



Children Sunday
School Lessons:

The Parables and Teachings of Jesus: vol 2



by Rev. Steve Wilson



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Note: All Scripture quotations I've included are from the NIV, but feel free to use any translation you prefer.

Jesus' Teachings Vol. 2

Jesus' teachings and parables are rich material for helping our students get to know the Lord. Everything He said is precious and can help us grow and mature and become more like Him.

The lessons I've included in this volume start about halfway through the Gospels and stop just shy of Holy Week.

Each of the 23 lessons in this volume has games, crafts, and other activities to help you teach the stories and to help the kids apply the message. I'm also including a list of resources you might want to add to the lessons to make them that much better.

Recommended Extras

You don't need anything extra to use the lessons. I will, however, provide some suggestions you might find helpful. You can use these resources in addition to or instead of the ideas I've provided.

Here are the resources I recommend for the entire series. I'll list story-specific resources at the end of each lesson.

[The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible](#) – for telling the stories with beautiful artwork and Biblical accuracy

[The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Stories for Children](#) – for telling the stories to younger children

[Manga Comic Book: Messiah](#) – for your classroom or church library

[My Big Book of Bible Heroes Devotional](#) – a devotional to recommend for families or older students

[Jesus in the Spotlight](#) and [Jesus – Awesome Power, Awesome Love](#) (Discover 4 Yourself series) – in-depth Bible study books for older children based on John 1-10 and John 11-16

Only Jesus Can Judge, But He'd Rather Forgive Instead – The Woman Caught in Adultery

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids about how Jesus forgave them and to not judge others.

Needed: Bibles, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Game: If You've Never – This game is similar to Upset the Fruits Basket. Students sit in a circle with one less chair than players. The person without a chair stands in the middle of the circle and names something that some of the players might never have done.

They might say something like, “If you’ve never worn a pink sock...” Or, “If you’ve never ridden on a plane...” Anyone sitting down who has never done what the person in the middle says has to get up and run to a different chair. The person in the middle also tries to find an empty chair. Whoever doesn’t find a seat is in the middle.

As the last criterion, get up and say, “If you’ve never sinned...” No one should move. If someone does, explain what sin is so that they understand that everyone has sinned.

Lesson: (Note: Always allow students enough time to think about and to give their answers to the questions before clarifying the teaching.)

Ask students, what are we supposed to do when we see someone doing something wrong?

What if they're breaking the law, then what should we do?

(Read [John 8:2-4](#).)

“At dawn He appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around Him, and He sat down to teach them. The teachers of the

law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.’”

The Pharisees said that the woman was caught doing something bad and breaking the law. (If students ask, tell them that she was cheating on her husband, or kissing another man even though she was married.)

(Read [John 8:5](#).)

“‘In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’”

What was supposed to be the woman’s punishment for breaking the law? (She was supposed to be stoned.)

When you stone someone, that means you throw rocks at them until they’re dead.

(Read [John 8:6-8](#).)

“They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him.

“But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, ‘Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.”

Did Jesus tell them they could throw rocks at her and kill her? (No.)

What did Jesus say? (He said that if anyone had never sinned, then they could throw the first rock at her.)

Jesus was telling the people that they couldn’t judge the woman—they couldn’t kill her for doing something wrong—because they all had done

wrong things too.

Just like us. We all do things that are wrong sometimes.

Only God and Jesus can judge people because They're the only ones who have never done anything wrong.

God and Jesus never sinned. They're perfect.

(Read [John 8:9-11](#).)

“At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’

“‘No one, sir,’ she said.

“‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’”

Did Jesus judge the woman and kill her for the wrong thing she did? (No.)

Jesus didn't want to kill her. Instead, He forgave her and told her not to do it again. That's the same thing Jesus does for us. When we do something wrong, He doesn't want to punish us. He forgives us and tells us not to do it again.

So, remember, only God and Jesus can judge other people, but Jesus will only judge them if He has to. He wants to forgive them instead. And Jesus can forgive anyone if they repent and believe in Him.

Craft: Attitude Comparison – Give student drawing supplies and have them draw a picture of the mean people who wanted to throw rocks at the woman, and of Jesus who wanted to forgive her.

Ask them to draw the kind of faces that the people and Jesus would have been making.

Game: Forgiveness vs. Judgment – Print out or write the words Forgiveness or Judgment on a set of index cards. You should have an equal number of cards that say Faith as Fear.

Divide students into two teams, and have the teams line up on separate sides of the room in single file lines. Mix up the cards and give each student a card that says Forgiveness or Judgment. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes, depending on how many students you have. When you say, “Go!” the first two students run toward each and show each other their cards.

If one says Forgiveness and the other says Judgment, the student with Forgiveness scores a point for their team. The person with Judgment does not score. If both say Forgiveness, both score a point, and if both say Judgment, neither does. Both return to the back of their lines and trade their cards for a new card.

As soon as they leave the center, the second two players run up and do the same thing. Play continues until the timer runs out. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Game: If You’ve Never – Play the intro game again and remind students that Jesus said that they only who have never sinned are the only ones who are allowed to judge other people.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for not wanting to judge us but forgive us. We pray that You’ll help us not to judge other people, either.

Recommended Extra

[Pointing Fingers and Throwing Stones](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

The Good Shepherd

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids how Jesus cares for us and how we should follow Him.

Needed: Bibles

Intro Game: The Wolves and the Shepherd – Divide students into two teams. Draw a line halfway between your play area. For the first round, Team A is the Wolves, and Team B is the Sheep. Choose one student from Team B to be the Shepherd.

The Wolves line up on the far side of your play area. The Sheep line up five feet in front of them. The Shepherd stands at the center line.

When you say, “Go!” the Sheep start running toward the center line with the Wolves chasing them. If a Wolf tags a Sheep, the Sheep is out. But once a Sheep crosses the center line, the Shepherd can start chasing the Wolves. If the Shepherd tags a Wolf, the Wolf is out.

The Sheep are not safe until they reach the far end of the play area past the Shepherd. The Wolves are safe once they retreat beyond their starting line.

The game is over when all of the Wolves or all of the Sheep are out. Then, reverse the roles and play again.

Lesson: Read [John 10:1-18](#) or summarize it with the following story.

Summary Story: I want you to close your eyes and imagine something.

Imagine that you're a sheep on a farm. And you love the farmer. He comes and gives you your food and gives you your water, and on nice days, he takes you out of the barn and lets you eat grass in the big yard.

If he wants you to follow somewhere, he just calls your name, and you follow him because you love him and you know he's the farmer. You won't follow people you don't know, just him because you *do* know him and he takes care of you.

Now, imagine that he put you back in the barn so that you could go to sleep for the night. But then, you hear something howling and scratching to get in the barn.

It's a wolf, and it's come to eat you! But then, the farmer comes and fights with the wolf and... the farmer dies because he was protecting you from the wolf. The wolf goes away, and you're safe, but the farmer is dead.

Jesus said that He is like that farmer. The devil is like the wolf because the devil wants to come hurt you and take you away to Hell when you die. But Jesus died on the cross to save us from the devil and to forgive us for our sins so that we don't have to go to Hell when we die. Jesus saved us from the devil and made it so that we could be safe if we believe in Jesus and go to Heaven when we die.

So, let's always remember to thank Jesus for protecting us and saving us when He died on the cross.

Game: Following the Shepherd – Have students get down on all fours and close their eyes. They are the Sheep. The leader is the Shepherd/Farmer. The Shepherd moves around the room, calling the Sheep, and they must do their best to follow. The Shepherd can also give instructions like “spin around in a circle,” “baa like sheep,” “go faster,” “come to me slowly,” etc.

After a while, pick someone else to be the Shepherd. If you have time, give everyone a chance to be the Shepherd.

Then, remind students that we're supposed to follow Jesus and do what He says, just like real sheep follow their shepherds and farmers.

Game: The Wolves and the Shepherd – Play the intro game again, but explain that Jesus doesn't save us by chasing away the devil; He saved us by dying for our sins.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for loving us and taking care of us like a good shepherd. You even died for our sins so that we could go be safe with You in Heaven when we die. Help us to follow You like good sheep. Amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Good Shepherd](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Steal the Sheep](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

On This Rock – Peter’s Confession of Christ

Use this children’s Sunday School lesson to encourage kids to believe in Jesus for themselves.

Needed: Bibles, a large rock, a church figurine or picture (I used a Christmas ornament of a church), playing cards, a tray of sand and a tray of rocks for each student, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Intro Activity: Christian Story Interview – Have students pair up and ask each other the following questions. They’ll then present their partner’s answers as a reporter. They can write the answers down if they want.

What is your name?

When did you first hear about Jesus?

Who first told you about Jesus?

Who helps you to believe in Jesus the most?

How do they help you believe in Jesus?

What does Jesus mean to you?

Lesson: Ask students, Why do you come to church?

When you come to church, what do you think is the most important thing for Christians to believe?

(Read [Matthew 16:13-14](#).)

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’

“They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’”

Can you believe that? Some people thought Jesus was John the Baptist or one of the old prophets coming back to life.

(Read [Matthew 16:15-16.](#))

“But what about you?” He asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’

Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”

Why did Jesus ask His disciples who they thought He was?

Jesus didn’t want His disciples to just listen to what other people said about Him. Jesus knows that we all have to decide who we think Jesus is for ourselves.

We can’t come to church and be Christians just because our parents or grandparents want us to. And we can’t believe in Jesus just because other people believe in Him. We have to believe in Jesus because we want to believe in Jesus for ourselves.

Who did Peter say Jesus was? (The Messiah, the Son of God.)

(Read [Matthew 16:17-18.](#))

“Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.’”

Jesus said that He would build His church on the rock.

(Show students your rock with the church sitting on it.)

The rock is Peter and His belief that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. That’s the most important thing we have to believe about Jesus: that He’s God’s Son and that He came to save us. That’s the first thing and the most important thing that the church has to believe, so that goes on the bottom and holds the rest of the church up.

So, remember, you have to decide to believe in Jesus for yourself and not just listen to what other people say about Him or believe in Him because other people do. And the most important thing to believe is that Jesus is God's Son and that He came to save us.

Game: Sand vs. Stone – Give each student a tray full of sand and a tray full of rocks. Then, give each student 10 playing cards to build two card churches out of. They'll use five cards to build a church on the sand and five cards to build a church on the rocks.

