

Lesson: The Lost Coin

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 15:8-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn there is joy in recovering one that is lost.

Materials: 10 coins or items of teacher's choice.

Memory Verse: "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

Lesson Summary

Have you ever lost something that was important to you? (Allow students to respond.) How did it make you feel? In Luke 15:8, we read that if a woman had ten pieces of silver and lost one piece, would she not sweep her house and look and look until she found it? The Bible goes on to say in verse 9 that when she found the piece of silver, she called her friends and neighbors together telling them to rejoice with her that she found what she had lost. How did you feel when you found something important to you that you had lost? Did you want to tell others and were you super happy? Do you know when a sinner repents and becomes a child of God, the angels are very happy because someone who was lost and separated from God has been found. There are billions of people on the earth, yet it is a big deal when just one person repents and becomes a child of God. It is a big deal to God and His angels! Isn't it amazing to think when we repent and become a child of God, heaven rejoices over us? Not only does it bring joy to those around us, but it also brings joy to the angels of God! Do you know Jesus? Does He rule your heart? Ask Him to be your Savior and Lord, so that you can bring joy to the angels of heaven and rejoice with your loved ones too!

BIBLE POINT: Rejoice

Ideas to Illuminate

Bring 10 coins or other items to class. Hide one item in your classroom area for a student to find. Have students take turns finding the lost item. When the item is found, have all the students rejoice together!

for Class Discussion:

1. Are you happy when you lose something?
2. How do you feel when you find something you had lost?
3. When someone repents, who rejoices?



Lesson: The Lost Son

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 15:11-32

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God wants to have a right relationship with him/her.

Materials: Balloons, streamers, and treats or snacks for students.

Memory Verse: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7).

Lesson Summary

In Luke 15:11-32 the Bible tells us about a son who asked his father to give him his part of his inheritance. His father gave it to him, and the son moved away, wasted all his goods, and lived a bad life. The son ended up having to feed pigs as his job. He got so hungry that he was ready to eat the pig's food. Seeing how bad his life had become, he decided he would go back to his father. He decided to tell his father he had done wrong and that he was no longer worthy to be called his son. He traveled back to his father, and when his father saw him, he ran to him with compassion. His father rejoiced and celebrated with festivities that his son had come home. Do you know God feels the same way about us, if we turn from living a bad life and run home to Him? No matter what bad things we have done, God still wants us to come to Him, ask forgiveness, and recognize He is our Father. Like the son in this parable, people have forgotten God, lived wrong and messed their lives up. Maybe they have no money, no family, and no job. But guess what? God can still fulfill all the needs they have in their lives! God wants to be our All in All! When we do turn from our bad lives and run to Christ, he is so happy that we have come home. God, like the son's father, has his arms wide open waiting to embrace us. God desires for us to have a loving relationship with Him, our heavenly Father!

BIBLE POINT: Come Home to Jesus

Ideas to Illuminate

Decorate the classroom with a few items such as balloons, streamers, and so on. Have students take turns acting out the roles of the father, the lost son, and the party guests. Serve light snacks with the students as a celebration of coming home.

for Class Discussion:

1. If we have lived a bad life, will God forgive us?
2. What must we do to have Jesus as our Savior?
3. How does God feel when we repent and return home to Him?



Lesson: The Dishonest Steward

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 16:1-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn we must do the best we can with what God has given us.

Materials: Paper, colored markers or crayons.

Memory Verse: “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Lesson Summary

The parable in Luke 16:1-8 is about a dishonest steward. A steward is a person who takes care of another person's business, properties, or money. This steward got into big trouble with his boss and lost his job. After he lost his job, he did his very best to make sure his life here on earth would be okay. He found ways to gain money, places to stay, and so on. He wanted to gain all this to better himself on earth. He was not thinking of others or his eternal inheritance. He was only focused on his life on earth. We must be wiser than this steward! We must be wise with what God gives us to work with. Our money, possessions, and talents need to be used to be a blessing and to help others. We must do our very best to do everything the right way so we will be ready to get our heavenly reward. We must always be mindful of who we are working for, not ourselves, but for God. Let's remember to use all we have to make it to heaven and help others along the way!

BIBLE POINT: Do Everything to Honor God

Ideas to Illuminate

Have students sketch pictures of things they have such as possessions, money, or talents, and allow students to share how they can use these to help others.

for Class Discussion:

1. Who are we working for?
2. Who should receive the glory in all we do?
3. Who will judge what we did on earth?
4. What should we use to glorify God and help others?



Lesson: The Rich Man and Lazarus

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 16:19-31

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that we must put God first in our lives.

Materials: Bibles, paper, crayons or colored markers.

