faith? Please turn to Hebrews 11:1 and write down the verse.



The Paralytic and His Four Friends

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |

The Centurion's Servant

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |

The Bleeding Woman

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |

The Blind Man in Bethsaida

| What kind of sickness did this person have? | How did Jesus heal this person? | What kind of faith was shown? |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | |



BUILD OUR FAITH IN GOD

Instructions: Read the following two scenarios, and then wait for the teacher's instructions for the interview exercise.

Scenario 1

Many of the students in Judy's math class had not been keeping up with homework for the past three days. Not surprisingly, this made the teacher angry—so angry that Mrs. Jackson threatened to call their parents if they didn't all turn in their assignments the next day! So, Judy made sure that she did her homework that night. There was nothing she dreaded more than her parents finding out that she was not doing her homework. What would happen if her father found out that it was math she was neglecting? Well, could it get any worse? Having these things in mind, Judy painstakingly finished her homework, making sure that everything was perfect—every fraction was simplified, every unit was clearly written, and every single step was neatly shown. There was nothing missing.

The next morning Judy got up, dressed, brushed her teeth, ate her breakfast, and set off for school. A quarter of the way there, a thought entered her mind, "What if I forgot to put my homework in my backpack?" However, Judy was sure she could not have possibly forgotten her homework on such an important day, so she dismissed the thought and kept walking. After walking another block, Judy decided to check her backpack just to be certain that her homework was in there, but it was NOT! Judy looked again; she looked through her red folder, her blue one, her green one, and the polka-dotted purple one, but her homework was nowhere in her backpack!

Judy turned around and ran all the way back home. When Judy got home, she searched upstairs, downstairs, and even the stairway! But her homework was nowhere to be found! Judy began to feel very anxious. Two pieces of paper, just two pieces of paper were all she wanted. Was that too much to ask for? Judy tried calling her parents (maybe one of them had put her homework away), but they were both in meetings.

What could she do? Judy went to the living room, sat down on the floor, and began to cry. She had worked so hard on the assignment! As Judy cried, she prayed to God—there was no one she could turn to. Then, through her tears, she saw the vague outline of two pieces of paper underneath the couch. Judy crawled towards it and discovered that it was her homework! Stuffing it into her backpack, she looked at her watch; she still had five minutes to get to school. As Judy dashed out of the house, she smiled and thought, "Wow! God really answers prayers!"



Scenario 2

After Judy had experienced God personally, following her prayer and exhaustive search for homework, she knew that God truly listens to earnest prayers! She was determined to cultivate more faith in God so that she would no longer panic in desperate situations. She wondered to herself, "But how can I cultivate my faith in God? What should I do every day to help me build a better relationship with God?" She remembered that one of her teachers at church once mentioned that faith is not a noun, it is a verb! Faith has to be backed up with actions to become true faith. Judy thought to herself, "I must do something, but what can I do?"



The following Saturday when she went to church, she shared her grand plan with her best friend, Maggie. "Maggie, I have made up my mind to really cultivate my faith in the Lord; it is really important to me. But I don't know what to do and how to do it. So I was praying about it, and all of the sudden, I got this idea in my head that I could actually interview some people in church to find out how they built up their own faith in God. Then I can learn from them! What do you think about this idea? Should I do it?"

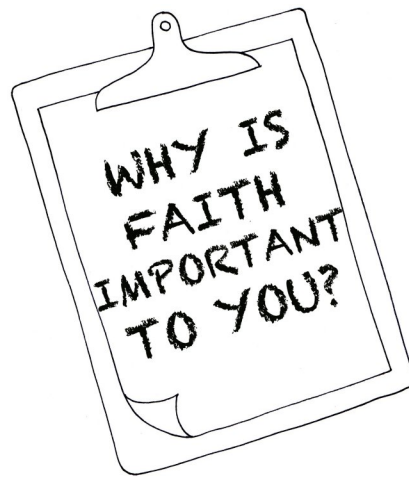
Maggie hesitated before answering Judy. She eventually replied slowly, "Are you sure you're going to go around and ask people about their faith? Don't you think it's a bit strange and kind of embarrassing to ask those kinds of questions? I don't know. I would be too shy to talk about faith with other people that I don't really know."

Judy thought about it and said, "Well, you're right! It might be a bit awkward to go around asking people questions, but I think it would be really fun to learn more about how others build their own faith. The term 'cultivating faith' sounds so vague to me at this moment. How awesome would it be if I could learn from others' experiences? Besides, it won't take long for people to respond to my question. I just need simple answers."

Maggie's hesitance didn't discourage Judy. During lunchtime, she took her notebook and a pencil and swung into action! She approached several older college students, some RE teachers, and a few uncles and aunties she knew. Her interview only had two simple questions:

- Why is faith important to you?
- What do you do every day to build up your faith?

Follow in Judy's footsteps to interview at least three people you know...



Questions to Ask

1. Why is faith important to you?
2. What do you do every day to build up your faith?

Interviewee: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Interview notes:

Interviewee: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____
Interview notes:

Interviewee: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____
Interview notes:

Interviewee: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____
Interview notes:

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

During my younger adult years, God blessed me with some very special miracles of healing. These miracles happened in both my life and in the lives of my wife and children.

For example, as a young Air Force airman, I was diagnosed with stomach cancer, the same cancer that took the life of my mother when I was 4 years old. However, through my wife's faithful and heartfelt prayers with fasting to God, I was healed within a few weeks.

Then several years later, my oldest son, who was 7 years old at the time, was diagnosed with scoliosis. But after 6 weeks of my wife fasting and praying two meals a day, he was healed of his condition.

One thing I've learned through my walk of faith is this: God may choose to heal or He may not, but regardless of how He answers prayers, it is always for our better good.

In 2005, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune system disorder called ankylosing spondylitis, or AS for short. What basically happens is my immune system is overactive, and it begins to attack and destroy the good cells in my body. In my case, it is focusing on my spine, my hips, and my lungs. Eventually my spine will become solid bone. There is no known cure to man for this illness, and medications only treat the symptoms, but often the side effects make life worse.

When I first received this bad news, I was naturally devastated and concerned. But one thing is for sure, because God has blessed my family and me with so much in the past, I could never doubt or question Him now. I knew I had to entrust this condition to Him. So I decided to cease taking all narcotic pain meds and self-injected biologics because they only made me suffer more.

You know, the doctors told me 8 years ago that in 5 years I would be confined to a wheelchair. And I praise and thank God that today I am still free from that wheelchair. Even though every day I live with a constant pain level of 5 to 6, some days shooting up to 10 and beyond, I have chosen to rely on God. Not necessarily to heal me, although I would be very blessed and happy if He did, but simply just to give me what I need for each day to work for Him. Lord, just help me put aside the pain—help me live my life for You.

Some of you may need to hear this message today. You may have a physical infirmity and have been told that there is nothing the doctors can do. But let me tell you, Jesus can change your circumstance with the Word. I don't know why everyone is not healed immediately, just like I don't know why He has healed me in the past but not this time. But I do know that He is able to do so. You see, I don't think it has so much to do with our sincerity as it does His will. God sometimes has a plan that we just don't understand. So if you are in such a state, I encourage you to turn to Him for help, believe that God can heal you. As James said in James 5:14-15:

*"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him...
And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."*

And then, rest in God's grace and wisdom.

You may face a life situation that seems hopeless, but if you turn to Jesus, the Lord can change your circumstances—at least, He will change your attitude within those circumstances. He may even open a door to a better opportunity. He can take even the worst situation and use it for His glory.

Trust Him, and let Him use you. Watch and see what He can do through you. Give Him the shattered pieces of your life, and then watch Him carefully arrange those broken pieces like an artist working on a piece of stained glass, arranging it into a work of art.

The point is this: Nothing is hopeless when the Lord of life walks with you. Don't give up on Him, because He will not give up on you.

So I encourage you to do something today - tell the Lord that you trust Him, even in the midst of the seemingly hopeless circumstances of your life. Go back to the Bible, the Scriptures, and read His promises. Do what He commands. And then, rest in Him. Wait on Him, patiently, in prayer. Dare yourself to trust Him truly, and then watch and see what God will do for you.

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 7—Jesus Is Lord over Diseases

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Hebrews 11:1)**

Testify for the Lord: Recounting Your Own Faith

Do you recall a time when God responded to your faith—a time when you turned to God, and He answered your prayer? Take a few minutes to recount God's precious guidance and write your own testimony of how God guided you because you trusted in Him.

LESSON 8

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEATH



OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that Jesus has power over life and death.
2. To understand that Jesus has prepared eternal life for us because He loves us.
3. To understand that God is in control of everything, and that as long as we trust in Him, we have nothing to fear.

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’”

(John 11:25)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for gathering us here so that we can worship You and learn more about Your words.
2. Lord, we thank You for giving us salvation by Your grace and love.
3. Lord, we know that You have power over everything, so help us learn to trust in You wholeheartedly.
4. May You help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Jesus has power over life and death.

- Jairus' daughter (Mk 5:21-24, 35-43)
- The widow's son (Lk 7:11-17)
- Lazarus (Jn 11:1-45)

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God

3. Life Application—Only Believe: Firmly believe in God while on your journey of faith.

4. Activity—Memory Verse Bookmark



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Mourning

When a person dies, there is often a customary period of mourning in many different cultures that consists of wailing and lamenting. The wailing is an announcement to the community that a death has taken place. This is also true of cultures in biblical times (e.g., during the first Passover, so many Egyptians died that the wailing could be heard throughout the entire country). The family of the deceased would gather for lamentation, which is a great show of weeping and sorrow. Micah likened it to the howling of a jackal and the moaning of an ostrich (Mic 1:8). Other mourning practices included wearing coarse sackcloth, beating one's breast, and tearing one's clothes. Mourning is so important in some cultures that there are even professional mourners who can be hired for a price to add to the noise!

Synagogue Ruler

A synagogue ruler is a respected Jewish leader whose duties involve overseeing the administrative arrangements of worship services in the synagogue. He is also responsible for the order and sanctity of the service.



Reaching Out to Your Students

A running theme in this lesson is reaching out to God in times of need and putting faith in our requests to Him. When we ask God for help, we cannot stop hoping when the situation doesn't seem to improve. God can change what seems unchangeable, bringing about new purpose and hope. Both Jairus and the sick woman came to Jesus with faith and trust. As a result, their requests were answered.

It is important for your students to understand that while Jesus is the greatest healer and helper, His help does not always look the same. Jesus does things in many wonderful and unexpected ways, such as placing mud on someone's eyes to restore their sight or healing the sick with just a word; not everyone will be healed or answered in the same way. It may be that Jesus is our last hope during a difficult trial, or it could be that we just need a little comfort from Him. He will answer us according to our needs and our faith.

What is most important, though, is that your students understand that if they believe and have faith, their prayers will be answered.



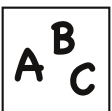
Opener

5 Minutes

Write the following list of words on the board before class. Ask the students to describe what these things or people do.

- Airbag (protects us in car accidents)
- Knee pads (protect us when we fall)
- Helmet (protects our heads)
- Seatbelt (protects us in car accidents)
- Medicine (makes us feel better)
- Doctors (make sick people better)
- Bank (keeps our money safe)

Ask the students if they would put 100% of their trust in these things. Ask them why or why not. Then ask them, "If these things cannot always be fully trusted, in what can we place 100% of our trust?" If they do not immediately answer "Jesus!", then try to guide them towards this answer, helping them to understand that He is someone in whom you can fully place your trust.



Vocabulary

doubt: to question; not to completely believe



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. The students will be filling it out at certain points in the lesson. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version to reference.

In this lesson, we will learn about Jesus performing a special kind of miracle. From three incidents recorded in the Bible, we will learn how He raised people from the dead and gave them life again. Of all the miracles that Jesus performed, raising people from the dead was probably the most amazing. It shows us that Jesus has power and authority over death, because He is God Himself.

So if Jesus has the power to raise people from the dead, does He have the power to give us eternal life? Absolutely! All we have to do is believe in Him. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and He has the power to give life or take it away. He shows this very clearly to us in three incidents in the Bible.

Jairus' Daughter (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

The first incident we're going to learn about is recorded in Mark 5:21-24, 35-43. This story involves a man named Jairus and his daughter. Now, Jairus was a synagogue ruler, which meant that he had duties such as overseeing the synagogue and organizing services. None of this was on Jairus' mind, though, when he approached Jesus. Let's read what his request was in Mark 5:22-23.

There are two attributes that we can see in Jairus through his request. Have you ever asked someone for help before? Sometimes it's very difficult, because we don't like to admit that we can't do things by ourselves. From this, we know that Jairus first had great **humility**. Although he was a synagogue ruler who wielded authority, he disregarded his own status, fell at Jesus' feet, and begged for His help.

The second attribute that we can see is Jairus' **great faith**. He knew that at this point, only Jesus could save his daughter. He probably had the money and authority to call for a physician, but Jairus sought Jesus out the very moment He walked ashore. His belief that Jesus had the power to save his dying daughter demonstrated how much faith he had.

Let's continue the story in verse 35. Oh, no! Jairus' daughter had died as they were making their way to the house to save her! Jairus must have despaired when he heard the news. He had asked Jesus to cure his daughter's

illness, but could He do anything when she was already dead?

Well, whatever Jairus thought, Jesus reassured him with comforting words, and continued to the house despite the news. Let's read verses 36-40. Jesus simply told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe." Jairus only needed to have faith that Jesus could save his daughter, whether she was dead or not. When He arrived at the house, He proved that Jairus' faith was not misplaced! Let's read the rest of the story in verses 41-43.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to fill out the first column on the worksheet, helping where necessary.

The Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-17)

Our second incident involves a widow's son. Let's turn our Bibles to Luke 7:11-13. One thing that we should note about this is that Jesus just happened to arrive at the city of Nain as the funeral procession was proceeding out of the city—no one had asked for His help, nor did He personally know who these people were. It was custom for the funeral procession to be held on the same day as the death, so the widow had just lost her son that very same day. She was probably full of despair, because her son was all she had left of her family.

Before we go on, let's backtrack a bit. Can anyone explain to me what it means to be a widow? [Allow students to answer if they can.] A widow is a woman who has lost her husband, either to death or divorce. In biblical times, it was often very difficult for a widow to survive, because normally being a widow meant that the woman had no relatives to live with. However, if a widow had a son or daughter, then her child could help her earn money and live more comfortably, especially if the daughter married into another family, who would also take the widow in as one of their own.

Now, having learned this, you may understand a little better why Jesus was so full of compassion for the widow—her son was her last hope. Let's read the rest of the incident in verses 14-17.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to fill out the second column on the worksheet, helping where necessary.

Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

The third incident we're going to study is about a man named Lazarus. Does anyone remember who Lazarus was? He was the brother of Mary and Martha, two women who welcomed Jesus into their house when He arrived at their town. Let's open our Bibles to John 11 and read the first part of the story in verses 1-6.

Did you notice anything curious about Jesus' initial reaction to the news? [Allow students to answer if they can.] The Bible says that after hearing the news, Jesus stayed where He was for two more days! Normally, if someone you know is sick, you'd immediately go to see them, right? Let's continue to read why He did this in verses 11-15. Jesus was going to use this incident to teach His disciples—and us—more about Him. Let's continue reading the story in verses 17-27.

This passage is very important for today's lesson. Let's reread verses 25-26. Jesus tells us very clearly that as long as we believe in Him, we will never die. We'll examine this in more detail later. For now, let's finish up the story in verses 32-45.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask the students to fill out the third column on the worksheet, helping where necessary.

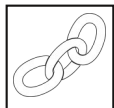
Jesus Is Lord over Death

Now before, I said that Jesus shows us His power over death through the three incidents that we just learned about. However, there is one more in which He proves His

power: His own resurrection! There are many things that are special about His resurrection, but there is one aspect that is important for today's lesson. Jesus resurrected Jairus' daughter, the widow's son, and Lazarus, but these three people all eventually died again because He only resurrected their physical bodies. Jesus' own resurrection was special because unlike these three, He would never have to die again after resurrecting! What an amazing concept! Can you imagine dying once, resurrecting, and then never having to experience death ever again?

