



# To Be Like Jesus Overview for Parents



What does it mean to be a Christian? Contemporary culture has a very broad, fluid definition, one that easily adapts and conforms to changing norms and sensibilities. Numerous studies and polls attest to this by the high number of people who profess and identify as “Christians” while, at the same time, they deny and reject basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Knowing, embracing, and living out essential, unchanging, non-negotiable truths is radically out of step with the world. Yet, this last statement is the one that truly defines and shapes what it means to be a Christian. It is with this in mind that *To Be Like Jesus* has been written.

The church must be forthcoming and biblically thorough with our children and youth about the true meaning of the Christian life. We must provide intelligible and biblically sound explanations regarding the truth about who God is, what He is like, our identity as God’s image bearers, our duty to glorify God, the nature and purpose of God’s law, the depths our depravity and condemnation, the person and work of Christ, the essence of salvation, and the necessity of holiness in the Christian life evidenced by a growing conformity to Jesus and His ways. Apart from knowing and embracing these essential truths, our children and youth will never experience true, lasting joy. Yes, eternal joy is at stake. The command “to be like Jesus” (Romans 8:29, Ephesians 4:24) is a call to know, honor, and treasure God through Christ, so that we might glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That is what it means to be a Christian! May our children and youth come to know and embrace this glorious reality.

## Using the Growing in Faith Together Pages

***And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.—Deuteronomy 6:6-7***

The primary responsibility and privilege of nurturing the faith of the next generation rests on parents. As parents, you have the greatest influence in your child’s life and are afforded daily opportunities to instruct them in the Christian faith. Furthermore, you are best suited and equipped to take advantage of “teachable moments” in which to apply God’s truth to everyday life. It is within this context that true spiritual transformation usually takes root in a child’s life.

To help you nurture your child’s faith and maximize the benefit of this study, the Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Page you will receive each week includes the following:

## MAIN IDEAS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Main Ideas and Scripture references provide you with the main focus and biblical truths that were presented in the lesson. Carefully read these so that your mind and heart will be better prepared to help your child grasp these truths and apply them to his or her own life.

## LESSON SUMMARY AND PRAYER POINTS

The lesson summary includes a brief introduction, written in devotional form, to encourage your own faith, as well as a brief synopsis of the lesson. In reading this, the hope is that interactions with your child will be well-informed and heartfelt. Each summary concludes with two suggested prayer points. As crucial as it is to give our children an increasing breadth and depth of Scripture, we must humbly acknowledge that true regeneration and saving faith is by God's sovereign grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit who makes us alive in Christ and then empowers us to grow in conformity to Christ. May these prayer points serve to encourage you in bringing specific requests for your children before the throne of our loving heavenly Father.

## MEMORY VERSE

We encourage you and your family to join your child in memorizing each week. Scripture memorization is of vital importance in spiritual growth. The memorized Word provides us with unshakeable, life-giving truth, and is an ever-present counselor and effective weapon in the fight of faith. With your help, your child can have hundreds of verses learned by the end of adolescence, an amazing storehouse of truth for life! May God equip you to cultivate a lifelong habit of Bible memorization.

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

"As You Walk By the Way" is designed to provide parents with ideas for interactive discussions with your child based on the biblical truths learned in the lesson. Some of these will require doing brief Bible study together. Others pose real-life illustrations to help your child better grasp a certain biblical truth. All include a casual question-and-answer format to help encourage spiritual discussion between parent and child. These discussions give parents an important opportunity to share their own faith and walk with Christ as a means of encouraging and challenging their child.

## ACTION STEPS

Your child will be challenged to take one action step in response to each lesson, with the hope that head knowledge of spiritual truth will become a heart response. Ask your child to record this action step, and then provide encouragement as you observe your child acting on the truth and applying it in daily life. By acting on the truth of God's Word, head knowledge will become heart response. Faith will grow as God is found to be faithful and true.

## OTHER FORMATS

Growing in Faith Together Pages are also available as a spiral-bound booklet in quantities of 10, and as a GIFT Page App for use on smart phones and tablet devices. See [childrendesiringGod.org](http://childrendesiringGod.org) for more information.

## PARTNERING WITH YOU

We look forward to partnering with you this year so that the next generation may put their trust in God. If we may be of help to you in any way, please contact us.



# Scope and Sequence

## Lesson 1: Created in God's Image for His Glory

*Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:31*

We have been created in a special way—in the image and likeness of God.  
We have been created for a special purpose—to glorify God.

## Lesson 2: Created to Be Holy and Righteous

*Memory Verses: 1 Peter 1:15; Romans 7:12*

God created us in a special way for a special purpose. We glorify God by living in conformity to His holy and righteous commands. We must be holy and righteous in order to enjoy eternal life with God.

## Lesson 3: All Have Sinned

*Memory Verse: Romans 3:20*

God requires perfect obedience to His holy and righteous commands. God's commands show us our sin. It is impossible for us to gain eternal life through our own obedience.

## Lesson 4: Jesus, God's Holy and Righteous Son

*Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:15*

It is impossible for sinners to receive eternal life through our own efforts. God sent His Son into the world to save sinners. Jesus is fully God and became fully man. Jesus is holy and righteous—He is without sin.

## Lesson 5: The Gospel: Salvation in Jesus

*Memory Verses: John 3:16-17*

Jesus is holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life. The Gospel is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. The Gospel commands sinners to repent and believe in Jesus.

## Lesson 6: Salvation: Chosen and Called by God

*Memory Verses: Ephesians 1:4; John 10:27*

By His sovereign will, God has chosen whom He will save. Salvation is by grace—a free gift from God apart from any merit of our own. God desires that the Gospel be proclaimed to all people. When God calls His chosen people, they respond in belief.

## Lesson 7: Salvation: New Spiritual Life

*Memory Verses: Ephesians 2:4-5*

In our sinful nature, we are unable to respond to the Gospel in belief. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God gives His people new spiritual life, drawing us to believe in Jesus.

## Lesson 8: Salvation: Faith and Repentance (Conversion)

*Memory Verses: John 20:31; 2 Corinthians 7:10a*

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone. Faith includes a right understanding of certain facts about who Jesus is and what He has done, and a complete dependence on Him. Faith is always accompanied by repentance—a deep-felt sorrow and hatred of sin, such that you turn to Jesus and commit to follow Him.

## Lesson 9: Salvation: Justification

*Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:1*

All people are guilty before God and deserve God's just punishment. Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice for sin in order to satisfy the justice of God. Justification is a legal act whereby God forgives sin, gives His people Jesus' righteousness, and declares them righteous. Justification is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone.

## Lesson 10: Salvation: Adoption

*Memory Verses: Ephesians 1:4b-5a; 1 John 3:1a*

Adoption is an act of God in which He makes someone His beloved child. Everyone who repents and believes in Jesus is made a child of God. God's children enjoy a special and intimate relationship with Him. God's children are heirs to all His good promises.

## Lesson 11: Salvation: Sanctification

*Memory Verses: Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 1:14-15*

God requires that His children be holy and righteous. God's children are to grow up into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in His children in which they strive to become more and more like Jesus.

## Lesson 12: Jesus Says, "Follow Me"

*Memory Verses: 1 John 2:3, 6*

Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in His children in which they strive to become more and more like Jesus. Children of God are to be disciples of Jesus—recognizing His authority such that they submit to Him, learn from Him, obey His commands, and follow Him throughout their lives.

**Lesson 13: God Gives His Children the Holy Spirit***Memory Verses: John 14:15-17a*

God gives His children the Holy Spirit to guide and empower them in following Jesus.

**Lesson 14: God Gives His Children His Word***Memory Verses: 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Christians are sanctified through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

All Scripture is God-breathed truth, and it teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us in righteousness.

**Lesson 15: God Gives His Children the Gift of Prayer***Memory Verses: Matthew 6:9-13*

God desires to have an intimate relationship with His children. Prayer is the means by which God's children come into His presence and speak to Him, growing in their relationship with Him.

Jesus has given us an example of how we are to pray.

**Lesson 16: Love God Most of All***Memory Verse: Mark 12:30*

God has given His children everything they need for a life of godliness. If we love God, we will obey His commands. Loving God most is our greatest duty and joy.

**Lesson 17: Worship God in Spirit and Truth***Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:28b*

Worship involves recognizing the truth about God. Worship involves expressing a right, heartfelt response to God. God's children are to worship Him at all times and in all situations.

**Lesson 18: Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness***Memory Verses: Ephesians 5:8b-10*

Jesus tells His disciples to long for righteousness—always seeking to do what is pleasing to God.

Through the Bible, God guides us in what is righteous to do in every situation.

Doing what is pleasing to God brings about happiness and contentment.

**Lesson 19: Trust God in All Circumstances***Memory Verses: Philippians 4:5b-6*

God has provided His children with their greatest need by sending Jesus to die. God is a sovereign heavenly Father who continually watches over His children and provides for their every need.

Jesus commands His disciples to trust God daily for every need and in every situation.

**Lesson 20: Be Content***Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5*

God generously provides His children with everything they need for their good.

God's children are to be content with what they have and not be envious of others.

**Lesson 21: Serve God with Your Abilities***Memory Verses: Colossians 3:23-24*

God has given His children a variety of abilities to be used in service to Him.

Whatever work we do, it should be done with the mindset of serving Jesus.

Service to God blesses us and is used by God to help others and further His kingdom.

**Lesson 22: Store Up Treasures in Heaven***Memory Verses: Matthew 6:20-21*

Jesus' disciples are not to put their hope in earthly treasures; they are to store up heavenly treasures instead.

Everything done in loving obedience to Jesus will reap a heavenly reward.

**Lesson 23: Guard Your Heart***Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23*

Jesus' disciples are to be vigilant in guarding against the indwelling influence of sin and Satan's temptations.

God has given His children everything they need to guard their hearts against sin and Satan.

**Lesson 24: Obey and Honor Your Parents***Memory Verses: Ephesians 6:1-3a*

God is a perfect heavenly Father. Parents are to reflect God's good and loving character to their children.

Children are commanded by God to honor and obey their parents.

**Lesson 25: Love Your Neighbor***Memory Verse: Matthew 22:39b*

Next to loving God most of all, the second most important command is to love your neighbor. Loving your neighbor involves treating him as you yourself would want to be treated. Your neighbor includes all kinds of people.

**Lesson 26: Love Your Enemies***Memory Verses: Luke 6:27b-28*

God commands His children to love their enemies. Loving your enemies includes praying for them, blessing them, and doing good to them.

**Lesson 27: Forgive Others***Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32*

We have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin. God forgives all who repent and trust in Jesus alone for salvation. We are to forgive others and not keep account of wrongs done against us.

**Lesson 28: Be a Humble Servant***Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3*

Jesus commands His disciples to follow His example of true humility. Being a humble servant to others is great in God's eyes. We are to consider the needs of others and seek to serve them.

**Lesson 29: Be Merciful***Memory Verse: Luke 6:36*

God is merciful and wants His children to be merciful, too. Mercy sees people in distress, feels compassion for them, and acts to help them. Jesus set the example of mercy that His disciples are to follow.

**Lesson 30: Give Cheerfully and Generously***Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Jesus has designed that the needs of His church be met through the giving of His people. Jesus wants His disciples to give cheerfully and generously. God promises spiritual blessing for those who give cheerfully and generously.

**Lesson 31: Care for One Another***Memory Verses: John 13:34-35*

The church is the community of God's people—all those trusting in Jesus. Jesus commands that His church love one another in a special way. Jesus has given the church specific "one another" commands.

**Lesson 32: Seek for Lost Sinners***Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15*

Jesus came to seek and save lost sinners. Jesus wants His disciples to follow His example and look for opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel.

**Lesson 33: Go into All the World***Memory Verses: Matthew 28:18-20a*

Jesus commands His disciples to spread the message of the Gospel throughout the world. All Christians are to participate in this mission—either by going or sending.

**Lesson 34: Let Your Light Shine***Memory Verse: Matthew 5:16*

Jesus' disciples are to be like lights that shine and draw attention to the greatness and worth of Jesus. We should look for opportunities to do good deeds and speak words of hope.

**Lesson 35: Rejoice in Persecution***Memory Verses: Matthew 5:11-12a*

Followers of Jesus will experience persecution in this world. For the child of God, this suffering is temporary and cannot compare with the everlasting joy to be experienced in the future. Jesus commands us to keep this perspective and rejoice in our sufferings.

**Lesson 36: Lose Your Life to Gain Your Life***Memory Verses: Luke 9:23-24*

The Christian life is a daily dying to self, surrendering our wills to Jesus, and walking in obedience to Him wherever He may lead. Jesus promises eternal life for all who follow Him.

**Lesson 37: Salvation: Perseverance of Believers***Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6*

Only those who persevere to the end of their lives and remain faithful are true disciples of Jesus. God is faithful and will surely empower His children to persevere to the end.

**Lesson 38: Salvation: Death and Glorification***Memory Verses: Philippians 3:20-21*

For Christians, God uses the death of the physical body as a means of completing their salvation. Jesus has promised to transform His people and give them glorified bodies after death. Glorification is the final step of salvation in which God makes His children perfectly righteous and holy like Jesus.

**Lesson 39: Glorifying God Forever***Memory Verse: Psalm 86:12*

We were created in a special way for a special purpose—to glorify God forever. Through the complete gift of salvation, God enables His chosen people to clearly and fully see the greatness and worth of Jesus so that they might rightly know, love, and worship Him forever.

**Lesson 40: Come, Look, Abide***Memory Verse: John 15:5*

The evidence of true belief in Jesus will be seen through a love for His commands. The Christian life involves coming to Jesus, looking to Jesus, and abiding in Jesus.







# Created in God's Image for His Glory

## MAIN IDEAS

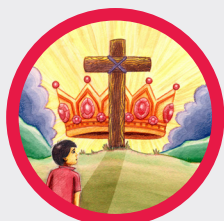
- **We have been created in a special way—in the image and likeness of God.**
- **We have been created for a special purpose—to glorify God.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*  
—1 Corinthians 10:31

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 1:26a, 27
- 2) Psalm 16:11
- 3) Psalm 47:7-8
- 4) Psalm 86:9-12
- 5) Matthew 28:18
- 6) Acts 17:25b
- 7) 1 Corinthians 10:31
- 8) Revelation 4:11



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children are very self-aware, meaning they are very perceptive of and concerned about their own desires, emotions, and needs. Parents and teachers have an important role in expanding their world beyond themselves. First and foremost is to help them see the first truth laid out in the catechism:

**Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?**

**A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.<sup>1</sup>**

It was no mere whim that led the Westminster theologians to begin instruction in the Christian faith this way. This question and answer defines our being, identity, and purpose: Godward. It fundamentally grounds us in what is truly unique about us—that we have been created to reflect and image forth the awesome majesty and worth of our Creator. And in that imaging forth, we are to pursue the highest purpose: glorifying God! We glorify God by giving Him the honor, respect, love, devotion, obedience, and worship He so rightly deserves. Why is this so important for our children to know, even at a young age? Because it is only by embracing this call that they will be able to experience true, lasting joy.

In this lesson we will be using the Scriptures listed to carefully explain and emphasize the meaning and significance of these truths.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that these truths will set a right, anticipatory note for the rest of the study.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work engaging your child's mind, heart, and will with the precious Word of God.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Why is it important for us to know that we have been created in a special way by God? What are some of the privileges of being created in this way? What are some special responsibilities and duties? Do you think that you ALWAYS think, feel, and act in ways**

1. *Westminster Larger Catechism*. Available online at: [http://www.reformed.org/documents/wlc\\_w\\_proofs/](http://www.reformed.org/documents/wlc_w_proofs/) (accessed 7.5.17).

that glorify God? Do you think it matters to God whether you do? Why or why not?

- Read and talk about Revelation 4:11. Do you ever act like you think you're independent from God? Why is that kind of thinking foolish, and even dangerous? Why does God deserve to be honored, loved, and obeyed? Why can God alone give us everlasting joy?

Read and talk about Psalm 16:11. What is the "path of life" that leads to everlasting joy? (Hint: read John 14:6.)

- Read Psalm 86:9-12 together. Notice action words that describe how we are to think, feel, or act toward God.

What might these action words look like in someone's life? Does the psalmist give any reasons why we should act this way toward God? What other true things does the Bible tell us about God that we could add to the list? Why is it so important to know about who God is and what He is like?

**ACTION STEPS**

This week memorize 1 Corinthians 10:31—*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* Then have your parents help you fill out this chart.

Some of my favorite activities are:	How I might do each for the glory of God:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Some of my least favorite chores or responsibilities are:	How I might do each for the glory of God:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

**NOTE:** Sinful activities—ones the Bible commands us not to do—can never be done in a way that glorifies God.





# Created to Be Holy and Righteous

## MAIN IDEAS

- **God created us in a special way for a special purpose.**
- **We glorify God by living in conformity to His holy and righteous commands.**
- **We must be holy and righteous in order to enjoy eternal life with God.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*  
—1 Peter 1:15

*So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*—Romans 7:12

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 10:12-13
- 2) Psalm 16:11
- 3) Psalm 119:137
- 4) Psalm 145:17a
- 5) Proverbs 12:28
- 6) Habakkuk 1:13a
- 7) Romans 7:12
- 8) Hebrews 12:14
- 9) 1 Peter 1:15



## LESSON SUMMARY

Of all the attributes of God, the one that most encompasses the entirety of His divine essence is His holiness. God’s holiness is, in a sense, His “God-ness”—signifying everything about Him that separates Him from everything else in creation. God is like nothing else. The triune God is completely and utterly unique, beyond compare! Because God is holy, we as His image bearers must be holy in the manner in which we regard Him. We must treat Him with the honor, respect, reverence, trust, love, and devotion that He truly deserves, at all times.

God’s holiness also describes His moral perfection and His separateness from all sin. Therefore, in order to live in joyful fellowship with Him forever, we are required to exhibit this moral perfection, too. How do we know what this moral perfection consists of? How do we ascertain what is holy conduct in God’s eyes? By looking to God’s holy and righteous law and commands. Yes, commands. Here is a very timely and thoughtful word from Pastor Kevin DeYoung:

*It sounds very spiritual to say God is interested in a relationship, not in rules. But it’s not biblical. From top to bottom, the Bible is full of commands. They aren’t meant to stifle a relationship with God, but to protect it, seal it, and define it.<sup>1</sup>*

This lesson focused on these key truths as a means of properly orienting and preparing students for future lessons on the Person and work of Christ—the message of the Gospel.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *for a renewed understanding and love for the holy, righteous, and good commands of God.*
- *that your child will more fully embrace the gravity of the need for holiness in his or her own life so that he or she may be more desperate for Jesus.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about a special/valuable family heirloom or something similar.  
**In what ways do we treat this object differently? How might we**

1. DeYoung, Kevin. *The Hole in Our Holiness: Filling the Gap between Gospel Passion and the Pursuit of Godliness.* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2012), 45.

respond if someone tried to ruin it or use it in an improper way? As valuable and special as that object is, how does it compare to the value and greatness of God? In what ways is God greater than anything or anyone else? How should He be treated?

- Review Romans 7:12. Are God’s commands only found in the Ten Commandments? Before God gave Israel the Ten Commandments, did God give the very first people—Adam and Eve—a command? What was it? Did they obey? Does the New Testament also give us commands? How are God’s commands good for us? How do they protect us from danger and point us to happiness? (You may want to provide an illustration, such as a seatbelt in a car. Its restraining nature protects us from

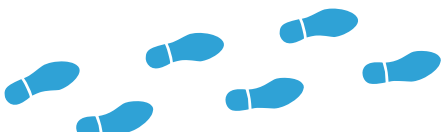
harm.) Review and talk about the Scripture used in the lesson.


- Point out that any failure to completely “measure up” to God’s standard for holiness and righteousness is unacceptable to Him. **Why?** Read and talk about Habakkuk 1:13a and Hebrews 12:14.
- Review Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and 1 Peter 1:15. Does this seem like a difficult list of requirements? Why or why not? How do you think you would measure up? Do you think that you could gain eternal life by obeying everything in this list—being righteous all the time? Why not? Is this a surprise to God? What other Bible truths do you know that give us the answer to that question?

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, review Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and then read Ephesians 4:20-32. How are these verses a reflection of God’s holiness? How do they describe holy conduct? What do they show you about your own thoughts, words, and actions? Pray about what you discover. Then, look up the verses below to find the missing words.