When they're finished, have them gently blow on the side of each church. If either one of their churches stand, give them a point. You can have many winners in this game.

Remind students that believing in Jesus is the foundation that we build the church on.

Craft: Laying the Foundation – Give students drawing supplies and have them draw a picture of their church sitting on a large rock. Tell the students to label the rock, "Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah (or Savior)."

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for coming to save us. We pray that You'll help all of us to believe in You for ourselves. Amen.

Recommended Extra

[What's My Line?](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

“Get Behind Me, Satan” – Jesus Predicts His Death

Use this children’s Sunday School lesson to teach kids how to work together with God instead of opposing Him.

Needed: Bibles

Intro Game: The Life of Jesus Relay – Divide students into two or more teams. When you say, “Go!” the first student on each team will perform the first leg of the relay race, traveling to the other side of your play area and back to their team. The second student on each team then does the second leg, and so on until that team completes the last leg. The first team to complete all legs of the race wins.

Leg 1. Crying. Cry like a baby to show Jesus was born as a baby.

Leg 2. Crawl. Crawl like a baby to show that Jesus had to crawl when he was little.

Leg 3. Slow Walk. Walk slowly like a one-year-old to show that Jesus had to learn to walk.

Leg 4. Run. Run like a child, as Jesus did when He was a boy.

Leg 5. Hammer the Ground. Hit the ground like you’re a man hammering nails to show that Jesus learned how to be a carpenter.

Leg 6. Spin. Spin around saying, “You’re healed! You’re healed!” to show that Jesus helped all the people around Him.

Leg 7. Crucifix Run. Run with your arms outstretched to the sides to show that Jesus was crucified on a cross.

Leg 8. Backward Walk. Walk backward with your arms crossed over your chest to show that Jesus died.

Leg 9. Skip. Skip, yelling, “Ta-da!” to show that Jesus came back to life.

Lesson: Read [Matthew 16:21](#).

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Jesus said that He was going to be killed and that He would come back to life three days later. When did that happen? (When Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life on Easter.)

(Read [Matthew 16:22](#).)

“Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ‘Never, Lord!’ he said. ‘This shall never happen to you!’”

Why do you think Peter didn’t want Jesus to die? (Peter was Jesus’ friend and didn’t want Him to die.)

(Read [Matthew 16:23](#).)

“Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.’”

Why did Jesus call Peter “Satan”? Was Peter really Satan?

Jesus called Peter Satan because God wanted Jesus to die on the cross so that He could save us from our sins, but Peter was trying to stop Jesus from dying on the cross.

When we try to stop things that God wants to do, or when we do things that God doesn’t want us to do, we’re acting like Satan because Satan always

tries to get in God's way. When Peter tried to stop Jesus from dying, even though God wanted Him to die, he was acting like Satan because he was going against God's plans.

(Read [Matthew 16:24-25](#).)

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.’”

What does Jesus mean by saying that we have to lose our life for Him?

Jesus is saying that we can't live for ourselves and just do what we want to do anymore. We have to listen to Jesus.

If we want to be Jesus' followers and live with Him in Heaven, then we have to live our lives for Him, not for ourselves. We have to do what God wants us to do, not just what we want to do. It's like we die to ourselves but live for God.

And if we're living for God, then we won't act like Satan and get in the way of God's plans. We'll follow God's plans and work with Him to do the good things that He wants to do.

(Read [Matthew 16:26](#).)

“‘What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?’”

Jesus is saying that you can have everything in the whole world and do everything that you want to do, but none of that is as important as going to Heaven when you die. The most important thing in life is following God and doing what He wants you to do so that you can live forever with Him in Heaven. Nothing in this world is as important as God.

(Read [Matthew 16:27](#).)

“For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done.”

Jesus said that He’s going to come back one day, and if we have believed in Him and done the right things that God wants us to do, then He will reward us. But if we have not believed in God and we’ve done the wrong things that God doesn’t want us to do, then Jesus is going to punish us.

(Read [Matthew 16:28](#).)

“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Jesus told His disciples that some of them would still be alive when He came back to life after He died on the cross. And maybe some of us will still be alive when Jesus comes back from Heaven. We never know because we don’t know when Jesus is going to come back.

What we do know is that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, that He wants us to live for God and not for ourselves, and that if we have lived for God, then Jesus will reward us when He comes back, and we will get to live forever with Him.

Game: Listening to God – Have students line up at one side of the room. The teacher gives instructions, saying “God Says” as in “Simon Says.” Make the motions as you say the instruction. Every once in a while, do something and give the instruction without saying “God says” first. Anyone who does something without the teacher having said, “God says” is out. You can also give an instruction that doesn’t match your motion to catch kids off guard. Students who are out wait there until the end of the round and then, join back in. The last student in the game becomes the new leader.

Game: Resurrection Tag – Pick one student to be It. That student is Death. Pick another student to be Jesus. When Death tags someone, they fall down and lie on the ground like they’re dead. Jesus can then come to tag them,

and they can get back up. If Death tags Jesus, Jesus must count to three (because Jesus was dead for three days), but can then get up again. If Jesus tags Death, the round is over. Play until everyone has had a chance to be both Death and Jesus or as long as time permits.

Remind students that Jesus will come back one day and will raise everyone who believes in Him back to life.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for coming to take our punishment and die for us. Help us to follow You and work together with You instead of getting in Your way like Satan. Amen.

Recommended Extra

[Following Jesus](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

Jesus Looks for the Lost – The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids about how Jesus cares for them.

Needed: Bibles

Intro Game: Following the Shepherd – Have students get down on all fours and close their eyes. They are the Sheep. The leader is the Shepherd. The Shepherd moves around the room, calling the Sheep, and they must do their best to follow. The Shepherd can also give instructions like “spin around in a circle,” “baa like sheep,” “go faster,” “come to me slowly,” etc.

After a while, pick someone else to be the Shepherd. If you have time, give everyone a chance to be the Shepherd.

Then, remind students that we're supposed to follow Jesus and do what He says, just like real sheep follow their shepherds.

Lesson: Read [Luke 15:1-7](#), or summarize it with the following story.)

Summary Story: The Pharisees noticed that Jesus was always talking to sinners, bad people, and they thought that Jesus shouldn't talk to those bad people. But then, Jesus told them a story. Before I tell you the story, though, I want everyone to get down on your hands and knees and do your very best to pretend that you're a sheep. Crawl and “baa”...Good.

Jesus said that people were like sheep and He was like a shepherd. A lot of sheep are good, and they stay where they're supposed to, but sometimes, one of the sheep goes off by itself and gets lost. (Pick one of the students and tell them to crawl away from the group.)

Jesus said that when the shepherd sees that one of his sheep is missing, he goes to find it. (Pretend to look for your lost sheep.)

And when the shepherd finds the lost sheep, he's very happy that he found it, and he brings it back home.

(Walk with your sheep back to the group.)

Jesus said that's why He always talked to bad people.

They were like sheep that had gone off on their own and gotten lost by doing bad things, but He wanted to bring them back to God. Jesus told them about God so that they could believe in Him and go back to Him.

When someone comes back to God and stops doing their wrong things, that makes God very happy.

Review Questions

Why did Jesus talk to sinners, bad people? (He wanted to give them a chance to come back to God and stop doing their wrong things.)

And how does God feel when someone comes back to Him and stops doing their wrong things? (Happy.)

Game: Hide and Go Sheep – Pick one person to be It. They are the Shepherd. Everyone else is the Sheep. They go and hide while the Shepherd counts. The Shepherd then tries to find the Sheep. When he or she finds one, that Sheep helps them look for the others. The last Sheep found becomes the new Shepherd for the next round. Play as long as time allows or until everyone has had a chance to be the Shepherd.

Remind students that just like the Shepherd goes to look for his lost sheep, so Jesus will always come and look for people who have gone away from God.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for coming to find us when we're lost. Help us stay close to You now and to follow You as our good shepherd. Amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Lost Sheep](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[The Lost Sheep](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

God Welcomes the Lost – The Parable of Prodigal Son

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids about how God forgives us and how we should forgive others.

Needed: Bibles, [Bible trivia questions](#), Forgiveness vs. Judgment cards

Intro Game: Forgiven Much – In this game show, you'll divide your students into two teams. The first student from each team comes forward to answer a question. You'll read the question, and listen for both of their answers. They can each answer one time.

The first student to get the correct answer incurs no negative points for their team. If one or both of the students answer incorrectly, or if one student answered correctly but not fast enough to answer first, they roll a die. The number on the die represents how many sins the team has against them. Write the number on the board.

The first student to answer correctly can then roll a die to see how many sins their team is forgiven of. Deduct this number of points from their total on the board.

If either of the students answered incorrectly, they can also roll a die and deduct that number of sins from their total.

Play until every student has had a chance to answer and roll. The team with the lowest number of sins on the board wins.

Lesson: Read [Luke 15:11-24](#), or summarize it with the following story.

Summary Story: Jesus told a story that went something like this: There once was a rich man who had two sons. Both of the sons would get half of the father's money when he died.

But the younger son said he didn't want to wait until his father died. He wanted his half of the money now. So, the father gave it to him.

The younger son took his half of the money and went to another country. He used his money to throw parties and to drink too much beer and do all sorts of other bad things. Then, he ran out of money. He had spent it all and didn't know what to do. He didn't even have enough money to buy food so that he could eat.

He went and got a job on a farm, taking care of pigs. It was a gross job because the pigs were always so dirty and smelly. But the younger son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food.

Finally, he decided, "I'm going to go back to my father. I'll tell him, 'Father, I'm sorry I went away and wasted all of the money you gave me. I don't deserve to be your son anymore, but can I please work for you?'"

So, the son started walking back home. When he was almost there, his father saw him coming and ran down the road to meet him. His father hugged him and kissed him because he was so glad that his son had come home.

Then, the son said, "Father, I'm sorry I went away and wasted all of the money you gave me. I don't deserve to be your son anymore."

But the father said, "Quick! Someone get the best robe and put it on my son. Put a ring on his finger and give him sandals for his feet. And let's celebrate tonight! My son was dead, but now he's alive again. He was lost, but now he's found."

Review Questions

Sometimes, we're like the younger son who went away and did all those bad things, because we do bad things too. But what did the father do when the son came home? (He ran to meet him, hugged and kissed him, gave him the best clothes to wear, and threw a party to welcome him home.)

Was the father mad at the son, or did the father forgive the son? (He forgave him and was happy that he came home.)