Well, this is exactly what Jesus is offering to us. We are all condemned to eternal death because we are all born into sin the moment we enter the world. But through His resurrection, Jesus proves to us that with His power, He can give us life instead of death. The stories we learned today are all additional proof that He is able to do this. Let's turn once more to John 11:25 and read our memory verse together: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'"

Do you understand what this means? Jesus is telling us that He is giving us eternal life; all we need to do is believe in Him. Many people fear death, because it marks a complete end of their life. Once you die, you can't come back; that's what the world believes. But we are different—we can face death without being afraid. Whether we die tomorrow or far in the future, as long as we've believed in Jesus and followed Him, we know that He has already prepared a place for us in heaven with Him. He has given us a life that will never, ever end in death!

**Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs***2-5 Minutes***One True God**

Through today's lesson, we have learned two things about Jesus. He is the only Savior of mankind and the one true God, and He has power over life and death. Because of this power, we can be assured that when Jesus returns, He will bring us into eternal life with Him in heaven. However, in order to be able to follow Him, we must strive to be like Him—we need to pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit and follow God's commandments in the Bible.

**Check for Understanding***5 Minutes*

- 1. What was Jairus' occupation?** Synagogue ruler.
- 2. When Jairus saw Jesus, what was the first thing he did?** He fell at Jesus' feet.
- 3. When Jesus arrived at Jairus' house and told them that the child was simply sleeping, how did they respond?** They laughed at Him.
- 4. What did Jesus see as he approached Nain?** A widow's son being carried out in a funeral procession.
- 5. What emotion did Jesus show when He saw the widow? What did He say to her?** Compassion. He told her, "Do not weep."

- 6. What happened after Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead?** The people glorified God, and the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.
- 7. What town did Lazarus live in?** Bethany.
- 8. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb when Jesus arrived at his house?** Four days.
- 9. Why did Jesus wait a few days before seeing Lazarus?** So He could resurrect Lazarus to glorify God and show His power over life and death.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Only Believe

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. Guide them to complete each question, and be sure to discuss their answers after they complete each one.]

Having some doubts about God as we grow up is a very natural thing. Is God really listening to my prayers? Why isn't He helping me with my problems? Why does it feel like He isn't really there? It's normal to have such questions and begin to doubt, but we should never let these doubts make us stray from our beliefs that Jesus truly is the resurrection and the life, and that He has given us eternal life in heaven as long as we believe in Him.

In order to stand firm against the temptation to walk away from God, we need to confront the doubts that we have, and look closely at why we are having them. Maybe your requests aren't according to His will, or God is trying to teach you something with the problems you are encountering. When you examine your situation more closely, you may realize that it was never God who strayed from your side, but rather, you who strayed from His.

Listed below are some ways that can help us remove our doubts and set us back on the right path. Read each explanation and fill out the worksheet as instructed. [Answers and suggested guidance have been provided below.]

1. Listen to Testimonies

[Help students think of any testimonies they might have heard. It would also help if the teacher thinks of testimonies of their own beforehand, as additional examples. The students' responses can be as short and simple as, "I heard about a sister who saw blood in the water during baptism," or "My friend got into a really bad car accident, but God took care of her and she didn't get any big injuries."]

2. Read the Bible

Psalm 36:5 " Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds."

Psalm 86:15 "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth."

Psalm 89:1 "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations."

3. Talk to God

[If students do not want to share their doubts (if they have any) that is fine. Make sure that they indicate which day they're going to pray (about their doubts or to thank God) and encourage them to keep this schedule weekly.]

4. Count Your Blessings

[Students should be able to think of many different blessings, but if they're having trouble, help them get started by sharing some of the blessings you have received this week.]

5. Discuss Your Problem

[If students don't know who to choose, ask them if there is a special adult in their life that they trust very much. When they have finished choosing, ask if any of the students would like to share who they chose to ask for help, and why.]



Activity

Memory Verse Bookmark

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind the students that Jesus has power over life and death.

Materials

- Card stock and/or paper
- Construction paper, optional
- Markers
- Glue, optional
- Single-hole punch
- Ribbon

Instructions

1. Let the students pick the materials they'd like, and have them cut out a bookmark-sized rectangle. You may want to give them measurements or a template to follow.

Note: Students can choose more than one piece of card stock or paper. The more materials they have, the more freedom they have! Some variations might be a construction paper base with plain paper on the front and back. Another one might be several colors layered on top of each other for a border effect. Just make sure they leave enough space to write the verse.

2. On the front of the bookmark, have the students write the memory verse. They may decorate the other side however they wish.
3. Center the hole punch at the top and punch a hole. Tie a piece of ribbon to decorate.
4. If you'd like, make it a bookmark exchange!

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; he was a synagogue ruler.
2. True
3. False; Jesus had compassion on her and helped her without being asked.
4. True
5. a. He took her by the hand and said, "Talitha, cumi," or "Little girl, I say to you, arise."
b. He touched the coffin and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."
c. He told them to remove the stone covering the tomb entrance, and then cried out, "Lazarus, come forth!"
6. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and He has power over life and death. Therefore, we can be assured that He can give us the eternal life that He has promised us.
7. He told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe."


JESUS IS LORD OVER DEATH

Instructions: Fill in the chart as you follow along with the lesson.

| | Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 | Luke 7:11-17 | John 11:1-45 |
|--|--|--|--|
| Who was involved? How did they ask for help? | <i>Jairus (a synagogue ruler) and his daughter. He fell down at Jesus' feet and begged for His help.</i> | A widow and her son. She didn't ask for help—Jesus only happened to arrive at the same time the funeral procession was occurring. | <i>Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. They sent word to Him, saying that the one He loves was sick.</i> |
| How long had it been since the person died? | A few minutes. | <i>About a day.</i> | <i>Four days.</i> |
| What was Jesus' response? What did He tell them? | <i>He immediately followed him to his house, and told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe."</i> | <i>He was overcome with compassion and told the widow, "Do not weep."</i> | He waited two days before going to see Lazarus. When He finally arrived, He told them, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." |
| How did the onlookers initially respond (if the Bible mentions a response)? | <i>They ridiculed Jesus.</i> | <i>[None mentioned.]</i> | <i>They questioned why Jesus couldn't save Lazarus.</i> |
| How did Jesus perform the resurrection? | <i>He took the child by the hand and said, "Talitha, cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."</i> | <i>He touched the coffin to make the procession stop and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."</i> | <i>He had them remove the stone covering the tomb entrance, and then called Lazarus out by name with a loud voice.</i> |
| What happened after Jesus performed the resurrection? | The onlookers were overcome with amazement, but Jesus commanded them that no one should know what happened. | <i>The onlookers feared and glorified God, and spread the report about Him throughout Judea and the surrounding region.</i> | <i>Many believed in Jesus.</i> |

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEATH

Instructions: Fill in the chart as you follow along with the lesson.

| | Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 | Luke 7:11-17 | John 11:1-45 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Who was involved? How did they ask for help? | | A widow and her son. She didn't ask for help—Jesus only happened to arrive at the same time the funeral procession was occurring. |  |
| How long had it been since the person died? | A few minutes. | | |
| What was Jesus' response? What did He tell them? | | | He waited two days before going to see Lazarus. When He finally arrived, He told them, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." |
| How did the onlookers initially respond (if the Bible mentions a response)? | | | |
| How did Jesus perform the resurrection? | | | |
| What happened after Jesus performed the resurrection? | The onlookers were overcome with amazement, but Jesus commanded them that no one should know what happened. | | |

ONLY BELIEVE

Instructions: Listed below are some ways that can help us remove our doubts and set us back on the right path. Read each explanation and fill out the worksheet as instructed.

1. Listen to Testimonies

What better method to remove our doubts than to simply ask? Many of our brothers and sisters have often testified before the Lord, either on the pulpit, during a testimony session, in SSC, or even in church publications, such as Manna. If you ask your teacher, parents, or classmates, they probably have some testimonies to tell, too!

Think about a testimony that you have heard and briefly summarize it below. If you can't think of any, then ask your classmates or your teacher if they have any testimonies to share.

2. Read the Bible

The Bible isn't just God's instruction book. It also offers lots of comforting words and many, many reasons why we never need to doubt God. Aside from the countless miracles and stories that speak about God's faithfulness to us, there are also many passages that describe how God rewards those who are, in turn, faithful to Him.



Below are some verses that talk about having faith in God. Look them up and fill in the blanks.

Psalm 36:5 "Your mercy, O Lord, is in the _____; Your _____ reaches to the clouds."

Psalm 86:15 "But You, O Lord, are a God full of _____, and gracious, _____ and abundant in mercy and truth."

Psalm 89:1 "I will sing of the _____ of the Lord forever; with my _____ will I make known Your faithfulness to all _____."

3. Talk to God

Whenever we pray, we are speaking directly to God, and often God will reply to us—more often than we think! Through prayer, God can calm our anxieties, give us solutions to our problems, or remind us that He is still with us. The best way we can confront our doubts is by facing them head on! We can talk to God about them and explain why we've started to lose faith.

Write down any doubts about God that may have started to creep up on you (you don't have to share if you don't want to!). Then, pick a time to pray and talk to God about your doubts. If you don't have any doubts, then you can spend some time thanking Him for all of His blessings instead!

Pick one day (or more!), and then indicate the time you're going to pray:

- Sunday at ____:____ AM/PM
- Monday at ____:____ AM/PM
- Tuesday at ____:____ AM/PM
- Wednesday at ____:____ AM/PM
- Thursday at ____:____ AM/PM
- Friday at ____:____ AM/PM
- Saturday at ____:____ AM/PM



Make sure you tell your teacher, a classmate, or your parents so that they can help you remember to pray!

4. count Your Blessings

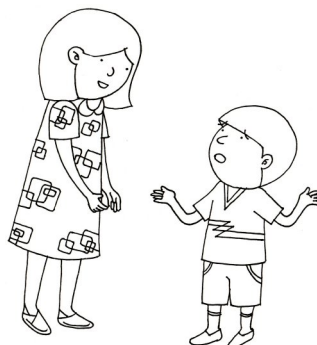
When in doubt about what God hasn't given you, count the things He has given you! Start right now by listing some things that God has blessed you with this past week.

5. Discuss Your Problem

If you still have some doubts or unanswered questions, it might be time to seek advice from someone else! Asking for help from a parent, teacher, or elder may often be the best way to puzzle out your problem.

Write down the name of a counselor or teacher to whom you plan to talk whenever you have a problem you can't seem to solve yourself (you can ask a classmate, too, but sometimes it's better to talk to someone with a little more experience).

I plan on asking _____ for help if I ever have a problem or question I can't seem to solve by myself.



E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 8—Jesus Is Lord over Death

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(John 11:25)**

True or False

1. Jairus was a tax collector. _____
2. When Jesus told the onlookers that Jairus' daughter was only sleeping, they laughed at Him. _____
3. The widow begged Jesus for His help when she saw Him approaching. _____
4. Lazarus was dead for four days when Jesus finally arrived. _____

Short Answer

5. Briefly explain how Jesus resurrected...
 - a. Jairus' daughter
 - b. The widow's son
 - c. Lazarus
6. What do these incidents prove to us?
7. What did Jesus tell Jairus when people told him that his daughter had died?

LESSON 9



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the meaning behind the parable of the sower.
2. To understand that different environments produce different results.
3. To encourage students to be "doers," not just "hearers."

MEMORY VERSE

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

(James 1:22)

PRAYER

1. We thank You, God, for gathering us here so that we can worship You and learn more about Your words.
2. Lord, thank You for guiding us through this past week.
3. Please continue to protect our hearts and minds.
4. Lord, please help us to be doers of Your word and not just hearers.
5. May You help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. **The Parable of the Sower (Lk 8:4-8)**
2. **The Purpose of Parables (Lk 8:9-10)**
3. **The Parable of the Sower Explained (Lk 8:11-15)**
4. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—The Holy Bible contains the seeds.
5. **Life Application**
 - Be a Doer: To understand what it means to be a doer of God's words, not just a hearer.
 - Just Do It: To be reminded of God's words and that we must take action.
6. **Activity**—Seed Packets



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The parable of the sower describes many environments as being hostile to a seed's penetration and growth. Through this parable, we are warned not to develop hard hearts and attitudes that make it difficult for God and His word to penetrate. God wants to soften our hearts so that His truth can be planted to make us grow and yield crops for Him. "Wayside" type people, like many religious leaders, are those who hear but don't believe. "Rock" type people, like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, are those who believe His message but never display their belief in actions. "Thorn" type people are those who are overcome by material desires, with no room in their lives for God. "Good-ground" type people, in contrast to all the other groups, are those who obey the Lord, no matter what the cost.

The parable also describes environments in which thorns choke the plant as it attempts to grow. This also serves as a warning:

God wants us to clear out the obstacles that prevent His truth from growing and flourishing. He wants us to put Him first, so that other distractions don't stifle our works for Him. God wants us to lead healthy, productive lives and to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).



Reaching Out to Your Students

Children at this age are reaching a developmental stage in which correction can sometimes be hard to accept. They are learning to become more independent in school and at home through added responsibilities that their teachers and parents delegate to them. Because of the emphasis placed on acquiring independence and responsibility, criticism from an adult can imply that a child is not succeeding or doing well—and this can be hurtful and hard for a child to accept. This lesson is important because it teaches us the importance of being self-critical and accepting instruction and criticism so that we can lead healthy physical and spiritual lives. In the religious education classroom, open the door to self-evaluation—teach the children to be involved in this continually.

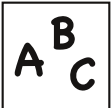


Opener

5 Minutes

Have you ever planted seeds? What did you have to do to make them grow? Did you have to follow specific instructions? What is the best kind of environment for most seeds to grow in? What would happen if you just read the directions and didn't follow them?

The parable we'll be learning about today tells about environments in which seeds flourish and environments in which they die.



Vocabulary

sower: a person who plants seeds for growth by scattering or spreading them on the ground
parable: a short narrative or story that illustrates a moral or spiritual lesson



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Print out the lesson worksheets before class. Distribute Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. The students will fill it out during the lesson. Keep one copy of the Teacher Version to reference.

Let's first open our Bibles to Luke 8, and read verses 5-8. We often call this parable, "The Parable of the Sower." But before we go into detail about this story, first we need to ask ourselves, what exactly is a "parable"? [Allow students to answer if they can.] A parable was a method of teaching that Jesus often used. It is a short story that illustrates some sort of lesson. Let's read what Jesus says about the purpose of His parables in verses 9-10. Parables, He explains here, are His way of teaching His disciples. That includes us! We need to pay close attention to all of the parables in the Bible, because all of these stories are ways for Jesus to communicate to us how we should live as His children.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

Let's move on and study the parable of the sower in detail.

First, let's look at verses 11-15, where Jesus explains the meaning of this parable.

FOR TEACHERS

You may want to write these out on the board for easier explanation. Ask your students to fill out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 while you explain the meanings. Pause your lesson accordingly to allow students time to fill in the worksheet.

The seed is the word of God.

The different environments—the wayside, rocks, thorns, and good ground—represent different kinds of people.

The Wayside

Let's read verse 12. Have you ever seen a plant grow when it hasn't even been planted? If you drop a seed on the carpet or the sidewalk, what do you think will happen? It will probably be swept away by people walking by, or if it's outside, hungry birds may pick it up. Well, according to this parable, this kind of "environment," or person, hears the message, but then the word is taken away from their

hearts by the devil, and they are prevented from being saved. God's word is never even given a chance to grow in them.