You make known to me the \_\_\_\_\_ of life;  
 in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are  
 \_\_\_\_\_ forevermore.—*Psalm 16:11*

 In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway  
 there is no \_\_\_\_\_.—*Proverbs 12:28*

\_\_\_\_\_ are you, O LORD,  
 and right are your \_\_\_\_\_.—*Psalm 119:137* 

 So the \_\_\_\_\_ is holy, and the commandment is  
 holy and righteous and \_\_\_\_\_.—*Romans 7:12*

but as he who called you is \_\_\_\_\_, you also be holy  
 in all your \_\_\_\_\_,—*1 Peter 1:15* 



# All Have Sinned

## MAIN IDEAS

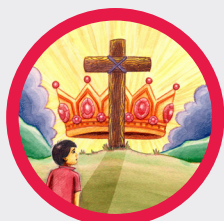
- God requires perfect obedience to His holy and righteous commands.
- God's commands show us our sin.
- It is impossible for us to gain eternal life through our own obedience.

## MEMORY VERSE

*For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.—Romans 3:20*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:5
- 2) Matthew 19:16-22, 25-26
- 3) Romans 3:20, 23
- 4) Romans 5:18-19
- 5) Romans 6:23a
- 6) Romans 7:12
- 7) Ephesians 5:6b
- 8) 2 Thessalonians 1:9



## LESSON SUMMARY

Sin is a weighty and essential issue. As D. A. Carson has noted:

There can be no agreement as to what salvation is unless there is agreement as to that from which salvation rescues us. The problem and the solution hang together: the one explicates the other. It is impossible to gain a deep grasp of what the cross achieves without plunging into a deep grasp of what sin is; conversely, to augment one's understanding of the cross is to augment one's understanding of sin.

To put the matter another way, sin establishes the plotline of the Bible...<sup>1</sup>

Yet, often, especially with children, we are tempted to portray sin in the lightest, most inoffensive manner. While it is true that we must be careful in our tone and demeanor when teaching children about weighty things (i.e., not overly morbid, frightful, or humiliating), that does not mean we should avoid teaching difficult truths such as the truth of their own sin and their desperate condition before a holy and righteous God. Teaching them a right thinking of sin is essential for having a right response—"I am a desperate sinner. I need a great Savior. I need Jesus!"

In this lesson, we examined Jesus' encounter with the rich, young ruler from Matthew 19 in order to lead the students to see the helpless condition of the human heart so that they might truly understand our desperate need for salvation.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will be rightly stripped of all notions of achieving a right standing before God through our own efforts.*
- *the Holy Spirit will be at work bringing about a godly grief of sin that leads to true repentance.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the story of the young man from Matthew 19:16-22. If you were to meet a man like him, do you think he would seem very nice and well-behaved? According to Jesus, would this help him earn eternal life? Why not? Are you trying hard to "be good,"

1. Carson, D.A. "Sin's Contemporary Significance," a chapter from *Fallen: A Theology of Sin*, edited by Christopher W. Morgan and Robert A. Peterson, as republished at [www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/contemporary\\_carson.html](http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/contemporary_carson.html) (accessed 7.5.17).

hoping that somehow you can earn God’s love and avoid hell? Will that work? Why not? What do God’s holy and righteous commands show you about your own heart?

Let’s look at just one command Jesus mentioned to the young man: “Honor your father and mother.” **This past week, did you always honor dad and mom? Why is this a problem?**

- Read Romans 3:20. Explain that God’s holy and righteous commands act like a mirror, showing us that we are sinful and fall short of perfect obedience. They reveal our sin. **Why is this important for you and me to know? Do you feel like this is a big deal, or do you think it’s**

something you don’t have to worry about until you’re older? Do you see any evidence in the world of man’s disobedience to God and His ways? When people disregard God’s commands, **what kinds of things happen?** [bullying, terror, wars, stealing, lying and cheating, murder, etc.]

- Recall Jesus’ words from Matthew 19:25-26. **What did Jesus mean by this? Did God do something to make it possible for sinful people to be saved from death and hell? What did God do? Did He simply decide to lower the standards and not require us to be holy and righteous? How did God make it possible for sinners to be saved?**

**ACTION STEPS**

Write out this week’s memory verse from Romans 3:20 on a large, stiff piece of paper. Cut the paper into 12-20 pieces in order to create a puzzle. Every day, practice putting the puzzle together and reciting the completed verse. Try to do it faster each day.

Next, can you remember the Salvation Poster from this week’s lesson? Test your memory by filling in the missing letters. Complete the picture by drawing footprints along the path. In the last lesson, there was a roadblock placed between God’s Image Bearers and God’s Law. Draw one in the space provided.

The diagram is enclosed in a red border and contains the following elements:

- Top Left:** The words "GOD's" and "M G" are written above a dashed line. Below this line, the word "BEARERS" is written in red. To the left, there is a drawing of two people, a man and a woman.
- Top Right:** The words "T R N L" are written above a dashed line. Below this line, the word "LIFE" is written in red with arrows pointing towards it. To the right, there is a drawing of a city with a castle and a path leading towards it.
- Center:** The words "GOD's" and "L W" are written above a dashed line. Below this line, there is a drawing of two tablets representing the Law.
- Bottom:** The words "SINNERS" and "H Y R G H T S" are written above a dashed line. Below this line, the words "D T H and H L" are written above a dashed line.
- Instruction:** A blue dashed box is drawn between the "BEARERS" and "L W" sections, with the text "Draw a roadblock here:" written above it.



# Jesus, God's Holy and Righteous Son

## MAIN IDEAS

- **It is impossible for sinners to receive eternal life through our own efforts.**
- **God sent His Son into the world to save sinners.**
- **Jesus is fully God and became fully man.**
- **Jesus is holy and righteous—He is without sin.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.—Hebrews 4:15*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 1:21
- 2) Matthew 5:17
- 3) Matthew 19:25-26
- 4) Luke 1:35
- 5) Luke 4:1-12
- 6) John 1:1, 14
- 7) John 17:4
- 8) John 20:31
- 9) Romans 5:19
- 10) Hebrews 2:17-18
- 11) Hebrews 4:15



## LESSON SUMMARY

Salvation comes about through the Person and work of Christ. That is the central message of the Gospel. In teaching children, the work of Christ often lends itself to more child-friendly concrete lessons and illustrations. But the Person of Christ is as crucially important. After all, Jesus' work rests on and is defined by *who* He is. Jesus is fully God and is the second distinct member of the Trinity. Yet, we see in the incarnation an amazing mystery: God the Son taking upon Himself human flesh. Fully God and fully man. As the "God-man," Jesus accomplished what we could never do, living a life of perfect holiness and righteousness, and then becoming the atoning sacrifice for the sin of His people. In this lesson, the students were given a brief summary of the significance that Jesus is both fully God and became fully man.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the truths of this lesson would serve to magnify Jesus for both who He is and what He has done.*
- *that your child will grasp what it means that Jesus is a sympathetic high priest who longs to save sinners.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the Scripture listed for the lesson. **Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus is fully God? Who is our Creator? Who owns us? Who is in authority over us? Who is worthy of our greatest love, honor, and obedience? Do you regard Jesus in this way? Because Jesus is God, is any problem impossible for Him to solve? Recall Matthew 19:25-26. Why is this good news for sinners? Are you looking to Jesus to solve your sin problem? How does a person show that he is looking to Jesus to be saved?**
- Brainstorm together and recall ways in which Jesus showed that He was human like us. [e.g., had a real body, walked, talked, loved, cried, got tired and hungry, etc.] **How can knowing that Jesus became fully human be helpful to us?**

Read and talk about Hebrews 2:17-18 and Hebrews 4:15. **Have you ever gone through a situation where you thought that no one understood how you felt? Can Jesus understand and sympathize with you? Why? If you have been tempted to do something wrong,**

can Jesus sympathize with you even then? But did He ever sin when tempted? How could knowing that help you the next time you're tempted to do something wrong?

- Read and talk about John 20:31. **Why is it so important for us to know who Jesus is and what He has done?** Point out that many religions believe that Jesus was just a man and not fully God, too. This is wrong. We must believe that Jesus is fully God and became fully

man, even though we can't fully understand it.

**What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and "believing" in Jesus?** [e.g., There are some people who know all sorts of true information about the safety of airplanes, but still refuse to fly on one. They don't trust the airplane with their lives.] **What might it look for someone to really trust and believe in Jesus? What must we trust Him for?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week commit to reading John, chapters 5-6. Use the space below to write down at least five things you learn about Jesus in these two chapters. Then look up the verse below to find the missing words.

**FACTS ABOUT JESUS FROM JOHN 5-6**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

For we do not have a high \_\_\_\_\_ who is unable to

\_\_\_\_\_ with our weaknesses, but one who in

\_\_\_\_\_ respect has been tempted as we are, yet without \_\_\_\_\_.

—Hebrews 4:15





# The Gospel: Salvation in Jesus

## MAIN IDEAS

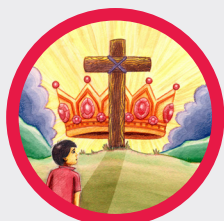
- **Jesus is holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life.**
- **The Gospel is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus.**
- **The Gospel commands sinners to repent and believe in Jesus.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved.”—John 3:16-17*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 20:28
- 2) Mark 1:15
- 3) Luke 15:17-18
- 4) Luke 18:10-14
- 5) Luke 19:10
- 6) John 3:16-17
- 7) John 11:25b
- 8) Acts 4:12
- 9) Romans 5:10a, 19b
- 10) Ephesians 1:7a
- 11) Ephesians 2:8-9
- 12) 1 Peter 3:15



## LESSON SUMMARY

“Gospel” is one of those words that, over the course of history and in various settings, has been reinvented and reinterpreted in a variety of ways. The church has not been immune to this reality. Sadly, this has yielded a gospel very different from the one presented in Scripture. But any lesser gospel is a dangerous one! Therefore, we must take great care in getting the Gospel right. The Gospel of Jesus is defined and shaped by essential truths that cannot be changed or improved upon. The Gospel of Jesus is the one and only means of salvation. Embracing the Gospel is also the one and only means by which we can glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

In this lesson we summarized the core truths of Jesus’ Gospel. Although not entirely comprehensive in scope or depth, acquainting students with these core truths will provide a foundational framework for future lessons.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that there will be a renewed and deeper appreciation for the Gospel.*
- *that God will be at work in the heart and mind of your child so that he or she will fully embrace the Gospel, demonstrated through genuine repentance and faith.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Recall (or imagine a scenario) when your child broke an expensive object. **What was the consequence? What did he or she desire as an outcome?**

**How is our sin toward a holy and righteous God immeasurably worse than breaking an expensive object? Can we possibly “pay for” our sin and make things right with God? Why not? How should this bad news make us feel about ourselves? Is it something you can ignore? If you pretend it’s not for you, will that change God’s truth? Review: Romans 6:23a; Ephesians 5:6b; and 2 Thessalonians 1:9.**

- Read John 3:16-17. **If someone asked you what this verse means, what would you tell them? How would you explain verse 17? What is the bad news referred to in these verses? What is the good news? What does verse 16 say we must do in order to have eternal**

life? What does it mean to “believe” in Jesus? What might true belief in Jesus look like in someone’s life?

- Talk about Mark 1:15. Point out that true repentance involves humbly recognizing your sin against God, hating it and wanting to have nothing more to do with it, knowing that you desperately need forgiveness, and then turning to Jesus for help. Sometimes people don’t like the “repent” part of salvation. **Why do you think Jesus’ call to repent may seem harder than His command for us to believe in Him?**

- Point out that many people in the world think there are different ways to a right relationship with God. Some religions teach that you must do more good things than bad things. Some say you must perform a list of certain things. Some say you must trust in someone other than Jesus. Some even say that salvation is through Jesus, plus doing good works. **Are any of these true?** Read and talk about Acts 4:12 and Ephesians 2:8-9. **What is the only way to be saved? Are you trusting in Jesus alone for salvation, or are you trusting in something else?**

**ACTION STEPS**

Look up the following verses and fill in the missing words. Then use the words you found to complete the matching Gospel summary statement. This week, share a summary of the Gospel with your parents and siblings. Make sure to explain why the Gospel is such good news.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. “For the Son of Man came to _____ and to save the lost.”—<i>Luke 19:10</i></p> <p>2. ...by the one man’s obedience the many will be made _____.<br/>—<i>Romans 5:19b</i></p> <p>3. “...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give _____ as a ransom for many.”<br/>—<i>Matthew 20:28b</i></p> | <p>4. In him we have redemption through his blood, the _____ness of our trespasses,—<i>Ephesians 1:7a</i></p> <p>5. ...while we were enemies we were _____d to God by the death of his Son,—<i>Romans 5:10a</i></p> <p>6. “I am the resurrection and the _____. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,”—<i>John 11:25b</i></p> |
|--|---|

**GOSPEL SUMMARY: Jesus came to...**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. _____ sinners.</p> <p>2. Make us _____.</p> <p>3. Give up _____.</p> | <p>4. _____ sinners.</p> <p>5. _____ us to God.</p> <p>6. Give eternal _____.</p> |
|--|---|



# Salvation: Chosen and Called by God

## MAIN IDEAS

- **By His sovereign will, God has chosen whom He will save.**
- **Salvation is by grace—a free gift from God apart from any merit of our own.**
- **God desires that the Gospel be proclaimed to all people.**
- **When God calls His chosen people, they respond in belief.**

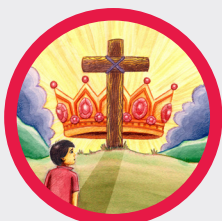
## MEMORY VERSES

*...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...—Ephesians 1:4*

*“My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me.”—John 10:27*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 1:15
- 2) John 10:27
- 3) Acts 4:12
- 4) Acts 16:13-14
- 5) Romans 8:30a
- 6) Romans 10:13-14, 17
- 7) Ephesians 1:3-5
- 8) Ephesians 2:8-9
- 9) 2 Timothy 3:15b
- 10) Revelation 7:9-10



## LESSON SUMMARY

This lesson begins a series on the elements of salvation—how salvation is accomplished, applied, and worked out in the lives of God’s people. However, this is not merely to be an academic exercise. Rather, the aim is to instruct and impress upon the heart and mind a deeper knowledge of salvation so that your child might love and honor Jesus, putting his or her full trust and confidence in Him.

In order to adhere to true doctrine, we begin salvation where God does—through His choosing and electing a people for Himself by His gracious, good, and sovereign will. Rather than focusing on the mystery of this, the lesson emphasized the amazing grace of God in bestowing the gift of salvation on any of us.

Secondly, this lesson introduced and explained God’s work in “effectual calling,” whereby He does a miraculous work in the heart in order to bring about true belief in His chosen people. This powerful call draws God’s people to Himself, and points out our real responsibility to respond to Jesus’ command to believe in Him.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *for a profound sense of awe for God’s sovereign grace in saving sinners.*
- *that your child would sincerely call upon Jesus with true repentance and belief.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Ephesians 1:3-5 and 2:4-9. **Do any of us deserve salvation? Why not? What do we all deserve? Why would God be right to condemn everyone? Why is salvation called a gift? What does God’s grace show us about God? Have you ever experienced God’s undeserved kindness? In what way? Why do these verses tell us that we are saved by grace through faith? Can we depend on anything we have done to earn God’s love or forgiveness? Why not? But do we sometimes act like we can earn salvation? What might this look like in a person’s life? How can we guard against this kind of thinking?**
- Review John 10:27. Explain that the special call that brings about salvation is sometimes hard to describe because it is

something that God brings about in the heart of a person. But God always calls His chosen people through the hearing of the Gospel message. Ask your child to recall the different ways and means that he or she has heard the Gospel message.

- Recall Jesus' words from Mark 1:15. **How might a person demonstrate that he has heard**

**the Gospel but has chosen to reject Jesus? How would a person demonstrate that they have heard God's call and are now trusting in Jesus? What does Jesus say in John 10:27? What does it mean to "follow" Jesus?** Encourage your child to think about his or her own response to God's call to repent and believe in Jesus. Have a time of prayer together.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week read Acts 9:1-22 and Acts 16:11-15. Who did God call to salvation in each passage? How were their experiences the same and how were they different? In what ways did God demonstrate His sovereign will and power? How did each person respond to God's call? How did their response change their lives? Below, use the code to find the missing letters in the verses. Then solve the secret messages.

	▲	●	⬠	♥	■	★	⬡	📖	◆	▤	🛐
1	I	B	N	E	Y	C	H	V	T	G	M
2	F	R	L	O	W	U	P	K	A	S	D

...  $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\heartsuit}$   $\frac{1:\star}{1:\clubsuit}$  ho  $\frac{2:\spadesuit}{2:\diamondsuit}$  e us in  $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$  im  $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$  e  $\frac{2:\triangle}{2:\heartsuit}$  or  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  the  
 $\frac{2:\triangle}{2:\heartsuit}$  ou  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{2:\spadesuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\diamondsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  ti  $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  of the w  $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  r  $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$ , that we  
 $\frac{2:\spadesuit}{2:\heartsuit}$  hou  $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  d be  $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  l  $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  and  $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  a  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  ele  $\frac{2:\spadesuit}{2:\heartsuit}$   $\frac{2:\spadesuit}{2:\heartsuit}$   
 be  $\frac{2:\triangle}{2:\heartsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  re h  $\frac{1:\triangle}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$ .—Ephesians 1:4b

“M  $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{2:\spadesuit}{2:\heartsuit}$  h  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  e  $\frac{2:\bullet}{2:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  ar  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  y  $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  i  $\frac{1:\star}{1:\clubsuit}$  e,  
 and  $\frac{1:\triangle}{1:\clubsuit}$  k  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  w  $\frac{1:\diamondsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  he  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$ ,  
 and  $\frac{1:\diamondsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  h  $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  y  $\frac{2:\triangle}{2:\heartsuit}$  ol  $\frac{2:\heartsuit}{2:\clubsuit}$  o  $\frac{2:\spadesuit}{2:\heartsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$ .”—John 10:27

$\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\star}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\diamondsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$

$\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\star}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$  **G**  $\frac{1:\bullet}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\diamondsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\spadesuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$   $\frac{1:\heartsuit}{1:\clubsuit}$



# Salvation: New Spiritual Life

## MAIN IDEAS

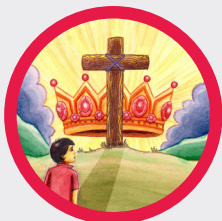
- **In our sinful nature, we are unable to respond to the Gospel in belief.**
- **Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God gives His people new spiritual life, drawing us to believe in Jesus.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—Ephesians 2:4-5*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Ezekiel 36:26a
- 2) John 3:8, 18
- 3) John 6:44, 65
- 4) Romans 3:10-11
- 5) Romans 7:18a
- 6) Romans 8:7
- 7) Ephesians 2:1-5
- 8) Colossians 3:12-16



## LESSON SUMMARY

It is amazing how often we can overestimate our heart's true intentions and desires by believing ourselves innately good and wise. In regard to children, we are prone to emphasize their "innocence," minimizing the power and prevalence of their inborn sin nature. Paul confronts each and every one of us with a very different reality:

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—<sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—Ephesians 2:1-5*

In this lesson we used key verses and simple illustrations to emphasize the need to be made "alive"—the need for new spiritual life (regeneration). Apart from God acting to give us a new heart with new desires, we would never choose to trust Christ. Even though we cannot see how God acts to give His chosen people new spiritual life, we can see the effects of God's actions. When a person is given new spiritual life, he hears God's call to believe the Gospel not just with his ears but with his heart, too—evidenced by true repentance and belief in Jesus.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work through the power of God's Word, bringing about new life in Christ.*
- *that your child would have an attitude of great humility before God, having a growing appreciation and love of His mercy.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Ephesians 2:1-3. **In what ways, even from young childhood, do we show our inborn sin nature? In what way does a one-year-old show he is "hostile" to God's commands? Do you recognize the problem of your own sin nature? Do you think that you can simply**

change yourself? Who alone can help us? Read verses 4-5. Have you sincerely asked for God's help?

- Do the following demonstration: Place a sugar cube in a drinking glass. Give your child a straw and tell him to try and draw the sugar cube up through the straw. **Why doesn't it work?** Now add some warm water to the glass and stir. Have your child draw up some of the sugar water. **Why does it work now?** Review Ephesians 2:1-5; Ezekiel 36:26a; and John 6:44. **Why would it be foolish to think that we can change our sin nature by ourselves? Why is being "made alive" such a wonderful**

gift from God? Does God show a "little bit" of love and mercy towards His people? Look carefully at Ephesians 2:4-5. What does this tell us about God?

- Read and talk about John 3:8. **Can we completely understand how the Holy Spirit can give a person new spiritual life? Why does Jesus use the example of the wind to help us? When persons have been "born again" and given new spiritual life, what evidence will they give that something has changed in their hearts? If someone were looking at your life, would they see a change? (You may want to read portions of Colossians 3:12-16 for some examples.)**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, and with your parent's permission, write out Ephesians 2:4-5 on a mirror using erasable markers. Recite the verse whenever you see it. Every day erase two or three words and see if you can recite the verse, saying the missing words.

Below, look up each verse. Next, draw a line matching each verse to the matching truth.