Jesus said that's how God is with us. Sometimes, we go away from God and do wrong things, but when we come back to God and say we're sorry, God forgives us, just like the father in the story forgave his son. God is always happy when we come back to Him.

Story Continues: Read [Luke 15:25-32](#) or summarize it with the following story.

Summary Story (part 2): Everyone was celebrating the younger son coming home, but the older son was still out working in the farm field. When he got close to the house, he heard the sound of music and celebrating. He asked one of the workers, "What is going on?"

The worker said, "Your younger brother came back home, and everyone is celebrating."

The older brother got mad then and wouldn't go in the house. The father came out and asked the older son what was wrong. The older son said, "I've always been a good son, but you never threw a party for me. But now that your bad son has come home, you're throwing a party for him! It's not fair."

The father said, "I know you're a good son, and I'm glad to have you, but I had to throw a party because I was so happy that your brother came home."

Review Questions

Did the father forgive the younger son when he came home? (Yes.)

Do you think the older son should forgive his younger brother? (Yes.)

Just like God forgives us, He wants us to forgive other people too. He wants everyone to forgive everyone and not to fight anymore.

So, if we believe in God, we have to forgive people when they do wrong things to us, just like the older brother has to forgive the younger brother in the story.

Game: Forgiveness vs. Judgment – Print out or write the words Forgiveness or Judgment on a set of index cards. You should have an equal number of cards that say Faith as Fear.

Divide students into two teams, and have the teams line up on separate sides of the room in single file lines. Mix up the cards and give each student a card that says Forgiveness or Judgment. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes, depending on how many students you have. When you say, “Go!” the first two students run toward each and show each other their cards.

If one says Forgiveness and the other says Judgment, the student with Forgiveness scores a point for their team. The person with Judgment does not score. If both say Forgiveness, both score a point, and if both say Judgment, neither does. Both return to the back of their lines and trade their cards for a new card.

As soon as they leave the center, the second two players run up and do the same thing. Play continues until the timer runs out. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Prayer Activity: Praying for Our Enemies – Lead students in praying for one person they consider an enemy. Guide them in moving through these steps in their silent prayer time:

1. Tell Jesus what the person did that made you not like them.
2. Ask Jesus to help you forgive that person.
3. Pray for that person.
4. Ask Jesus to help you think of something nice you can do for that person.

Closing Prayer: Father God, we thank You for forgiving us when we do something wrong, just like the father in the story forgave his son. And we pray that You'll help us to forgive other people when they do wrong things too. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Lost Son](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Three Wishes](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

How to Solve a Problem with Someone

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids how to confront and forgive others.

Needed: Bibles, soft balls or paper wads

Intro Game: Don't Hit Dodgeball – Divide students into two teams. They stand at opposite sides of your play area. Their goal is to not hit the other team while making the other team hit them. If someone throws and hits a member of the other team, they're out. Meanwhile, members of the other team can dive in front of thrown balls to get the thrower out.

Players can't hold balls. They have three seconds to throw, or they're out. If a ball stays on one side for more than five seconds, the whole team is out. You can pretend the balls are bombs that they want to throw out of their area without hitting anyone else.

The first team to get all the members of the opposite team out wins.

Lesson: Ask students, When someone does something mean to you, what should you do?

Should you do something mean back to them?

Should you yell at them or hit them?

Should you tell your parent or a teacher?

Today, we're going to learn what Jesus says you should do when someone does something mean to you.

(Read [Matthew 18:15](#).)

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”

What does Jesus say you should do if someone does something wrong? (Go talk to that person and tell them how they were wrong, just you and them.)

But what if they won't listen to you or say they're sorry?

(Read [Matthew 18:16](#).)

“But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’”

Now, what does Jesus say you should do? (Take one or two more people with you to talk to the person and tell them how they were wrong.)

So, first, you go talk to them by yourself. Then, you take a couple of people with you to talk to them. But what if they still won't listen and say they're sorry?

(Read [Matthew 18:17](#).)

“If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

So if the person won't listen to you or to the one or two other people you took with you, then what does Jesus say you should do? (Tell the church.)

If it happens at church, you can tell your teacher. If it happens at school, you can tell your school teacher. If it happens at home, you can tell your parents. But Jesus says that you only tell on people if they won't say they're sorry to just you, or they won't say they're sorry when you take one or two more people to talk to them.

First, you talk to them by yourself. Second, you take a couple of people with you. Third, you tell a teacher or your parent or someone who's in

charge. But what if they still won't listen and say they're sorry?

Jesus says that then, you treat them like a pagan or a tax collector. That means that you don't talk to them anymore until they say they're sorry.

When can you hit them? (You can't.)

When can you call them a name? (You can't.)

When can you do something mean back to them? (You can't.)

The only thing you can do is first, talk to them by yourself; second, take one or two more people with you; third, tell a teacher or parent or someone else who is in charge; fourth, don't talk to them again until they say they're sorry. That's all Jesus said we could do. And whenever someone does say they're sorry, we have to forgive them. We can't keep being mad at them after they say they're sorry.

But why do you think Jesus wants us to tell someone when they do something wrong?

Is it so that we can yell at them because we're angry that they did something wrong?

Is it so that they feel bad about they did?

The reason we talk to them and tell them that they did something wrong is so that they can learn and not do that wrong thing again. We're trying to help them learn so that they can be more like Jesus.

Activity: What Should I Do? – Okay. Let's practice.

I'm going to tell you a story, and you tell me what the person should do at the end.

Yesterday, Bob was outside playing a game with his neighbor, Allen. Kayla and Carrie were there too. When Allen started losing the game, he got mad and called Bob a name. What should Bob do? (He should ask Allen to say he was sorry for calling him a name.)

So Bob says, “Allen, I didn’t like you to call me that name. You should say you’re sorry.” What should Allen do? (He should say he was sorry for calling Bob a name.)

What if Allen says he doesn’t want to say he’s sorry? Then, what should Bob do? (He should ask Kayla and Carrie to talk to Allen too, and ask Allen to say he’s sorry.)

So, Kayla and Carrie say, “Yeah, Allen. It’s not nice to call people names. You should say you’re sorry.” What should Allen do? (He should say he’s sorry for calling Bob a name.)

But what if Allen still says he doesn’t want to say he’s sorry? Then, what should Bob do? (He could go in the house and tell his mom, or he could tell Allen’s mom on him.)

So, Bob goes inside and tells his mom, and his mom comes out and says, “Allen, you’re not allowed to call people names. Say you’re sorry.” What should Allen do? (He should say he’s sorry for calling Bob a name.)

But what if Allen still won’t listen and say he’s sorry? Then, what should Bob do? (He should stop talking to Allen or playing with him until Allen says he’s sorry.)

Activity: Acting It Out – Divide students into groups of three or four. Have each group decide on and act out a scene in which someone does something wrong to another, and they act out the steps of confronting the person individually, then with two more people, and then by telling you as the leader.

Game: Don't Hit Dodgeball – Play the intro game again and remind students that Jesus tells us to talk to people when they do something wrong against us, not hit them.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for telling us how we can handle the situation when someone does something wrong. Help us to stay calm and to follow Your steps to talk to someone ourselves, to talk to them with other people, and to tell the leader about it.

Recommended Extra

[Don't Get Even – Get Ahead](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

Forgiven to Forgive – The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to forgive others.

Needed: Bibles, [Bible trivia questions](#), Forgiveness vs. Judgment cards

Intro Game: Forgiven Much – In this game show, you'll divide your students into two teams. The first student from each team comes forward to answer a question. You'll read the question, and listen for both of their answers. They can each answer one time.

The first student to get the correct answer incurs no negative points for their team. If one or both of the students answer incorrectly, or if one student answered correctly but not fast enough to answer first, they roll a die. The number on the die represents how many sins the team has against them. Write the number on the board.

The first student to answer correctly can then roll a die to see how many sins their team is forgiven of. Deduct this number of points from their total on the board.

If either of the students answered incorrectly, they can also roll a die and deduct that number of sins from their total.

Play until every student has had a chance to answer and roll. The team with the lowest number of sins on the board wins.

Lesson: Ask students, If someone does something wrong to you, and then says they're sorry, should you forgive them? (Yes.)

If they do something wrong to you again, and then they say they're sorry again, should you forgive them again? (Yes.)

How many times should you forgive a person when they do wrong things to you?

(Read [Matthew 18:21](#).)

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’”

How many times does Peter think he should forgive his brother? (Seven times.)

What do you think Jesus will say? Do you think Jesus will say that seven times is enough?

(Read [Matthew 18:22](#).)

“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”

How many times does Jesus say Peter should forgive his brother? (Seventy-seven times, or seven times seven times.)

Jesus said that Peter should forgive his brother a lot.

Jesus wasn’t saying that we have to stop forgiving people after seven-seven times. He was saying that we have to forgive people a lot.

(Read [Matthew 18:23-25](#).)

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.”

Why was the king going to throw the servant in jail? (Because the servant owed the king money but couldn’t pay it.)

(Read [Matthew 18:26-27](#).)

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”

The servant begged the king not to send him to jail and what did the king do? (He forgave the servant and said that the servant didn’t have to pay him the money he owed.)

Do you think it was nice for the king to forgive the servant and not make him pay the money he owed? (Yes.)

(Read [Matthew 18:28-29](#).)

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’”

Now, the servant wants another servant to pay him the money that they owe him. But the other servant can’t pay the money and is begging the servant not to throw him in jail. What do you think the servant should do?

Should he forgive the other servant or should he send him to jail? (He should forgive the other servant and not send him to jail since the king forgave him and didn’t make him go to jail.)

(Read [Matthew 18:30](#).)

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.”

The servant wasn't very nice, was he? He didn't forgive the other servant, even though the king had forgiven him.

(Read [Matthew 18:31-34](#).)

“When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.”

What did the king do to the servant? (The king yelled at the servant and put him in jail.)

Why did the king do that? (Because the servant was mean and wouldn't forgive the other servant even though the king had forgiven him.)

(Read [Matthew 18:35](#).)

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Jesus says that God will punish us if we don't forgive other people. In the story, God was like the king, and we're like the servant. God forgives us when we do wrong things, so He wants us to forgive other people when they do wrong things. God wants everyone to forgive everyone.

So remember, when someone does something wrong to you, God wants you to forgive them because God forgives you when you do wrong things.