Rocks

Next, let's read verse 13. Have you ever taken a plant out of the ground? Have you noticed that all plants have roots, which are essential to their growth and stability? Seeds that have been sown on rocky environments do not take root. So, the rocky environments represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But the message doesn't take root, or form a strong foundation, so although they are able to receive the message at first, they allow God's word to fall away from their hearts when faced with temptations or tribulations.

Thorns

Next, read verse 14. Have you ever been asked to weed a garden? Do you know why people remove weeds? Some weeds are actually very pretty, but there is a reason that they must be removed from gardens. Weeds steal away the precious nutrients and water in the soil, preventing flowers from growing. They often also crowd around flowers, taking up the space they need to grow and making them wither and die. Can you imagine trying to grow plants in this kind of smothering environment, or in an area with many thorns? In the parable, the thorny environment represents those who initially accept God's word, but are unable to let it grow in their hearts because they are choked by the worries, pleasures, and desires of the world around them.

Good Ground

Finally, let's read Jesus' description of this kind of person in verse 15. The last kind of environment in the parable is the good ground. This environment represents those who not only hear God's word, but who also wholeheartedly follow His teachings. Because it lands in good soil, God's word is able to root itself deeply and grow. In the verse we just read, Jesus describes these people as having a "noble and good heart," and patience. These environments are the ones that allow the seed to grow fully and bear fruit for God.

What is the major difference between the seeds that fell on the good ground and the seeds that fell in the other environments? These seeds had the opportunity to spread their roots deep down into the earth. They were **deeply rooted**.

What does it mean to be deeply rooted? Why is this so important? Roots are like straws through which plants are fed. Plants extend their roots in search of nutrients from the soil and oxygen from water. Without deep roots, plants die very easily.

There is another reason why being deeply rooted is important. Roots act just like ship anchors for plants. Just as a big anchor keeps a ship from floating away, long, strong roots keep plants from being blown away by the elements. Jesus told us the parable of the sower to demonstrate why God's word must be deeply rooted in our hearts. If God's word is deeply rooted in our hearts, then God will provide us with the nutrients we need for our spiritual lives. This will allow our faith to grow, so that when trouble comes along, we will not be blown away.

FOR TEACHERS

Distribute Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 to the students now. Ask the students to list out the fruit of the Spirit, and then identify the different environments in the scenarios. Keep a copy to reference.

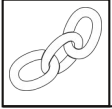
So now that we know why we must become good soil, how do we do it?

Let's turn to James 1:22 and read it together. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

As the verse says, we need to follow God's word actively, not simply listen to it. Becoming a "doer" of the word means bringing it into our everyday lives. What are some ways we can do this? [Give students some time to discuss and give answers. If the question is too vague for them, give them some examples, such as obeying their parents, reading the Bible at home, avoiding bad things at school (e.g., bullying or drugs), or bringing their friends to church.]

We mentioned that the thorny environment represented when a person became caught up with worries, desires, and pleasures of the world, which obstruct the growth of God's word in their hearts. What are some things that drag you away from God? [Allow students to discuss and offer their own answers. Some examples may be TV, video games, Internet, or even books.]

As a conclusion, go over the four types of environments once more. Ask the students which type of environment we should all strive to be, and then ask them what actions they will take to be that environment.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Holy Bible

The Bible is inspired (written) by God and contains the truth, which is the seed we learned about today. These words are true and living. The Bible was written a long time ago, way before any one of us was born, but because it contains the words and teachings of God, it is timeless. We must constantly study the Scripture so that we can plant the seed in our hearts and let it grow by following its instructions.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What are the four different kinds of environments Jesus talked about?** The wayside, rocks, thorns, and good ground.
- 2. Explain the spiritual meaning of seeds sown along the wayside.** These types of people hear God's message but don't believe it.
- 3. Explain the spiritual meaning of seeds sown among the rocks.** These people, like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, believe in the message but never do anything about it. They take no action. Eventually, they drift away from God because they have no foundation in His word.
- 4. Explain the spiritual meaning of seeds sown in the thorns.** These people are overcome by the world and don't have room in their lives for God.
- 5. Which environment does God want you to be like? Why?** The good ground; only on good ground will we be able to bear fruit.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Please hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 at this time. Ask the students to read the passage and draw a picture illustrating the story. After students have finished drawing, you may ask them to share their pictures with the class if they'd like. Then, continue by asking them to read the passages and scenarios, and then filling in the third column. Suggested answers have been provided.]

1. Just Do It!

Objective: To remind ourselves that simply listening isn't enough—we must also take action upon God's word.

Read Matthew 7:24-27 and draw a picture illustrating the story.

2. Be a Doer

Read the following passages and scenarios, and then fill in the third column by answering the question, "How would you be a doer?"

Matthew 5:44 (Love your enemies)

Pray for him. Ask God to help me understand why he doesn't like me. Perhaps if this person is ever in need, I can help him.

Matthew 22:39 (Love your neighbor as yourself)

Let them pick first, or choose to share a bed and allow someone else to sleep in the single bed.

Ephesians 4:32 (Forgive one another, as God has forgiven you)

You tell him it's okay; the movie inside is not broken and you can still watch it.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (Love is not jealous)

Stop thinking about such things and stop comparing yourself to others. Pray that you can overcome this and be able to show love to others even when you are jealous.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (Don't be quick to anger)

Try to understand why she is late, instead of yelling at her the moment she arrives.

Luke 12:15 (Do not be greedy)

Take only what you are told and exert self-control. If you have trouble, always ask God for help to overcome greed.

**Activity****Seed Packets***10-15 Minutes*

Objective: To take home a reminder of this lesson.

Materials

- Square piece of paper
- Seeds (optional) or anything you can find as a substitute for seeds, such as small beans
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

Instructions

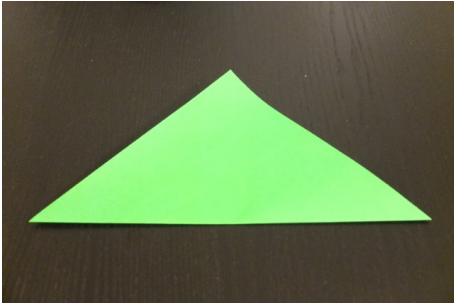
1. Give the students a piece of square paper and tell them that they will be making a packet to hold seeds. This packet will remind students about the parable of the sower.
2. Refer to the provided instructions and guide the students to make the packets. Prepare a completed packet before class as an example, and make one in class with the students.
3. As a class, make the seed packet together, making sure that all the students have completed each step before moving on to the next one.
4. When the students have finished making the packets, put seeds or anything that will rattle inside the envelope.
5. Students can decorate the envelope. Be sure to have them write: "Be doers of the word."

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

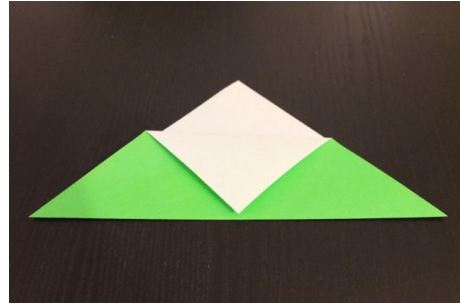
1. A
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. The good ground; only on good ground will God's word take root, allowing us to bear fruit.
6. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Seed Packets

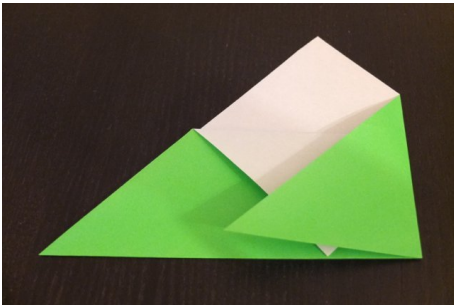
Instructions: Follow the steps below to make a seed packet. Make sure you wait for the teacher to tell you to go on before moving on to the next step.



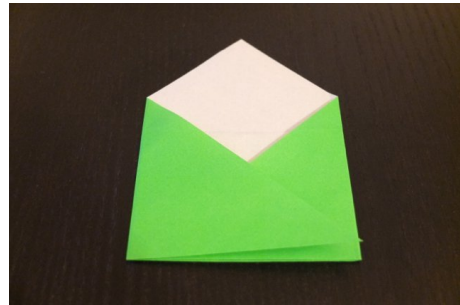
1. Fold the paper in half to form a triangle and make sure your edges are even (lined up).



2. Take the top corner of the first layer and fold it down to the bottom edge.



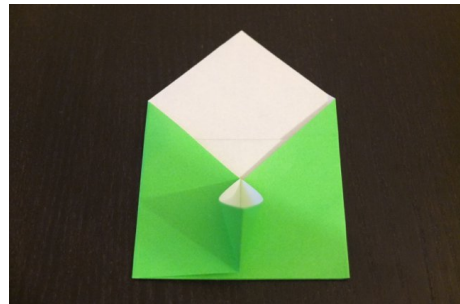
3. Fold the right corner about 1/3 of the way to the left.



4. Take the left corner and fold it to the other end. Your envelope should be rather square-shaped now.



5. Fold the point of the flap back to the left edge of the square.



6. Lift the flap so that it's vertical and press the bottom crease to open it.



7. Press down on the bottom crease to fold the point of the flap up to the top corner of the flap. Make sure you flatten it well, as this will help secure the envelope.



8. Fold the very top point down to the bottom edge and tuck it into the "pocket" that was formed in Step 7.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Instructions: Write the meaning of each in the blank column on the right.

What does the seed represent?

The word of God.

What do the different environments represent?

Different types of people.

| Environment | Who It Represents |
|-------------|---|
| Wayside | <i>Those who hear the message, but then are unable to be saved because the devil takes the word away from them.</i> |
| Rocks | <i>Those who hear the message and receive it with joy, but then fall away when faced with temptations or tribulations.</i> |
| Thorns | <i>Those who hear the message, but then are distracted by the worries, desires, and pleasures of the world around them.</i> |
| Good Ground | <i>Those who are noble and good-hearted, who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently bear fruit for Him.</i> |

We need to be deeply rooted because...

...Roots act as a straw to gather food and water, and as an anchor to keep the plant firmly in place.

Turn to Jeremiah 17:8 and fill in the blanks below.

"For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,

Which spreads out its roots by the river,

And will not fear when heat comes;

But its leaf will be green,

And will not be anxious in the year of drought,

Nor will cease from yielding fruit."

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

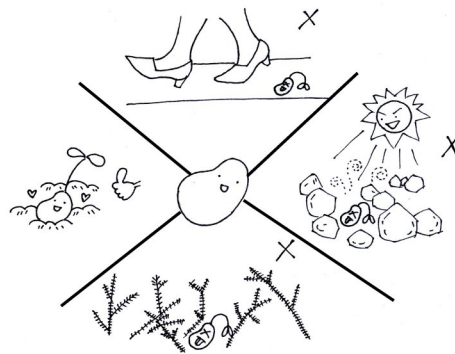
Instructions: Write the meaning of each in the blank column on the right.

What does the seed represent?

The _____ of God.

What do the different environments represent?

Different types of _____.



| Environment | Who It Represents |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Wayside | |
| Rocks | |
| Thorns | |
| Good Ground | |

We need to be deeply rooted because...

...Roots act as a _____ to gather food and water, and as an _____ to keep the plant firmly in place.

Turn to Jeremiah 17:8 and fill in the blanks below.

*"For he shall be like a tree _____ by the waters,
 Which spreads out its _____ by the _____,
 And will not _____ when heat comes;
 But its leaf will be green,
 And will not be _____ in the year of drought,
 Nor will cease from yielding _____."*

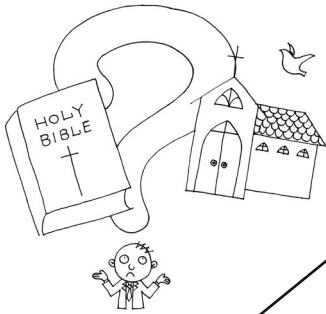
WHICH ENVIRONMENT?

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and list the fruit of the Spirit below.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is _____

 _____."

Read the following scenarios and identify the environment for each one.



Jason is a truthseeker who has been visiting church for a month and listening to the word of God.

Jason's friends from work had been playing golf and tennis on Sabbath mornings. They always asked Jason to come along, so he finally decided to go one Saturday. It was very fun, and soon enough, he began going with them more and more, while attending church services less and less. Having fun with his friends seemed more important than studying the truth. Eventually, he stopped coming to church altogether.

Jason loves coming to church and learning about the Bible. He enjoys having fellowship with brothers and sisters, too. After several months, he decided to get baptized and was very eager to start helping with holy work.

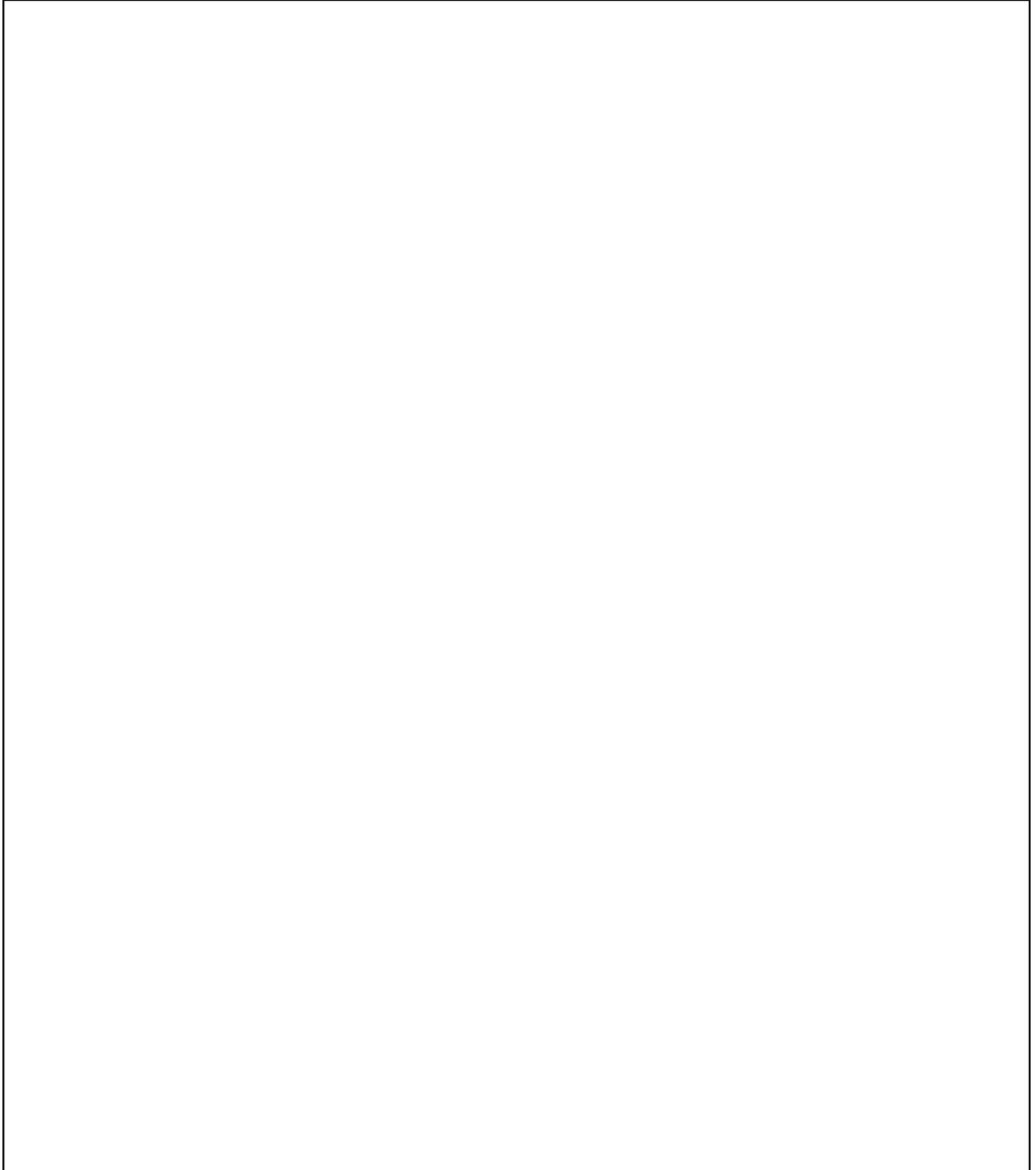
The rest of Jason's family is Buddhist. Although he came to church on one occasion to listen to the truth, he was doubtful about it. The rest of his family pressured him into trying Buddhism instead. In the end, he didn't return, but rather went on to study other religions.