Salvation

John 1:1, 14

Who Jesus Is

New Spiritual Life

John 3:16-17

The Gospel Call

God's Law

John 10:27

Romans 7:12

Our Inborn Nature

Romans 7:18a

1 Corinthians 10:31

Our Purpose

Ephesians 1:4

Ephesians 2:4-5

Chosen By God





# Salvation: Faith and Repentance (Conversion)

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone.**
- **Faith includes a right understanding of certain facts about who Jesus is and what He has done, and a complete dependence on Him.**
- **Faith is always accompanied by repentance—a deep-felt sorrow and hatred of sin, such that you turn to Jesus and commit to follow Him.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

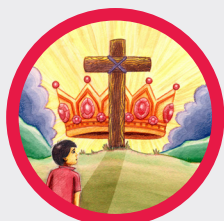
—John 20:31

*For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation...*

—2 Corinthians 7:10a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 1:15b
- 2) John 20:31
- 3) 2 Corinthians 7:10a
- 4) Ephesians 2:8a
- 5) 1 John 1:8-9



## LESSON SUMMARY

When it comes to our response to the Gospel, two words require careful attention: repent and believe. In this lesson, we used verses and concrete illustrations to communicate and define these terms in a way that doesn't diminish the intended meaning. These words convey a serious weightiness—calling for and resulting in a complete transformation of a person's mind, heart, and will. True saving repentance and belief—conversion, as it is commonly called—is much more than an acknowledgment of true facts about the Person and work of Jesus. Furthermore, while rightly emphasizing what it means to “believe in Jesus,” repentance is often minimized when instructing children. Pastor Art Murphy has some very wise advice as you seek to discern your child's profession of faith:

*Does the child demonstrate a personal need or desire to repent of his sin? Is the child ashamed of the sin in his life? Knowing what sin is, is not the same as being ashamed of sin. If a child is not repentant but goes ahead and makes a decision to become a Christian, then his decision is premature and incomplete. Letting a child think he can become a Christian without repentance gives him false assurance. As a result, he may never repent and therefore never completely finish becoming a Christian.*

*Loving Jesus is an important part of becoming a Christian, but that is not enough. If a child is led to think that he can be a Christian without repentance, he does not fully understand the need for a Savior. He may love Jesus but not feel the need for Him in his life. He may live his life thinking that everything is OK when it is not.<sup>1</sup>*

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that through the presentation of the Word, your child will more fully grasp what it means to repent of sin and believe in Jesus for salvation.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work bringing about conviction of sin and a heart that longs to run to Jesus for forgiveness.*



1. Murphy, Art. *The Faith of a Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Salvation for Your Child*. (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2000), 75-76.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

- Why is it important that you know and believe these things to be true? Where do we learn these facts? Would Jesus be able to save you if these things were not true? Why not? How is faith more than simply saying these things about Jesus are true? Are you convinced that because Jesus died on the cross and rose again, you can be completely forgiven of your sin and receive eternal life with Him? Are you confident that He is the one and only way to receive salvation? Are you trusting in Him and depending on Him alone? What might this look like in someone’s life?
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What do you think is meant by “godly grief”? Can a person be really sorry for doing something wrong but not have godly grief? Explain that people can be sorry because they were caught doing something wrong and now have to suffer consequences. That is normal grief. Godly grief is recognizing the offense that our sin is to a holy God, seeing how much we fall short of His requirements, and therefore hating everything about our own

sin, producing in us a desire to be as far apart from sin as possible and turning to the only one who can help us: Jesus. **Would you say you have come to godly grief and repentance?**

- Emphasize that faith and repentance are not one-time things, even though there is a point at which a person truly repents and believes in Jesus for the first time and becomes a Christian. Conversion is not just, “I repented and trusted in Jesus when I was 6 years old and was saved.” It is also, “I have faith in Jesus today. I need to repent of my sin today.”

**When you think of faith in Jesus, do you think of today and not just a decision you made in the past? Do you feel an ongoing need to repent of sins in your life? What kinds of ongoing help does God give His people to keep trusting in Jesus and repenting of sin? [e.g., The Holy Spirit, God’s Word, prayer, other Christians, parents, etc.]**

**ACTION STEPS**

Do a “Testimony” interview. With your parent’s help, choose an older Christian (a family member or someone from your church) to interview about how they came to repent and believe in Jesus. How is their day-to-day life different now? How are they continuing to grow as a believer in Jesus? Record what you learned below.

**TESTIMONY INTERVIEW**

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interesting Things I Learned:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAITH**

includes a right understanding of certain facts about who Jesus is and what He has done, and a complete dependence on Him.



**REPENTANCE**

a deep-felt sorrow and hatred of sin, such that you turn to Jesus and commit to follow him.



**CONVERSION**



# Salvation: Justification

## MAIN IDEAS

- All people are guilty before God and deserve God's just punishment.
- Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice for sin in order to satisfy the justice of God.
- Justification is a legal act whereby God forgives sin, gives His people Jesus' righteousness, and declares them righteous.
- Justification is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone.

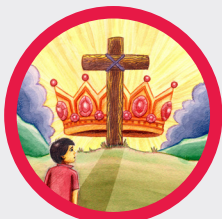
## MEMORY VERSES

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.—2 Corinthians 5:21*

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.—Romans 5:1*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 23:39-43
- 2) Romans 5:1
- 3) Romans 6:1-2, 11-13
- 4) Romans 8:1
- 5) 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 6) Hebrews 10:14
- 7) 1 John 2:2a
- 8) 1 John 4:10



## LESSON SUMMARY

Throughout history, we can find thousands of heroic examples of men and women who willingly died for the sake of others. Some were Christians, but many were not. Even now we hear the heartbreaking stories of soldiers, firefighters, and police officers who die in the line of duty. Students know this, and hopefully appreciate these great sacrifices...but one death in history stands apart from all others. The death of God's holy and righteous Son, Jesus. It stands apart for so many reasons, the main one being that Jesus' death alone brings about the justification of God's sinful people. Therefore, our students must be taught this essential doctrine. Salvation itself hangs on the truth and meaning of justification. It is why the Reformation is still as important today as it was 500 years ago. May our students join in the ongoing biblical conviction that salvation is...

**By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus alone.**

In this lesson, we attempted to truthfully, clearly, and compellingly communicate the deep significance of what actually happened when Jesus died on the cross, and why this matters to each and every one of us today.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will see the death of Jesus in a deeper and more profound way—seeing His wrath-bearing, justifying work.*
- *for your child to be irresistibly drawn to Jesus for all that He is and all He has done.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the Scriptures listed for the lesson. **Why would it be wrong for God to simply pretend that sin was no big deal? How does Jesus' death on the cross show that God is right in punishing sin and forgiving sinners? Why is it also important that Jesus gives His people His own perfect righteousness? If you were to appear in a courtroom today in which God was sitting as the judge, what verdict do you think He would pronounce over you? What is your only hope and plea? Have a time of prayer together asking that God would make Himself known, and Jesus would be treasured as the one and only Savior.**

- Read Romans 5:1 together. What does it mean to have “peace with God”? What is the opposite of peace? Why does justification bring about peace with God? What does it “deal with” once and for all? Do you feel at peace with God, or anxious and troubled? How can we turn these thoughts and feelings into prayers of thanksgiving and/or cries for help?
- Review 2 Corinthians 5:21. Because Jesus became sin for His people—taking upon

Himself all the sin and guilt of God’s chosen people—does that mean that a Christian can go and do whatever he pleases because sin doesn’t matter anymore—all is forgiven? What does the end of the verse say? What are Christians to “become”? What does it mean to become the “righteousness of God”? Read and talk about Romans 6:1-2, 11-13. Christians are to “become what we are,” striving to live holy and righteous lives.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents help, look up the words/tune to one of the following hymns: *Jesus Paid it All* (Hall) or *The Power of the Cross* (Getty and Townend). Talk about how the hymn reflects the truths of Jesus’ death on the cross. Sing the hymn together. Then, use the code to complete the statement below.

✝️ 📖 🕊️ 🌫️ 📖 🕊️ 📖 **CA** 🌫️ 📖 **ON** 📖 🕊️

**A LEGAL AC** 🌫️ **WHEREB** 👑 **GOD...**

1. 🕊️ **ORG** 📖 **VE** 🕊️ 🕊️ 📖 **N.**

2. **G** 📖 **VE** 🕊️ **H** 📖 🕊️ **PEOPLE** ✝️ **E** 🕊️ 📖 🕊️;  
**R** 📖 **GH** 🌫️ **EO** 📖 🕊️ **NE** 🕊️ 🕊️.

3. **DECLARE** 🕊️ **H** 📖 🕊️ **PEOPLE**  
**R** 📖 **GH** 🌫️ **EO** 📖 🕊️ **AND “NO** 🌫️  
**G** 📖 🕊️ **L** 🌫️ 👑 **” BECA** 📖 🕊️ **E** 🌫️  
**WHA** 🌫️ ✝️ **E** 🕊️ 📖 🕊️ **HA** 🕊️ **DONE.**

<b>J</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Y</b>
✝️	📖 🕊️	🕊️	🌫️	📖	🕊️	👑



# Salvation: Adoption

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Adoption is an act of God in which He makes someone His beloved child.**
- **Everyone who repents and believes in Jesus is made a child of God.**
- **God's children enjoy a special and intimate relationship with Him.**
- **God's children are heirs to all His good promises.**

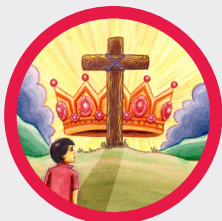
## MEMORY VERSES

*...In love, <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ,—Ephesians 1:4b-5a*

*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.—1 John 3:1a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 1:12
- 2) John 20:31
- 3) Romans 8:32
- 4) 2 Corinthians 2:10a
- 5) Galatians 3:26
- 6) Ephesians 1:5
- 7) Ephesians 2:3b, 8
- 8) 1 Peter 1:3b-4
- 9) 1 John 3:1a



## LESSON SUMMARY

The great majority of people are familiar with adoption. What they are less likely to know is that adoption was first God's unique idea and design. Human adoption is a loving yet dim reflection of this greater reality: God adopts a people for Himself, making enemies into beloved children, through the justifying work of Christ. What an amazing reality and gift. For those of us saved by grace through faith in Jesus, we can call the holy God of the universe our heavenly Father. We are not saved into some kind of gruff dictatorship requiring lifelong, dreary servitude, but have become members of a loving, warm, intimate family led by a good and loving Father. Not only that, we are now heirs of all the privileges and promises given to His children. Therefore, it is fitting that, as His children, we should desire to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

In this lesson, we defined the meaning and significance of God's act of adoption as well as an overview of some of the many benefits His children enjoy.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your own heart would be gripped by the reality of what it means to truly be a child of God.*
- *that your child would long to be God's child more than anything else—enjoying the immeasurable riches of being a member of His family.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about the privileges and benefits your child receives as a member of your family. **In what ways do you love, protect, and care for your child? How do children of God receive even better privileges?** Have your child look up the verses in the gift box on the next page and write a brief summary of the privileges enjoyed next to each reference. **Why are these privileges shown in a gift box? What should this remind us of?** Review Ephesians 2:8.
- Explain that when parents adopt a child, the adoption is legally binding, meaning that adopted children become true members of the family and are given all the privileges of being a child in that family. Adopted children do not “earn” their way into a family.



Rather the parents, in love, seek after them. Can you or I earn our way into God’s family? Why not? What has Jesus done so that you could become a beloved child instead of an enemy of God? How should we respond?

Recall John 1:12. (Also John 20:31 and 2 Corinthians 2:10a.) Would you say that you are a child of God? Do you experience His love and forgiveness, or are you still afraid of His

judgment? Would you say that you experience a very special relationship with Him—seeing Him as your heavenly Father?

- Review 1 John 3:1a. What kind of love has God shown us? Is it a small love, or a great love? Is He generous or stingy in His love toward His children? Can you give some examples that show the greatness of His love toward His children? Read and talk about Romans 8:32.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, use index cards or something similar to make Gift Cards. Decorate each card and write one privilege (use the list you create below for ideas) that God’s children enjoy on each card. At dinnertime, have every member of your family pick a card and talk about an example of this privilege being experienced in everyday life.



Matthew 7:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:32 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 12:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:20b \_\_\_\_\_

2 Thessalonians 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 2:25 \_\_\_\_\_





# Salvation: Sanctification

## MAIN IDEA

- **God requires that His children be holy and righteous.**
- **God's children are to grow up into the likeness of His Son, Jesus.**
- **Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in His children in which they strive to become more and more like Jesus.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.—Ephesians 4:24*

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,<sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,—1 Peter 1:14-15*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 16:24
- 2) John 14:15 (NIV 1984)
- 3) Romans 5:1
- 4) Romans 6:6
- 5) Romans 8:29a
- 6) 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 7) Ephesians 2:8,
- 8) Ephesians 2:10a (NIV 1984)
- 9) Ephesians 4:22, 24
- 10) Ephesians 5:1
- 11) Philippians 2:12b
- 12) Hebrews 12:14
- 13) 1 Peter 1:14-15
- 14) 1 Peter 2:2
- 15) 1 John 3:2



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children are meant to grow up and mature. It is a slow, daily process. Good parents provide what is necessary: physical provision, love and discipline, instruction and counsel, and more. Yet a child still has an important responsibility in the process. He must exert effort to obey and carry out assigned tasks. He must learn to apply his parents' teaching.

Although the above example is limited in its application to sanctification, it still is helpful for rightly understanding this important aspect of salvation. Here is a definition from the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

*Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*

In this lesson, we helped the students understand the meaning and importance of this topic in the lives of God's children. Our hope and prayer should be that a right biblical emphasis will take root in their lives, one that carefully avoids two extremes: grace-less, self-motivated, self-righteous obedience (legalism), or careless, "free-grace" lawlessness (licentiousness, antinomianism).

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will see and embrace the truth that Christians have been saved from the wrath of God in order to become holy and righteous in God's sight.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would guard his or her heart and mind from any form of grace-less "obedience" or "free-grace" lawlessness.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about Ephesians 2:10 and 5:1; Matthew 16:24; John 14:15; Philippians 2:12b; Hebrews 12:14. **What action words are found in each verse? Why does God want His children to act that way? Is this a kind of "must do" list for earning salvation? Why not? What is important to remember about salvation? Review Ephesians 2:8-10.**
- Read Ephesians 4:24 and 1 Peter 1:14-15. **Why does God care that His children become holy and righteous? Explain that God**

has given His children a “new self” through the cost of the death of His Son. Jesus died so that God’s children would be holy and righteous. If you are God’s child, you have a responsibility to honor Him by putting on this new self and walking in Jesus’ ways. **Can you think of some attitudes and actions—habits—that Jesus would want you to “put off”? Can you do this by your own strength and willpower? Why not? What help has God given His children? Do you act upon that help?**

- **In what ways do parents provide the things necessary for a child to grow up and mature? In what ways must a child cooperate and act on the parents’ provision? Does a child grow up and**

**mature overnight? Is it a quick or long process?**

Review the definition of sanctification as described in the “Main Ideas” section. **How can the illustration of a parent and child help us to understand sanctification? Is it something that happens overnight? How should that encourage us? But does it happen just by sitting back and relaxing? What ways does God help His children to grow and become more like Jesus? [e.g., through reading the Bible, prayer, help from the Holy Spirit, guidance from other Christians, etc.] Would you say that you have grown in your understanding and love for Jesus in the past year? In what ways? Would you say that you have grown in obedience to Him? How?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, make an “Action Plan” regarding a particular sinful habit you struggle with. Use the boxes below to guide you in making a plan.

<b>1</b>		
<b>A SINFUL HABIT I STRUGGLE WITH</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WHAT WOULD BEING MORE LIKE JESUS INCLUDE?</b>	<b>VERSES THAT COULD HELP ME</b>	<b>PRAY ABOUT IT AND ASK GOD FOR HELP</b>
		<input type="radio"/> Monday <input type="radio"/> Tuesday <input type="radio"/> Wednesday <input type="radio"/> Thursday <input type="radio"/> Friday <input type="radio"/> Saturday <input type="radio"/> Sunday
<b>5</b>		
<b>REMEMBER: Holy and righteous conduct that is pleasing to God can only come about through faith in Jesus!</b>		



# Jesus Says, “Follow Me”

## MAIN IDEA

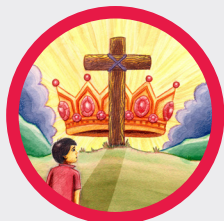
- **Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in His children in which they strive to become more and more like Jesus.**
- **Children of God are to be disciples of Jesus—recognizing His authority such that they submit to Him, learn from Him, obey His commands, and follow Him throughout their lives.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments...  
“whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”—1 John 2:3, 6*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 10:24
- 2) Matthew 11:28-29
- 3) Matthew 16:24
- 4) Matthew 28:18
- 5) Luke 5:1-6
- 6) Luke 6:27-28, 35-36
- 7) John 8:31
- 8) 1 John 2:3, 6



## LESSON SUMMARY

Submission to authority is one of the primary disciplines that parents must teach their children. Even in submitting to the seemingly little commands of parents, children learn important truths that will better prepare them for a fulfilling and happy life. However, the main reason we should teach our children about submission is to help them understand the necessity of submitting to Jesus and His absolute, good, wise, and loving authority. Furthermore, we must teach and model that submission to Jesus and His ways does not quash our joy—it enables our joy.

In this lesson we introduced the important concept of Jesus as Master and Lord, establishing a relationship with His disciples in which they are to learn from Him, submit to Him, and follow in all His ways.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that you and your child will have a renewed and growing honor for Jesus as Master and Lord.*
- *that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, your child would be challenged, motivated, and desire to follow Jesus.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Matthew 28:18; Revelation 4:11; and 19:16. **What do these verses tell us about Jesus’ authority? Could someone say that they love and trust Jesus as their Savior, but they don’t need to actually follow and obey Him as their Master and Lord? Why wouldn’t this make sense? Read and discuss 1 John 2:3, 6. Does your life show that you are walking in Jesus’ ways? In what ways do you have trouble submitting to Jesus’ authority? Use a concrete example. Read Luke 6:27-28 or Ephesians 6:1-2. How could we grow in our recognition of and submission to Jesus’ authority?**
- Point out that the best teachers teach their students by teaching not only with words but also by example. **In what ways did Jesus give us an example to follow? How did He do what He commanded? Why is this helpful for His disciples? But is it still difficult for us to follow at times? Why? Are there things in our life that make us less or more likely to want to listen and obey? Is there anything that can help us?**

- Talk about Matthew 11:28-29. Do you see Jesus as a kind of Master and Lord? What does this show us about who He is and what He is like? What does He also know and understand about us? Does that mean He doesn't care

about our obedience? What is a yoke? Do Jesus' disciples still need a yoke? Why? But what kind of yoke does He give His disciples? How can this help us see the goodness of submitting to Jesus—how is submission for our good?

**ACTION STEPS**

This week use the space below to write out 1 John 2:3, 6. Then use the box to write out five areas in your life in which you struggle to submit to Jesus and follow Him. Ask your parents to help you identify these. Commit yourself to praying about each of these, asking Jesus to give you a submissive heart that strives to obey Him.

1 JOHN 2:3, 6

---



---



---



---



---



---

I NEED TO SUBMIT  
TO MASTER AND LORD JESUS

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



# God Gives His Children the Holy Spirit

## MAIN IDEA

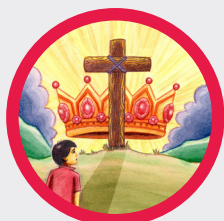
- **God gives His children the Holy Spirit to guide and empower them in following Jesus.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth..."*  
—John 14:15-17a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 6:28, 31,36
- 2) John 14:15-17, 26
- 3) Romans 7:22-23
- 4) Galatians 5:16, 22-23
- 5) 2 Thessalonians 2:13b
- 6) 2 Peter 1:3a
- 7) 1 John 1:8-9



## LESSON SUMMARY

Sanctification is a huge job. It's a lifelong road for a believer—more like a marathon than a sprint. Submission to Jesus and His ways is often difficult, as our indwelling sin nature rebels and wars against His holy, righteous, and good commands. Satan and the powers of this world will constantly bombard us to give up the race and pursue the temporary pleasures of the world. But God does not leave His children without the help we need. Jesus has given us the ultimate Helper: the Holy Spirit. What an amazing gift and mystery—that every believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within. *God in us* to give understanding of the truths revealed in His Word, empower us to fight sin, encourage us in our daily lives, give wise counsel in any situation...always present, always available.