Activity: Acting it Out – Divide students into groups of two or three. Have each group decide on and act out a scene in which someone does something

wrong to another person, but the person they wronged forgives them instead of trying to get back at them or get them in trouble.

Game: Forgiveness vs. Judgment – Print out or write the words Forgiveness or Judgment on a set of index cards. You should have an equal number of cards that say Faith as Fear.

Divide students into two teams, and have the teams line up on separate sides of the room in single file lines. Mix up the cards and give each student a card that says Forgiveness or Judgment. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes, depending on how many students you have. When you say, “Go!” the first two students run toward each and show each other their cards.

If one says Forgiveness and the other says Judgment, the student with Forgiveness scores a point for their team. The person with Judgment does not score. If both say Forgiveness, both score a point, and if both say Judgment, neither does. Both return to the back of their lines and trade their cards for a new card.

As soon as they leave the center, the second two players run up and do the same thing. Play continues until the timer runs out. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Closing Prayer: Father God, we thank You for forgiving all of our sins. We pray that You’ll help us to forgive other people when they sin against us. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Unmerciful Servant](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Over and Over Again](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself– The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids how to show love to others.

Needed: Bibles, blankets or sheets or beach towels, bandages, cups of water

Intro Game: Up and Down – Give the students blankets, sheets, or beach towels to hold between them. You can break the students into teams or have them complete the following challenges together.

1. Bounce an object 5, 10, and 20 times without dropping it.
2. See how high they can bounce an object.
3. Bounce more than one object for 30 seconds without dropping any of them.
4. Bounce an object while spinning their blanket, sheet, or towel. (Everyone in the circle moves one step between bounces.)
5. Bounce an object while hopping. (Everyone takes one hop between bounces.)

As you finish, remind students that one thing we want to go up is our spirits when we die. We all want our spirits to go up to Heaven and live forever.

Lesson: Read [Luke 10:25](#).

“On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’”

What does the man want? (He wants to know how he can get eternal life.)

What is eternal life? (Living forever in Heaven. So, the man wants to know what he has to do to get to Heaven.)

(Read [Luke 10:26-28](#).)

“‘What is written in the Law?’ He replied. ‘How do you read it?’

“He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

“‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live.’”

Jesus says that if we love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and if we love other people as we love ourselves, then we’ll get to go to Heaven and live forever. What does it mean to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind?

It means that we should love God with our whole life. Everything we do should be things that make God happy. If we always do the right things that make God happy, then we’ll be loving God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind.

What does it mean to love other people as we love ourselves?

It means always to want what’s best for them, just like we always want what’s best for us. If we wouldn’t hurt ourselves, then we don’t hurt them. If we try to make good things happen for us, then we try to make good things happen for them too. We love them as we love ourselves.

(Read [Luke 10:29-32](#).)

“But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’

“In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.’”

A Levite is a helper for the priest. Why do you think the priest and the Levite didn't help the man who got beat up?

Do you think they would have wanted someone to help them? (Yes.)

So, they should have helped the other man. They should have loved the other man as they loved themselves. They should have helped him like they would want someone else to help them.

(Read [Luke 10:33-35](#).)

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”

Do you think the Samaritan man did the right thing by helping the man who got beat up? (Yes.)

The Samaritan did the right thing because he loved the other man as he loved himself. He helped the other man because he would want someone to help him if he got beat up like that.

Jesus says that we should always try to help other people too because then, we will be loving other people as we love ourselves.

Game: Being the Good Samaritan – Divide students into teams of four or five and give them some bandages and a cup of water for each person on the team. One student from each team starts out as the Beat-Up Man.

They go and lie down on the other side of the room.

The rest of their teammates are the Good Samaritan. On “Go!” their teammates race over to them, put a couple of bandages on them, give them a drink of the cold water, and then, pick them up and carry them back to the team’s starting line.

The second person then races back to the other side of the room and becomes the Beat-Up Man. Once they lie down, the rest of the team can go help them.

The game ends when one team has carried all of their Beat-Up Men back to the line. If you don’t have enough students to make two teams, simply let them all be on one team and have them race against the clock, trying to see how fast they can “save” their whole team.

Remind students that Jesus wants us to help other people, just like the Samaritan helped the man who got beat up, and to love other people as we love ourselves.

Game: Up and Down – Play the intro game again and remind students that Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan because someone asked Him what they had to get eternal life. Jesus told them that they had to love God with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind and that they had to love other people as they loved themselves.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we pray that You’ll help us to love other people as we love ourselves. Show us how we can help other people every day. Amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Good Samaritan](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[A Neighbor's a Neighbor](#) – free storybook lesson idea, along with free coloring and activity pages

Heaven and Hell – Lazarus and the Rich Man

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids the importance of following the Bible and telling other people about God.

Needed: Bibles

Intro Activity: Acting It Out – Divide students into groups of two or three. Give them a few minutes to think of their skit. Then, have each group act out what they think happens when someone dies.

Lesson: Ask students, If we believe in God and do the right things that God wants us to do, what will happen when we die?

We will get to go live forever in Heaven with God and Jesus and everyone else who believed in God and died.

But what happens if we don't believe in God and we do the wrong things that God doesn't want us to do? Then, what will happen when we die? (We'll go to Hell.)

It's sad when people go to Hell because nothing good is there. That's why we try to tell people about God so that they can believe in God and go to Heaven and not have to go to Hell when they die.

(Read [Luke 16:19-21](#).)

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.”

So, there are two men in this story. One is a poor man named Lazarus. The other is a rich man, and we don't know his name. The poor man, Lazarus, keeps begging the rich man to give him some food, or even some leftovers

from the rich man's dinner, but the rich man won't give him anything. Do you think the rich man should give Lazarus some food and help him? (Yes.)

(Read [Luke 16:22-24](#).)

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'"

Where did the rich man go when he died? (Hell.)

Why do you think the rich man went to Hell? (Because He didn't believe in God or do the right things that God wanted him to do, like helping the poor man, Lazarus.)

(Read [Luke 16:25-26](#).)

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'"

Can someone go from Heaven to Hell, or from Hell to Heaven? (No, the story says that people have to stay in Heaven or Hell. They can't go from one to the other.)

(Read [Luke 16:27-28](#).)

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'"

What does the rich man want Abraham to do? (He wants Abraham to send someone from Heaven to go tell his brothers about God so that they can believe in God and go to Heaven when they die instead of going to Hell.)

Do you think Abraham will send someone down from Heaven to talk to the rich man's brothers?

(Read [Luke 16:29-31](#).)

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Abraham says that he won't send someone back from Heaven to talk to the rich man's brothers. Instead, Abraham says that the rich man's brothers should believe who? (Moses and the Prophets.)

Moses and the Prophets are the people who wrote the Bible. Abraham is saying that people should believe the Bible and believe in God that way instead of wanting people to come down from Heaven to tell them about God.

That's why we read the Bible. God gave us the Bible so that we can learn about God and believe in God and know the right things that God wants us to do so that we can go to Heaven when we die and not go to Hell.

And we should do our best to tell other people what we learn about God in the Bible so that they can believe in God and go to Heaven when they die too.

Game: Disciple Tag – Choose one student to be It. When they tag someone, that person links hands with them and joins their team. They continue adding people to their team, linking hands with each one until all but one student is part of their chain. That remaining student becomes It for the next round.

Play two or three rounds and then, explain that when we tell people about Jesus, we want them to believe in Jesus too. If they do, they become a Christian and join our team. Then, they help us tell more people about Jesus.

Game: Sword Drill – Give each student a Bible. Then, call out the name of one of the books of the Bible. The student who finds that book first wins. To make it a little more difficult, you can call out the chapter and verse of a book or the name of a Biblical person or event.

Remind students how important it is to read and study the Bible on their own so that they can know it well.

Closing Prayer: Father God, thank You for giving us the Bible so that we can believe in You and know how You want us to live. Help us to follow You and to tell other people about You too so that we can all go to Heaven when we die.

Recommended Extra

[The Rich Man and Lazarus](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

The Rich, Young Ruler - Loving God and Others More Important than Money

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to keep God as the most important thing in their lives.

Needed: Bibles, soft balls or paper wads, pennies

Intro Game: Rotating Firsts – Divide the students into two teams and play dodge ball with soft play balls or wads of waste paper. After 30 seconds, name one of the balls as the 1st ball. That is the only ball that can get someone out. If anyone picks up any of the other balls, they're out. After 30 seconds, go back to normal play. Then, 30 seconds later, choose another ball as the 1st ball.

After the game, explain that we have to learn to put God first in our lives, just like we had to name one of the balls to be first.

Lesson: Ask students, If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it? What would you buy?

Now, pretend you had all those things, and someone asked you to give all that stuff away. What would you do?

(Read [Matthew 19:16](#).)

“Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’

What does the rich man want? (He wants to know how he can get eternal life.)

What is eternal life? (Living forever in Heaven.)

So, the man wants to know what he has to do to get to Heaven.

(Read [Matthew 19:17-21](#).)

“‘Why do you ask me about what is good?’ Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.’

“‘Which ones?’ he inquired.

“Jesus replied, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and “love your neighbor as yourself.”’

“‘All these I have kept,’ the young man said. ‘What do I still lack?’

“Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.’”

Why do you think Jesus wants the man to sell everything he has and give the money to the poor?

(Jesus wants the man to help the poor.)

Jesus is also testing the man to see if the rich man will do what He says. If we want to be Jesus’ follower, we have to do what Jesus says, even if it’s hard, like giving up our nice things or our money.

(Read [Matthew 19:22](#).)

“When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.”

Do you think the rich man will do what Jesus said and sell all of his things so that he can help poor people?

I don't think he will. I think the rich man loved his money and his things more than he loved God. I think he would rather keep his things and his money than follow God. Jesus was testing the man to see what was more important to him – God or his money – and the man decided that his money was more important.

But if we want to be Jesus' followers and go to Heaven when we die, then we have to make sure that we know that God is most important and do whatever He tells us to do.

(Read [Matthew 19:23-29](#).)

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’

“When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’

Peter answered Him, ‘We have left everything to follow You! What then will there be for us?’

“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for My sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.’”

Peter asked what people would get if they gave up things for God, and Jesus said that when He comes back to earth, He will reward people who gave up

things for God and will give them a hundred times more than they had in the first place.

We only have to remember to make God most important in our lives and to do whatever He tells us, and then, He will reward us when Jesus comes back again.