Jason had been coming to church regularly for a year. He believed in the truth and was eventually baptized, but during this time he started a business. It began to get very stressful and hectic, so he decided to attend only afternoon services, in order to continue working in the mornings. Then, he decided to stay home all day and listen to online sermons, but eventually, he stopped doing even that.

JUST DO IT!

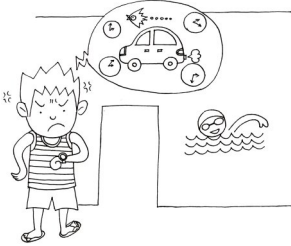
Objective: To remind ourselves that simply listening isn't enough—we must also take action upon God's word.

Instructions: Read Matthew 7:24-27 and draw a picture illustrating the story below.



BE A DOER

Instructions: Read the following scenarios and fill in the last column by answering the question, "How would you be a doer?"

| Word of God | Scenario | How would you be a "doer"? |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Matthew 5:44 (Love your enemies)</p> | <p>Every single day in the hallway at school, one of your classmates throws a piece of crumpled paper at you. He just doesn't like you. You don't even know why.</p> | |
| <p>Matthew 22:39 (Love your neighbor as yourself)</p> | <p>You and two other church brothers are sharing a cabin room during a church retreat. But there are only two beds in the room—one single bed (for one person) and one double bed (for two). You arrive first and have the first pick.</p> | |
| <p>Ephesians 4:32 (Forgive one another, as God has forgiven you)</p> | <p>You let your friend borrow your favorite DVD. When he returns it, though, the DVD cover has been broken. He accidentally dropped some heavy books on top of it.</p> | |
| <p>1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (Love is not jealous)</p> | <p>One of your friends from school seems to get everything he wants—clothes, shoes, toys, games, electronics, pets, etc. You've become jealous of his life. It bothers you sometimes.</p> | |
| <p>Ecclesiastes 7:9 (Don't be quick to anger)</p> | <p>Your mom was thirty minutes late picking you up from your swimming lesson because she needed to drop your sister off at a party. You feel very angry because she made you wait for so long at the pool entrance, and you want to yell at her when she finally arrives.</p> |  |
| <p>Luke 12:15 (Do not be greedy)</p> | <p>During class at church, your teacher brings snacks for everyone. A bag of chocolate is passed around and everyone can only have one piece. You really love this kind of chocolate, though, and there is enough for you to take more than one.</p> | |

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 9—The Parable of the Sower

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(James 1:22)**

Matching

Match the environment to the correct type of person.

A. Wayside

B. Rocks

C. Thorns

D. Good Ground

1. _____ Those who hear the message, but are unable to be saved because the devil takes the word away from them.
2. _____ Those who are noble and good-hearted, who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently bear fruit for Him.
3. _____ Those who hear the message and receive it with joy, but then fall away when faced with temptations or tribulations.
4. _____ Those who hear the message, but then are distracted by the worries, desires, and pleasures of the world around them.

Short Answer

5. Which environment does God want you to be like? Why?

6. List the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

LESSON 10



THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that we are special children in Jesus' eyes.
2. To understand that Jesus is patiently waiting for us to come to Him.
3. To remind students that Jesus will forgive our sins if we repent.

MEMORY VERSE

"A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident."

(Proverbs 14:16)

PRAYER

1. We thank You, God, for gathering us here so that we can worship You and learn more about Your words.
2. Lord, please forgive us of our sins. Please also forgive us of the sins we don't know we have committed, and please reveal them to us.
3. Please also help us to forgive others as well.
4. May You help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. The Parable of the Lost Son

- a. The Lost Son and Us

2. Linking to the Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God

3. Life Application—The Heart of God

4. Activity—Letter to God



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jesus told the story of a rebellious son to help listeners understand God's love. In those days, a father could distribute his inheritance before his death, but the father would usually be the one to decide when to give it to his sons. This was normally done only when he could no longer manage his estate well. It was very unusual for any son to request his portion early. Nevertheless, the father in this story knew that his youngest son had a strong will of his own, so he granted his son's request.

While the young son went off to spend his inheritance, the father waited patiently for his rebellious son to come to his senses. After the son had squandered all of his money, he became so desperate that he had to find a job feeding pigs. This job was the ultimate indignity for a Jewish person because pigs were "unclean" animals (cf. Lev 11:7-8). He had to hit rock bottom before he came to his senses. It often takes great sorrow and tragedy to cause people to return to God for help. When the son finally realized how much better life had been in his loving father's home, he decided to head back. When the son returned home, the forgiving father welcomed and honored him with a feast. The son represents sinners who have repented, and are forgiven and welcomed into God's heavenly kingdom.



Reaching Out to Your Students

After listening to this story, your students may find it easy to see how the prodigal son was negatively affected after leaving his father. Unfortunately, your students may not easily see the correlation between the story and their relationships with their heavenly Father. Approach this topic in two distinct sections by making the first section about parental love and the second about God's love. Discuss and list, as a group, ways in which parents love and provide for their children. Then, list instances when children sadden their parents and take their parents for granted. Afterwards, brainstorm ideas of what would happen if their parents did not love them anymore or were no longer there for them. Next, list ways the children seek forgiveness from their parents and turn the situation around.



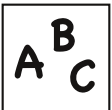
Opener

5 Minutes

In today's story, we will learn about a son that leaves his family and wastes all his inheritance money, only to realize that life back at home had been much better than life on his own. Upon this realization, he decides to return home. How do you think his father received him? Was his father happy, angry, sad, or something else?

We will learn later how his father receives his son upon his return home, but first, let us share our own testimonies. Does anyone have any stories to share about when you made your parents angry or sad, but apologized for it later? How did your parents react after you apologized? Were they still mad or sad?

[Ask the students to share their stories with the class. If they are reluctant to share, try to encourage them by sharing a story of your own first.]



Vocabulary

inheritance: the portion of possessions (in the form of money, land, or goods) that a child receives from their parents, normally when they pass away

famine: a shortage of food (normally due to drought) that causes people to experience severe hunger and starvation

prodigal: recklessly wasteful



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

The Bible Discovery worksheet is simply an activity where the students illustrate the parable as a group. Please make sure you have pencils, papers, and markers/colored pencils for the students to use.

Today, we're going to learn the parable of the lost son, sometimes also called the parable of the prodigal son. First, let's open our Bibles to Luke 15:11-32.

Now, before we read the parable, there are a few things we need to learn. First, does anyone know what the word "inheritance" means? An inheritance is what children receive from their parents, usually when they pass away.

This inheritance can be in the form of money, land, or goods, such as a house or jewelry. Normally the oldest child—the firstborn—received more than the other children. This was because the firstborn also received the greatest responsibilities of the household—they had the duty of continuing the family name and increasing the wealth and property that they owned.

Second, the story that we're about to read mentions pigs. Now, we all probably know what pigs are! But do we know exactly how the Jewish people viewed pigs? Well, according to the Mosaic laws, pigs were considered unclean animals, which meant the Israelites couldn't eat anything with pork in it. Since pigs were unclean, anything

or anyone that touched them was also unclean. If a person had to take care of pigs, they were cast out from the rest of the community, because if anyone interacted with this person, they would also become unclean!

The last thing we need to learn before we read the story is the word "famine." Does anyone know what a famine is? A famine occurs when there is an extreme shortage of food in the region. For example, in the Old Testament, Joseph's family experienced a famine when there was no rain for seven years—this meant that their crops couldn't grow, and their animals couldn't eat, which meant that they couldn't eat either!

The Parable of the Lost Son

Okay, now that we learned these things, we can finally read the parable! Let's read the Bible text together, starting with vv. 11-16. Now, what happened in this section? Let's figure out the key scenes together.

FOR TEACHERS

Help the students pick out the key scenes. Allow students to tell the story back to you through this. After they have listed out the key scenes, ask them to pick one of the scenes and illustrate it, and then write a caption below. Try to remind them to keep their drawings quick and simple to speed the lesson along. You may want to give them some extra time at the end of class to polish up their pictures.

Key scenes (sample):

1. The younger son took his inheritance and left.
2. He spent all of his wealth recklessly.
3. A famine occurred, and he had no food or money.
4. He had to feed pigs to stay alive.

Let's put our illustrations aside and move on to the next part of the story. Let's read vv. 17-24. Just like we did for the first part, let's figure out the key scenes again.

FOR TEACHERS

Once again, help students review the story's key scenes and pick one for a second illustration.

Key scenes (sample):

1. In his sadness, he remembered his father.
2. He returned home, and his father ran to him.
3. He repented.
4. His father gave him a robe, a ring, and sandals, and declared a feast.

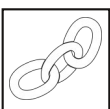
The Lost Son and Us

Now that we've learned the parable, what does this have to do with us? Jesus was telling us this parable because He wanted to teach us about **repentance** and **God's forgiveness**.

Although the younger son was irresponsible and spent all of his belongings, the moment he came back, his father was not only actively looking out for his return, he was willing to forgive him completely for his mistake. His son wasted so much money, but he didn't reprimand him at all. Why do you think he did this? Let's read verse 21 again. "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

The son came back and acknowledged his mistake, and then even offered to become a servant in repayment. This is what it means to repent. It was because of this willingness to return and try to amend his mistake that his father forgave him.

If the father represents God, why do you think he allowed the younger son to leave with his inheritance? God gives us the choice to follow our own wishes, even if He knows that they aren't the correct choice. He knows that if we choose not to listen to Him, rather than forcing us to follow His guidance, letting us make mistakes is the only way we will learn. But even if we make mistakes, the most important thing is **coming back to Him and repenting**. Whenever we make a mistake, such as lying to someone or disobeying our parents, God is waiting for us to come back and repent so that He can forgive us.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Our God is the forgiving Father who eagerly waits for each of us to accept His love and His will for our lives so that we don't have to struggle on our own. We should continually reflect upon the unconditional love, care, and forgiveness God has displayed throughout our lives, and thank God for the love and care that He provides us.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What did the son do that was foolish and rebellious?** He asked for his inheritance money early and left home. Then, he wasted the money.
- 2. What kind of job did the son find during the famine?** A job feeding pigs in the fields.
- 3. What finally caused the son to make the wise decision to return home to ask for his father's love and forgiveness?** The son was hungry while feeding the pigs and realized how much better off his father's servants were. Still, he was probably unprepared for the great love and forgiveness his father displayed upon his return.
- 4. What did the father do after his son repented?** The father was so happy that he ordered his servants, "Bring the best clothes and shoes! Put a ring on his hand! Bring the best calf we've been fattening up for a feast!"
- 5. What is the meaning of this parable?** God loves us and is willing to forgive us if we repent of our bad deeds. The son represents those of us who are rebellious and often turn our back on God.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. Ask students to take turns readings the scenarios. Then, discuss as a class how and why the character did the right thing and did not grieve the heart God.]

The Heart of God

Objective: To understand why we shouldn't grieve the heart of God.

The meaning of "grief" is "a mental suffering or pain over trouble or loss, a feeling of sorrow, or a painful regret." Whenever we sin, we grieve both the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, meaning that they feel great pain when we stray from God's word. But this means that the Spirit is also overjoyed when we return to His path, just like the father in the parable was so happy to see his lost son return.

We need to remind ourselves on a daily basis that Jesus is always watching us and waiting for us to return to Him. We need to do our best to be aware of what kind of actions we take, and think about whether or not something we do will "grieve" God.

Take turns reading each scenario below. At the end of each one, discuss as a class how and why the character did the right thing and did not grieve the heart God.

Scenario 1

Discussion Questions

- 1. What commandment would Jonas have broken if he had not done his chores and had just gone out to have fun?**
He would have broken the the fifth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother."
- 2. Would it have grieved God? Why or why not?**
Yes, because God's heart is grieved any time we do not listen to His word. He also wants us to obey our parents.
- 3. How did he do the right thing and not grieve the heart God?**
He realized that arguing was not the right thing to do and went to do the chores his parents had asked him to do.

Scenario 2

Discussion Questions

- 1. What commandment would Lily have broken if she had listened to her friends about the money?**
She would have broken the eighth commandment, "You shall not steal."
- 2. Would it have grieved God? Why or why not?**
Yes, because stealing is against His commandments.
- 3. How did she do the right thing and not grieve the heart God?**
She suggested a compromise with her parents by asking for more allowance in advance and agreeing not to receive anymore until she paid off the bracelet.



Activity

Letter to God

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To understand how to repent.

Materials

- Pens
- Plain or construction paper
- Markers

Instructions

1. Ask the students to think of something they have done wrong (e.g., disobeying their parents, cheating on a test, etc.) and something they have done right (e.g., cleaning their room, being friendly to a rejected classmate, etc.). They also need to think of some sort of "repayment" for what they did wrong.
2. Fold the paper in half to form a greeting card. Inside, help the students to write a note to God in which they apologize for their sin and thank Him for giving them the strength to do what is right. Students can also write how they will "repay" God for their mistake. If they are stuck, help them out by pointing out how the lost son in the parable repented of his wrongdoing.
3. The students may illustrate their card as they wish. If they're stuck, they can use a scene from the parable of the lost son to remind them of the lesson.
4. On the back, ask them to write the memory verse.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. inheritance
2. feast
3. A
4. The son was hungry while feeding the pigs and realized how much better off his father's servants were.
5. The father is like our God who loves us and is willing to forgive us if we repent of our bad deeds. Likewise, the son represents those of us who are rebellious and often turn our back on God.
6. He loved his son dearly and forgave him after he repented.
7. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son."
8. He put a robe, a ring, and sandals on his son, and ordered that the fatted calf be prepared for a great feast.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

Instructions: Read the following passages along with the teacher, and then list out the key scenes in each passage. After you have listed out the key scenes, choose one to illustrate and write a caption below the illustration.

Luke 15:11-16

Key Scenes



Blank space for drawing a key scene from the passage.

Caption: _____

Luke 15:17-24

Key Scenes



Blank space for drawing a key scene from the passage.

Caption: _____

THE HEART OF GOD

Objective: To understand why we shouldn't grieve the heart of God.

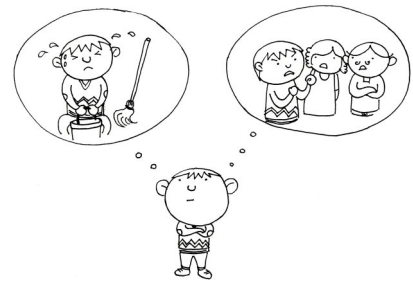
Instructions: Read the following scenarios and answer the questions that follow.

Scenario 1

Jonas wants to go to a New Year's gathering just three houses down from his house. A lot of his friends from his neighborhood will be there. His parents tell him that he must finish his chores first—take out the trash and finish cleaning the windows in his own room. But the party is going to start in thirty minutes, so Jonas tells them that he'll do the chores after the party. But his mother says, "You can't go until you finish these chores. It won't take you that long, Jonas." Jonas opens his mouth to argue, but then realizes that the longer he spends arguing, the longer he will be at home cleaning. So instead of arguing against their wishes, Jonas gets his work done and goes off to see his friends in no time at all.

Discussion Questions

1. What commandment would Jonas have broken if he had not done his chores and had just gone out to have fun?
2. Would it have grieved God? Why or why not?
3. How did he do the right thing and not grieve the heart God?