In this lesson, we gave the students a brief summary of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, and how He helps God's children in the process of sanctification.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would give your child an understanding of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit—His real presence and power.*
- *that the work of the Spirit would be increasingly evident in your child's life (for children who are followers of Jesus).*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child: **Suppose I wanted you to do a difficult job like washing and waxing the car. Would I just say, "You know where the car is. Go do it"?** Good parents equip, train, and help their children. Read 2 Peter 1:3a. **In what ways has God equipped His children for a life of godliness? In what ways does He help "train" us and show us how to live a holy and righteous life?** [The Holy Spirit, the Bible, the example of Jesus, parents, the church, other Christians, etc.] **Why is this such good news? What happens when a Christian fails to be godly in a certain situation? What should you do?** Read and talk about 1 John 1:8-9.
- Talk about the Trinity: God is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Read and discuss John 14:15-17, 26. **Is the Holy Spirit given to everybody? Why not? If you are trusting in Jesus, are you ever truly alone? Are you ever without help in a**

difficult situation? Do you act as if the Holy Spirit is guiding you and giving you strength? Can you give an example of this?

- Remind your child that sanctification is an ongoing, lifelong process in the life of a Christian. It is not about being perfect, but about growing more and more like Jesus, little by little, day by day. Review Galatians 5:16, 22-23.

Do you see any of this “fruit” in your life? Would dad, mom, and others see any of this kind of fruit? What would help you make more progress? Is there anything that is hindering you? What could you do about this? Review Ephesians 2:8-10, reminding your child that a person is saved by grace through faith in what Jesus has done. Fruit is the evidence of saving faith and not the means of salvation.

**ACTION STEPS**

Read Galatians 5:16, 22-23 in your Bible. Fill in the missing “fruit” of the Spirit. Next, write down a situation that you have experienced recently in which your sin nature wanted to respond in a way that was not in keeping with the Holy Spirit. Use the boxes to write down both a sinful response and one that would demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit. Remember: You cannot “walk by the Spirit” without first putting your trust in Jesus for salvation.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh

[your sinful nature]...<sup>22</sup> the fruit of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_, joy,

\_\_\_\_\_, patience, \_\_\_\_\_, goodness,

\_\_\_\_\_,<sup>23</sup> gentleness,

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_; against such things there is no law.

– Galatians 5:16, 22-23

SITUATION

SIN NATURE RESPONSE

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT RESPONSE





# God Gives His Children His Word

## MAIN IDEA

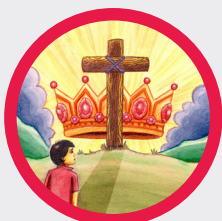
- **Christians are sanctified through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.**
- **All Scripture is God-breathed truth, and it teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us in righteousness.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*  
—2 Timothy 3:16-17

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 20:17
- 2) Psalm 1:2
- 3) Psalm 119:11, 105
- 4) Proverbs 26:4
- 5) Luke 6:28
- 6) John 17:17
- 7) Ephesians 6:1a
- 8) 2 Thessalonians 2:13b
- 9) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 10) Hebrews 13:5
- 11) 1 Peter 2:2



## LESSON SUMMARY

There is a popular trend that highlights the Bible being, first and foremost, a story—the story of God redeeming a people for Himself through the Gospel of His Son. So yes, in this sense the Bible is a story. However, the Bible is also much more than a story! It is the God-breathed, authoritative Word of God. It has an innate power in and of itself. This is especially crucial to understand as it relates to the life of every believer. Consider these words from Pastor John Piper as he reflects on 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

*The God-breathed Bible aims to make us godly. To make us doers of good in this world. Don't miss that. The doctrines of the Bible are designed to produce deeds. Good deeds. And they do it by teaching, verse 16, and that teaching has three sequential effects: Reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.*

*When we are rightly taught by the Scripture, we are first reproofed, that is, our errors are pointed out and we are stopped in our tracks. Then we are corrected, that is, we are turned around from the harmful way we were going, and pointed in the right way. And third, we are trained in righteousness, that is, the Bible enables us to be trained, to grow, in righteousness. And as the teaching does these three things (reproof, correction, training) the Scripture equips us for every good deed.<sup>1</sup>*

In this lesson, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 was used to highlight how the Bible teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us in righteousness.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Word of God would be more treasured, trusted, obeyed, and enjoyed in the life of your child.*
- *that in the coming weeks your child will put God's Word into action—seeing how it can be applied to every situation.*



1. Piper, John. "All Scripture Is Breathed Out by God, Continue in It." August 11, 2012, <http://www.desiringGod.org/messages/all-scripture-is-breathed-out-by-god-continue-in-it/> (accessed 7.5.15).

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

- Can you name a few truths that the Bible has taught you about God? Jesus? Yourself? Salvation? Why are these truths so important? Can you give me personal examples in which a Bible verse or passage served as a reproof or correction? Have any verses helped you in training for righteousness? What is necessary for benefiting and being helped by the Bible? Do you make this a priority in your life?
- Pose the following scenario: Suppose you are tempted to say something nasty in response to a bully at school. **Can you think of the verse from the Bible that would offer you a reproof? What about a verse that would offer correction? Will knowing these verses automatically cause you to respond this way? Why not? What kind of struggle might be going on inside your heart? What else do you need to do in order to follow through and obey?**
- Read and talk about 1 Peter 2:2. What is the spiritual milk that Peter is talking about? Do you crave “drinking in” God’s Word? Why does this matter? Do you read your Bible once in a while or every day? What kinds of attitudes or other distractions might keep a person from reading the Bible? What could be done to change this?
- Talk about the importance of memorizing God’s Word and pose the following: Imagine being tempted to sass back to your dad and mom when we tell you to do something. **Which is more helpful at that moment—needing to go and read your Bible to find out how you should respond, or having the Holy Spirit bring to mind a memorized verse? Are you working on Bible memory? How has it helped you? What would encourage you to memorize more?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, make an “Action Plan” to read your Bible daily and work on memorizing this week’s memory verse or another verse. Use the chart below to record your progress.

✓	DAY	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE READ	MEMORY VERSE PRACTICED
	Monday		
	Tuesday		
	Wednesday		
	Thursday		
	Friday		
	Saturday		
	Sunday		



# God Gives His Children the Gift of Prayer

## MAIN IDEA

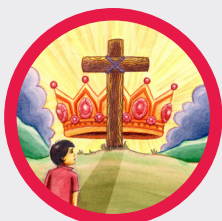
- **God desires to have an intimate relationship with His children.**
- **Prayer is the means by which God's children come into His presence and speak to Him, growing in their relationship with Him.**
- **Jesus has given us an example of how we are to pray.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*"Pray then like this:  
'Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on  
earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>Give us this day our  
daily bread, <sup>12</sup>and forgive  
us our debts, as we also  
have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver  
us from evil.'"*  
—Matthew 6:9-13

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 34:17
- 2) Matthew 6:9-13
- 3) Luke 11:11-13
- 4) Luke 18:1-7
- 5) Acts 12:5-11



## LESSON SUMMARY

Probably one of the most underutilized disciplines of the Christian life is prayer. In neglecting prayer, we fail to fully experience some of the rich benefits that God intends to impart to His children with this precious gift. The Bible—both Old and New Testaments—is filled with the prayers of God's people. And the incarnate Son of God, in human form, also patterned a life of prayer. Here is a helpful, simple summary of what prayer is and how it relates to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit (presented in the two previous lessons):

*God made us, and redeemed us for fellowship with Himself, and prayer is an important part of that relationship. God speaks to us in and through the contents of the Bible, which the Holy Spirit opens up and applies to us and enables us to understand. We then speak to God about Himself, ourselves, and people in His world, shaping what we say as response to what He has said. This unique form of two-way conversation continues as long as life lasts.<sup>1</sup>*

Although a single lesson cannot begin to cover the vast scope and depth of the subject, we focused on some of the key elements of prayer as specified in the prayer Jesus taught His disciples.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would come to know and love God's precious gift of prayer.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work, prompting your child's heart to call out to God in heartfelt, humble prayers.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **Why is prayer important for a Christian's ongoing relationship with God? How does prayer give us the right focus and attitude toward God? Review the main ideas presented in the lesson regarding Matthew 6:9-13. Do you feel like prayer is an important part of your life? Why or why not? Is there anything that hinders you from praying?**

1. *The Reformation Study Bible*. R.C. Sproul, General Editor. (Sandford, Flor.: Ligonier Ministries, 2005), 1477.

- Point out that many Christians have memorized the prayer Jesus taught His disciples. It gives us a pattern to follow. Talk about this pattern with your child and give examples of how to use this pattern in prayer: Address God with honor and respect, seek and submit to God's ways, acknowledge our need and ask for God's provision, and confess our sins and ask forgiveness through Jesus.
- Ask your child to think of some good things that you have given him or her in the past week or two. **What if you asked us for a high-speed motorcycle; would we give that to you? Why not?** Explain that good parents love to provide their children with good things and not harmful things. Read and talk about Luke 11:11-13. **What good things does God want to give His**

**children? Do you eagerly and daily ask Him for these things in prayer? Do you also give thanks and praise to Him?**

- Point out that throughout history there are testimonies of amazing things that God has done in response to people praying. For example, every child of God came to salvation by calling out to Jesus in repentance and faith. Recall a few biblical events in which God acted powerfully through the prayers of His people. [e.g., the story of Peter being freed from prison in Acts 12:5-11] **How can this serve to encourage you? Does something in your life feel impossible? Is it impossible for God? Are you praying about it? Are you asking others to pray with you? How can we pray for one another right now?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week use the prayer Jesus taught His disciples as a pattern to follow in your own prayers. Use the spaces below to write in some specific ways you can do each.

**Address God With Honor and Respect**

**Seek and Submit to God's Ways**

**Acknowledge My Need and Ask for God's Provision**

**Confess My Sins and Ask Forgiveness Through Jesus**



# Love God Most of All

## MAIN IDEA

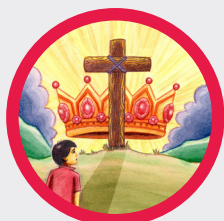
- **God has given His children everything they need for a life of godliness.**
- **If we love God, we will obey His commands.**
- **Loving God most is our greatest duty and joy.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”*  
—Mark 12:30

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 16:11
- 2) Psalm 100:5
- 3) Isaiah 46:9b
- 4) Mark 12:28-31
- 5) Acts 17:25b
- 6) Romans 5:8
- 7) Philippians 3:8
- 8) 2 Peter 1:3a
- 9) 1 John 5:3



## LESSON SUMMARY

For many of us, words such as *commands*, *rules*, and *laws* get our hackles up. We simply do not like being told what to do. Commands feel like we’re being bullied. Rules and laws seem confining and burdensome—personal joy-killers. How radical then when Jesus measures love of God with obedience to commands, and then the apostle John asserts the following:

***For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.—1 John 5:3***

And of course the most important command highlighted throughout the Bible is this: Love God most of all. This is our greatest duty—it is weighty, sobering, and yes, even “confining.” God must have our highest devotion. He is a jealous God who will tolerate no competitors. Yet, this command to love God most is no joy-killer. What is utterly amazing is that our greatest duty toward God enables us to experience our greatest delight.

In this lesson, we emphasized the connection between loving Jesus and keeping His commandments, along with seeing these commandments as a pursuit of lasting joy. In doing so, we can help children understand why loving God most is necessary for everlasting joy.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will be led to see God’s commands as life-giving and joy-producing.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work in your child, bringing to life a deep and growing love for God.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review Mark 12:30. **Why doesn’t God just say, “love Me with all your heart”?** Why add soul, mind, and strength? What does God want us to understand? Why does it make sense that loving God most would give a person the greatest happiness? What kinds of ways will this show in your life?
- Make a list of some of the things people love and treasure besides God. **Why would it be right to value and love some things more than others?** But how do any of these things or people compare to the value and worth of God? What qualities does God possess that none of these other things possess? What can He do for us

that no one or nothing else can do? But why do these other things still tug at our heart, trying to draw us away from loving God most? What could help you to grow in your love for God? What if you don't sense any love for God?

- Ask your child to think of someone they love very much. Do you have this same kind of love toward a stranger? Why not? How can knowing more about someone and spending more time with them cause your love to grow even stronger? Do you think that this is true about God, too? How can knowing more about Him and spending more time with Him cause

your love for Him to grow? Are there any steps you are taking to grow in your knowledge and love for God?

- Review and talk about 1 John 5:3. If someone asked you if you love God, would they see any evidence in your life, even a little bit? Do you show an increasing desire to follow and obey Jesus? Do you act as if His commands are burdensome or joy-giving? In what ways has God equipped His children to walk in His ways? [giving the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, the help and encouragement of parents and other Christians, etc.]

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, complete the following verses and then unscramble the letters to complete the statements.

...I am \_\_\_\_\_, and there is no \_\_\_\_\_; I am God, and there is none like me,—*Isaiah 46:9b*

...he himself gives to all \_\_\_\_\_ life and breath and \_\_\_\_\_.—*Acts 17:25b*

For the LORD is \_\_\_\_\_; his steadfast love endures forever, and his \_\_\_\_\_ to all generations.—*Psalms 100:5*

but God shows his \_\_\_\_\_ for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us.—*Romans 5:8*

You make known to me the path of \_\_\_\_\_; in your presence there is fullness of \_\_\_\_\_; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.—*Psalms 16:11*

**Loving God most is our greatest duty and delight because...**

He alone is \_\_\_\_\_ . There is no one else \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

We owe our very \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, every moment of every day.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_ .

God shows the extent of His love by the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Son on behalf of sinners—Jesus is the only \_\_\_\_\_ .

God alone can give us everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ .





# Worship God in Spirit and Truth

## MAIN IDEA

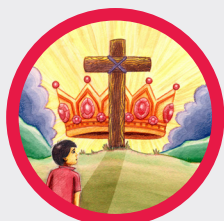
- **Worship involves recognizing the truth about God.**
- **Worship involves expressing a right, heartfelt response to God.**
- **God’s children are to worship Him at all times and in all situations.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*...let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,*  
—Hebrews 12:28b

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 15:1-2, 11
- 2) Matthew 15:8-9a
- 3) Luke 4:8
- 4) Luke 19:35-38
- 5) John 14:6
- 6) Hebrews 12:28b



## LESSON SUMMARY

Most often, when children hear the word “worship” they think of the corporate worship service or singing worship songs and hymns. In this lesson, we want to expand their understanding of biblical worship. This understanding is one that is meant to encompass all the Christian life. Here is a helpful and more expansive explanation of what worship is:

**Biblical worship is the due response of rational creatures to the self-revelation of their Creator. It honors and glorifies God by gratefully offering back to Him all the good gifts, and all the knowledge of His greatness and graciousness, that He has given. His servants praise Him for what He is, thank Him for what He has done, desire Him to increase in glory through continuing acts of mercy, judgment, and power, and trust Him with their prayers for their own and others’ well-being. Learning from God is worship too... Acceptable worship requires “clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:4), and a willingness to express devotion in works of service as well as words of devotion.<sup>1</sup>**

In this lesson we helped the children understand that worship involves recognizing the truth about God and expressing a right, heartfelt response to God—at all times and in any situation.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child’s understanding of worship would be expanded.*
- *that through the power of the Holy Spirit, God would cause your child to become a true worshipper of God.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read the following together: Exodus 15:1-2; 1 Chronicles 16:34; Job 1:20-21; Psalm 96:9; Psalm 150:1-5; Luke 19:37b-38. **What do these verses show us about worship? Is worship just appropriate when “good” things are happening and when we feel happy? Why not? Why is it important to worship God no matter what the circumstance? Do you find it hard to worship God in hard circumstances? What could serve to help you?**

1. *The Reformation Study Bible*. R.C. Sproul, General Editor. (Sandford, Flor.: Ligonier Ministries, 2005), 580.

- Point out that other religions talk about worshipping God, too. For example Judaism and Islam say that you must worship the one, true God. But they reject Jesus as God’s Son and reject the salvation that only Jesus can give. Read and talk about John 14:6. Only people who recognize the truth about Jesus—who He is and what He has done—and are trusting in Him for salvation, are able to offer acceptable worship to God.
- **Suppose someone is singing a worship song in the church service; does that mean the person is worshipping God?** Read and discuss Jesus’ words from Matthew 15:8-9a. Explain that true worship is not just outward expressions like singing, it must also come from a sincere

and proper heartfelt response to God. Point out that sometimes a Christian must ask the Holy Spirit for help with this. You might recognize true things about God but have a hard time being thankful or having an attitude of praise.

- Give your child some concrete examples of worshipping God in the ordinary experiences of life. Then ask them the following types of questions: **How could you worship God while playing with your dog? Who created your dog? What amazing things can your dog do? What does this tell you about what God is like? Is there a right kind of heartfelt response that would worship God? How could you worship God while eating pizza, doing your school work, going on vacation, while sick?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, study a worship song together with your parents. If possible, print out the words from the song and underline the truths about God with one color and then, using another color, underline right, heartfelt expressions of response.

Use the lines below to write out the memory verse from Hebrews 12:28b and then fill in the definitions.

**HEBREWS  
12:28b**

---



---



---



---

**REVERENCE MEANS**

**AWE MEANS**



# Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

## MAIN IDEA

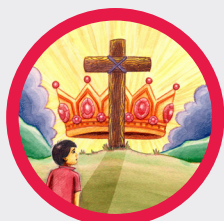
- **Jesus tells His disciples to long for righteousness—always seeking to do what is pleasing to God.**
- **Through the Bible, God guides us in what is righteous to do in every situation.**
- **Doing what is pleasing to God brings about happiness and contentment.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*...Walk as children of light  
<sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),  
<sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.  
 —Ephesians 5:8b-10*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Proverbs 15:1a
- 2) Proverbs 31:9
- 3) Matthew 5:6
- 4) Ephesians 4:25a
- 5) Ephesians 5:8-10
- 6) Ephesians 6:1
- 7) Philippians 2:14
- 8) 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- 9) 2 Timothy 3:16
- 10) 1 Peter 2:2



## LESSON SUMMARY

Jesus often used our most basic physical instincts and desires to teach us about the most profound things. This wasn't by mere accident. God intentionally designed us with these instincts and desires to help us more readily see and understand our vastly more important spiritual needs.

Jesus chooses His words carefully. Hunger and thirst are powerful physical impulses. They drive us to attain that which is necessary for our survival, namely, food and drink. Christ wants us to understand that righteousness is likewise necessary for our ultimate survival. Without the passionate pursuit of righteousness before God, we cannot hope to inherit eternal life. But when we pursue it rightly, Jesus tells us that we will be satisfied.

Hunger and thirst for righteousness result in two things. First, in striving after righteousness, we see how far short of the mark we fall and despair of our ability to be pleasing in God's sight. As the elect, we then rest in Christ's perfect righteousness alone for salvation (Gal. 2:15-16; 2 Cor. 5:21). Yet having been justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, we are also given the desire to follow God's law. With our new love for Jesus, we begin to follow His commandments and seek to put our sin to death (John 14:15; Rom. 8:13).<sup>1</sup>

In this lesson, we not only pointed to the need for Christ's righteousness in our lives, but also the necessity to grow in our discernment of what is right to do in every situation, thereby providing students with practical application in what it means to walk in righteousness.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would be at work in your child's heart, stirring a desire for righteousness that can only be satisfied through Christ and His ways.*
- *that your child would grow and mature in spiritual discernment through the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit.*



1. Ligonier Ministries. "A Hunger for Righteousness," <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/a-hunger-for-righteousness/> (accessed 7.5.17).

### AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review Matthew 5:6, Ephesians 5:8b-10, and 2 Timothy 3:16. Is there any situation in which God's Word wouldn't be enough to guide you in doing what is right? Why might it sometimes seem that way though? What might you need to do? Do you desire to search for what is right and pleasing to God in every kind of situation? Why do we need help in "longing" to respond this way? What is our natural tendency? How does God help His children grow in the desire to be righteous?
- Review Matthew 5:6 and Ephesians 5:8-10. If you're really hungry are you more likely to seek food or seek a book to read? Can a person grow to become more desiring of something? How? What kind of spiritual diet would help us to grow in our desire for righteousness? Are there any steps you could take this week to

do this? Is there any "junk" you are feeding on that hinders you from this? How has God promised to help His children?

- Describe the difference a person notices when he or she gets eyeglasses for the first time. Everything looks clearer. Do you think that the person would say, "I wish I could go back and have bad eyesight again. I loved it when everything was fuzzy"? Why not? Explain that as Christians grow to hunger for more righteousness in their lives, they also will have an increasing dislike and hatred of sin. After you have "tasted" righteousness and have experienced the happiness and contentment of walking in a way that pleases God, you will increasingly see sin as ugly, shameful, and harmful.

### ACTION STEPS

Think through your week. Was there a difficult situation in which you needed to decide what was right to do. What verses guided you in deciding what would be pleasing to Jesus in this situation? Record what happened below. Why do you need to depend on Jesus in order to please Him? (Hint: Read Hebrews 11:6a.)