Game: Give It Away – Divide students into two teams. Give one team a handful of pennies. Have them keep as much as they think they need, giving a rationale for each cent. Question their decision on what they need to keep their money for and what they don't. You are trying to get them to see the difference between needs and wants.

Tell them to give away the rest, putting it into an offering plate. The leader takes some of that money, explaining that it's for the church to pay its bills, and then gives the rest to the other team. Now, ask the second team to keep what they need from what they've been given by the first team. Again, they put their extra into the offering.

Then, the leader pulls out more money to give to the first team to reward them for their generosity. The more they gave away during their round, the more they receive as a reward from God. They are also given the offering from team two. This is how offering works and how God rewards us for it.

Play three rounds. At the beginning of each round, the money that the teams kept is "spent" on their necessities and recycles back into the leader's supply.

Game: Rotating Firsts – Play the intro game again and remind students to always put God first in their lives.

Closing Prayer: Father God, we pray that You'll help us to keep You first in our lives. Help us not to make money or things or even other people more important than You because You are the one who made us and saved us. You are our God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

God Wants Everyone to Go to Heaven – The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids about God's passion and grace.

Needed: Bibles, boxes or paper bags, cookies or other small prizes, coins, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Intro Game: Promises, Promises – Set a cookie or small prize in individual paper bags or under individual boxes. In this game show type activity, call one student contestant forward. They are the Prize Giver for the round. That student (the Prize Giver) can then choose two more student contestants to come forward. They are the Promisers.

The Prize Giver chooses one of the bags and, without opening it, asks what the Promisers will do for them if they will give one of them the prize inside the bag. The Promisers can make up anything they want, but they can only promise one thing. The Prize Giver then chooses their favorite promise and gives that student the bag with the prize inside.

Play until every student has had a chance to play both roles and every student has won a prize.

Then, ask, What if God was the one giving out the prizes? What do you think He would want?

The main thing God wants is for everyone to believe in Him and go to Heaven when they die.

Lesson: Ask students, Can any of you think of a time when you thought something wasn't fair?

Tell me about it. (Allow students to share their stories. Feel free to share a story of your own.)

We like things to be fair, don't we?

Well, today we're going to read a story about some people who didn't think things were fair.

(Read [Matthew 20:1-7.](#))

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'"

So, the farmer is hiring different people to work on his farm. He hired some of the people in the morning, and they worked all day. Then, he hired some more later in the day, and he hired some just an hour before the workday was over.

Let's act this out. (Have students line up in a row facing you. Tell the students on your left that they worked all morning and all day. The next student or students worked half of the day. The last student or students only worked for one hour.)

(Read [Matthew 20:8-12.](#))

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’”

(Give each student a coin of the same value, starting with the students on your right, who only worked for one hour, and ending with the students on the left, who worked all day. Let students keep the coins after the lesson.)

The farmer paid everyone the same amount of money.

The person who worked only one hour was paid the same amount as the person who worked all day. Do you think that’s fair?

(Read [Matthew 20:13-15](#).)

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’”

So, the farmer said that he was paying the people who worked all day exactly what he said he would pay them. He wasn’t cheating them. He was just being nice to the other workers by giving them the same amount.

That’s kind of how God is. There are some people who love God and do the right things for their whole life.

They're kind of like the people who worked for the farmer the whole day. And they know that when they love God and do the right things for their whole life, then they will go to Heaven when they die. That will be their reward from God.

But other people don't love God and do the right things their whole life. Maybe they only start to love God when they're an adult, or when they get old, or maybe even right before they die. But God still lets them go to Heaven the same as the person who loves God and does the right things their whole life.

So, the farmer gave everyone the same pay, no matter how long they worked, and God lets everyone come to Heaven, no matter how long they believed in Him. God wants everyone to go to Heaven, so He always gives everyone as many chances to believe in Him as He can before they die.

Craft: Salvation Stories – Give students drawing supplies and have them draw a picture of someone deciding to believe in Jesus. It can be any type of person of any age and in any circumstance. Have them explain their pictures to the group once everyone is finished.

Game: Disciple Tag – Choose one student to be It. When they tag someone, that person links hands with them and joins their team. They continue adding people to their team, linking hands with each one until all but one student is part of their chain. That remaining student becomes It for the next round.

Play two or three rounds and then, explain that when we tell people about Jesus, we want them to believe in Jesus too. If they do, they become a Christian and join our team. Then, they help us tell more people about Jesus.

Closing Prayer: Father God, we thank You for giving everyone as many chances to believe in You as You can. Help us to be happy for everyone who believes in You, whether they believe in You when they're young or

when they're old, at the start of their life or at the end of their life. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Workers in the Vineyard](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Is God Fair?](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

How to Make God Think We're Great – Serving Others

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to serve others.

Needed: Bibles, various items, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Intro Game: Good and Faithful Servant – Tell the students that you're going to play a game in which you're the Master, and they're your servants. You're going to name something you want, and they have 15 seconds to bring you what you asked for.

Anything that meets your criteria counts. If a student can't bring you what you asked for within 15 seconds, they're out. Items you already have in front of you count if they can apply it to meet the new criteria. The last one in the game wins and becomes the Master for the next round.

Some ideas of what to ask for include:

- Something of a certain color
- Something of a certain shape
- Something that reminds you of the Bible
- Something that reminds you of Jesus
- Something you would use for a certain purpose

Part of the fun could be naming criteria that a lot of items meet and then narrowing it down to criteria that only a few items in your area meet.

Play 2-3 rounds and then explain that they were all good servants because they all tried to bring you what you asked for. Even though some of them couldn't find what you wanted, none of them said they wouldn't do it. They all tried.

Lesson: Read [Matthew 20:20](#).

“Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of Him.”

The mother of James and John, two of Jesus’ disciples, came to Jesus to ask Him for a favor. What do you think the favor is that she wants Jesus to do for her?

(Read [Matthew 20:21](#).)

“‘What is it you want?’ He asked.

“She said, ‘Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your kingdom.’”

James and John’s mom wants Jesus to make James and John His second-in-command when He rules the world.

It would be like Jesus sitting on His big throne in the middle and James and John sitting on their little thrones on the right and left of Him. Their mom wants Jesus to let James and John rule the world with Him.

Do you think Jesus will let James and John rule the world with Him?

Would you like to rule the world with Jesus?

(Read [Matthew 20:22-23](#).)

“‘You don’t know what you are asking,’ Jesus said to them. ‘Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?’

“‘We can,’ they answered.

“Jesus said to them, ‘You will indeed drink from My cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for Me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by My Father.’”

Jesus says that James and John can't rule the world with Him because God has already decided who will rule the world with Jesus. (We don't know who Jesus is referring to, but a good guess would be Moses and Elijah, as these are the two who converse with Jesus at the Transfiguration.)

Now, if you were the other 10 disciples and you just heard James and John asking to rule the world with Jesus, how would you feel toward James and John?

(Read [Matthew 20:24](#).)

“When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.”

The other 10 disciples were mad at James and John because it wasn't fair for them to ask to rule the world with Jesus and not have the other 10 rule the world with Jesus too.

(Read [Matthew 20:25-27](#).)

“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—“

What does Jesus say you have to do to be great? (You have to serve other people like a servant or a slave.)

That means you have to help people. If you help people, God will think you're great. God doesn't care about how much power you have. He cares about if you're helping other people or not.

(Read [Matthew 20:28](#).)

“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.””

Jesus said He came to serve people. He came to help people. He was God's Son, and part of God Himself – Jesus is the King of the whole world and the whole universe – but He didn't want people to serve Him or give Him power. Instead, He wanted to serve other people.

And that's what Jesus wants us to do too. If Jesus can serve other people, even though He was so great, we can serve and help other people too, and not worry about making other people think that we're great or giving us power or anything like that.

The most important thing is helping other people, and if we help other people, then God will think we're great.

Craft: Servant Brainstorming – Give students drawing supplies and have them draw a picture of one thing they can do this week to help someone else. When everyone is finished, have them share their drawings and ideas. Remind students that God doesn't care how great we are. He cares about how much we help other people.

Game: Good and Faithful Servant – Play the intro game again and remind students that God wants us to serve other people, even when they don't specifically ask us to do something.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for coming to serve us by dying on the cross and taking the punishment for our sins. We pray that You'll show us how we can serve other people too. Amen.

Being a Good Influence – Zacchaeus Changes His Ways

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids how to be a good influence on others.

Needed: Bibles, pennies or playing cards, something small to show children

Intro Game: Tax Collector Tag – Give each student two pennies or two playing cards. Then, choose 2-4 students to be Collectors. The Collectors are It. Their goal is to collect as many of the pennies or playing cards as they can. When they tag someone, they have to bring you one of that person's pennies or playing cards. If they want to keep one of the pennies or playing cards, they have to ask for both of the person's pennies and playing cards. The winner is the Collector who has the most pennies or playing cards at the end of the game.

When a student has no more pennies or playing cards, they're out of the game.

Play a few rounds until everyone has had a chance to be a Collector. Then, explain that the tax collectors in Jesus' time worked for the Roman government. They had to take some of the money they collected to the Roman governor. But to be able to keep some money for themselves and get rich, they made the people they were collecting money from pay them extra. That was a mean thing to do, and most of the people hated the tax collectors for charging them extra money.

Lesson: Bring something small to class. Hold it in the palm of your hand so that students can't see what it is. Raise it up above their eye level and start talking about how wonderful your item is. When students can't see it, suggest that they stand on their chairs to get a better view.

Once they've seen the object, tell students to sit back down and say, Sometimes it's hard to see things when we're short. Today, we're going to read about a short man in the Bible.

(Read [Luke 19:1-4](#).)

“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way.”

Why did Zacchaeus have to climb the tree? (Because he was so short, he couldn't see Jesus. Everyone else was in his way.)

That's kind of like when you had to stand on the chair to see what I had. Zacchaeus had to climb the tree so that he could see Jesus over everyone else's heads.

And what was Zacchaeus' job? (He was a tax collector.)

The Bible also tells us that Zacchaeus was very rich. In those days, people didn't like tax collectors because they usually made people pay more money than they were supposed to. Zacchaeus probably got rich because he stole money from people by making them pay too much.

(Read [Luke 19:5](#).)

“When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’”

Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house? (Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus.)

Do you think Jesus wants to spend time with you too? (Yes.)