Scenario 2

Lily and her two friends have made a plan to spend some time shopping for friendship bracelets. A lot of their other friends at school have them, so she and her friends want them, too. Their parents agree to bring them to the mall and let them shop on their own, but each of them must pay for their own bracelet using their own allowance. But Lily and her friends don't actually have enough saved up and they know their parents will not give them more. So, Lily's friends come up with a plan to take some money from their parents when they're not looking. Lily's not too sure about that. It's stealing; even though it's from their parents, she knows that it's still wrong and dishonest. Every day at school, her friends keep asking Lily if she has the money yet, so Lily decides to pray about what she should do. When the shopping day nears, an idea occurs to Lily: why not simply ask for some allowance in advance, and agree not to receive any more until she has "paid off" the bracelet? Thankfully, her parents agree to the compromise she suggests and she doesn't have to do anything dishonest.

Discussion Questions

1. What commandment would Lily have broken if she had listened to her friends about the money?
2. Would it have grieved God? Why or why not?
3. How did she do the right thing and not grieve the heart God?



E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 10—The Parable of the Lost Son

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Proverbs 14:16**)

Fill In the Blank

1. The younger son took his share of his _____ and left home.
2. When he eventually returned, his father prepared a _____ for him.

Multiple Choice

3. _____ : After the son's money ran out and there was a famine, he ended up feeding _____.
 - a. Pigs
 - b. Dogs
 - c. Ducks
 - d. Sheep

Short Answer

4. What finally caused the son to make the wise decision to return home to ask for his father's love and forgiveness?
5. What is the meaning of this parable?
6. What are some reasons the father did not punish his son?
7. What did the son say to his father upon returning?
8. What did the father do after his son repented?

LESSON 11

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the teachings behind the actions of the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan.
2. To encourage the students to demonstrate love to people in need.
3. To learn that we need to love everyone, even those we do not like.
4. To learn that we must show kindness to others through our actions.

MEMORY VERSE

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

(Mark 12:31b)

PRAYER

1. We thank You, God, for gathering us here so that we can worship You and learn more about Your words.
2. Lord, you love us so much; please help us to love others as well.
3. Lord, please also help us to learn to love those who are in need.
4. May You help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. **What must I do to inherit eternal life? (Lk 10:25-29)**
2. **The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:30-37)**
3. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—One true God: God loved us before we even knew Him
4. **Life Application**
 - a. Be a Good Samaritan: We must show love to everyone.
 - b. The Secret to Kindness: We can show our kindness through actions.
5. **Activity**—A Time to Heal
 - a. To understand what we can do to help “heal” others



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jews and Samaritans

The Samaritans were a mixed people, the descendants of Jewish farmers and Assyrians who had conquered the Northern Kingdom in 721 BC. Mixing with the conquered populations was standard procedure for the Assyrians because it helped reduce the threat of any organized rebellion. The Jews hated the Samaritans because of these mixed marriages, and because they had incorporated pagan rituals and customs into their worship of God, both of which were forbidden by Jewish law. A generation or so before the time of Jesus, a son of the Jewish high priest had run off and married the daughter of the King of Samaria, built a replica of the Temple on Mt. Gerizim and instituted a rival worship system that caused a huge scandal. In her encounter with Jesus (Jn 4:4-42), the Samaritan “woman at the well” makes reference to this (v. 19).

The region called Samaria was named after the capital city of the former Northern Kingdom and is located in what’s known today as the West Bank. Because Samaritan laws prohibit marrying outside their own, the Samaritan population has dwindled to a point where only about 700 exist today. They’re not Palestinians, but they’re not regarded as Jews either; they mainly keep to themselves.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Students at this age can often be insensitive to others and even somewhat self-centered. Simple kindness, therefore, is a powerful virtue that should be developed in all of your students. Today's lesson focuses on developing this quality. Kindness is also connected with sensitivity and courage. At this age, some of your students have already learned to be helpful to and considerate of others. While some children have the desire to help others, they may still lack the courage to initiate the action. Sadly, there are also those in your classroom who may not be used to having compassion and are inconsiderate to those around them. Many of these kinds of children may come across as bullies or appear to be intentionally mean children. They tease others or refuse to help others in need. Sometimes this behavior is caused by the simple fact that some children have never been taught about sensitivity and kindness. Thus, the atmosphere in the RE classroom must be carefully managed.

In order to encourage your students to be sensitive and kind to others, it is imperative to maintain a gentle and loving environment in the classroom and to provide clear and specific models for friendliness, kindness, and politeness. Watch the words and actions you use with the students and with others outside the classroom. Children learn from what they see, and if you make a mistake in your words or actions, admit and apologize to your students.

In addition, explain the possible consequences of insensitive actions (i.e., hurting someone's feelings). Also, be sure to constantly point out the positive actions taken by the students in the classroom. Provide your students with plenty of scenarios to discuss. Use cases that involve insensitivity, cruelty, helpfulness, kindness, etc., for the children to evaluate as a whole group. Ask the students to think of ways to display kindness and love in the scenarios. In addition, provide them with opportunities to put these ideas into practice—in the church, home, school, etc. In doing this, all of your students will become more accustomed to thinking on a deeper level, a level involving empathy and understanding that leads to a love for others—a virtue that Christ Himself has commanded us to pursue.

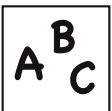


Opener

5 Minutes

[Prepare heart cutouts for the students before class.] Write the word “love” on the board. Ask the students to close their eyes and imagine someone they love. Then, ask students to share who they thought of and reasons why they love them. Now, ask the students to close their eyes and imagine someone they find difficult to love. While their eyes are still closed, tell them that they will be learning a story about a person who showed love to a person whom many despised. As you are talking, pass out one heart cutout to each student. Ask the students to open their eyes and point out that each of them now has a heart in front of them. The students are to write the name of the person of whom they were just thinking on one side of the heart. On the other side, have them write how they can show love to that person. Tell the students to keep the heart as a reminder of how important it is to show love to everyone, even those that are difficult to love.

Say: It may not be easy to show love to everyone, but today we are going to learn about how God wants us to do exactly that—love everyone in our lives, even people that we normally wouldn't even like!



Vocabulary

inn: a public place or house for travelers to stay overnight; another name for a motel or hotel
Levite: a member of the priestly tribe of Levi; a priest

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. love
2. clothes, dead
3. money
4. A priest; None. He left him by the roadside.
A Levite; None. He left him by the roadside.
A Samaritan; He cleaned the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and used his own money to help the man.
5. Your neighbor is anyone you may be able to help—a friend, an enemy, or even a stranger.



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Let's open our Bibles to Luke 10:25 and read until verse 37.

"And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?' So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,'" and "'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, 'You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.' But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'

"Then Jesus answered and said: 'A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you." So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?' And he said, 'He who showed mercy on him.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. Ask them to complete the timeline and answer the first question. Go over the answers with them when they have all finished. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

Students, did you notice that the first two men who passed by the injured man were religious men?

One was a priest and the other one worked in the temple. Wouldn't you expect them to take care of the injured man? The third man was a Samaritan—a person from Samaria. The Jewish people did not like people from Samaria. Jesus did not say for sure, but the man who was robbed and beaten up was probably Jewish, so he may have considered the Samaritan his enemy. [Teachers: See the "Background Knowledge for Teachers" section for

more details.] Yet, the Samaritan stopped to help him and spent quite a bit of money on him without any hesitation.

What does this mean? Jesus was showing us that people who claim to be good do not always do good things. He was also showing us that we are to be kind to everyone—whether or not we like them or they like us. To "love your neighbor as you love yourself" is not always an easy thing to do.

Does anyone remember a time when someone was mean to them? [Ask students to share without naming names.] Would it be easy to be kind to that person? [Allow students to share.]

Is it easy to be kind to someone you don't know? Why? [Have the students answer question 2 on the Bible Discovery worksheet, and then ask them to share.] The Samaritan didn't know the injured man, and they were most likely enemies, yet the Samaritan helped him anyway; that shows just how much love the Samaritan had for the needy!

Sometimes it's hard to show love to our friends, and without God's love, it's even harder to reach out to our enemies. If you truly love God, you will show love to others. You can't do it with your own strength, but God will give you the power.

Ask: How can you show love this week?

Showing love may require some sacrifice—money, time, sharing, giving, and so on. [Ask students to share how they can show love and to whom. Be specific.]

Who is your neighbor?

Students, when you hear the word "neighbor," who do you think of? [Allow students to respond and answer question 3 on the worksheet.] Actually, your neighbor is anyone you may be able to help—a friend, an enemy, or even a stranger. Showing love and kindness is evidence that you truly love God. God loves every person in the world, regardless of race or nationality, and He wants His children to do the same.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

Our God loved us before we even knew Him. He has given us so many things and helped us in ways we can barely begin to repay. One of the things we can do in return is to love others. This does not simply mean just our friends and family, but anyone who needs our help or our concern. That includes people we don't know and people we may not like. We need to help people the same way the Samaritan helped the traveler, who was a stranger to him.

Once we start sincerely loving the people around us, we will be able to love God more. When we love God more, the love of God will fill us and we will automatically show more love to others. This cycle starts with the simple action of showing love to others.

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 Jn 4:20)



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What happened to the traveler in today's story?** He was beaten by robbers and left along the roadside to die.
2. **Who was the first person to come along the path where the man was robbed? The second person? The third person?**
 - 1) A priest
 - 2) A Levite
 - 3) A Samaritan
3. **How did the priest and Levite treat the traveler?** They saw him but then passed by him on the other side of the road.
4. **How did the Samaritan treat the traveler?** The Samaritan cleaned the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and used his own money to help the man.
5. **Jesus spoke this parable to teach a lesson. What was that lesson?** We should show love to everyone, even strangers, just as the Samaritan did.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Be a Good Samaritan

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 to the students. Ask students to read the scenarios and fill in the chart by answering the questions. When the students have finished completing the chart, review their answers and begin a class discussion on how we can all be good Samaritans. Suggested answers have been provided on a Teacher Version of the worksheet.]

Objective: To learn that we need to love everyone, even those we do not like.

2. The Secret to Kindness

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 to the students. Ask students to read the scenarios and answer the two questions that follow each scenario. Suggested answers have been provided. When the students have finished answering the questions, call on volunteers to share their answers to the second question, "How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy...?" Lastly, go over the "What is kindness?" section of the worksheet.]

Objective: To learn that we must show kindness to others through our actions.

Scenario 1

How did Brett show love to Eugene? He saw that Brett was having trouble carrying things to school and helped lighten his load, even though it meant that his own backpack would become heavier.

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Brett did? [Allow students to share.]

Scenario 2

How did Amelia show love to Natalie? Amelia saw that Natalie had been unhappy recently and decided to ask if something was wrong. Then, after she talked to Natalie, she offered her some of her snack, since Natalie's stepmom sometimes forgot to pack lunch. She even welcomed Natalie to her house whenever Natalie felt like visiting.

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Amelia did? [Allow students to share.]

Scenario 3

How did Nathan show love to his friends? Nathan let his friends have the pizza, even though he was also hungry himself. He would rather go hungry for a little while longer than let his friends go hungry.

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Nathan did? [Allow students to share.]

Scenario 4

How did Sophia show love to Emma? Sophia already had her own duties to complete, but she noticed that Emma was tired, so she went to help Emma with her duty of vacuuming the classroom.

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Sophia did? [Allow students to share.]

You may want to point out that the common thread in all of these scenarios is that the students first noticed that the other students were having trouble or were unhappy. Remind your students that one key to showing kindness is knowing when others are in need. Follow with the "What is kindness?" section of the worksheet.



Activity

A Time to Heal

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To understand that one way to show our love to others is to help them "heal."

Materials

- Box of bandages/Band-Aids
- Poster board
- Permanent markers

Ask the students, "**Why do we apply bandages or Band-Aids?**" (To help wounds heal.)

The bandage or Band-Aid doesn't heal the wound, but it protects the wound while the miracle of healing takes place. We cannot heal all the hurts that people have. Sometimes, people's bodies get hurt badly. We cannot heal them. Sometimes, their feelings and hearts get hurt very badly. We cannot heal them. But Jesus wants us to be like a bandage or a Band-Aid. He wants our compassion and love to protect a person while He does the healing. Let's talk about some wounds that children might have on their bodies and in their hearts.

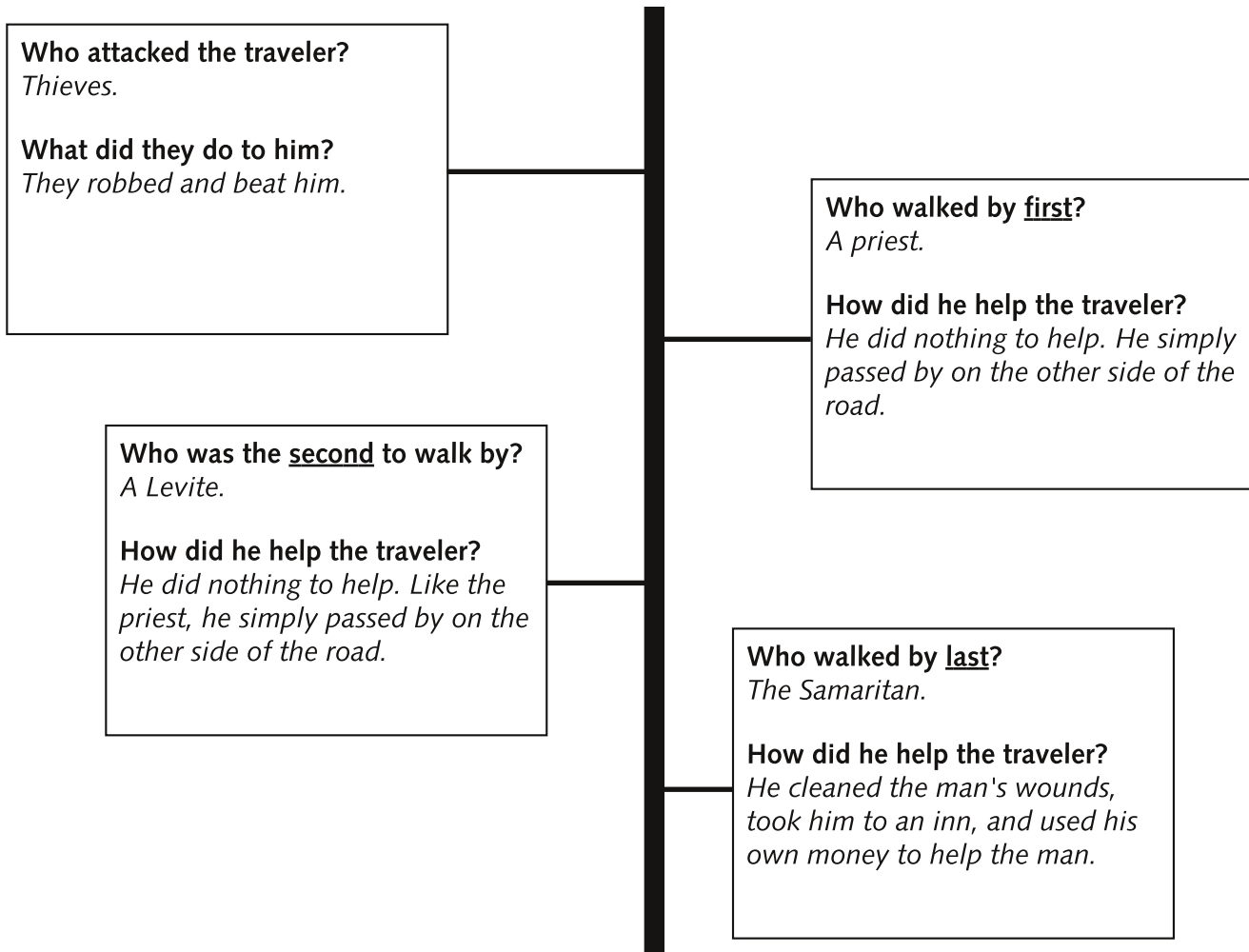
Instructions

1. Ask the students to share about things that have hurt or can hurt them (e.g., a dog bite, being cut with a knife, unkind words, mommy or daddy leaving home, being teased, etc.). Write them down on the poster board in small letters (small enough to be covered by a Band-Aid) as the students list them out.
Note: Write each idea separately and spread them all over the poster board.
2. After writing as many ideas as the students can come up with, hand out some bandages.
3. Point to one wound and ask a volunteer to think of something they can say or do that would help heal the wound. (Make sure that the students don't forget PRAYER! Remind the students that even when it seems like there is nothing we can do, we can always continue to pray.)
4. After the student is done sharing, the student applies a bandage over that wound, and the teacher chooses the next wound to share about.