Difficult  
Situation

Verses that  
Helped Me





# Trust God in All Circumstances

## MAIN IDEA

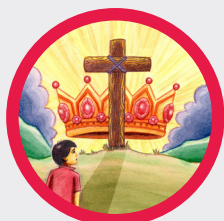
- **God has provided His children with their greatest need by sending Jesus to die.**
- **God is a sovereign heavenly Father who continually watches over His children and provides for their every need.**
- **Jesus commands His disciples to trust God daily for every need and in every situation.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*The Lord is at hand,<sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.—Philippians 4:5b-6*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 46:1
- 2) Psalm 56:3-4
- 3) Psalm 139:2-3, 5
- 4) Isaiah 12:2
- 5) Isaiah 46:9, 11
- 6) Jeremiah 32:17
- 7) Daniel 4:35
- 8) Matthew 6:25-26
- 9) Matthew 10:28-31
- 10) Luke 12:32
- 11) John 10:27-28
- 12) John 14:1-3
- 13) Romans 8:28, 31b-32
- 14) Philippians 4:5b-6
- 15) 1 Peter 5:7



## LESSON SUMMARY

What would happen in our lives if we grew in our knowledge, conviction, and confidence in the incredible truths found in these two verses:

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?—Romans 8:31-32*

In this lesson we helped the children to see that for every child of God, when we look at every situation in life—whether good, bad, frustrating, confusing, terrifying, or other—it must be seen through the unshakeable reality of God’s absolute sovereign control, and the depth of His love for His people as demonstrated in the sacrifice of His own Son. He is a heavenly Father who is to be trusted in every situation—always working for our good, and never faltering or failing.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will better grasp the meaning and significance of God’s sovereign control over all things and His amazing love for His people.*
- *that in the coming week God would bring to mind, in very tangible ways, the truths taught.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Encourage your child to share some things that they worry about. Now read the following together: Isaiah 46:9, 11; Jeremiah 32:17; Daniel 4:35. **What do these verses tell us about God?** Read Psalm 139:2-3, 5; Luke 12:32; John 10:28. **What do these verses tell us about the kind of care God has for His children?** Finally, read Romans 8:32. **What does this show us about the extent of God’s love for His children? Because of these truths, what should God’s children do when tempted to worry? Are you a child of God? Are you trusting in Jesus as your one and only Savior?**
- Talk about Philippians 4:5b-6 and 1 Peter 5:7. **Why does God want His children to go to Him in prayer with their worries? How is this honoring to God? How does this show love toward God?**

- Point out that memorizing God’s Word is a powerful way for God’s children to fight against worrying. **Do you have any favorite verses that have helped you not to worry? Why do they help you? What important things about God do they bring to mind?**
- Relate a personal experience in which something bad and/or seemingly unfair happened. Discuss some of the worries you felt during this situation. Next, read Romans 8:28 and share how God brought about something good in the situation, and how you grew to trust Him through it. Point out that the “good” is sometimes hard to see at first.
- Point out that most people have a common fear: death. **Why shouldn’t God’s people fear death?** Read and talk about Jesus’ promise in John 14:1-3. Ask: **But is there anything that would be right to fear?** Read and talk about Matthew 10:28-31. Emphasize that there is something people should fear: God’s rightful wrath and judgment for sin. But for everyone who is trusting in Jesus, God’s wrath has been satisfied in the death of Jesus. **Have you ever considered this? Have you considered whether or not you are truly a child of God?** If you are, “fear not” is for you. If you are not trusting in Jesus for your salvation, you still have something to fear. **What would be the solution to having that fear removed?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week fill in the box with some things you tend to be anxious about. Then complete the memory verse. Each night before you go to bed, look at the worries written below, and with a sincere and trusting heart give them to Jesus.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about \_\_\_\_\_, but in everything by \_\_\_\_\_ and supplication with thanksgiving let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known to God.—*Philippians 4:5b-6*





# Be Content

## MAIN IDEA

- **God generously provides His children with everything they need for their good.**
- **God's children are to be content with what they have and not be envious of others.**

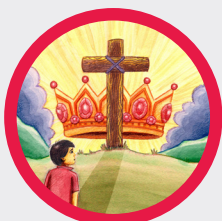
## MEMORY VERSE

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

—Hebrews 13:5

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 24:1
- 2) Psalm 84:11b
- 3) Psalm 103:5a, 13
- 4) Psalm 116:7
- 5) Matthew 6:8
- 6) Matthew 20:15
- 7) Philippians 3:8
- 8) Philippians 4:11-13, 19
- 9) 1 Timothy 6:6-8
- 10) Hebrews 13:5



## LESSON SUMMARY

Discontentment is an equal opportunity affliction. It strikes young and old, rich and poor, strong and weak. Unfortunately, God's children are not immune either. The temptation to compare what we have with others is almost constant—even comparisons with friends and family members. Envy is a real and present danger. Then, we are bombarded with media and advertisements that tell us we need something more or better. Furthermore, our culture often fixates on fairness, equality, equal outcomes, etc.—fostering even more discontentment with the way things are. This is not just a contemporary problem. Discontentment was alive and well in Jesus' day, too.

In this lesson, we looked at some specific truths regarding who God is, what He is like, and how He acts toward His children in order to give the students a context for why God's children should be the most content people on earth. Additionally, we demonstrated that contentment is not contingent on our circumstances, but on the sure promise of Jesus' continued presence and blessing in our lives.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will be freed from the snare of envy and comparisons.*
- *that God would cause your child to see the immeasurable treasure of Christ, finding true contentment in His love and care.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read through the verses listed in the Scripture section. **Do you really believe these things are true about God? If you do, how should that change the way you view the things you have and your circumstances? How should it change the way in which you respond to what others have? Think about this past week. Have you ever caught yourself grumbling and complaining? Why? Have you caught yourself being envious? Why?**
- Review Hebrews 13:5 and point out that the promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" is only for people who are trusting in Jesus for their salvation. **Suppose a person is not trusting in Jesus; will he or she be able to find contentment apart from God? What**

if she is super rich? What if he is a famous sports star? Emphasize that apart from Christ, you can never be truly content. But for every Christian, we can always be content even in hard circumstances.

- Have your child talk about some possession that brings a measure of contentment. Can it bring you contentment in any and every situation? If the power goes out, will it still work? If you're worried because your dad lost his job, will it bring you contentment? Read and talk about 1 Timothy 6:6-8. What does verse 8 say we should be content with? Why such simple things? Why is this hard for us? What things try to tell us that we need more and better "stuff"? Do you pay attention to those things or to what the Bible tells you?

- Do you sometimes compare what you have with others? Why? Is there something you don't have that you think that you need? Why do you think you need or want this? Is this something that God would say you need in order to be happy? Is God your heavenly Father? If so, do you trust Him to not withhold any good thing from your life? Do you believe that He is generous and bountiful?
- Based on how God provides for our needs, and how generous and good He is, what would be a right, heartfelt response to Him? Do you express thanksgiving to God for all He has given you? Do you see everything you have as an undeserved gift from God? Or, do you think you deserve a new bike, or bigger bedroom, or better computer? What would help you to grow in thankfulness to God this week?

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, fill in the missing words to the verses. Then, each day, make a list of ten ways in which God has been generous to you and your family. Share the list with your family at dinnertime and give thanksgiving and praise to God.

The earth is the LORD's and the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof...—*Psalm 24:1a*

...your Father knows what you \_\_\_\_\_ before you ask him.—*Matthew 6:8b*

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows \_\_\_\_\_ to those who fear him.—*Psalm 103:13*

...my God will \_\_\_\_\_ every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.—*Philippians 4:19*



No \_\_\_\_\_ thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.—*Psalm 84:11b*

Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt \_\_\_\_\_ with you.—*Psalm 116:7*

[God]...satisfies you with \_\_\_\_\_...—*Psalm 103:5a*

Keep your life free from love of money, and be \_\_\_\_\_ with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."—*Hebrews 13:5*



# Serve God with Your Abilities

## MAIN IDEA

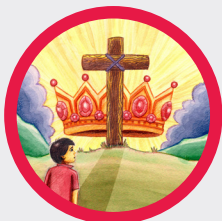
- **God has given His children a variety of abilities to be used in service to Him.**
- **Whatever work we do, it should be done with the mindset of serving Jesus.**
- **Service to God blesses us and is used by God to help others and further His kingdom.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*  
—Colossians 3:23-24

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 6:24
- 2) Matthew 25:15-26a
- 3) Acts 6:1-3
- 4) Acts 9:36-39
- 5) 1 Corinthians 4:7b
- 6) 1 Corinthians 10:31
- 7) 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
- 8) Colossians 3:23-24
- 9) 1 Peter 4:10-11



## LESSON SUMMARY

People often have a very narrow view of what it means to serve God. Life is mistakenly separated into two main spheres—the spiritual and the secular. Service to God is therefore limited to using one's gifts and abilities within the church or a specific type of Christian ministry—the “spiritual realm.”

The biblical view of service to God is much more expansive and encompassing. For Christians, God calls us to put to use all the many diverse gifts and abilities He has given us in a variety of activities in service to Him. In this lesson, we studied Jesus' parable of the master who went away on a long journey, giving his three servants a certain amount of money to use in his service while he was gone. We used this story and other biblical texts to see the importance of using our abilities in service to God, as well as encourage practical ways of doing this, knowing that our children are still in the process of learning and acquiring many diverse skills and abilities.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would see the goodness and wisdom of God in equipping him or her with various interests and abilities.*
- *that your child would be eager to use the gifts God has given in a variety of types of service to God.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about 1 Corinthians 4:7b. **Does anyone have a right to boast about an ability he or she has? Why not? Because Jesus is Lord and Master, who deserves our service? Can you think of a way you could serve God this week with an ability you have? Even a seemingly small or ordinary ability?**
- In the parable Jesus told, did the three servants receive the same amount of money from their master? Why did he give them different amounts? Recall that even though the first two servants were given different amounts, they both entered into the joy of their master. We should use even the smallest abilities in service to God. And, as we grow and mature, God often gives His children more responsibilities.

- Review Colossians 3:23-24. Emphasize that, especially when you are young, you should do a variety of different things and work hard at them...“as unto the Lord.” This includes doing schoolwork, chores, music or sports practice, etc. It could be that over time, and with prayer, guidance from the Holy Spirit, and the encouragement of others, God gives you a love and proficiency in doing

something—making clear how you can use these abilities in service to Him by helping others and helping to further His kingdom.

- Talk about 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 and then 1 Peter 4:10-11. **According to these verses, can we serve God just by our own efforts and strength? Why is it important to recognize our need and who supplies it? Do you ask God for the desire and strength needed to serve Him?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, write some of your gifts and abilities in the box on the left. Then use the other box to write about some ways you could use these in service to God. Remember: True service to God can only be done through trusting in Jesus.

MY GIFTS AND ABILITIES

SERVICE TO GOD

Whatever you do, work \_\_\_\_\_, as for the \_\_\_\_\_  
 and not for men, <sup>24</sup>knowing that from the Lord you will receive the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ as your reward. You are \_\_\_\_\_  
 the Lord Christ.—*Colossians 3:23-24*



# Store Up Treasures in Heaven

## MAIN IDEA

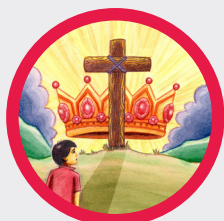
- **Jesus' disciples are not to put their hope in earthly treasures; they are to store up heavenly treasures instead.**
- **Everything done in loving obedience to Jesus will reap a heavenly reward.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*  
—Matthew 6:20-21

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 6:19-21
- 2) Luke 12:15-21
- 3) Ephesians 2:8-9
- 4) Colossians 3:23-24a
- 5) 1 Timothy 6:7, 18
- 6) 1 Peter 1:4



## LESSON SUMMARY

The parable of the rich man and his barns from Luke 12 is a sobering reminder about the riches of this world—in the end, they do not provide comfort, security, or true happiness. One way or another, we will be separated from every worldly possession. Tragically, the rich man learned this truth too late.

In this lesson, we used this parable to encourage our students to pursue treasures that do provide lasting comfort, security, and happiness. Jesus commands us to strive to lay up heavenly, imperishable treasures that come through loving, trusting, and obeying Christ. Just like us, our children have a harder time recognizing and appreciating these treasures, as they are often unseen and cannot be fully experienced until heaven. But they are more real and immeasurably more satisfying than any earthly treasure.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work, drawing your child's heart away from the temporary treasures of this world.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would draw your child's heart to treasure the things of God more and more.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to identify a favorite earthly possession. **How would you feel if it broke tomorrow and you couldn't replace it? What if it were stolen? Do you think you will still like it when you are 20 years old?** Point out that earthly treasures offer only a temporary amount of enjoyment. Read and talk about 1 Peter 1:4.
- **Ultimately, who is the One who provides us with everything we need? Has God provided you with "just enough," or more than enough? Are you thankful to God for providing you with abundance? Would it be right or wrong to love the things God gives you more than you love God Himself? Why would it be wrong? If someone were to watch your life for the next week, would they see a love for God, or a love for things? If you love God more than things, what kinds of treasures will you be more concerned about?** [walking in obedience to Jesus' commands, wanting to grow in your knowledge of Him and His ways, etc.]

- Point out that many people strive to do good works in order to receive a heavenly reward. They think something like, “If I do good things, help people, and don’t store up a lot of possessions, I will be rewarded in heaven.”

**Is this true?** Review Ephesians 2:8-9. Emphasize that only people who are trusting in Jesus for their salvation can store up treasures in heaven.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, think carefully and create a list of the kinds of things you treasure. Will these things last? Can they bring you salvation? Next, use the code to fill in the missing letters that describe things that store up heavenly treasures for everyone trusting in Jesus.

# HEAVENLY TREASURES

LOVING GOD MO  

WO   HIPPIING GOD

     ING GOD

B  ING CON   N 

   VING GOD




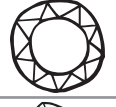
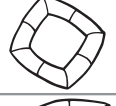

LOVING YO   N  IGHBO 

HONO  ING YO   P    N  

FO  GIVING O  H   

 HOWING M   CY

 H   ING  H  GO  P  L

T	
R	
E	
A	
S	
U	





# Guard Your Heart

## MAIN IDEA

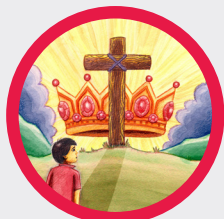
- **Jesus' disciples are to be vigilant in guarding against the indwelling influence of sin and Satan's temptations.**
- **God has given His children everything they need to guard their hearts against sin and Satan.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*  
—Proverbs 4:23

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Proverbs 4:23
- 2) Luke 12:15a
- 3) Romans 6:6-7, 11-12
- 4) 1 Corinthians 5:6
- 5) Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18a
- 6) 1 Timothy 4:7b-8
- 7) Titus 2:11-12
- 8) 1 Peter 5:8



## LESSON SUMMARY

We live in a world that is increasingly hostile to people of faith. As parents and teachers, we have the responsibility to help our children and students be on guard against the power of this age. We need to provide them with serious answers to serious questions, giving them a strong defense of the Christian faith. Additionally, we want them to recognize and guard against the very real “fiery darts” of the enemy, who is Satan himself. But there is a danger much closer to home—a danger coming from within, not just from without. It is so dangerous that Paul refers to it in warlike terms (Romans 7:21-23). What is the danger? It is the power of indwelling sin in our lives. Every believer must diligently guard against even a “little” sin gaining a foothold in our lives.

In this lesson, we shared a very clever story told in Africa that points to the necessity of guarding our hearts from the influence and power of sin.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will take seriously the truths learned, and consider what influence and power sin is exerting on his or her own life.*
- *that your child will run to Jesus, trusting Him as the one and only hope to forgive sin and help them daily fight against sin.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Emphasize that when a person repents of his sin and turns and trusts in Jesus for forgiveness, that person is truly saved, completely forgiven, and counted as righteous in God's sight. However, our sinful nature remains—there is still sin dwelling in us. It is important to recognize this so we can be on guard. Talk about Romans 6:6-7, 11-12. **How can a child of God grow in recognizing and guarding against our sin nature and its influence?**
- **Do you simply give in when sinful desires, feelings, and thoughts tug at your heart? What does God call His children to do? Do you believe that you can grow in being more vigilant in guarding your heart against sin? Can this simply be done through your own efforts? Why not? Review Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18. Is there a particular piece of God's armor that has helped you this week? How? If you never act to guard your heart, what might this**

**demonstrate?** Remind your child that guarding our hearts from the influence and power of sin is only possible through Christ. The armor of God is given to His children—to all who are trusting in Christ alone for salvation.

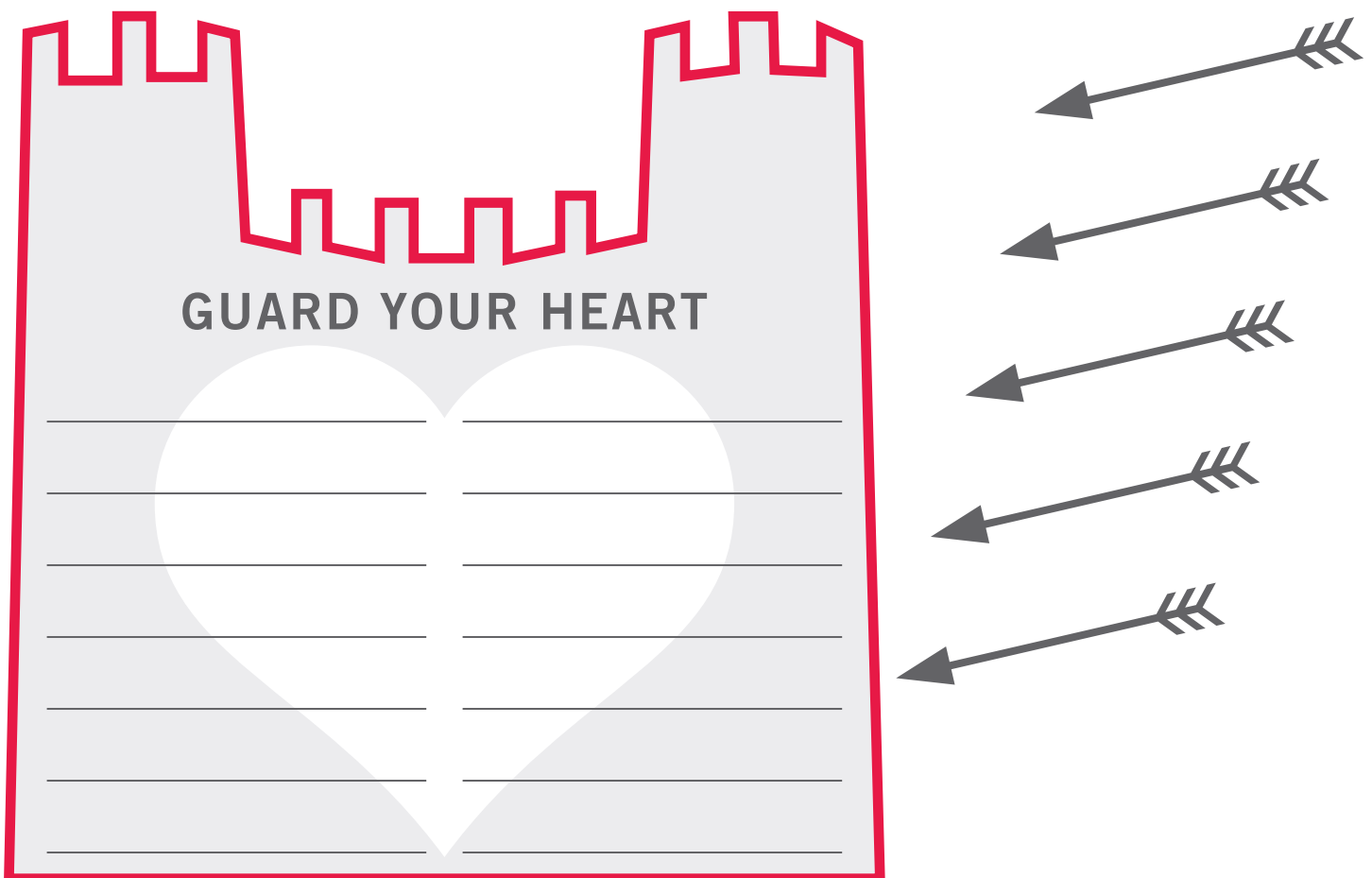
- Talk about a skill your child is currently learning. **Do you think that you will stay the same, or do you expect to get better at it over time? Will getting better at the skill require you to do certain things? What are these? What motivates you to make this kind of effort?** Read and talk about 1 Timothy 4:7b-8 and Titus 2:11-12. **What would you need to do to grow in guarding your heart with vigilance? Why should this be more important to you than**

**any other kind of training you are doing?**

- Suppose that you know you are allergic to peanuts. Even one little peanut can cause a very dangerous reaction. **Would you choose to go on a tour of a peanut butter factory? Why not?** Point out that it is very wise and even necessary to avoid putting ourselves in dangerous situations. This is true, especially when it comes to sin. For example, suppose you have some friends who like to badmouth their parents when you are with them. **Will spending time with these friends help or hinder you in guarding your heart against sin? What might you need to do? Might this be difficult? But why might it be necessary—at least for a time?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, talk with your parents about a struggle you are having with a particular temptation or sinful habit. Write this along one of the arrows in the picture. Look for some verses that might serve to help you guard your heart. Write these verses within the tower. Turn each verse into a prayer throughout the week.