How can we spend time with Jesus? (We can pray, read our Bibles, go to church, etc.)

(Read [Luke 19:6-7](#).)

“So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly.

“All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’

Why did people call Zacchaeus a sinner? (Because Zacchaeus was doing wrong things. He stole money from people by making them pay too much money.)

(Read [Luke 19:8-9](#).)

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’

“Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.’”

Zacchaeus decided to use his money to help poor people and to stop stealing money from people. Why do you think Zacchaeus decided to change like that?

I think it’s because Jesus talked with Zacchaeus when Jesus went to Zacchaeus’ house, and Jesus helped Zacchaeus believe in God. Jesus was a good influence on Zacchaeus to help Zacchaeus change and want to do the right things that God wanted him to do.

Do you think you could be a good influence on your friends too? (Yes.)

You can be a good influence on your friends by telling them about God and helping them to believe in Him.

(Read [Luke 19:10](#).)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Jesus said He came to seek and to save the lost. When people don’t believe in God, they’re lost from Him because they’re not with Him. Jesus came to find those people and bring them back to God. Jesus wants us to help bring people back to God too by being a good influence on them and telling them what we know about God.

Activity: Acting It Out – Divide students into groups of two or three. Have each group decide on and act out a conversation in which someone tells another person about Jesus and invites them to come to church or a church event.

Game: Disciple Tag – Choose one student to be It. When they tag someone, that person links hands with them and joins their team. They continue adding people to their team, linking hands with each one until all but one student is part of their chain. That remaining student becomes It for the next round.

Play two or three rounds and then, explain that when we tell people about Jesus, we want them to believe in Jesus too. If they do, they become a Christian and join our team. Then, they help us tell more people about Jesus.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for coming to save those who were lost from God. We pray that You’ll help us to be like Zacchaeus and change the way You want us to. We also pray that You’ll help us tell others about You so that they can believe in God, too. Amen.

Recommended Extras

[Zacchaeus](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Big or Small, It Doesn't Matter at All](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

Making Time for Jesus – Mary and Martha

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids that it's important to spend time with Jesus every day.

Needed: Bibles

Intro Game: Mary and Martha Marathon – Have students line up in a row on one side of the room, facing you. When you yell “Martha!” students should run as fast as they can to the other side of the room, then back to their original side, then back to the other side of the room until you yell “Mary!”

When you yell “Mary!” everyone must immediately stop. When you call “Martha!” again, they continue running. Have them start and stop a couple of times. Yell “Martha!” a couple of times in a row to see if you can trick the students. Do the same with “Mary!”

If any students start or stop at the wrong time, they're out. The last one in wins.

Play a couple of times and once all the students are tired of running, have them sit down for the lesson.

Lesson: Read [Luke 10:38-39](#).

“As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said.”

What was Mary doing? (Sitting and listening to Jesus.)

(Read [Luke 10:40](#).)

“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’”

Mary was sitting and listening to Jesus, but Martha was being busy. She was cleaning and cooking food, and she didn’t have time to listen to Jesus. And what did Martha want Mary to do? (She wanted Mary to help her do the chores.)

Do you think Mary should help Martha do the chores?

(Read [Luke 10:41-42](#).)

“Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’”

Did Jesus make Mary help Martha with the chores? (No.)

It’s nice to help people, but Jesus knew it was more important for Mary to learn from Jesus.

We all get busy sometimes, just like Martha was busy, but it’s important for us to be quiet and learn from Jesus sometimes too, just like Mary was doing. What can we do to be quiet and learn from Jesus? (Pray, read our Bibles, go to church, etc.)

So remember, even when you’re busy, it’s good to stop and take at least a little bit of time every day to learn from Jesus.

Prayer Exercise: Spending Time with Jesus – Have students separate around the room. Ask them to spend 5 minutes praying to Jesus. Tell them that they can talk to Jesus about anything they want to. After 4 minutes, ask them to stop talking to Jesus and to listen to anything He might want to say to them in their heart.

Game: Mary and Martha – Play the intro game again and remind students that Jesus wants us to stop once in a while and learn from Jesus as Mary did instead of always being busy as Martha was.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, thank You for reminding us what's really important. It's not being busy and doing things; it's spending time with You. Help us all to spend a little time learning from You every day. Amen.

Recommended Extras

[Mary and Martha](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Focus on Jesus](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

Who Listens to God? – The Parable of the Two Sons

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to obey the Lord both in word and in action.

Needed: Bibles , Uno cards or Go Fish! cards or playing cards

Intro Game: Listening to God – Have students line up at one side of the room. The teacher gives instructions, saying “God Says” as in “Simon Says.” Make the motions as you say the instruction. Every once in a while, do something and give the instruction without saying “God says” first. Anyone who does something without the teacher having said, “God says” is out. You can also give an instruction that doesn't match your motion to catch kids off guard. Students who are out wait there until the end of the round and then, join back in. The last student in the game becomes the new leader.

Lesson: Ask students, What are some chores that your parents tell you to do?

What would happen if your parents told you to do a chore and you said no?

What would happen if your parents told you to do a chore and you said you would do it, but then, you didn't do it?

(Read [Matthew 21:28-30](#).)

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.”

So, the first son said he wouldn't do the chore, but then, he did it. The second son said he would do the chore, but then, he didn't. Which son do you think did the right thing in the end? (The son who did the chore.)

The second son, the one who said he would do the chore but then, didn't, is like some people who tell God that they'll listen to Him and do the right things but then, just keep doing the wrong things. They say they'll listen to God, but they don't do what He says.

The first son, the one who said he wouldn't do the chore, but then, did it, is like people who say they don't believe in God but then, decide later that they do want to believe in God and they start doing what God told them.

God likes it when people who didn't believe in Him start believing in Him and doing the right things. But God doesn't like it when people do believe in God but won't do what He tells them.

So, let's all do our best to believe in God and listen to Him. Let's say we'll listen and also do what He says. Then, we'll make God happy.

Game: Fast Reflexes – Lay out a deck of game cards on a table, face up. The cards could be regular playing cards, UNO cards, Go Fish! cards, etc.

Students gather around the table. You'll call out a type of card (a number, color, shape, etc.). The last student to reach out and touch that type of card is out.

The last student in the game wins and becomes the caller for the next round.

Remind students that when God tells us to do something, we need to obey Him immediately, just like they need to be quick to play this game.

Game: Listening to God – Play the intro game again and remind students that we need to both believe in God and do what He says.

Closing Prayer: Father God, help us to be obedient to You as our Heavenly Father. You made us and You are our good King, our Heavenly Father. Help us listen to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extra

[Yes or No?](#) – free story, along with free coloring and activity pages

Giving God His Due – The Parable of the Tenants

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to be grateful and honor God for the gifts He gives us.

Needed: Bibles, fruit or paper wads, paper wads, soft balls

Intro Game #1 – Gathering the Harvest – Divide students into two teams and have them line up at one side of the room. Give each team a bowl. At the other end of the room, place a bowl full of fruit or small wads of paper to stand for fruit. One by one, the members of each team run to their bowl and bring back a single piece of fruit. They then add their piece of fruit to the team's bowl. The first team to retrieve all their pieces of fruit wins.

Intro Game #2 – Fruit Harvest Tribute – Scatter wads of paper on the floor and around the room to stand for fruit. Give students a 10-second time limit and tell them to collect as many pieces as they can to bring to you.

After 10 seconds, yell, "Stop!" It's the end of the harvest season. The student who brings you the most strips wins.

Play a few times to give others a chance to win.

Lesson: Ask students, What does God want us to do in life?

God wants us to love Him and to love other people. God wants us to do the right things.

What will happen when we die if we have loved God and loved other people and tried to do the right things that God wants us to do? (We will go to Heaven when we die.)

What will happen if we don't love God and we don't love other people and don't do the things that God wants us to do? (We will go to Hell when we die.)

(Read [Matthew 21:33-34](#).)

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.”

So, the farmer planted a field and then, rented it to other farmers. All the farmer wanted was for the other farmers to give him some of the fruit that they grew on the farm. If they gave him some of the fruit, they could keep using the farm field and growing fruit for themselves.

(Read [Matthew 21:35-37](#).)

“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. “They will respect my son,” he said.”

When the farmer sent his servants to get some of the fruit from the other farmers, what did they do? (They killed the servants.)

Finally, the farmer decided to send his son to get some of the fruit. Do you think the farmers will give the son some of the fruit from the farm field, or will they kill the son too?

(Read [Matthew 21:38-41](#).)

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, “This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.” So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

“‘He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,’ they replied, ‘and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.’”

So, the farmers killed the son too. Then, what did it say the farmer is going to do? (He’s going to kill the bad farmers and rent the farm to other farmers who will give him his share of the fruit.)

That story is kind of like how God is with us. God made the whole world, just like the farmer planted the farm field. And God gave the world to people, just like the farmer rented his farm field to other farmers.

And all God wants is for people to do the right things, just like all the farmer wanted was some of the fruit from the farm. And in the Bible, we read about how God sent the people prophets and teachers to remind them about the good things that God wanted them to do, just like the farmer sent his servants to get some of the fruit.

But the people in the Bible killed the prophets and the teachers because they didn’t want to listen to them and didn’t want to do the right things God wanted them to do, just like the bad farmers didn’t want to give the farmer any of the fruit.

Finally, God sent His Son, Jesus, to teach people how to do the right things that God wanted them to do, but the people killed Jesus too, because they didn’t want to listen to God.

And just like the farmer said he was going to kill all those bad farmers, God says that anyone who doesn’t believe in Him and do the right things will eventually go to Hell when they die.

The good news is that as long as we believe in God and love Him and love other people and do our best to do the right things that He wants us to do, then we won’t have to go to Hell. We will go to Heaven instead.

So, let's do our best to believe in God and do the right things He wants us to do. And let's do our best to tell other people about God too so that they believe in Him and go to Heaven when they die.

Game: Prophets and Son – Divide students into two teams and set a timer for 3-5 minutes, depending on how many students you have. Team A will be the prophets and the Son. One by one, they'll run across the play area and then, back to their team, while the members of Team B stand behind a line and throw soft balls or paper wads at them.

If a member of Team A makes it back to their team without being hit, score a point for their team and go to the back of the line to run again. If they get hit, they're out, and Team B scores a point. The last runner left on Team A is the Son, and can only run one time.

The game is over when all of the members of Team A are out or when the timer goes off. Then, switch roles. The team with the most combined points from when they were throwing and running wins.