The activity is complete when all the wounds have been covered with bandage. Encourage the students to look for "wounded" people that they can love and help.

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Instructions: Answer the questions on the timeline about the parable, and then complete the questions that follow.



Questions

1. The Samaritan not only took the man to an inn and paid for everything, but he also made an extra effort: Before the Samaritan left, what did he tell the innkeeper?

"If you spend more than what I have given you to take care of this man, I will repay you the extra money the next time I come."

2. Is it easy to be kind to someone you don't know? Why?

Answers may vary. Possible answer: No, because you don't know who they are, and most people usually don't care about people they don't know.

3. Who is your neighbor? How should you treat them?

Your neighbor is anyone you may be able to help—a friend, an enemy, or even a stranger. We should treat our neighbors with love and kindness. Showing love and kindness to others is evidence that you truly love God.

BE A GOOD SAMARITAN

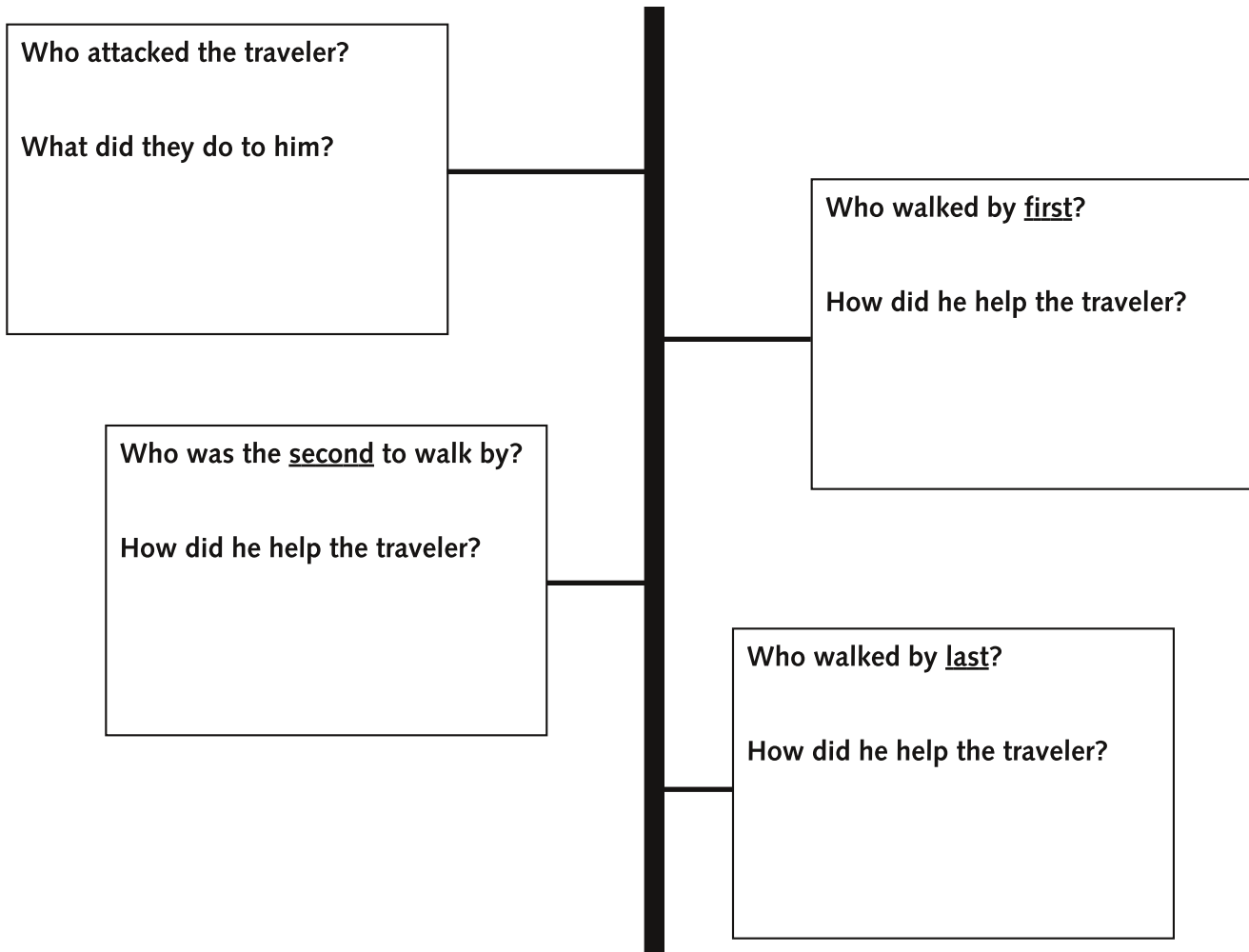
Objective: To learn that we need to love everyone, even those we do not like.

Instructions: Read the following scenarios and complete the chart by answering the questions.

| The Scene | What would you say to be a good Samaritan? | What <u>actions</u> would you take to help? How would you go the extra mile to help the person? (List them out.) |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Kara is rushing to get to science class on time, and so are you. She has a presentation today, so her hands are full. As she hurries down the hall, someone bumps into her and she accidentally drops all of her things all over the floor. The person who bumped into her apologizes but then hurries off and doesn't help her. You notice that she needs help, but you don't know her that well, and you too will be late if you stop to help her.</p> | <p><i>Answers may vary.</i></p> <p><i>Possible answer:</i> <i>"Kara, are you all right? Let me help you pick up these things."</i></p> | <p><i>Answers may vary.</i></p> <p><i>Possible answers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help pick up Kara's things. • Offer to help carry some of her things. • Make sure she gets to class. |
| <p>Tyler has been mean to you recently. He likes to break your pens and pencils, throw your books on the ground, push you around, and make fun of you. One afternoon, you see him struggling with his bicycle. From afar, it looks like he has a flat tire. He's also limping while walking the bike up a hill, so he might have fallen off and hurt his knee. While you see him struggling, you can't help thinking about all the times he's been mean to you.</p> | <p><i>Answers may vary.</i></p> <p><i>Possible answer:</i> <i>"Tyler, what's going on? Do you have a flat tire? Do you need some help?"</i></p> | <p><i>Answers may vary.</i></p> <p><i>Possible answers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Tyler push the bike back home. • Find a bandage for his cut. • Offer to help fix his flat tire. |
| <p>At the beginning of lunchtime, there is trash on the floor by the table you're sitting at, left by the students who had been sitting there earlier. A teacher comes by and notices the mess. He asks you and your friends to help pick it up. All of your friends say, "It's not mine. We didn't do it." It's true that none of you are responsible for cleaning up the mess.</p> | <p><i>Answers may vary.</i></p> <p><i>Possible answers:</i> <i>"Sure, I'll pick the trash up."</i> <i>"I didn't leave this either, but I'll help throw it out."</i></p> | <p><i>Answers may vary.</i></p> <p><i>Possible answer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up the trash and clean it up. |

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Instructions: Answer the questions on the timeline about the parable, and then complete the questions that follow.



Questions

1. The Samaritan not only took the man to an inn and paid for everything, but he also made an extra effort: Before the Samaritan left, what did he tell the innkeeper?

2. Is it easy to be kind to someone you don't know? Why?


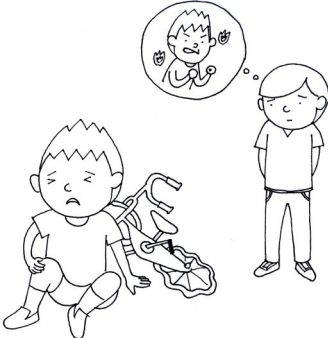

3. Who is your neighbor? How should you treat them?



BE A GOOD SAMARITAN

Objective: To learn that we need to love everyone, even those we do not like.

Instructions: Read the following scenarios and complete the chart by answering the questions.

| The Scene | What would you say to be a good Samaritan? | What <u>actions</u> would you take to help? How would you go the extra mile to help the person? (List them out.) |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Kara is rushing to get to science class on time, and so are you. She has a presentation today, so her hands are full. As she hurries down the hall, someone bumps into her and she accidentally drops all of her things all over the floor. The person who bumped into her apologizes but then hurries off and doesn't help her. You notice that she needs help, but you don't know her that well, and you too will be late if you stop to help her.</p> |  | |
| <p>Tyler has been mean to you recently. He likes to break your pens and pencils, throw your books on the ground, push you around, and make fun of you. One afternoon, you see him struggling with his bicycle. From afar, it looks like he has a flat tire. He's also limping while walking the bike up a hill, so he might have fallen off and hurt his knee. While you see him struggling, you can't help thinking about all the times he's been mean to you.</p> |  | |
| <p>At the beginning of lunchtime, there is trash on the floor by the table you're sitting at, left by the students who had been sitting there earlier. A teacher comes by and notices the mess. He asks you and your friends to help pick it up. All of your friends say, "It's not mine. We didn't do it." It's true that none of you are responsible for cleaning up the mess.</p> |  | |

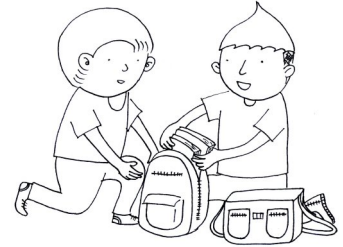
THE SECRET TO KINDNESS

Objective: To learn that we must show kindness to others through our actions.

Instructions: Read each scenario, and share how the characters in the scenarios showed love to others.

Kindness is love in action.

- Eugene and Brett are walking to school together. Brett has a science project due that day, so his backpack is loaded with books and project materials. His hands are also full with a rolled up poster and a model of the earth. About halfway to school, the stitching of Brett's heavy backpack starts to come apart, and his left backpack strap snaps off. Eugene sees that Brett is now carrying a heavy backpack on one shoulder, so he offers to help Brett move some of the items in the backpack to his own and helps hand-carry the rest.



How did Brett show love to Eugene?

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Brett did?

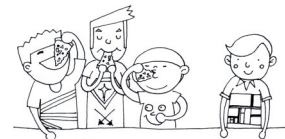
- Natalie's parents just got divorced, and her new stepmom doesn't seem to love her as much; things at home aren't really the same anymore. Natalie's stepmom also sometimes forgets to pack lunch when Natalie goes to school. Natalie has been feeling quite upset over the last few days. Natalie's friend Amelia sees that Natalie is not happy, so she asks what is going on. After understanding more about Natalie, Amelia feels sorry about what Natalie has had to go through recently. Amelia shares some of her snack from her own lunch with Natalie. She also tells Natalie that Natalie is welcome to come over to her house anytime. They can do homework together and play games.



How did Amelia show love to Natalie?

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Amelia did?

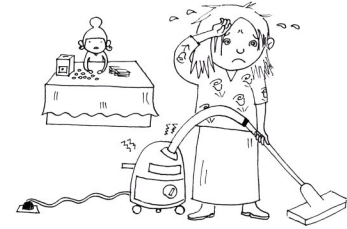
- Nathan's three friends from church are over at his house while their parents are out on a visitation of church members. It's almost dinnertime, and he and his friends are getting hungry. Nathan's grandmother is making dinner, but it won't be ready for another thirty minutes, so Nathan looks through the pantry and refrigerator. He finds three leftover pizza slices in the refrigerator. It's not enough for all four of them, so after he heats them up, he gives them to his friends to eat. He'll wait for dinner to be ready instead.



How did Nathan show love to his friends?

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Nathan did?

4. It's Emma's turn to vacuum the RE classroom after class, but she hasn't been feeling well all day. The teacher asks if anyone can help with this, but no one really wants to because they are already doing their own duties. Grace is taking out the trash, Evan is erasing the board, Michael is putting away the chairs, and Sophia is counting the tithes collection. But Sophia sees that Emma is tired, so she decides to help Emma out even though Sophia already vacuumed last week and has her own duties.



How did Sophia show love to Emma?

How can you show kindness to a friend or enemy in the same way Sophia did?

What is kindness?

Kindness is love in action.

Kindness is seeing the needs of the people around you.

If you notice that others need help, try to understand what's happening, and then offer any help you can give.

Kindness is being able to sympathize with other people's suffering.

You may be having a great day, but others around you might not be feeling the same. If you notice that someone is not happy or seems to be having trouble, ask if you can help them get through their tough time.

Kindness is doing what we can to help, just as the Samaritan did. He used what he had (wine and oil) to help the needy.

If you see anyone in need of help, don't always think that some other person may come along and help. You can be that person.



E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 11—The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Mark 12:31b)**

Fill In the Blank

1. Jesus wants me to _____ my neighbor as myself.
2. The robbers stripped the traveler of his _____, beat him up, and left him half _____ beside the road.
3. The next day, the Samaritan handed the innkeeper _____ to help take care of the injured man.

Short Answer

4. Complete the table.

| | |
|--|--|
| Who was the first person to come along the path where the traveler lay? | What kind of help did he offer the traveler? |
| Who was the second person to come along the path where the traveler lay? | What kind of help did he offer the traveler? |
| Who was the third person to come along the path where the traveler lay? | What kind of help did he offer the traveler? |

5. Who is your "neighbor"?

LESSON 12

THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God gives to us out of His grace.
2. To know that God generously offers the gift of salvation to everyone.
3. To learn how to show our gratitude towards God's love.

MEMORY VERSE

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

PRAYER

1. We thank You, Lord, for gathering us here so that we can worship You and learn more about Your words.
2. Lord, please help us to be wise in all that we do.
3. Lord, please help us through our trials and whatever difficulties we may encounter.
4. And Lord, as You have forgiven us many times, may You give us the power to forgive others.
5. Please help us to focus in today's class and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Mt 20:1-16)

- The landowner goes out and hires workers to help in the vineyard
- The landowner pays the wages to the workers

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Salvation is given by grace

3. Life Application

- The Gift: To understand that we are granted God's gifts and the way to heaven through His grace, not through the good works we have done.
- Give Freely: To understand that good works should not be done for the purpose of receiving heavenly rewards, but rather, for the purpose of doing good works.

4. Activity—Crossword Puzzle; Word Search



Background Knowledge for Teachers

This parable is not about reward but about salvation. It is through His grace that we receive salvation, God's generous gift to us. We shouldn't begrudge those who turn to God in the last moments of life, because no one actually deserves eternal life. The landowner in this parable paid each laborer the same wage, though some worked longer than others, which angered the laborers who had started earlier. However, the landowner reminded the workers that he paid them the amount he had promised them. The landowner's fairness symbolizes God's love for us. God loves each of us, regardless of how little or how much we think we have done to serve Him. The criminal who repented as he was dying on the cross (Lk 23:40-43) will be there alongside with people who have believed and served God for many years. Are we against God's gracious acceptance of the despised, the outcast, and the sinners who have turned to Him for forgiveness? We shouldn't be jealous of what God has given to others, but be grateful for what He has already given us.

Historical Background

The denarius is a silver coin, which was the usual day's wage for a laborer. Roman soldiers were also paid this amount daily. The hours in the parable start at about 6:00 AM, which would make the eleventh hour between about 4:00 and 5:00 AM.

These workers were poor men working as temporary farmhands during the harvest season, and the landowner realized that they would all need a full day's pay to feed their families. The payment at evening follows Old

Testament guidelines:

"You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates. Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the Lord, and it be sin to you" (Dt 24:14-15).