# Obey and Honor Your Parents

## MAIN IDEA

- **God is a perfect heavenly Father.**
- **Parents are to reflect God's good and loving character to their children.**
- **Children are commanded by God to honor and obey their parents.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*<sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother" (This is the first commandment with a promise),<sup>3</sup> "that it may go well with you..."  
—Ephesians 6:1-3a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 20:12
- 2) Psalm 25:5a
- 3) Psalm 103:13
- 4) Isaiah 62:5b
- 5) Matthew 7:11b
- 6) John 10:29
- 7) Ephesians 6:1-3
- 8) 2 Thessalonians 2:16
- 9) Hebrews 12:6
- 10) 1 John 2:12



## LESSON SUMMARY

The parent-child relationship is vitally important, especially when seen in light of God's good design and primary purpose. Consider these thoughtful reflections from Pastor Andrew Murray regarding the importance of the fifth commandment:

*The young child is guided, not by reflection or argument, but by feeling and affection. He cannot yet realize and honor the unseen God...The child can only honor what he sees to be worthy of honor. And this is the parent's high calling—always so to speak and act, so to live in the child's presence, that honor may be spontaneously and unconsciously rendered...*

*Above all, let parents remember that honor really comes from God. Let them honor Him in the eyes of their children, and He will honor them there, too. Let them beware of this sin, honoring their child more than God; it is the sure way to grief for parents and children together. But from parents, who in everything seek to honor God, children will learn to honor God and them together; the parent who teaches his child to obey the fifth commandment has guided his feet into the way of all God's commandments. A child's first virtue is the honoring and obeying of his parents.*<sup>1</sup>

In this lesson, the students learned that God is a perfect heavenly Father, and parents are to reflect God's good and loving character to their children. God says that one of the important ways we learn what it means to love Him most of all is by honoring our parents, and for children to also obey their parents.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child will grow in understanding of how honoring and obeying you is a means to learn to honor and obey God.*
- *that you might increasingly live out God's intention for parenting and be a blessing to your children.*



1. Murray, Andrew. "The Children's Commandment," from the book, *Your Child's Profession of Faith*, by Dennis Gundersen. (Sand Springs, Okla.: Grace and Truth Books, 2010), 118.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**







- From the Scripture section, read passages 2-6 and 8-10. Emphasize that God is the only perfect Father, and the only way to become His child is through trusting in Jesus for salvation. **How does God act toward His children? In what ways—even small ways—do we as your parents show these same kinds of qualities toward you? Do you see this as gift from God? Do you thank Him for this kindness? What is one thing you could do this week to show that you are thankful for dad and mom?**
- Review Ephesians 6:1-3. **What do you think is meant by the phrase, “that it may go well with you”?** Give the your child some concrete examples. **But does this command say to only**

**obey when you see how something will benefit you?** No. You need to obey your parents even when something doesn’t make sense to you, or when it may seem unfair.

- Point out that even the best parents fall short in representing God to their children. They are sinners in need of a Savior, just like their children. Parents can lose their temper. Their decisions are not always wise or fair. **Why is this important to know and understand? Does God also know this? Does He still command you to honor and obey us? What could you do this week to encourage us as we try to be good parents?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, think of ways in which you can honor and obey your parents. Use the chart below to record examples of what you did.

SYMBOL	DEFINITION	WHAT I DID
	Recognize your parents’ authority.	
	Love them for what they do and who they are.	
	Trust their decisions.	
	Obey without delay or excuse.	
	Obey without grumbling or complaining—be joyful.	
	Obey with excellence—trying your best at whatever they give you to do.	



# Love Your Neighbor

## MAIN IDEA

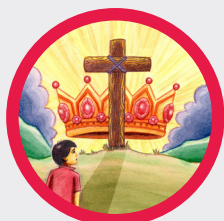
- **Next to loving God most of all, the second most important command is to love your neighbor.**
- **Loving your neighbor involves treating him as you yourself would want to be treated.**
- **Your neighbor includes all kinds of people.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*  
—Matthew 22:39b

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Jeremiah 31:33b
- 2) Matthew 22:36-39
- 3) Luke 10:30-37
- 4) 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 5) 1 John 4:7-11



## LESSON SUMMARY

The parable of the good Samaritan is, for most students, a very familiar story. They are likely to know the key characters, events, and main point of the story. However, what may be less familiar to them is how it so readily parallels our own real-life experiences. Too often, we simply identify and berate the “bad guys,” wondering how they could have just walked by a wounded man on the side of the road. But, upon serious reflection, we see that God’s truth is “...living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

In this lesson, we studied this common parable to draw out Jesus’ main point, and then challenged the students to see how Jesus’ command to “love your neighbor” is binding and relevant for all our day-to-day interactions with others.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that the Holy Spirit would give your child a heart that truly loves others.*
- *that God would present your child with specific opportunities to love his or her neighbors in the coming week.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Think of a person your child knows who has a particular need. **How would you want to be treated in this situation? Why? Have you acted in a way that shows love toward him or her? How? What might hinder you? What is the first step we could take this week in loving this person?**
- Point out that many times we treat people in a certain way because we expect or hope that they will, in turn, treat us in a special way. **In the story Jesus told, did the Samaritan have any expectation that he would be paid back? Did he have any expectation that the man would later find him and thank him? Is there anything that Jesus wants us to understand by this? Can you give an example of a situation in which you or our family loved a stranger without expecting anything in return?**

- Read and talk about 1 John 4:7-11. Point out that the kind of love for our neighbor that is pleasing to God is love that comes from a heart that loves God—from those who are trusting in Jesus for salvation. **If our neighbors are not yet trusting in Jesus, what is their greatest need? How could you show love toward them? How would you want to be treated?**
- Review 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Have your child notice that these verses state what love is and what love is not. **Why do you think that “what love is not” is also included? How can these verses serve as a “love my neighbor guide”? What is one step you could take this week to put this guide into action?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, think of a person who needs to experience the love of Jesus as shown through His people. Pray for this person, and then take some practical steps to show love toward them. Write about what you did and what happened below.

**How I Shared God’s Love  
with My Neighbor**

---



---

---



---

---



---

**What Happened**

---



---

---



---

---



---





# Love Your Enemies

## MAIN IDEA

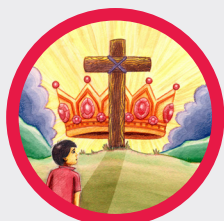
- **God commands His children to love their enemies.**
- **Loving your enemies includes praying for them, blessing them, and doing good to them.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*“...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”*  
—Luke 6:27b-28

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 22:39b
- 2) Luke 6:27-28, 32-33
- 3) Romans 5:10-11
- 4) Romans 12:17-21
- 5) Ephesians 2:1-5
- 6) 1 Timothy 1:13-15



## LESSON SUMMARY

It is striking how so few words can carry such a weight of meaning, convict us to the depth of our hearts, and admonish us to think, feel, and act in ways that often contradict our most basic instincts.

*“...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”*  
—Luke 6:27b-28

Jesus did not give His disciples an “opt out” check box for this command. But it is important for us to see what loving our enemies actually looks like, especially for children who are particularly weak, vulnerable, and naïve.

In this lesson, we explored the meaning of Jesus’ command, and we used the story of Corrie Ten Boom to highlight what love for her enemy looked like in the context of her situation.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that God would use His Word and the story of Corrie Ten Boom to grip your child’s heart and mind in such a way that he or she would long to become more loving toward “enemies.”*
- *that your child will understand that, apart from trusting in the saving work of Jesus, we are all enemies of God. Yet, Jesus died to make God’s enemies His children.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about Romans 5:10-11. **How do these verses help us understand our own natural condition? Apart from trusting in Jesus, what is true of every person? If you are a Christian, how should these verses challenge you in how you see and treat your “enemies”? If you are not trusting in Jesus, what is true of you? What is the only way to become a friend of God?**
- Emphasize that, especially for children, loving your enemies does not mean putting yourself in harm’s way or allowing certain kinds of abuse. Children need their parents’ guidance regarding how to interact with others who are mean and abusive. **What kinds of things could you do that would serve to love your enemies—even without necessarily talking to them or personally interacting with them? Why might these be hard for us to do? What should we be reminded of when it’s hard to love someone?**

- Recall that the apostle Paul was once a man who persecuted Christians, even approving of killing them. Read 1 Timothy 1:13-15. Think of the meanest person you know. **Have you ever prayed that God would show him mercy and save him? Is there anything that hinders you from praying this for him? Have you asked Jesus to give you a more loving heart?**
- Review Luke 6:27-28. **Does this mean that God doesn't care about bullies and mean people? Does it mean that God turns a blind eye to evil?** Read and talk about Romans 12:17-21. Relate it to a particular situation in your child's life and talk and pray about how he or she could live out these verses. Help your child complete the Action Steps below.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, put Jesus' command to love your enemies into action. Use the guide below to help you make a plan of action. Ask for your parents' help and guidance in doing this.

# Jesus Says...

**“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies.”**

I could love: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**“Do good to those who hate you.”**

I could do: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**“Bless those who curse you.”**

I could say: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**“Pray for those who abuse you.”**

I could pray: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Forgive Others

## MAIN IDEA

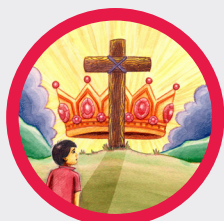
- **We have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin.**
- **God forgives all who repent and trust in Jesus alone for salvation.**
- **We are to forgive others and not keep account of wrongs done against us.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*  
—Ephesians 4:32

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 5:23-24
- 2) Matthew 18:21-35
- 3) Luke 6:28
- 4) Romans 12:17-19
- 5) 1 Corinthians 13:5
- 6) Ephesians 4:32
- 7) 1 John 1:9



## LESSON SUMMARY

Many parents have their children memorize Ephesians 4:32. It is especially applicable to sibling relationships and family dynamics. It's one of those "go to" verses to help direct a child's heart when engaged in conflict with another. However, sometimes we give greater weight and emphasis to the first part of the verse, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another...", and lose sight of the second part, "...as God in Christ forgave you."

In this lesson, we first emphasized this second truth in order to give the students a better context, appreciation, and understanding of the necessity of Jesus commanding His disciples to forgive others. The parable of the unforgiving servant from Matthew 18 provided an excellent example of this logical progression of thought.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would rightly identify and see his or her own desperate need for God's forgiveness.*
- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work in your child, bringing about a kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving disposition toward others.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **How does Ephesians 4:32 help us to have a right mindset and heart attitude when someone has wronged us? If you are trusting in Jesus and have experienced His great mercy and complete forgiveness for your sin, is forgiving others an option? Recall Matthew 18:35, too. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there anything hindering you from extending forgiveness? Who should you confess this to? Who can help you overcome an unforgiving heart attitude?**
- Point out that we like being forgiven for wrongs we have done, but we often don't want to extend forgiveness to others. **Why are we often quick to want to receive forgiveness, but not as quick to want to extend forgiveness to others? What should you do when this attitude creeps into your mind and heart? Does Jesus care whether or not you forgive someone? What happened to the unforgiving servant at the end of the parable? How should that serve as a warning in guarding your heart?**
- **Are you holding any little grudges toward anyone? Is this okay? What**

can happen to little grudges in your heart? What do you need to do with these little grudges? Read and talk about 1 John 1:9. Have a time



of prayer together. Think of practical steps that might be necessary in demonstrating genuine forgiveness toward a particular person.

### ACTION STEPS



This week, learn more of what the Bible says about forgiveness. Look up and read each verse. Then, use the decoder to complete the summary statements.






### MATTHEW 5:23-24

Y  u w  ll       st       t   th  s   y  u ha        
  
 w      n      d and ask       n  ss.  


### 1 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Y  u w  ll n  t k      p t  ack       , b      n  t  
  
 m  nd, and       call th  w      n  d n  t   y  u.  




### ROMANS 12:18

As much as p  ss  bl  , y  u w  ll s      k  
  
 t  b   at p  ac   w  th s  m      n   wh    
  
 has w      n      d y  u.  


### ROMANS 12:17-19

Y  u w  ll n  t tak      n      .  


### LUKE 6:28

Y  u w  ll c  mm  t t  l      , bl  ss, p  ay  
  
      , and d      d t   that p      s  n.  




# Be a Humble Servant

## MAIN IDEA

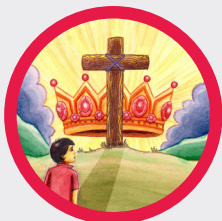
- **Jesus commands His disciples to follow His example of true humility.**
- **Being a humble servant to others is great in God's eyes.**
- **We are to consider the needs of others and seek to serve them.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*  
—Philippians 2:3

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 23:11-12
- 2) Mark 9:33-35
- 3) John 13:4-5, 15
- 4) 1 Corinthians 1:26-28a, 30a
- 5) Philippians 2:3-8
- 6) 1 Peter 5:5b-9a



## LESSON SUMMARY

Almost everywhere you look, in every sphere of society and culture, and even in our own homes, true humility is hard to find. We are born with a “me first” mentality. One of the first words a young child often uses when playing with toys in a group of other children is “Mine!” The students in our classes also display this attitude. They want to be first at the Sword Drill and first to get the treat or prize. They want to be recognized for their Bible memory. We, too, could point to our “me first” mentality—our own selfishness and desire to put our interests above others' at times. Let's face it—it's nice to be first, and it feels good to be made much of. Jesus' first disciples had the same pride bug that we have, and He loved them enough to address the problem head on and turn things completely upside down.

In this lesson, we studied Jesus' command to humble ourselves, looking carefully at His own perfect example, so that we might understand and be encouraged to follow His path of humility.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child would recognize that we all struggle with pride and wanting to be first, and need Jesus' forgiveness and help.*
- *that your child would be encouraged to seek out practical ways he or she can display true humility in the coming week.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Philippians 2:3-8. **Why is it a common feeling to think of our own desires first? Think back over the past week. Did you have any selfish thoughts? Did you ever act in a selfish manner? Why do we all struggle with this? How can these verses and Jesus' example serve to help us? What one step could you take this week to be more like Jesus in this way? What help do you need? What help has God provided His children? Are you making use of it? Remind your child that, apart from trusting in Jesus, we cannot live in a manner pleasing to God. The greatest act of humility for us is to first recognize our desperate need for a Savior, and trust in Christ alone for salvation.**
- Point out that the world often pays attention to and praises people who live in a way that exalts themselves. There are people who

want to be the seen as the richest, smartest, strongest, prettiest, most popular, etc. **What does God think of this? Should what God thinks matter more than what people think? Do your thoughts, words, and actions display humility or pride?** Read and talk about Mark 9:35 and Matthew 23:12.

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-28a, 30a. **What hope should this give to Christians? If you live in obedience to Jesus, are you more or less likely to receive the praise and attention of the**

**world? Why shouldn't a true follower of Jesus be concerned with this? What is the heavenly reward of being a humble servant of Jesus?**

- Have your child think of something he or she has done that was selfish, and/or something he or she has done to "show off" to others. Give an example from your own experience, too. **Why is this such a common mindset for all of us? Will you grow in humility by simply giving in to this natural mindset?** Read and talk about 1 Peter 5:5b-9a.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, look up Philippians 2:3-8 in your Bible. Fill in the missing words below. Fold the page above the striped line and display the verse where you and your family can read it every morning. After reading it, pray and ask Jesus to give you a humble heart for the day, and give you opportunities to serve others.



Do nothing from \_\_\_\_\_ ambition or \_\_\_\_\_, but in \_\_\_\_\_ count others \_\_\_\_\_ significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own \_\_\_\_\_, but also to the interests of \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of \_\_\_\_\_, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but \_\_\_\_\_ himself, by taking the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he \_\_\_\_\_ himself by becoming obedient to the point of \_\_\_\_\_, even death on a cross.—*Philippians 2:3-8*







# Be Merciful

## MAIN IDEA

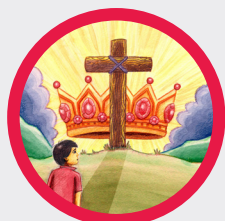
- **God is merciful and wants His children to be merciful, too.**
- **Mercy see people in distress, feels compassion for them, and acts to help them.**
- **Jesus set the example of mercy that His disciples are to follow.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”*  
—Luke 6:36

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 145:9
- 2) Mark 1:40-42
- 3) Mark 8:1-3
- 4) Luke 6:36
- 5) Luke 10:33-34, 36-37
- 6) John 19:25-27
- 7) James 1:27
- 8) James 2:15-17



## LESSON SUMMARY

The story of the good Samaritan is widely known, and even praised in the wider secular culture—the man on the side of the road, in desperate need of help, is passed by others until the Samaritan comes along and goes out of his way to help. But, as wonderful as it is that this story has gained wide acceptance as an example of what mercy is and does, Jesus intended it specifically for His disciples. We have much to learn from it, and it should challenge us to ponder whether or not we are living out this right doctrine in right actions toward others.

In this lesson, we briefly highlighted the story of the Samaritan showing mercy, and then looked at various examples of how Jesus showed mercy to those in distress, giving us an example to follow.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would develop in your child not just right thinking about God, but also right living before Him that extends in mercy toward others.*
- *that your child would be moved to look for opportunities in which to show mercy to others in the coming week.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the story of the good Samaritan. Point out that the men who passed by were “religious” men. **Why do you think Jesus purposely told the story that way—making the religious men the “bad guys”?** What should we learn from this? Is being a true follower of Jesus simply knowing right things? Or is it something more? How does showing mercy demonstrate true love for God? Read and talk about James 1:27 and 2:15-17.
- Have your child recall a time when he or she experienced some kind of distress. **Did someone show mercy? In what way? How did that feel? Have you ever seen someone in distress but were tempted to ignore him? Do you ever feel like the person “deserved what he got”?** Are these thoughts pleasing to Jesus? Are there things that can help us to grow in being merciful? [e.g., reading the Gospels and looking at Jesus’ example, recalling the ways God has been merciful to us, praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help

us, etc.] Is there a step this week that you could take to help you in growing to be more merciful toward others?

- Recall examples from the lesson of Jesus healing a leper and feeding a hungry multitude. Does Jesus expect us to show mercy in exactly the same way He did? Why isn't this possible? But what could you do to show mercy to your brothers or sisters when they are sick? What could you do to show mercy to children in a faraway land who do not have enough food to eat? What could you do this week to seek out an opportunity to show mercy to someone? What might it require you to do?

- What is everyone's most distressing need? [needing to be saved from God's wrath because of our sin] How can that need be met? [by crying out to God for mercy, trusting in Jesus alone to save us] Why is this important to keep in mind when we are helping people in distress? Emphasize that while it is important to care for people's physical needs, Jesus does not want us to neglect their greater spiritual need. How could someone be encouraged to see his greater spiritual need? Depending on the situation, is it always appropriate to speak openly about the person's spiritual need in times of crisis?

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents' help, complete the Mercy Opportunity assignment below.

# MERCY OPPORTUNITY

**"I SAW SOMEONE  
IN DISTRESS"**



Describe who was in distress and what kind of need they were/are experiencing.

**"I FELT COMPASSION  
FOR THEM"**



Describe why you felt compassion for their situation.

**"I ACTED TO HELP THEM"**



Describe what you did to help them.



# Give Cheerfully and Generously

## MAIN IDEA

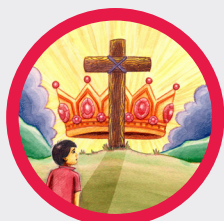
- Jesus has designed that the needs of His church be met through the giving of His people.
- Jesus wants His disciples to give cheerfully and generously.
- God promises spiritual blessing for those who give cheerfully and generously.

## MEMORY VERSES

...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.<sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
—2 Corinthians 9:6-7

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Chronicles 29:14
- 2) Mark 12:41-44
- 3) Luke 12:32-34
- 4) 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 10-12



## LESSON SUMMARY

Jesus had a lot to say about money, and what He said was typically radically at odds with most people's sensibilities of that time—and also our time. And yet, what He said offers marvelous freedom for His people to be cheerful and generous givers for the sake of His kingdom.