Remind students that God sent prophets and Jesus to tell them to believe in God and do the right things, but the people wouldn't listen and killed both the prophets and Jesus.

Closing Prayer: Father God, we thank You for giving us the world. Help us to thank You by always doing the right things that You want us to do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extra

[Parable of the Tenants](#) – free coloring and activity pages

Who's Invited? – The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids that God wants us to tell everyone about Him.

Needed: Bibles, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Intro Game: Receiving the Invitation – Choose one student to be It. Then, have It turn around and choose one of the other students to be the Hostile.

It then tries to tag all the other students, but if they tag the Hostile, they're out. It wins when they tag everyone except the Hostile.

Lesson: Ask students, How many of you have ever been to a wedding?

Who usually gets invited to a wedding?

Usually, it's the people who know the bride or the groom that get invited to the wedding. But what if everyone in the whole city got invited? What if everyone in the whole world got invited? That would be a pretty big wedding, wouldn't it?

(Read [Matthew 22:1-3](#).)

“Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.’”

So, the king is having a wedding for his son, but no one wants to come to the wedding. Why do you think people wouldn't want to come to the wedding?

(Read [Matthew 22:4-6](#).)

“Then he sent some more servants and said, “Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.”

What were the people doing instead of coming to the wedding? (They were working in their fields or their business.)

And some of them even killed the king’s servants! All the king wanted to was invite them to come to the wedding, and they killed the king’s servants. So, what do you think the king should do to them?

(Read [Matthew 22:7-10](#).)

“The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, “The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.” So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

Now, who did the king invite to the wedding? (He invited everyone in the city, good people and bad people.)

That’s how it is with God. The wedding is a great, fun event, just like going to Heaven is going to be greater than anything we could ever think of. God, the King, wants us to invite everyone to go to Heaven, good people and bad people, but some people won’t want to go.

Maybe they don't want to think about God because they want to think about other things instead, just like the people in the story wanted to go to work instead of going to the wedding. Some people will even be mean to us when we tell them about God and invite them to go to Heaven.

But God still wants us to invite everyone to go to Heaven because He wants everyone to come to be in Heaven with Him.

Now, does that mean that everyone will get to go to Heaven?

(Read [Matthew 22:11-14](#).)

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, “How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?” The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, “Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

What happened to the man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes? (The king threw him outside and didn't let him come to the wedding.)

That's how it is with God too. When you go to a wedding, you usually wear nice clothes, right? That's what you do when you go to a wedding. Well, there are some things you have to do to go to Heaven.

Can anyone tell me what you have to do to go to Heaven? (Believe in God and do the right things that God wants you to do.)

And if you don't believe in God, and if you don't do the right things that God wants you to do, then God won't let you go to Heaven when you die. You'll have to go to Hell instead.

So, remember, God wants us to invite everyone to go to Heaven, just like the king invited everyone to go to the wedding, but if we want to go to Heaven, we have to believe in God and do the right things that He wants us to do.

Craft: What Will It Be Like? –Give students drawing supplies and have them draw a picture of themselves going to Heaven. When they're finished, have them share their pictures and ask them what they think Heaven will be like.

Game: Receiving the Invitation – Play the intro game again, but call It the Servant. Then, remind students that the servants in the story went out to invite people to the wedding, but some of the people attacked and killed them. We have to invite other people to go to Heaven, too, but some people will be mean to us when we try to invite them.

Closing Prayer: Father, we thank You for inviting everyone to go to Heaven to be with You. Help us to believe in You and to do what You want us to so that we can be with You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Wedding Banquet](#) – free coloring and activity lessons

[Excuses! Excuses!](#) and [You are Invited](#)– free object lessons, along with free coloring and activity pages

What Will It Be Like? – Marriage at the Resurrection

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids what it will be like when Jesus comes again.

Needed: Bibles, a balloon

Intro Game: Don't Let it Fall! – Gather students in a circle. As you toss a balloon up into the air in the middle of the circle, call one of the student's names. That student must run to hit the balloon back into the air before it touches the ground. The student next to them then runs to hit the balloon. The round continues until the balloon hits the floor.

Play as many rounds as you like. The last time the balloon drops (or if it ever pops), announce, "I'm sorry, kids. The balloon has dropped for the last time and now, it's dead. Let's have a funeral for our dear balloon."

Gather the balloon and place it in the box. Say a few words over it and invite others to do the same.

Lesson: Ask students, Did you know that Jesus is going to come back to earth one day? He's going to come back from Heaven and will come down right out of the sky so that everyone will see Him. What do you think He will do when He gets here?

The Bible tells us that Jesus is going to lock up the devil in Hell for a thousand years and that Jesus is going to be King over the whole world.

The Bible also tells us that Jesus is going to bring back with Him the souls of everyone who has died and gone to Heaven. When He comes back, He's going to bring those people's souls back with Him and then, He's going to bring their bodies back to life too, so that they can be alive on earth again.

And the people who are still alive and believe in Jesus will float up and meet Jesus in the sky, and He will change their bodies so that their bodies will never get sick, or get hurt, or get old ever again.

The people whom Jesus brings back to life, and the people who are still alive when Jesus changes them, will never die. They will live forever.

But there is one thing that will be different.

(Read [Matthew 22:30](#).)

“At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”

When people come back to life, they won’t be married anymore. They can still be friends with the person they were married to, but they won’t be married.

Game: Don’t Let it Fall (Take 2) – Play the intro game again, taking the balloon back out of the box or blowing up a new one. Explain that even though your balloon was dead, it came back to life just like Jesus will bring all of us back to life when He comes again.

Game: Resurrection Tag – Pick one student to be It. That student is Death. Pick another student to be Jesus. When Death tags someone, they fall down and lie on the ground like they’re dead. Jesus can then come to tag them, and they can get back up. If Death tags Jesus, Jesus must count to three (because Jesus was dead for three days), but can then get up again. If Jesus tags Death, the round is over. Play until everyone has had a chance to be both Death and Jesus or as long as time permits.

Remind students that Jesus will come back one day and will raise everyone who believes in Him back to life.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You for saving us. We’re looking forward to the time when You come back from Heaven and we can all live together

with You forever. Amen.

It's Not How Much We Give but How Much We Trust – The Widow's Offering

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to offer Jesus everything that they have.

Needed: Bibles, a \$20 bill or higher, two pennies, a lot of pennies and a bucket, cookies or other prizes

Intro Game #1: Trading All We Have – Scatter wads of paper all over the floor. Then, show students a cookie or some other sort of prize and tell them that you'll give the prize to whoever can bring you the most paper wads at the end of 30 seconds.

When time is up, have each student count the paper wads they gathered and give the prize to the student with the most.

Play a few more times and then, give everyone a prize.

Intro Game #2 – Sneaky Giving – Students sit or stand in a wide circle with their eyes closed. Choose one student to stand in the middle of the circle. They are the Giver. Hand them a random object to lay in front of one of the students in the circle. Their goal is to do so quietly so that the person doesn't hear them.

If the person does hear them, they can reach out and try to tag the Giver. If they succeed in the tagging the Giver, the Giver loses that round. If the Giver succeeds, they win the round.

After the Giver has either laid their object down successfully or been tagged, the students open their eyes. The student with the object in front of them, or who tagged the Giver, becomes the next Giver.

Lesson: Ask students, Why do we take an offering every week? (It's a way of showing that God owns everything and thanking God for giving us

money to use. We give to the offering to help pay the pastor and the church bills and to pay for the things the church does to help people.)

Do you think it's good for people to give to the offering? (Yes.)

Do you think God likes it more when people give a lot of money to the offering (show students your \$20 bill), or when they give just a little bit of money to the offering (show students your two pennies)?

Usually, we would say that God likes us to give more, right? More is better because then the church will have more money to do things. But listen to this Bible story.

(Read [Luke 21:1](#).)

“As Jesus looked up, He saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.”

The rich people were probably giving lots of money to the offering, right?

And it's not in the Bible, but we know that when people lots of coins in the offering back then, it would make a really loud noise. Rich people liked to put a lot of coins in the offering because it would make a loud noise and everyone would know they were putting a lot in.

(Drop a lot of coins into a bucket to illustrate the point.)

(Read [Luke 21:2-4](#).)

“He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘Truly I tell you,’ He said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.’”

So, the rich people were putting in a lot of money, but Jesus said that the poor woman, who only put in two pennies, gave even more than the rich

people because she gave everything that she had.

She only had two pennies left, and she gave them to God. That means that she must have loved God a lot if she was willing to give Him everything she had. And she must have trusted God a lot because now, she didn't have any money left to buy food or anything. She had to trust God to take care of her.

And do you think it made a lot of noise when she dropped her two pennies into the offering?

(Demonstrate by dropping two pennies into the pile in the bucket.)

It didn't make as much noise, did it? It wasn't loud like the rich people dumping their coins in. No one would have made a big deal about the poor woman putting her coins in. And she didn't tell anyone that she was putting in everything she had. She was being quiet about it. But God and Jesus knew what she was doing.

What I want you to remember today is that God likes it when we give to the offering because then, the church can do more good things, but God likes it even more when we love Him and trust Him. If we love Him and trust Him and only have a little bit of money to give, God is happy with us just the same as if we love and trust Him and have a lot of money to give.

So, God doesn't care if we're rich or poor. God doesn't care how much we give to the offering. He cares about whether or not we love and trust Him enough to give Him what we have.

And when we do give to God, He doesn't want us to be loud about it so that other people can see us and think we're doing something great. He wants us to be quiet, like the poor widow, and give what we have to God without thinking about what other people will think of us.

Game: Sneaky Giving – Play the intro game again and remind students that God wants us to be quiet when we give to Him and not make a big deal

of showing off about it to other people.

Closing Prayer: Father God, help us to be like the widow in the story. Help us to love and trust You enough to give You everything that we have. And to give to You quietly, not for other people to see. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extra

[The Widow's Mite](#) – free coloring page

Be Ready! No One Knows the Day or the Hour

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to impress upon kids the need to be ready when Jesus returns.

Needed: Bibles, a way to play music

Intro Game: What Time? – Think of a time (example: 12:49 pm) and ask students to guess what time you're thinking of. Whoever is closest then gets to think of a new time. Continue playing as long as time allows or until each student has had a turn to think of a time.