Reaching Out to Your Students

Today's lesson specifically addresses the needs of your students at the developmental age they are currently in. At this age, your students are striving to find a sense of "fairness" in the situations around them. You may notice that they are fully capable of comparing themselves to others, and thereby of knowing what is fair and unfair, or equal and unequal. Every day at school, they are exposed to the issues of fairness, equality, and justice. These are important concepts for them to learn from school. Understanding these concepts will help them know how society works and how to apply these concepts to their daily lives. In school, they learn how they should treat others and how others should treat them. However, this must be distinguished with regard to God's justice. Your students must learn that fairness, equality, and justice are a little different with God because of His great love and mercy. The parable of the workers in the vineyard, as well as the parable of the prodigal son, will be extremely effective in helping them understand God's love and mercy. Using the parable of the prodigal son may be even more effective in this case, because the students have already learned about the story and they may have had some time to think through the story. Have your students share their views on both parables. Ask the students what they thought about the laborers all receiving the same wages and the father welcoming back the son so warmly.



Opener

5 Minutes

[Write the following list on the whiteboard and ask students to rank the actions.]

**How important is it to do these things in order to get to heaven?
Rank the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being the one you feel is the most important.**

- ___ Follow all Ten Commandments
- ___ Give to the poor and help others in need
- ___ Volunteer to help out in the church, even when you are not asked
- ___ Do my very best in school to get good grades
- ___ Pray every day

Everything on that list is important, and as children of God, we should try our best to do all of the things on the list and more. However, even doing all of them perfectly cannot earn anyone the right to go to heaven, because heaven is a free gift. If you had to pay for it, trade for it, or do many things in exchange for it, then it would not be a gift, right?

People do not go to heaven only because they were good people. The Bible says that no one can earn the gift of heaven.

Today's memory verse tells us: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Eph 2:8-9).*

Heaven is a free gift; it is given by the grace of God.

What is the grace of God?

God's grace is like a gift or a favor that we do not earn or deserve.

For example, if you get a special gift from your parents because you got an "A" on your test, then you've earned it because you did well.

If you get a thank-you gift from your best friend, you deserved it because you did something for them.

God's grace is something that God gives for our good because He loves us, not because of something we have done to earn it. This grace is always completely free.

But imagine that someone has promised to give you five dollars to work for him for five hours. Later, you find out that he paid someone else five dollars to work for only one hour, doing the same work you were hired to do.

How would you feel? Do you think it is fair? In today's Bible story, we'll hear about a similar situation.



Vocabulary

foreman: a man who serves as the leader or manager of a group of workers

vineyard: a piece of land where grapes are grown



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Stop at the indicated places throughout the lesson to allow the students to fill in the worksheet. Keep a copy to reference. The answers have been underlined in this section.

In Matthew 19:23-28, Jesus explained that God must be more important to people than their possessions or accomplishments. Peter then asked what kind of reward the disciples would receive for leaving everything behind and following Him. Jesus assured them that they would receive a reward in heaven.

Jesus then told a parable to explain God's generosity regarding salvation.

Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 20:1-16. As we analyze and study this passage, let's refer to the worksheet and follow along to fill it out.

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard" (vv. 1-2). One denarius is the normal daily wage, that is, one day's worth of pay.

At about the **third hour**, which is around nine o'clock in the morning, the landowner was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they

went to work in the vineyard.

He went out again later at the **sixth hour**, which is around noon, and then at the **ninth hour**, which is about three o'clock in the afternoon, he did the same thing. He kept hiring more people.

Yet again, at the **eleventh hour**, which is about five o'clock in the afternoon, he was in town again and saw some more people standing around with nothing to do.

FOR TEACHERS

Stop here and ask the students to fill in the clock hands on the Bible Discovery worksheet according to the times of day mentioned in the story.

He asked those people, "Why haven't you been working today?"

They answered, "Because no one hired us for work."

The landowner then told them, "Join the others in my vineyard and I will pay you what is right."

"So when the evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would received more; and they likewise received each a denarius" (vv. 8-10).

Students, what do you think happened when the laborers realized they were being paid the same amount even though they worked longer hours? [Allow students to

answer.] That's right, they complained to the landowner about it because they thought it was unfair. They had to work in the hot sun all day, and yet they were still being paid the same amount as those who had arrived late in the afternoon. Let's look at verses 13-16 to see how the landowner replied.

"But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to answer questions 2 and 3. When they are done, go over their answers, and then move onto the next question. Make sure the students listen and fill in the blanks as you go over the following section.

The Teaching of This Parable

Jesus spoke this parable to explain God's generosity.

The landowner in this parable represents our God.

The vineyard represents the world.

The laborers represent all of us, the believers.

The denarius each laborer receives at the end of the day represents our reward from God, which is the heavenly kingdom.

People don't earn God's love by *what* they do or *how much* they do. The reward is for everyone who believes in Jesus and receives baptism; their sins will be forgiven, and they will gain the reward of living forever with Him.

FOR TEACHERS

Continue with questions 5-7 on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

Who are the ones that are last, but will be first?

These could be the new believers in Christ, who have done less, or the sinners who have repented. These people may receive God's grace and forgiveness in "the eleventh hour" (that is, the short period of time preceding Jesus' Second

Coming) and therefore labor much less for the kingdom of God. Through their humble acceptance and trust in God's grace, they become first in the kingdom. We can see in verse 7 that these laborers trusted that the landowner would do for them whatever was right.

Who are the ones that are first, but will be last?

These are the ones who view themselves to be higher up in the religious community, possibly leaders or early believers. They have worked much for God, but because they have raised themselves up higher to be the first and taken God's grace for granted (that is, they were once without a job but have now been hired by the landowner, God), they become the least in God's eyes. Some even reject the kingdom because of their pride in being the first.

What does the paying of wages represent? What does it teach us about salvation and grace?

The paying of wages represents God giving His reward to us—salvation and the heavenly kingdom. The paying of wages teaches us that God gives out His gift and reward according to His own will.

This means that salvation is given by grace, which also means that it is something we cannot buy, earn, trade, or acquire. We also cannot earn it by only doing a lot of God's work, although doing God's work is still important. Simply put, salvation is a gift from God given to us through His love and grace.

What is God's grace?

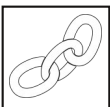
Grace is much different than justice and mercy.

When we are shown **justice**, we receive exactly what we deserve for our sins (that is, death).

When we are shown **mercy**, we do not receive the punishment that we deserve (again, death).

When we are shown **grace**, we receive the good that we, as sinners, do not deserve, which is eternal life, without death.

This is why salvation is given by grace—it is something that we have not done anything to earn; God gives it to us out of His love for us.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation

Salvation is given by the grace of God through the faith of believers. The parable of the workers in the vineyard is not teaching that everyone will have the same reward, but that we are all saved by God's grace. Even the rewards that we will receive for our labor are made possible because of God's grace. We can't earn our way to heaven because no matter what we do, we will never be perfect. However, God is generous, and He loves each of us.

Therefore, we cannot claim any credit in our salvation, even if we work hard for the Lord. It's because we have received it as a free gift (Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:27-28; Tit 3:4-5). From this parable, we learn the abounding grace of God. He does not show favoritism when giving grace (Acts 10:34). But this is not to suggest that it makes no difference how hard we work for God, because the Bible teaches that everyone will be rewarded according to his labor (1 Cor 3:8; 15:58).



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What is the kingdom of heaven likened to?** A landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.
- 2. Why did all the workers receive the same pay?** Jesus wants to teach us that people don't earn God's love by what they do or how much they do.
- 3. Who are the ones that are last, but will be first?** These could be the new believers in Christ, who have done less, or the sinners who have repented.
- 4. Who are the first that will become last?** These are people who have worked much for God, but because they have raised themselves up higher to be the first and taken God's grace for granted, they have become the least in God's eyes.
- 5. Does this mean that it doesn't matter if we do good things or not?** No. We will still be rewarded for our good works. The teaching is that God will always be fair and generous.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. The Gift

Objectives: 1. To understand that God gives to us out of His grace; it is not based on how much we have done for Him.
2. To learn to show our gratitude towards God's love.

Ask students to turn to Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10, and then read the verses aloud.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)."

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

These verses tell us that we are saved by the grace of God. This means that salvation is not given because we earned it by doing lots of work and other good things for God. Rather, salvation is given by the grace of God. The laborers in the parable all did varying levels of work—some did more work and some did less—but the amount of each laborer's wage was up to the landowner. Similarly, God has the sovereignty to grant salvation to whomever He wishes.

Verse 10 reminds us that we are "His workmanship," "created" and "prepared" for "good works." [Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1. Ask the students what they think those "good works" are and how we "should walk in them." The answers will prepare them to understand how we can repay God's love.]

1. What do you think verse 10 is referring to when it mentions "good works"?

Please list 3 in the first column below. How should we "walk in" these good works? List practical ideas in the second column.

Possible Answers

- Help those in need (Gal 6:2; Rom 15:1; Acts 20:35; 1 Thess 5:14) – e.g., Open doors/carry things for the elderly; help someone with their homework; pray for the sick; help your younger siblings with tough tasks; etc.

- Share with others (Heb 13:16; Rom 12:13; Prov 3:27-8) – e.g., Share your toys with your siblings; share your personal time to help do chores at home/church; share your knowledge to encourage/help those around you; etc.
- Shine for God (Mt 5:16; 1 Pet 2:12; Jn 15:8) – e.g., Have good behavior/conduct everywhere you go; establish good relationships with everyone; share the word of God with others; etc.

Note: It is important to talk about “good works” in specific terms, and not merely in broad categories that are harder for E2 students to grasp. For instance, when talking about “Share with others,” give specific actions such as, “Leave aside a part of our savings to donate to those who need the money.” Furthermore, when telling students to “Shine for God,” you can explain that speaking nice things to others is one way of having good behavior.

We still need to work for God.

Now that we know God’s salvation is given to us by grace, should we stop doing good works? No. Preaching, loving others, helping out with church work, etc., are things we must still do. Just because God’s salvation is given by grace, it doesn’t mean that we don’t need to lift a finger while we’re still in this world.

We need to repay the love of God because He has already given us so much and will continue to do so until the day we die.

How shall we repay God?

God has loved us and given us so much. Before we even knew God and when we were still sinners (not baptized yet), Christ already loved us and died for us.

[Ask students to refer to their worksheets once again and complete the remaining sections.]

2. Let’s read Romans 5:8.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

[Students list 3 things that God has given them.]

3. How do we show our gratitude, our appreciation, and our thanks for His love?

[Ask students to write down what each verse is telling us to do, not the actual verse itself.]

Answers

1. Love others. (Mark 12:31)
2. Love God to the fullest. Focus our soul, mind and strength on loving God. (Mark 12:30)
3. Forgive others because God has forgiven us. (Ephesians 4:32)
4. Preach to others. (Matthew 28:19)
5. Attend church services. (Hebrews 10:25)
6. Sing hymns to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19)
7. Read the Bible and keep His words in our hearts. (Deuteronomy 11:18)

2. Give Freely

Objective: To understand that good works should not be done for the purpose of receiving heavenly rewards, but rather, for the purpose of doing good works.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2 and ask the students to read the short testimonies. When they have finished, ask them to answer the questions for each scenario, and then discuss their answers as a class.]

Testimony 1

For several years now, a certain sister has been suffering from a physical illness that requires her to be in a wheelchair for most of the day. She has difficulty moving her body, so she isn’t able to do many of the things that most people would find easy to do. Rather, she needs someone to help her get through the day and take care of her day-to-day needs.

Through this difficult trial, the sister has found one source of strength and perseverance that helps her endure the pain and suffering she experiences on a daily basis. Every week, church members take the time to visit her at home to encourage her, sing hymns with her, and pray with her. She looks forward to these weekly visits, and the encouragement and care from the church members give her the strength to endure, even as her body is deteriorating. Her physical body may be growing weaker, but with the love and care from the church members, her spiritual body is growing stronger.

1. **How did the church members give freely to the sister?** The church members took personal time to visit the sister every week so that she could be encouraged and strengthened during this difficult time.
2. **How can you give freely when...** [Answers may vary.]
 - a. Your parent recently lost their job...
 - b. Your brother broke his right arm in a sports accident...
 - c. Your friend's relative passed away...

Testimony 2

When a certain church worker was 14, she had a thought during a short term theological training seminar, "Wouldn't it be great if I could spread the word of God to people all over the world, to people in faraway countries?" Thank God that many years later, this sister was able to visit many different areas to preach the gospel.

During her missionary work, this church worker traveled to many areas where the gospel was just being spread. These newly pioneered areas included Fiji, Tonga, and Myanmar. In many of these places, modern development had not yet occurred, so the primitive dirt roads, if there were any, made it difficult for the church worker and those with her to travel from place to place. In Myanmar, traffic was horrendous and trucks were so packed with passengers that their legs would stick out from the sides. However, even though the church worker knew that traveling to these poor areas to preach the gospel would not be comfortable or easy, she still gladly went on these missionary trips. A pastor and another sister would join her on some of these trips and they too went with a glad heart.

During their trips, in addition to traveling obstacles, they had to overcome many other difficulties, such as lack of electricity and harsh, oppressive environments. One night as the church worker was delivering a sermon, the electricity went out and the church worker had to deliver the sermon by candlelight. She did not know whether the congregation members were awake, asleep, or even present. Thank God that they were all still present and attentive when the lights came back on. In addition, the climate was extremely hot and humid, and mosquitos constantly buzzed around at night. Still, that did not stop them from doing God's work.

In those newly pioneered areas, they would hold RE classes and spiritual convocations, and take their time to pastor the new believers so that their faith could be kept up. They worked tirelessly with the local members to ensure that they would not drift away from the church and to ensure that their needs, both physical and spiritual, were met.

1. **What kind of problems did the church workers have to overcome?** The rural transportation system (i.e., bad roads and traffic), the hot and humid climate, and other difficulties, such as lack of electricity.
2. **How did the church workers give freely?** Despite all the difficulties and inconveniences they encountered, they still worked with a glad and fervent heart for the purpose of spreading the gospel and pastoring the members in the remote and newly pioneered areas.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. landowner, vineyard
2. denarius
3. third, pay
4. sixth, ninth, eleventh
5. False; He spoke it to explain that God is fair and that His grace is for everyone.
6. True
7. True
8. Jesus wants to teach us that one does not earn God's love by what he does or how much he does for God.
9. These could be the new believers in Christ, who have done less, or the sinners who repented.
10. These are people who have worked much for God, but because they have raised themselves up higher to be the first and taken God's grace for granted, they become the least in God's eyes.



Activity

Crossword Puzzle; Word Search

10-15 Minutes

[Hand out the crossword puzzle and word search for the students to complete.]