*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.—Luke 12:32-33*

In this lesson, we aimed to give the students a fundamental foundation for giving money, and how Jesus has designed giving to the church as a means of blessing His people and furthering His kingdom work. The students were taught the importance of regular, thoughtful giving.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- that God would be at work in your child, bringing forth a lifelong practice of cheerful and generous giving.
- that your child would grow in an understanding and love of the generosity of God in his or her own life, in order to be free to give more joyfully and generously.

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Point out that Jesus came to establish His Church—all the people who come to salvation in Jesus. The Church gathers in many small, local churches all around the world. Meeting together and doing the various ministries of the church requires money for buildings, pastors, missionaries, and helping those in need. **What would happen if God's people decided giving wasn't important or necessary? Would that show a love for God and His church? Would it be loving toward other Christians? How do you personally benefit from the generous giving of God's people? In what way can you help others to benefit? Does God care how much you give? For example, do you feel like your little bit can't do much? What did Jesus say about the widow who gave just a little amount?**

- Read Luke 12:33-34 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Do you take these words seriously? When you get an allowance, earnings from doing a special chore, or a gift of money, do you stop and think of verses like these before you do something with the money? Why or why not? Is anything hindering you from becoming a generous and cheerful giver? If you are already in the habit of giving, do you simply do it without thinking about it, or do you also examine your heart?
- Read and talk about 2 Corinthians 9:10-12. How does this serve to encourage and build up other Christians and the church as a whole? How does it show that God is good and generous? What do you think Paul meant when he said, “increase the harvest of your righteousness”? Does he mean that if you give generously, God will increase your wealth and riches? [No.] Why is righteousness more rewarding than getting more money?

### ACTION STEPS

This week, read the following verses in your Bible. Then, before you go to church next Sunday, examine your heart and pray about how much money to give. Ask Jesus to give you a generous and cheerful heart as you give. Finally, practice the memory verse for this week and then try to fill in the blanks from memory.

- Monday: **1 Chronicles 29:12-14**
- Tuesday: **Malachi 3:10**
- Wednesday: **Matthew 6:1-4**
- Thursday: **Luke 12:32-33**
- Friday: **1 Corinthians 16:2**
- Saturday: **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

...whoever \_\_\_\_\_ sparingly will also \_\_\_\_\_ sparingly,  
and whoever sows \_\_\_\_\_  
will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must \_\_\_\_\_ as he has  
decided in his \_\_\_\_\_, not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God \_\_\_\_\_ a cheerful \_\_\_\_\_.

—2 Corinthians 9:6-7



# Care for One Another

## MAIN IDEA

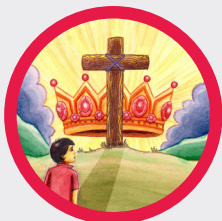
- **The church is the community of God’s people—all those trusting in Jesus.**
- **Jesus commands that His church love one another in a special way.**
- **Jesus has given the church specific “one another” commands.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”—John 13:34-35*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 13:34-35
- 2) Romans 12:10, 16a
- 3) Romans 15:7a, 14b
- 4) 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-27
- 5) 2 Corinthians 13:11b
- 6) Galatians 5:13b
- 7) Galatians 6:2a
- 8) Ephesians 4:32a
- 9) 1 Thessalonians 5:11a
- 10) James 5:16a
- 11) 1 Peter 4:9a



## LESSON SUMMARY

Jesus never intended His disciples to live as lone, isolated believers. Every child of God belongs to the family of God, and family life is to be experienced through our loving interactions with other Christians. The place where this is to happen with great intentionality is within the local church. Even if your children are not yet believers, it is important to give them a picture of family life among Christians. The more we, as believers, faithfully live out the many “one another” commands of Scripture, the more attractive and appealing the family of God will be to our children. And, for children who are already numbered among the family of God, the “one another” commands can serve as an important reminder that, even as children, they are important to the body of Christ, enjoy special privileges, and have certain responsibilities.

In this lesson, we used Paul’s illustration of the human body as a picture of the church to set a context for the students to better understand the importance of the Bible’s “one another” commands.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child would grow in love and thankfulness for Jesus’ church—learning more and more of Jesus’ love as His people care for one another.*
- *that God would stir in your child a longing to live out, with true sincerity, the “one another” commands.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read together the verses listed in the Scripture section. Talk about ways these commands are lived out in the life of your own church. Emphasize that each command carries a responsibility and a benefit. **As a child, would you say you have received any benefits when Christians in the church live out these commands? Do you think that even if a child is not yet a Christian and hasn’t trusted in Jesus for salvation that he or she is still able to enjoy some of the many benefits of how Christians care for one another? Point out that many children enjoy the privileges of “family life” before they come to faith. This is one of the ways Jesus often brings them to faith. And developing godly habits even before you’re saved can better prepare you for family life within the church.**

- Read John 13:34-35. According to Jesus, what is one reason it is so important for His disciples to love one another? How should the love Christians have for one another be different from the ordinary kind of love that even unbelievers have for others? If someone came to visit our church a few times, do you think he would see people who love one another with the love Jesus has? What about if this person visited our family?
- What are some of the different roles we see in the members of our church? [pastors, elders, teachers, worship leaders, musicians, office workers, greeters, nursery workers, custodians, etc.] Even though they each have a different role, how are all important to the church? Can even a child have an important role? What might that look like? Have you ever considered using your abilities to care for others in the church? What is one thing you could consider doing this week?

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, fill in the missing word in each verse. Then consider ways you could live out these commands. Write at least two examples inside the church illustration.

\_\_\_\_\_ one another with brotherly affection.—*Romans 12:10a*

\_\_\_\_\_ one another's burdens, —*Galatians 6:2a*

Outdo one another in showing

\_\_\_\_\_.—*Romans 12:10b*

...\_\_\_\_\_ one another. —*Galatians 5:13b*

\_\_\_\_\_ in harmony with one another. —*Romans 12:16a*

...confess your sins to one another and \_\_\_\_\_ for one another, —*James 5:16a*

Be \_\_\_\_\_ to one another, —*Ephesians 4:32a*

...encourage one another and

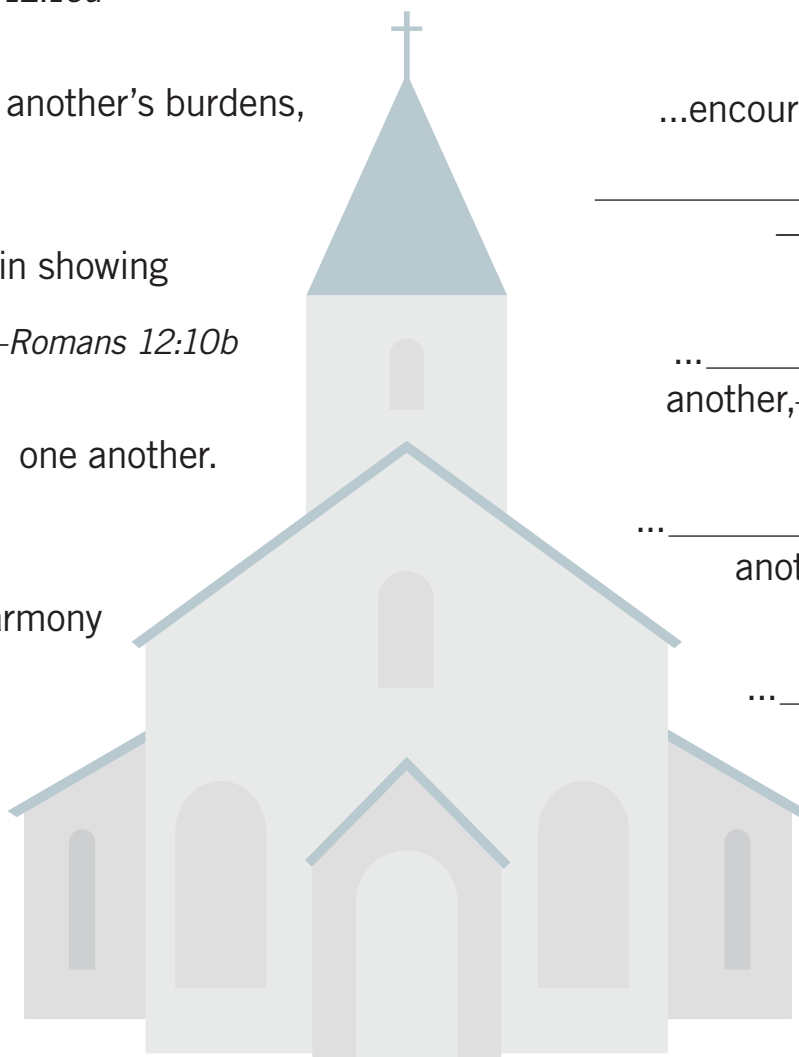
\_\_\_\_\_ one another up, —*1 Thessalonians 5:11a*

...\_\_\_\_\_ one another, —*2 Corinthians 13:11b*

...\_\_\_\_\_ one another. —*Romans 15:14b*

...\_\_\_\_\_ one another... —*Romans 15:7a*

\_\_\_\_\_ hospitality to one another... —*1 Peter 4:9a*







# Seek for Lost Sinners

## MAIN IDEA

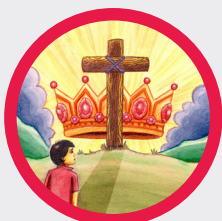
- **Jesus came to seek and save lost sinners.**
- **Jesus wants His disciples to follow His example and look for opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,—1 Peter 3:15*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 1:16-17
- 2) Luke 15:1-10
- 3) Luke 19:10
- 4) Colossians 4:5-6
- 5) 1 Timothy 2:3b-6
- 6) 1 Peter 3:15b



## LESSON SUMMARY

Two short and simple parables, the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, provide poignant illustrations of Jesus' love for seeking after and saving lost sinners. It is important that our children see and understand the urgency of this truth. In this lesson, we used these two parables to challenge each child, whether saved or not, to see the desperate condition of lost sinners and their need for Jesus' saving work. For those who are disciples of Jesus, we are to share this heart for the lost. Although the term "evangelism" can seem daunting, especially for a child, we want to encourage believing children to think in terms of the ordinary personal interactions they have in their everyday lives—looking for simple opportunities to express the hope that is within them. At a minimum, they can begin to have the unbelievers on their "radar screen," so to speak, and begin to pray for them and grow in boldness and wisdom in ways to share the good news of the Gospel with them.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that the Holy Spirit would be at work in your child so that he or she would see and respond to the love and provision of the Good Shepherd.*
- *that if your child is already a follower of Jesus, he or she would grow in love and witness to the lost.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Luke 15:1-10 together. **How could we grow in our love for those who are not trusting in Jesus? How might these two parables and other Bible verses and stories serve to help us? Is there someone you know that you are concerned about? Have you thought about how you might "seek after" this person? Have a time of prayer together. Emphasize that it is because of God's grace that people are saved, not because they are better than other sinners or have done something good. Christians were "lost" at one time, too.**
- Share with your child about how God brought you to salvation through the witness of one or more Christians. **Has anyone shared the Gospel of Jesus with you? Just once, or many times? How do you respond when the Gospel is shared with you? What does Jesus command you to do? Read and talk about Mark 1:15 and pray together.**

- Point out that before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit and be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). **What is a witness? If you have come to salvation in Jesus, do you have something to tell about? What specifically should you be telling people who don't yet know and trust Jesus?** Read and talk about 1 Peter 3:15 and Colossians 4:5-6. Other verses to consider: John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Romans 5:19b; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:10a; and John 11:25.
- Point out that even for many adults, sharing the

good news of the Gospel with unbelievers can feel scary. Sometimes it's because we don't think we know enough or don't know what to say in a certain situation. Other times, it is because we are more shy around others. But we can become better at this. **What help is available for Christians?** [the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, the help of other Christians, etc.] For example, you can listen carefully to our pastor when he is giving a sermon. You can ask your dad, mom, and teachers about how to respond in different situations. Emphasize that one simple way to get started is to begin regularly praying for someone you know who is not a Christian.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, look up the verses in your Bible to fill in the missing words. These verses tell us some important truths about the Gospel of Jesus—God's good news for sinners. Next, think of a person or some people who need to hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus. Write their names in the arrow. Commit to praying for them every day. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the Gospel.

...God our Savior...<sup>4</sup> desires all people to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to come to the knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is \_\_\_\_\_ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a \_\_\_\_\_ for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.—*1 Timothy 2:3b-6*

Walk in \_\_\_\_\_ toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.<sup>6</sup> Let your \_\_\_\_\_ always be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ with salt, so that you may know how you ought to \_\_\_\_\_ each person.—*Colossians 4:5-6*

...[be] prepared to make a \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone who asks you for a reason for the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and \_\_\_\_\_,—*1 Peter 3:15b*

**PRAYING FOR JESUS TO SEEK AND SAVE**

Monday  
 Tuesday  
 Wednesday  
 Thursday  
 Friday  
 Saturday  
 Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Go into All the World

## MAIN IDEA

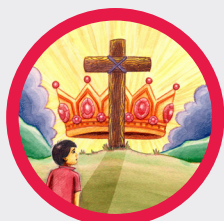
- **Jesus commands His disciples to spread the message of the Gospel throughout the world.**
- **All Christians are to participate in this mission— either by going or sending.**

## MEMORY VERSES

...“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”  
—Matthew 28:18-20a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 28:18-20
- 2) Acts 1:8-9
- 3) Revelation 5:9-10



## LESSON SUMMARY

Often when we hear the word “missions,” we immediately think of going out to other nations, cultures, and peoples with the Gospel. What we are less likely to think of and ponder is that we are all the beneficiaries of missionaries. We have the Bible in our own language because others heeded Jesus’ command to go into all the world and make disciples. We have a local church to attend, and pastors and elders, because faithful disciples before us heeded Jesus’ command. From the time of Jesus’ command until now, the Gospel has increasingly gone out to every corner of the globe. So, in this lesson, we first looked back through history, recalling several missionaries, to see the purpose and faithfulness of Jesus in building His church through the ongoing mission of His disciples.

We also challenged the students to see the role that Jesus’ disciples now have to participate in this ongoing mission, either as those who will go, or those who will help others to go. No Christian is exempt from this awesome privilege and responsibility. Our desire should be to fan the flames of the worldwide mission of Christ in such a way that our children are encouraged to be actively engaged in this endeavor, even now.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would be truly amazed by the wonderful faithfulness of God and His people throughout history.*
- *that God would be stirring a lifelong desire in your child to be an active participant in Jesus’ great commission.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about the following: Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:9-10; and Romans 10:13-17.
- Suppose every single person in our church decided that the only way to obey Jesus’ command to go into all the world was to go to a faraway place and share the Gospel. What would happen to our church? Who would support all of us and provide the money we need for travel, a new place to live, food, clothes, and everything else? Why is it good and wise that Jesus has designed it so that some go, and some stay and send? For right now, how could you show an openness to being a “goer” someday in the future? Do you take an interest in what God is doing around the world?

Do you seek to learn about other countries and cultures? How can this be helpful? How could you be more involved in being a good sender? What is one thing you could do this week that would serve as an encouragement to a missionary family from our church?

- Point out that some places that missionaries go to are very dangerous. There are places

that “outlaw” the Gospel, and places where you can be killed for being a Christian, or even for having a Bible. **Should Christians only go to safe places?** Read Jesus’ words again from Matthew 28:18-20. In what way does verse 18 offer encouragement, even in these hard places? Can you think of other verses that would offer encouragement? (i.e., Philippians 3:8; Romans 8:31-39; and 2 Timothy 4:5-8)

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, focus on a missionary from your church. Talk about the challenges this person may face living in this particular country and culture. Next, talk about ways you could pray for this missionary, encourage him or her, and even support this missionary financially.

**MISSIONARY**

COUNTRY THEY SERVE IN

FACTS ABOUT THE COUNTRY

WHAT THE MISSIONARY DOES IN THIS COUNTRY

WAYS WE CAN ENCOURAGE THIS MISSIONARY

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_



# Let Your Light Shine

## MAIN IDEA

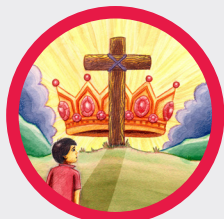
- **Jesus' disciples are to be like lights that shine and draw attention to the greatness and worth of Jesus.**
- **We should look for opportunities to do good deeds and speak words of hope.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*  
—Matthew 5:16

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 5:14-16
- 2) John 14:15-17a
- 3) Ephesians 5:8-9
- 4) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 5) 1 Peter 2:9



## LESSON SUMMARY

In Philippians, Paul gives us this exhortation:

*...be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,<sup>16</sup> holding fast to the word of life...—Philippians 2:15-16a*

Our children are growing up in a crooked and twisted generation. In the West, the foundations and institutions of civil government and society that once, at least outwardly, affirmed Judeo-Christian values, are now increasingly hostile to even the most basic of those values. Yet, we are called to shine as lights—standing out, exposing darkness, declaring truth by holding fast to the Word of Life. This will not be an easy road for our children to follow but, nonetheless, it is what Christ commands His disciples: "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16).

In this lesson, we not only explored the meaning of this command, but also offered the students practical examples by posing a variety of situations in which they could let their light shine before men.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that, by God's sovereign grace, your child would be part of God's chosen race, proclaiming the excellencies of Christ to this generation.*
- *that your child would grow in boldness and wisdom, seeking to be God's truth-shiner to a dark world.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read 1 Peter 2:9. **What are some "excellencies" that describe Jesus and what He has done?** Make a list of as many attributes of God as you can think of. Also, encourage your child to recall specific mighty deeds of God, especially His saving work done through Jesus dying on the cross for sinners. **Do you ever proclaim the excellencies of Jesus? In what ways? If you don't proclaim His excellencies, what hinders you?** Pray about your child's response.
- Read and talk about Matthew 5:14-16 and Ephesians 5:8-9. Emphasize that people cannot "shine their light" apart from first

trusting in Jesus for salvation. For a Christian, what is to be the goal and purpose of letting your light shine before others? How is this at odds with wanting ourselves to be the center of attention? Give your child an example of how to direct attention Godward instead self-ward in a specific situation. Why is it much more important for others to see Jesus instead of merely us?



- Point out that many people who are not Christians do what most people would consider “good works”—things like feeding the poor, helping the sick, caring for those with needs, etc. How can a Christian do something in a way that intentionally shows off and points to the greatness and worth of Jesus? Suppose you help your mom make some soup for a sick

neighbor. Is there something you could do that would point your neighbor to the goodness of Jesus? [e.g., send a note with the soup that includes a Bible verse and/or saying that you are praying for her] Can you think of other kinds of examples?

- Talk about some things that may hinder Christians from drawing attention to Jesus. For example, why might it be difficult to speak up in class about something you know is not true? Should you be surprised if some people don’t like to hear the truth of God? Why not? Is there anything you can do to overcome these kinds of fears? What help has God given to His children? Review 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and John 14:15-17a.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, think of a situation you have experienced recently in which you failed to shine the light of Jesus. Talk together about why you did not do it. What hindered you? Next, think of some biblical examples and/or a few verses that would serve to encourage you when faced with a similar situation in the future.

<p><b>SITUATION</b></p>	<p><b>HOW I RESPONDED AND FAILED TO SHINE A LIGHT ON JESUS</b></p> 
<p><b>BIBLE EXAMPLES AND/OR VERSES TO HELP ME NEXT TIME</b></p>	<p><b>NEXT TIME, I COULD SHINE A LIGHT ON JESUS BY...</b></p> 





# Rejoice in Persecution

## MAIN IDEA

- Followers of Jesus will experience persecution in this world.
- For the child of God, this suffering is temporary and cannot compare with the everlasting joy to be experienced in the future.
- Jesus commands us to keep this perspective and rejoice in our sufferings.

## MEMORY VERSES

*“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,”*  
—Matthew 5:11-12a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 5:10-12
- 2) John 15:18-20a
- 3) 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- 4) 2 Corinthians 4:17
- 5) Philippians 4:12-13
- 6) 2 Timothy 3:12
- 7) 1 Peter 4:12-15



## LESSON SUMMARY

Why a lesson on persecution and suffering? Aren't children too young for this? Shouldn't we strive to protect them from these harsh and troubling realities? The reality is, Christians will suffer persecution for their faith to one degree or another. If not now, then later. Furthermore, Christians—even young children—are currently enduring terrible persecution in some parts of the world. They should not be forgotten by the worldwide body of Christ. If we fail to give our children a right understanding of persecution, they will try to make sense of it on their own, and their answers will come up short. Increasing evidence points out that one reason children who have grown up in Christian homes reject the faith is because they have not been given sufficient answers to hard questions. Therefore, it is wise for us to be proactive and give them a biblical perspective on persecution and suffering—one that does not serve to scare, but to encourage. They need a perspective that acknowledges the real pain and suffering, but also the eternal weight of glory to be anticipated.