Lesson: Ask students, Did you know that Jesus is going to come back to earth one day? He's going to come back from Heaven and will come down right out of the sky so that everyone will see Him. What do you think He will do when He gets here?

The Bible tells us that Jesus is going to lock up the devil in Hell for a thousand years and that Jesus is going to be King over the whole world.

The Bible also tells us that Jesus is going to bring back with Him the souls of everyone who has died and gone to Heaven. When He comes back, He's going to bring those people's souls back with Him and then, He's going to bring their bodies back to life too, so that they can be alive on earth again.

And the people who are still alive and believe in Jesus will float up and meet Jesus in the sky, and He will change their bodies so that their bodies will never get sick, or get hurt, or get old ever again.

The people whom Jesus brings back to life, and the people who are still alive when Jesus changes them, will never die. They will live forever.

Those are pretty neat things that Jesus is going to do, aren't they? Does anyone when that will happen?

(Read [Matthew 24:36](#).)

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

Who knows when Jesus is going to come back? (Only God.)

So, if someone tries to tell you that they know when Jesus is coming back, or when the end of the world is going to be, don't believe it. Only God knows when that will be, and He's keeping it a secret.

Just like when we tried to guess what time each other was thinking of, only God knows what time He's thinking of to send Jesus back to Earth, and it would be really hard for someone to guess the exact time or day or year because God could be thinking of any time and any day and any year from now until the end of the world.

(Read [Matthew 24:37-41](#).)

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.”

Jesus says that two men will be working out in their farm field, or two women will be cooking in the kitchen, and one of the men will be taken, and the other one will be left. One of the women will be taken, and the other one left. Where do you think Jesus is saying that the one man or the one woman will be taken?

Jesus is talking about when He comes back and brings the people who believe in Him up into the sky to change their bodies so that they can live forever.

Only Christians will go up into the sky to meet Jesus when He comes back, so if the man's friend isn't a Christian, he'll be left in the field. And if the woman's friend isn't a Christian, she'll be left in the kitchen, while the Christians go up to meet Jesus in the sky.

(Read [Matthew 24:42-51](#).)

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Jesus says that workers sometimes act badly when their boss isn't around, but then, if the boss comes back and catches the worker being bad, then the worker will be in trouble.

It's the same thing with Jesus. Sometimes, people act badly and don't do the right things that God wants them to do because they think that Jesus isn't watching, or that He won't come down and punish them for those wrong things that they're doing. But Jesus says that He will come back one day and surprise everyone, so we better make sure we're doing the right things God wants us to do or else we'll get in trouble when Jesus comes back and surprises us.

But if we are doing the right things when Jesus comes back, then He will reward us take us up to meet Him in the sky to change our bodies so that we'll never die, and we'll get to live forever with Him.

Game: Musical Chair Share – Play Musical Chairs. Remove one chair. When the music stops, the person without a chair must say one thing they're looking forward to about when Jesus returns. Remove no more chairs. No one leaves the game. Play until interest fades.

When the game is over, remind students that Jesus is coming back one day, but it will be a surprise when it happens, just like it was a surprise every time the music stopped in the game.

Game: Resurrection Tag – Pick one student to be It. That student is Death. Pick another student to be Jesus. When Death tags someone, they fall down and lie on the ground like they're dead. Jesus can then come to tag them, and they can get back up. If Death tags Jesus, Jesus must count to three (because Jesus was dead for three days), but can then get up again. If Jesus tags Death, the round is over. Play until everyone has had a chance to be both Death and Jesus or as long as time permits.

Remind students that Jesus will come back one day and will raise everyone who believes in Him back to life.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we're looking forward to the time when You'll come again. Help us to do the right things You want us to until then so that we'll be ready for You. Amen.

Recommended Extra

[What Time Is It?](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

Use It or Lose It – The Parable of the Talents

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids the importance of using their talents for God.

Needed: Bibles, optional: chalkboard or whiteboard or paper to brainstorm ideas

Lesson: Ask students, What are some things that you're good at? (Suggestions could include anything from being good at sports to being a good artist to being a good friend. Write at least one thing down for each student.)

If you were good at something, but you never did the thing you were good at, would that be smart? (No.)

You should do the things that you're good at, right?

That's why God made you to be good at those things. He wants you to do the things that He's made you to be good at. If you don't do those things, then you're just wasting that talent that God gave you.

Activity: Talent Time – Have students perform a mix of activities to show that everyone has different talents.

Some examples include running a race, seeing who can kick a ball or paper wad the furthest, seeing who can do math problems the fastest, seeing who can answer the most questions about the Bible, seeing who can bust out the best dance moves or sing the best, seeing who can tell the best joke or do the best funny voice

You can run the game as a Decathlon with different stations or as a talent show with volunteers to perform in each category. At the end, you can ask for volunteers to show any talents that you didn't already name.

Lesson Continues: Does anyone know when Jesus is going to come back? (No, only God knows when He's going to send Jesus back to earth.)

It's going to be a surprise for all of us when Jesus comes back. It will be like this story that Jesus told.

(Read [Matthew 25:14-17](#).)

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.”

So, the master gave his money to three servants. The first two servants used the money the king gave them and earned even more money. They did a good job using what the master gave them.

(Read [Matthew 25:18](#).)

“But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.”

Did the third servant use his money that the master gave him to make any more money? (No.)

The master gave the servant some money, but he didn't do anything with it. He just buried it in the ground and wasted it.

(Read Matthew [25:19-23](#).)

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

What happened to the first two servants when the master came back? (The master rewarded them because they had done a good job using the money he gave them.)

If the master rewarded the first two servants for using his money to get more money, what do you think the master will do to the servant who didn’t use the money his master gave him?

(Read [Matthew 25:24-30](#).)

“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And

throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

What happened to the third servant when the master came back? (The master punished him because he had wasted the money the master gave him.)

That’s how it will be when Jesus comes back. Just like how the master gave each of his servants some money, so God has given us each of us talents and abilities. He’s made us to be good at certain things. And God wants us to use our talents and the things we’re good at for Him.

If we use our talents and the things we’re good at for God, then Jesus will reward us when He comes back. But if we don’t use our talents and the things we’re good at for God, and we just waste our talents, then Jesus will punish us when He comes back.

So, we should always remember to thank God for the things that He’s made us to be good at, and we should always use our talents for God.

What are some ways that you can use your talents for God? (Brainstorm with students and help them to see how they can use the things they named earlier to help other Christians or to reach out to other people in Christ’s name.)

Activity: Acting It Out – Divide students into groups of two or three. Have each group decide on and act out a scene in which one or two are using one of the talents the group mentioned in a way that either benefits other Christians or helps reach out to unbelievers.

Game: What Time? – Think of a time (example: 12:49 pm) and ask students to guess what time you’re thinking of. Whoever is closest then gets to think of a new time. Continue playing as long as time allows or until each student has had a turn to think of a time.

Remind students that Jesus is going to come back one day, just like the master in the story came back, and that we want to be using the talents God gave us for Him when Jesus comes back so that He will be proud of us.

Closing Prayer: Father God, we thank You for giving all of us talents and skills. Please help us to see how we can use our talents for You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Talents](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Don't Bury Your Talent](#) – free object lesson, along with free coloring and activity pages

The Importance of Helping Others - The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids that serving others is a way of serving Jesus.

Needed: Bibles, dice, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Intro Game: Raising the Dice – Divide students into two teams or more teams and give each team a six-sided die. The first student from each team runs up to a table and rolls their die. The student with the highest roll gets a point for their team.

The trick is that each team can help their player. As the students are rolling their dice, the teams cheer. The team that's the loudest gets to add one number to their player's die roll. So, if Team A's player rolls a 3, but their team is cheering the loudest, you'll count that player's roll as a 4.

Students re-roll in case of a tie, but only if the tie occurs after you add the cheering bonus.

After the first two students roll and you determine who gets the point, those students run back to their teams, hand off their dice, and the next students run up. The team with the most points after everyone has rolled wins.

Explain that it's important to help each other.

Lesson: Ask students, If you believe in Jesus, what kinds of things are you supposed to do?

Sometimes, we think that the only things Christians are supposed to do are read our Bibles, go to church, pray, and not do bad things. But there's something else we're supposed to do if we believe in Jesus.

(Read [Matthew 25:31-40](#).)

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’”

So, Jesus says that when He comes back, He will sit on a throne and will judge whether people did the right things or the wrong things.

What were the right things that some of the people did in this story? (They helped other people. They gave people food, they were nice to strangers, they gave clothes to people who didn’t have any money, and they visited people who were sick or in jail.)

The people who did the right things by helping other people will get to live in the new world that Jesus will create.

God likes it when we help other people. And Jesus says that if we help other people, then it’s like we’re helping Jesus Himself.

(Read [Matthew 25:41-46](#).)

“Then He will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

These people did not do the right things. What kinds of things didn’t they do? (They didn’t help people. They didn’t give people food or clothes when they needed it, they weren’t nice to strangers, and they didn’t visit people who were sick or in jail.)

And where did these people go? (They went to Hell.)

So, Jesus is saying that if we really want to be His followers, and if we really want to go to live forever with Him, then we have to help other people. Jesus helped other people when He was alive on earth, so if we believe in Jesus, we have to help other people too.

Game: Reaching Out Relay – Divide students into two teams and have them line up at one side of the room. When you say, “Go!” the first student from each team will act run to the end of the room, then back to their team, acting out the appropriate motion. The second team member then does the same thing and so on. The first team to complete all legs of the race wins.

Leg 1. Hungry. Pretend to cook and pass out food.

Leg 2. Thirsty. Pretend to pour cups of water and hand them out.

Leg 3. Stranger. Pretend to motion people toward you, inviting them in.

Leg 4. Clothes. Pretend to pass out clothes.

Leg 5. Sick. Pretend to take care of someone who is sick.

Leg 6. Prisoner. Pretend to visit someone in jail.

Craft: How Can I Help? – Give students drawing supplies and have them draw pictures of how they could help someone. Ask them to focus on the areas Jesus mentions in the parable: helping the poor, caring for others, and visiting the lonely.

When everyone is finished, have them explain their drawings to the class.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we thank You that You're a good God who cares about other people. Help us to serve You by helping other people in need. Amen.

Recommended Extras

[The Sheep and the Goats](#) – free coloring and activity pages

[Unto the Least of These](#) and [Thanks Living](#) – free object lessons, along with free coloring and activity pages