Crossword Puzzle Answers

ACROSS

- 4. WORKERS
- 6. HEAVEN
- 8. HOUR
- 9. VINEYARD
- 10. WAGES

DOWN

- 1. MONEY
- 2. GENEROUS
- 3. GRUMBLE
- 5. UNFAIR
- 7. EQUAL

Word Search Answers

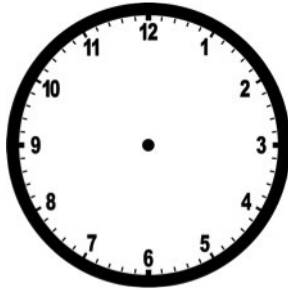
M O N E Y

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | | G | | | | K | | | | | | |
| E | | E | H | A | V | E | N | U | I | H | | |
| C | | N | | | | | | N | N | O | | |
| E | V | I | N | E | Y | A | R | D | R | F | G | U |
| I | | R | | | | E | | A | D | R | | |
| V | W | | O | | N | D | | I | O | | | |
| E | O | | U | W | E | E | | R | M | | | |
| D | R | | S | O | R | T | Q | E | | | | |
| | K | | D | I | H | L | U | S | | | | |
| | E | N | H | G | B | E | A | | | | | |
| | R | A | | I | M | G | | | | L | | |
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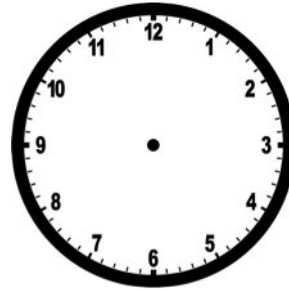
THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

1. Fill in the following clocks according to the hours mentioned in the parable.

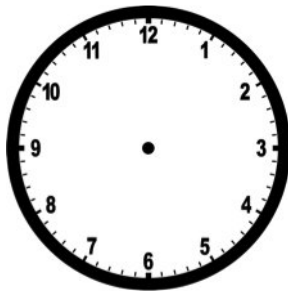
A. Third hour = _____:_____ AM



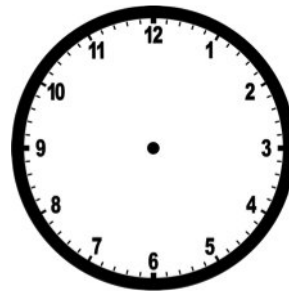
B. Sixth hour = _____:_____ PM



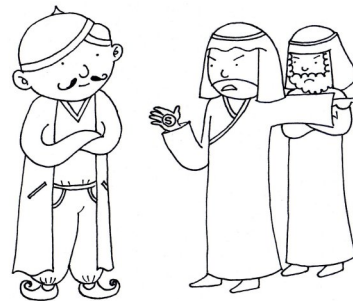
C. Ninth hour = _____:_____ PM



D. Eleventh hour = _____:_____ PM



2. What did the workers complain about?



3. What was the landowner's reply to the complaint?



4. What is the teaching of the parable?

Who is the landowner? _____

What does the vineyard represent? _____

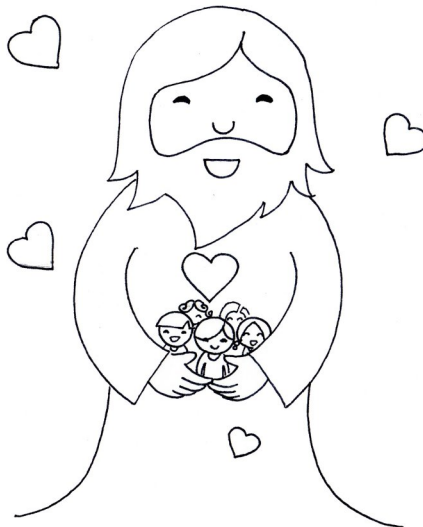
Who are the workers? _____

What does the denarius represent? It is our _____, which is the _____.

5. Who are the ones that are last, but will be first?

6. Who are the first, but will be last?

7. What does the paying of wages represent? What does this teach us about salvation and grace?



THE GIFT

1. Turn to Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10, and read the verses together with the class.

What do you think verse 10 is referring to when it mentions "good works"? Please list 3 in the first column below. How should we "walk in" these good works? List practical ideas in the second column.

| "Good Works" | Practical Ideas |
|--------------|-----------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

2. Read Romans 5:8 and complete the verse.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, _____."

List 3 things that God has given you:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. How do we show our gratitude, our appreciation, and our thanks for His love?

Read each of the following verses and write down how we can show our gratitude to God. The first one has been completed for you.

1. Mark 12:31 Love others _____

2. Mark 12:30 _____

3. Ephesians 4:32 _____

4. Matthew 28:19 _____

5. Hebrews 10:25 _____

6. Ephesians 5:19 _____

7. Deuteronomy 11:18 _____

GIVE FREELY

Testimony 1

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1. How did the church members give freely to the sister?

2. How can you give freely when...

- a. Your parent recently lost their job...
- b. Your brother broke his right arm in a sports accident...
- c. Your friend's relative passed away...

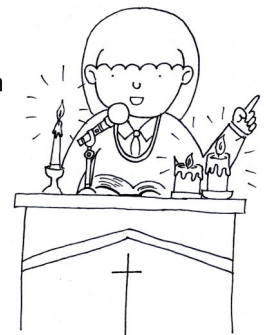


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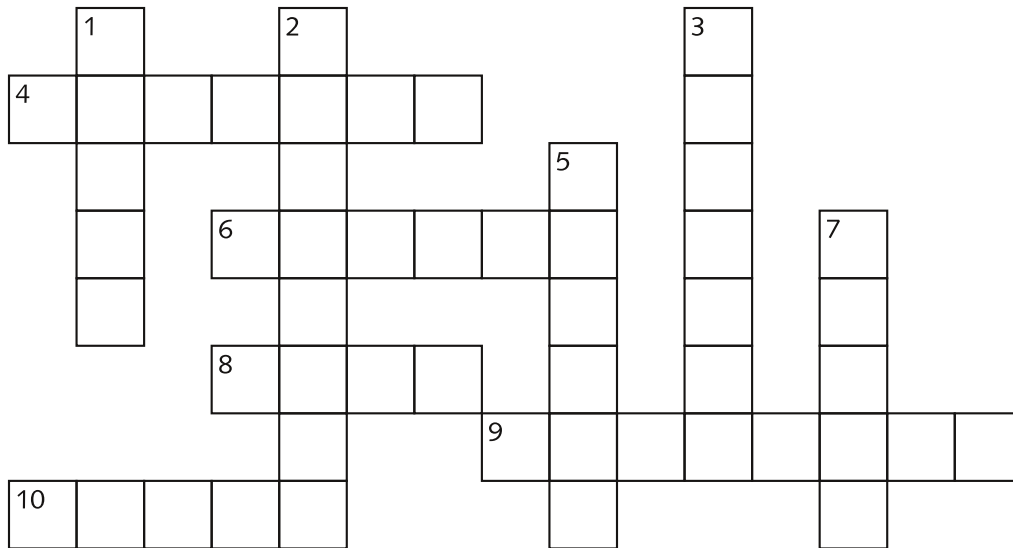


In those newly pioneered areas, they would hold RE classes and spiritual convocations, and take their time to pastor the new believers so that their faith could be kept up. They worked tirelessly with the local members to ensure that they would not drift away from the church and to ensure that their needs, both physical and spiritual, were met.

1. What kinds of problems did the church workers have to overcome?

2. How did the church workers give freely?

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard



| | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|---------|----------|
| HEAVEN | GRUMBLE | MONEY | WORKERS | VINEYARD |
| GENEROUS | HOUR | WAGES | UNFAIR | EQUAL |

ACROSS

- 4. People who labor, usually for wages or a salary
- 6. The place where God lives
- 8. A period of time equal to sixty minutes
- 9. A place where grapes are grown
- 10. The money you receive for working

DOWN

- 1. Coins or bills used to pay for something
- 2. Someone who gives or shares freely with others is _____.
- 3. To gripe or complain
- 5. Not playing by the rules
- 7. Two things that are of the same value



The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

D V O M O N E Y Q K J F E Q L
 R Y H Q P G Y Y V V D B S K P
 E U G V H E H E A V E N U I H
 C S S Z Q N M J N R U N N N O
 E A V I N E Y A R D R S F G U
 I M I D T R I Z V E B M A D R
 V W R S X O U F N P D T I O V
 E O S P M U Q W M E E B R M C
 D R D G B S O K R R T Q E R A
 E K R Y P D M I T H V L U S W
 H E Y V N P H E G E B Q E A A
 O R C A V S Y I C M W G P K L
 N S L H N Q R G U B A R W J K
 U H G S Z L W R U W H I F E G
 G B Z Y G D G T X R E V Q B N

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|----------|
| MONEY | HOUR | EQUAL | WORKERS | VINEYARD |
| LANDOWNER | HEAVEN | GRUMBLE | KINGDOM | GENEROUS |
| WAGES | HIRED | UNFAIR | RIGHT | RECEIVED |

E2 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 12—The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

Fill In the Blank

1. "For the kingdom of heaven is like a _____ who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his _____."
2. The landowner agreed to pay them each a _____ for the day before sending them into his vineyard.
3. Around the _____ hour, the landowner went into the marketplace and saw others standing there doing nothing. He told them to go work in his vineyard and that he would _____ them whatever is right.
4. The landowner went out again around the _____ hour, the _____ hour, and the _____ hour and did the same thing.

True or False

5. Jesus spoke this parable to explain God's unfairness. _____
6. People don't earn God's love by what they do or how much they do. _____
7. The gift of salvation is for everyone who believes in Jesus and receives baptism; their sins will be forgiven, and they will gain the reward of living forever with Him. _____

Short Answer

8. Why did all the workers receive the same pay? What does Jesus want us to learn?

9. Who are the ones that are last, but will be first?

10. Who are first that will become last?

REVIEW

Teachers can reference this lesson to give them some ideas about questions to ask during a review lesson. The review can be in any format: a standard written quiz, a Jeopardy-style game, a board game, etc. The important thing is to give the students a chance to review all the things they have learned in the past quarter. You can draw your review questions from the **Check for Understanding** sections in each lesson, as well as the **homework assignments**. Remember to include some **life application questions** to allow the students to apply what they have learned to their lives.

ANSWER KEY

The Sermon on the Mount

1. A hypocrite tells people not to do certain things, but still does those things anyway.
2. A "speck" and "plank" in the eye refer to small and large faults that people have.
3. If you are angry with your brother, you must make peace with him first before offering to God.
4. Earthly praises come from men, but heavenly praises come from God.
5. A person with an "evil eye" is someone who is greedy or selfish.
6. We do not need to worry about our daily living, because God takes care of the birds and the lilies.
7. Being the light of the earth means doing good deeds so that we can shine before men and glorify God.
8. We must not call people names or be angry with them without reason, for murder begins in the heart.
9. If we season our speech with salt, then we will speak to others with graceful speech.
10. Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Jesus Is Lord Over...

1. Demons
2. Nature
3. Death
4. Diseases
5. Diseases
6. Death
7. Nature
8. Demons
9. Diseases
10. Demons
11. Death

Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

1. believes, everlasting
2. justly, humbly
3. prayer, requests
4. heartily, Lord
5. understanding, direct
6. afraid, trust
7. faith, evidence
8. resurrection, live
9. doers, hearers
10. departs, fool
11. neighbor, commandment
12. grace, gift

Short Answer and Life Application

1. The four different environments were the wayside, rocks, thorns, and good ground. We should be the good ground, because only the good ground can bear fruit. We can be the good ground by letting God's word take root in our hearts, and cultivating it so that our faith can grow. We need to follow God's word actively and be a "doer." When we put God's word into action, we bear fruit.
2. The son realized that even his father's servants at home were living a better life than he was out there. Upon his return, his father ran to him. He repented to his father and said he was not worthy to be his son. However, his father gave him a robe, a ring, and sandals, and declared a feast to celebrate his return. This teaches us that even if we stray from God, as long as we sincerely repent and return to God, He will show us forgiveness.
3. A priest and a Levite both passed by the injured man without helping him. The Samaritan cleaned the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and used his own money to help the man. This parable teaches us that we should always try to show kindness to those in need, even if they are our enemies or people we don't know or like.
4. The workers who had worked longer hours wanted to be paid more. The landowner represented the kingdom of heaven. Jesus was teaching us that salvation is a gift from God. He chooses who will receive it; it is not something that we have earned depending on how many good works we have done for God. However, that does not mean we should not still do good works. The point is that we cannot earn salvation simply by doing many good works; salvation is a given to us by the grace of God, and that is the only way we can receive it.
5. In Matthew, as the promised King, Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies that had been spoken about Him in the Old Testament. In Mark, as the servant of God, Jesus went to many places and diligently and unceasingly preached the gospel. In Luke, as the Son, we learned that, like us, Jesus felt sorrow and pain, but that He took those to God in prayer. Similarly, we should take our troubles to God in prayer. In John, as the Son of God, Jesus performed many miracles and spoke the seven "I am" to prove His Sonship. Through these, we also learned that salvation can only come through believing in Him.

The Sermon on the Mount

Instructions: Match the first half the sentence to the second.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. A hypocrite tells people not to do certain things... | ...someone who is greedy or selfish. |
| 2. A "speck" and "plank" in the eye refer to... | ...small and large faults that people have. |
| 3. If you are angry with your brother, you must... | ...doing good deeds so that we can shine before men and glorify God. |
| 4. Earthly praises come from men... | ...make peace with him first before offering to God. |
| 5. A person with an "evil eye" is... | ...then we will speak to others with graceful speech. |
| 6. We do not need to worry about our daily living... | ...but heavenly praises come from God. |
| 7. Being the light of the earth means... | ...go with him two. |
| 8. We must not call people names or be angry with them without reason... | ...because God takes care of the birds and the lilies. |
| 9. If we season our speech with salt... | ...but still does those things anyway. |
| 10. Whoever compels you to go one mile... | ...for murder begins in the heart. |

Jesus Is Lord Over...

Instructions: Jesus is Lord over everything. In the examples below, write if each description is an example of how Jesus is Lord over **Death, Diseases, Nature, or Demons**.

1. _____ Jesus rebuked an evil spirit in an epileptic boy and healed him because of his father's faith.
2. _____ Jesus slept in a boat as a storm raged, and calmed the wind by rebuking it.
3. _____ Jesus said that the young girl was simply sleeping, not dead.
4. _____ Four friends carried a paralyzed man to see Jesus as He was speaking in a house.
5. _____ Jesus took two steps to fully heal a blind man.
6. _____ Jesus touched a coffin and told the young man in it to arise.
7. _____ Jesus walked on water towards a boat the disciples were in.
8. _____ Demons fled from a man and into a herd of swine, causing the swine to run into a lake.
9. _____ A woman with a flow of blood for twelve years touched Jesus' garment and was healed.
10. _____ Jesus freed a woman from Satan's bonds, allowing her to stand up straight after 18 years.
11. _____ Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of a tomb.

Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

Instructions: Complete the memory verses by filling the blanks in with the missing words.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|---------------|
| hearers | heartily | faith | gift | direct | justly |
| live | prayer | neighbor | trust | believes | resurrection |
| fool | grace | humbly | doers | requests | commandment |
| everlasting | afraid | departs | Lord | evidence | understanding |

1. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever _____ in Him should not perish but have _____ life." (John 3:16)
2. "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do _____, to love mercy, and to walk _____ with your God?" (Micah 6:8)
3. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by _____ and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your _____ be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)
4. "And whatever you do, do it _____, as to the _____ and not to men." (Colossians 3:23)
5. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own _____; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall _____ your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)
6. "Whenever I am _____, I will _____ in You." (Psalm 56:3)
7. "Now _____ is the substance of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)
8. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the _____ and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall _____.'" (John 11:25)
9. "But be _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)
10. "A wise man fears and _____ from evil, but a _____ rages and is self-confident." (Proverbs 14:16)
11. "'You shall love your _____ as yourself.' There is no other _____ greater than these." (Mark 12:31)
12. "For by _____ you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the _____ of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Short Answer and Life Application

Instructions: Answer the questions.

1. Parable of the Sower

Which four environments did Jesus speak about in this parable? Which environment should we be, and what can we do to be that environment?

2. Parable of the Lost Son

What caused the son to decide to return home? How did the father receive his son when he returned home; what did he do? What does this teach us about God?

3. Parable of the Good Samaritan

Who passed by the injured man without helping him? How did the good Samaritan take care of the injured man? What does this parable teach us about how we should treat others?

4. Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Why did the workers complain when they received their wages? In this parable, who did the landowner represent? What was Jesus trying to teach us when He emphasized that the landowner paid everyone the same wages?

5. In Matthew, Jesus is the lion, the promised King. In Mark, He is the ox, a servant of God. Luke describes Him as a man, the Son. While John depicts Him as the eagle, the Son of God. Choose one of these portrayals of Jesus and describe how He embodies that portrayal.

And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.

Luke 4:32



Jesus-- Master & Teacher

Elementary 2

Year 2 Book 1

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