In this lesson, we used a variety of Scripture passages and the experiences of Jesus and Paul to give students a solid, biblical view of persecution—one that acknowledges the deep pain, yet is also hope-filled as it points to eternal, immeasurable joy.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would be given an unwavering confidence in Jesus that prepares him or her for any persecution they may face.*
- *that your child would have a heart that is tender toward the persecuted, desiring to be in prayer for them.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Matthew 5:10-12. **Is Jesus talking about any kind of persecution against a person?** For example, suppose a student finds out you cheated on your math test and starts to say mean things about you to others. Point to the words, “on my account” from verse 11. Then read 1 Peter 4:14-15. The type of persecution Jesus is referring to is aimed at righteous words and actions that identify a person as a disciple of Jesus. **Have you ever experienced any kind of persecution for being a follower of Jesus? What happened? How did it make you feel? Were you able to have another perspective**

that caused you to be able rejoice and be glad? Why can this be very difficult? What might serve to help us?

- Point out that our natural tendency is to try to avoid suffering. However, if there is something really important to us, we often are willing to endure temporary suffering (e.g., learning to ride a bike). Read 2 Corinthians 4:17. **Have you ever endured something difficult because a goal you wanted to achieve was really important to you? Is loving and following Jesus even more important? What eternal benefits are there of being His disciple? Are you willing to endure even some minor suffering at present in order to gain an “eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”? Does God leave His children without any help? What help has He given His children?**

Also read and talk about Philippians 4:12-13.

- Point out that although Jesus is fully God, He also became fully man. Jesus experienced a tremendous amount of pain, suffering, and persecution. Therefore, He can completely sympathize with the suffering of His people. Read and talk about 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. **How can the church care for one another in times of persecution and suffering? If you are being made fun of at school because you are a follower of Jesus, who can help comfort and encourage you? Do you also look for ways to comfort others? How so? How can we grow to be more aware of the needs of those being persecuted for Jesus’ sake? What things could you do to help them? What is one step you could take this week?**

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, look up each verse and fill in the missing words. Next, use a red pencil, pen, or marker to circle words on the blanks that describe a Christian’s temporary suffering. Use a green pencil, pen, or marker to circle words that describe a Christian’s future, eternal joy.

Blessed are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when others \_\_\_\_\_ you and persecute you and utter all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your \_\_\_\_\_ is great in \_\_\_\_\_...—*Matthew 5:10-12a*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_, that you may also \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ when his glory is revealed.—*1 Peter 4:12-13*

For this light momentary \_\_\_\_\_ is preparing for us an \_\_\_\_\_ weight of \_\_\_\_\_ beyond all comparison,—*2 Corinthians 4:17*

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the \_\_\_\_\_, which God has promised to those who love him.—*James 1:12*



# Lose Your Life to Gain Your Life

## MAIN IDEA

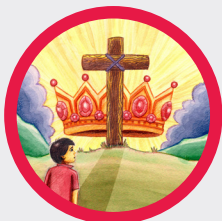
- **The Christian life is a daily dying to self, surrendering our wills to Jesus, and walking in obedience to Him wherever He may lead.**
- **Jesus promises eternal life for all who follow Him.**

## MEMORY VERSES

...“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”  
—Luke 9:23-24

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 16:11
- 2) Matthew 19:29
- 3) Luke 9:23-24
- 4) 2 Corinthians 4:17



## LESSON SUMMARY

Missionary Jim Elliot’s famous quote, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose,” is all the more convicting and convincing when you consider that he was murdered as he sought to bring the Gospel to an unreached people group. Following Jesus did not give Jim Elliot earthly wealth or health—no prosperity Gospel. Nor did his faith demonstrate the kind of easy-believe-ism so commonly seen in the contemporary church: “Jesus loves me and is my Savior and friend,” but tragically devoid of, “Jesus is Master and Lord of my life.” Jesus’ call to deny oneself, pick up your cross, and follow Him is an imperative truth that our students must understand. Jesus’ call to lose your life in order to truly gain it must be understood with all of its obligations and rich rewards.

In this lesson, we explored the meaning of these two calls from Jesus, and then pointed to the life of another missionary, Eric Liddell, to show how God led and empowered him little by little, step by step, to fully surrender his life to Christ.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would have a life that is increasingly and joyfully surrendered to Lord Jesus.*
- *that your child would carefully consider Jesus’ call to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Him.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **As your parents, would we ask you to drive the car today? Would we expect you to go grocery shopping for the family by yourself? Would we tell you to fix the roof? Why not?** Read and talk about Psalm 103:13-14 and Matthew 11:28-30. **What do these verses tell us about how God regards His children, and about how Jesus regards His disciples?** Next read Luke 9:23-24. Point out that Jesus will never lead you where you cannot follow, in the strength He provides. Like a good father, He is compassionate toward His children and understands their weaknesses and limitations. But, even at a young age, we can begin to learn what it means to “die” to little things and deny the right to do things our own way. **What help has God given all His children?** [the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, the help of other Christians, etc.]

- Read Luke 9:23-24 again. Do you think that there are any little or lesser things that Jesus wants you to “die to”? For example, does He want you to deny yourself some of the TV you watch? What could you spend time doing in its place? Have you ever had a situation like Eric Liddell’s where a sporting event was held on a Sunday morning and you were tempted to participate anyway? Does Jesus want you to “die to” your obsession with sports? How can learning to deny yourself these things help you to follow Jesus in more difficult things in the future?
- Emphasize that Luke 9:23-24 is not saying that we should be looking for ways to physically die and be killed. More importantly, Jesus wants us to die to “self.” Are there situations in which it is hard for you to deny yourself? Do you ever resist doing things Jesus’ way? If you choose to do things your own way and “save your life,” what does Jesus say will be the consequence? Have you seriously considered Jesus’ words? How should you respond? Is there anything causing you to resist submitting to Jesus? Have a time of prayer with your child.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, write out Luke 9:23 using your best handwriting. Next, with your parents’ help, prayerfully consider some things you need to “die to” or “deny yourself” this week. What kinds of attitudes, words, and actions would show that you desire to follow Jesus?

**LUKE  
9:23**

---



---



---

**I NEED TO “DIE TO”...**

**I NEED TO “DENY MYSELF”...**

**I MUST FOLLOW JESUS BY...**



# Salvation: Perseverance of Believers

## MAIN IDEA

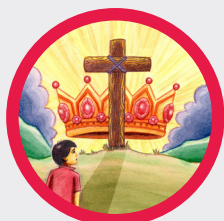
- **Only those who persevere to the end of their lives and remain faithful are true disciples of Jesus.**
- **God is faithful and will surely empower His children to persevere to the end.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*  
—Philippians 1:6

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 8:11-15
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:8-9
- 3) Philippians 1:6
- 4) Philippians 2:12-13
- 5) Colossians 1:23a
- 6) 2 Timothy 4:6-8



## LESSON SUMMARY

The past 21 lessons have all been aimed at exploring sanctification by looking at specific commands that direct God's children toward walking in godliness becoming more and more like Jesus. In this lesson and the next, we are directing the students back to the elements of salvation that were yet to be completed. In this lesson, we focused on the assurance of the perseverance of believers. It is an important biblical truth that many Christians struggle with: "Am I really a Christian? What if I walk away from the Lord?" Through the verses presented, the aim was to give those who are truly trusting in Christ an unshakeable confidence that He is faithful and will bring their salvation to completion. At the same time, we also encouraged students to spend time in sober reflection, thinking about whether or not each is trusting in Christ for salvation.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would spend some time reflecting on whether or not he or she is trusting in Jesus. May God draw his or her heart genuinely to Him.*
- *that God would make His faithfulness known and experienced, especially if your believing child is struggling with assurance of salvation.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Luke 8:15; Colossians 1:23a; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Philippians 1:6; and 1 Corinthians 1:8-9. Identify the action words in the verses. **Which words describe actions for believers, and which describe God acting? If you are trusting in Jesus, was it you that began the work of salvation in your life? No. And apart from God's help, you cannot persevere and finish the race. Why is that important for us to know? How should this greatly humble and encourage every believer? How should this motivate Christians to keep on trusting and obeying Jesus, even through difficult circumstances? Would you say that you are holding fast to faith in Jesus? Why or why not? What would Jesus call you to do?**
- Explain that God has promised that every true Christian will persevere in faith until the very end of their lives. **Does that mean that once a person says, "I am trusting in Jesus for salvation.**

My sins are forgiven, and I will receive eternal life,” he actually will receive eternal life? Is it possible for a person to say something, and yet not really mean it with his whole heart? Would there be a way to tell if what he has said maybe isn’t true after all? And, if you are truly trusting in Jesus for salvation, should you ever start to think something like, “God has promised that I will persevere to end, so I can just sit back and relax”?

Review the verses presented in the lesson.

- Share with your child an example of an older person or someone who has already died who persevered in faith in Christ. Point to evidences of God’s grace and sustaining strength in that person’s life. For example, maybe he or she spent time in the Word and in prayer, prioritized church and Jesus’ “one another” commands, etc.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, look on the internet for the words and music to the hymn, *He Will Hold Me Fast* by Habershon/Merker. After reading through the words to the hymn, write things you learned from the song. Then, think through the questions you and your parents talked about this week. Write several things you want to pray about.

**HE WILL HOLD ME FAST!**

---



---



---



---



---

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

---



---



---



---



---





# Salvation: Death and Glorification

## MAIN IDEA

- **For Christians, God uses the death of the physical body as a means of completing their salvation.**
- **Jesus has promised to transform His people and give them glorified bodies after death.**
- **Glorification is the final step of salvation in which God makes His children perfectly righteous and holy like Jesus.**

## MEMORY VERSES

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

—Philippians 3:20-21

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 14:1-3
- 2) Romans 2:4
- 3) Romans 6:23a
- 4) 1 Corinthians 9:24-26
- 5) 2 Corinthians 4:16
- 6) Philippians 3:20-21
- 7) 2 Timothy 4:7
- 8) 1 John 3:2
- 9) Revelation 2:10b



## LESSON SUMMARY

Death confronts us all, so we shouldn't avoid the topic, even with children. Flowers die, animals die, pets die, people around the world die, grandparents die, children die. Death is ugly and terribly sad. It serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of our sin against God. It should cause young and old alike to ponder the problem and seek out a solution. Jesus is the only solution. He alone holds the power to conquer death. His resurrection unto eternal life provides absolute certainty of this. And, for all who place their trust in Him, death now provides the "finish line" through which we will enter eternal life! Not only that, but God will complete His final work in our salvation: glorification. We'll be completely transformed with a new, resurrected body—no more sickness, death, or pain. All indwelling sin will be gone forever! No more struggles with temptation or sadness or fears. We will see Jesus face to face and live joyfully in His presence forever!

In this lesson, we acknowledged the reality and pain of death, while also pointing to the hope and glories that await God's people through the experience of death and God's completed work in the glorification of His children.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- that the reality of death will make your child long for Jesus and His redeeming work.
- that God would point your child to see and embrace the victorious Savior, Jesus, as he or she contemplates the realities of death and the promise of eternal life with God for those who believe.



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY


































































- Explain that, for everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation, death is the means of bringing a person into eternal life with God. Read and talk about Philippians 3:20-21 and John 14:1-3. Emphasize that not only does Jesus promise that His disciples will have new glorified bodies, but also a real place to enjoy His presence forever. **Have you ever imagined what it would be like to have a perfect body, one that never gets hurt or sick? No more disabilities of any kind? Have you ever imagined what it would be like to never have to be afraid, lonely, frustrated, sad, envious, or angry?** That is a glimpse of what God's children will experience when they are glorified.








- **What is death an important reminder of?** Read Romans 6:23a. Explain that death is a very sad reminder of the right punishment for our sin. It should also be a reminder of how much every person needs a Savior—Jesus. **Sometimes people think that because they are young and/or healthy, they don't need to be concerned about death. Is that type of attitude a good attitude to have? Why not?** Have your child seriously consider his or her response to Jesus, and have a time of prayer together.
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:16. **Do you see any evidence of someone's outer self—his physical body—growing old, weak, wrinkled, and sick? But for a Christian, what is to be happening on the inside? Do you know of someone who is old and weak but is a strong Christian?** Point out that even though Christians are “running toward the finish line of death,” they are to also be more encouraged and strengthened in their hearts and minds as they experience the physical weakening of their bodies.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, use the letter code to complete the message below. Remember:

**Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone!**

CH   E  BY G  D  
 HE G  PE  C     
 EW  P  R  U    FE  
 C    ER      
 JU   F  C       
 D  P      
   C   F  C       
 PER  E  ER   CE  F BE   E  ER   
 DE   H   D G   R  F  C     

A	I	L	N	O	S	T	V
							



# Glorifying God Forever

## MAIN IDEA

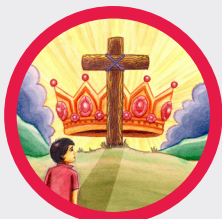
- **We were created in a special way for a special purpose—to glorify God forever.**
- **Through the complete gift of salvation, God enables His chosen people to clearly and fully see the greatness and worth of Jesus so that they might rightly know, love, and worship Him forever.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*I give thanks to you,  
O Lord my God, with  
my whole heart, and I  
will glorify your name  
forever.— Psalm 86:12*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 16:11b
- 2) Psalm 27:4
- 3) Psalm 86:11-12
- 4) 1 Corinthians 13:12
- 5) Revelation 5:11-13
- 6) Revelation 21:3b-4



## LESSON SUMMARY

No more death. No more pain. No more tears. Everything good, right, and peaceful. That is a description of life in the new heavens and earth. But something very important is missing from this description—the most important aspect of all.

*...the highest, best, final, decisive good of the gospel, without which no other gifts would be good, is the glory of God in the face of Christ revealed for our everlasting enjoyment. The saving love of God is God's commitment to do everything necessary to enthrall us with what is most deeply and durably satisfying, namely himself.<sup>1</sup>*

We began this study with the truth that we were created in a special way for a special purpose. Namely, we have been created in the image and likeness of God so that we might glorify God forever. Apart from salvation, we cannot live in God's presence and glorify Him forever. In this lesson, we focused on the final goal of salvation—God enabling His people to glorify Him in all their thoughts, feelings, and actions—all of the time. Giving Him all the honor, praise, thanks, and devotion He deserves. This is what will satisfy us forever and give us pleasures forevermore!

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would be enthralled with the greatness and worth of Jesus, desiring Him above all.*
- *that your child would long to make much of Jesus.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Psalm 86:12. Talk about what is meant by the term “with my whole heart.” **Could anyone honestly say that any of us already loves, thanks, praises, honors, and glorifies God with our whole heart? Why not? But for everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation, what has He promised? Read Philippians 3:20-21 and 1 John 3:2. What will this enable you to do forever? Why is that the best news ever?** Talk about Revelation 21:3b-4; Psalm 27:4; and Psalm 16:11.

1. Piper, John. *God is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2005), 13.

- If you were only to have one wish, what would you wish for? Why? If you received this one wish, would it make you happy forever? Why or why not? Talk about Psalm 27:4 and Psalm 16:11. Do you desire to see Jesus face to face more than anything else? Do you desire to be with Him forever? Why might someone find this unappealing or even boring? Is it a problem with who Jesus is, or a problem with a person’s heart?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:12a. Explain that Christians do not yet fully see Jesus as they should. Until their salvation is completed and they undergo glorification, they will struggle in their minds, hearts, and wills. Other things will tug at them for their greatest love, honor, and praise. Are there things in your life that seem more wonderful and exciting than Jesus? Why do they seem so? Is there anything that would help you to make these things become less important and Jesus more important? Can you do this apart from Jesus’ help? Why not? What would

help you to see Jesus more clearly and fully this week? How will doing so be for your good even before heaven?

- Read Psalm 86:12 again. Explain that the word “glorify” can be used in relation to many things. A person can glorify a sports star, a movie star, or even him- or herself. “Glorify” simply means to give praise, honor, and devotion to someone or something. Everyone glorifies something or someone. God created us to be “glorifiers.” **Suppose someone gave your dad a brand-new car, and he decided to just park it in the garage and use it as a refrigerator. Do you think the person who gave it to him would be pleased? Why not?** Explain that we can never be happy unless we fulfill the purpose for which we were created. God created us in His image and likeness so that we might glorify Him. **If you are glorifying God in your life, how would someone else see glimpses of that in how you speak and act?**

**ACTION STEPS**

On a piece of paper, write out Psalm 86:12 and hang it up in your room as you memorize it this week. Then, starting with the “S,” circle every other letter in the list to find the missing letters to complete the statements. Finally, think of one thing that would help you see more of the greatness and worth of Jesus this week.

Ⓢ M E C E Z I I N R G O K N N A O F W X I Q N L G N W I O D R F T J H T J T E I S K U N S B M S E S A N N I T J F  
T U S L A L I L X O E V T E N H L O K N T O S R I W B O J R H S I H L I T P Q D Z E I S K E F R F V S E S S I F L U L  
L I L J N O E R S B S C J I O K Y T P P L V E Q A Z S V U G R R E L S I F S O V R L E Q V S E T R L M I O O R T E

Glorifying God forever means finally \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the greatness and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as we were \_\_\_\_\_ to.

Glorifying God forever means giving Jesus the \_\_\_\_\_, praise, \_\_\_\_\_, thanks, and \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_.

Glorifying God forever means experiencing \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**One thing I could do this week to see more of the greatness and worth of Jesus is...**



# Come, Look, Abide

## MAIN IDEA

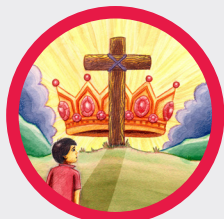
- **The evidence of true belief in Jesus will be seen through a love for His commands.**
- **The Christian life involves coming to Jesus, looking to Jesus, and abiding in Jesus.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”—John 15:5*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 7:21
- 2) Matthew 11:28-30
- 3) John 15:4-5, 8-11
- 4) 2 Corinthians 13:5a
- 5) Ephesians 2:8-10
- 6) Hebrews 12:1-2a



## LESSON SUMMARY

Hopefully, over the course of the past 39 lessons, your child has been given a biblical, appealing picture of the Christian life. The lessons have presented dire warnings, precious promises, commands, demands, and glorious rewards. The students have been given much to think about and act upon—challenges, encouragements, and numerous examples to heed and follow. Seeds of truth have been planted and watered throughout the year, but only God can bring about growth. He can be trusted to bring about all His good and sovereign purposes through the teaching of His Word.

This final lesson was meant to be a loving plea for the students to take to heart what has been taught over the year. In it, the students were encouraged to continually come to Jesus, look to Jesus, and abide in Jesus daily.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would bring clarity through this final lesson, tying together in the hearts and minds of the students all of the concepts taught.*
- *that your child would experience a greater knowledge of, trust in, and love for Jesus that results in a growing maturity in their walk with Him.*



## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 12:1-2a; and John 15:4-5, 8-11. Talk about what it means to daily come to Jesus, look to Jesus, and abide in Jesus. Relate these truths to an experience in your child's life and give examples of what living these truths might look like.
- Read 2 Corinthians 13:5a. **Have you ever wondered if you are truly trusting in Jesus for salvation? Have you assumed you are a Christian because you go to church, read your Bible, memorize verses, and behave well? Do you understand who Jesus really is, what He has done, and why He did it? Do you recognize the terrible problem of your sin before a holy God? Do you believe that Jesus is the only way for you to be saved? Are you in trusting in Him alone to save you? If so, is there “fruit” in your life—even a little bit? Are you growing in your love for Him and obedience to Him? Have a time of prayer together.**

- Read Matthew 11:28-30. Explain that yokes were wooden harnesses for animals to pull a plow or carry heavy loads. The farmer would also use it to lead and guide the animal. For those who come to Jesus, there is still a yoke, meaning they are to submit to Him and follow His ways. But He is a gentle Master—and the commands He gives us are for our good and will cause us to flourish.
- Point out that many people misunderstand the meaning and purpose of God’s commands. **Is a person’s salvation dependent on how many commands they keep? Is receiving eternal life dependent on how well you obey Jesus’ commands? Do you have to reach a certain level of obedience before God will love and accept you?** Read and talk about Ephesians 2:8-10.

**ACTION STEPS**

This week, with your parents’ help, find the words and tune to the hymn *Come Ye Sinners* by Joseph Hart. Ask your parents to define any unfamiliar words and explain the meaning of each verse. Identify any parts of the song that call us to come to Jesus, look to Jesus, and abide in Jesus. Sing the hymn together with your family. Then answer the questions below as you reflect on what you learned this year.

**TRUTHS I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR THAT ARE SPECIAL TO ME**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ACTION STEPS I CAN TAKE TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

REMEMBER: Salvation is by grace, through faith in Jesus.

**HOW I WANT MY PARENTS TO PRAY FOR ME AS I STRIVE TO FOLLOW JESUS**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---