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

Lesson Summary

What is most important to you? — Money, family, helping others, God? Let's read Luke 16:19-31 to find out what was most important to a certain rich man. After reading our text, what was the most important thing to the rich man? He loved having money and buying goods. He lived a comfortable life here on Earth. Whom did the rich man not help? (Lazarus) But where did the rich man end up in eternity? The rich man was in hell because he did not love God with all his heart and have a relationship with Him. He put other things before God. What did you learn about Lazarus? He was a beggar who wanted only a few crumbs from the rich man's table. Lazarus did not have an easy life or have the comforts like the rich man had. But where did Lazarus go when he died? The Bible says he was carried by angels to be with Abraham. He may not have had a great life on Earth, but because he had a right relationship with God and loved Him, Lazarus entered into rest for eternity. On the other hand, we see how the rich man had a comfortable life on Earth for a short time, but later he was tormented forever. Even though Lazarus' life on Earth was miserable with poverty and sickness, he would be comfortable and resting forever. Once you die and enter eternity, it is fixed. You cannot change your place. Heaven is better than riches because it is everlasting. Riches in this world are for only a short time. If you value money over God's kingdom, then you will be in torment forever. There are no breaks and no changing your situation. What's more important, something short lived or something that lasts a long time? Continue in His kingdom until the end of this life because His kingdom will last FOREVER!

BIBLE POINT: Put God First

Ideas to Illuminate

Give each child a piece of paper. Fold the paper in half. On one half, draw a picture of the rich man on Earth, and then draw Lazarus on the other half. Flip the paper over and draw pictures of how the men lived in eternity.

for Class Discussion:

1. Who must be first in our lives?
2. Is there anything/anyone more important than God?
3. What's more important, something that is short lived or lasts for a long time?
4. Once you enter eternity, can you change where you are?



Lesson: The Servant's Duty

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 22:34-40; Ephesians 2:8-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to serve God like an obedient servant.

Materials: Pipe Cleaners (chenille wire)

Memory Verse: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Lesson Summary

Jesus begins this parable by asking his disciples a question. He said, "Would a master ask his servant to sit down and eat when he comes in from working in the field, or would the master require the servant to prepare and serve his meal first?" In Bible times, a servant was actually more like a slave. The master owned the servants and they were bound by the law to do whatever the master commanded them to do. This included planting crops, working in the field, looking after sheep, as well as, preparing and serving meals. In return, the master took care of providing for the servant's needs, such as food and shelter. The servant did not expect to be thanked for performing his tasks. Those duties were simply his job which he was required to do. A master did not wait on his servant. Instead, the servant was required to wait on his master and complete every task to the best of his ability. This parable suggests that even the very best we can do for God is nothing more than our duty. We do not serve God expecting to be thanked. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. Instead, we owe our lives to God because He has redeemed us by the blood of His own Son. As obedient servants, we must serve and love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37).

BIBLE POINT: Obey God's Commandments

Ideas to Illuminate

1. After discussing the questions, give each child three pipe cleaners (chenille wire). Allow the children to bend the wires into different shapes to represent ways we serve and obey God.
2. Play a game of "Simon Says." A leader gives the class commands and the students must complete the required actions. You may desire to rename the game, "The Master Says."

For Class Discussion:

1. What were servants required to do for their masters?
2. What are Christians required to do for God?
3. What could the servant expect from the master in return for completing his duties?



Lesson: The Vineyard Laborers

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Colossians 3:23-25; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will reward every man according to his work.

Materials: Candy, small treats, etc.

Memory Verse: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells a parable about a man who set out to hire men to work in his vineyard. He hired some of them early in the morning, some in the middle of the day, and some he hired just before quitting time. When it was time to pay the workers, he paid them all the same amount. The workers who were hired early in the morning began to complain because they didn't think that it was fair that they worked all day and were paid the same amount as those who only worked a small part of the day. The owner of the vineyard told the men that they received exactly what had been promised to them. The lesson of this parable is that there are some people who trust in Jesus and serve him almost all of their life. The reward for their faithfulness is a home in heaven. Then there are other people who are sinners for most of their lives. But just before their life ends, they ask the Lord for forgiveness. Their reward is the same as one who has served the Lord all of their life. Jesus says that any "laborer" who accepts the call to work in his vineyard (the Kingdom of God), no matter how late in the day, will receive an equal reward. Jesus is coming soon. Will He find you working for Him? What will be your reward?

BIBLE POINT: Work For Jesus

Ideas to Illuminate

Give out candy or small treats to the class. Be sure to give a larger amount to a few of the children. Hopefully, the children who received less will complain that they did not get as much as the others. Use this opportunity to reflect on how the workers who were hired first may have felt. Be sure, however, that each child ends up with the same amount.

Note: Ask each student to prepare to share a special talent for next week's class. The talent may be drawing a picture, bringing homemade cookies, singing a song, reciting a poem, or playing an instrument.

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. Which workers were paid the most for their labor?
2. What does the vineyard in the parable represent?
3. Why were the workers complaining who were hired first?



Lesson: The Talents

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 15:16; Hebrews 13:21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to be faithful with what he has been given.

Materials: Ribbons or Certificates

Memory Verse: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10a).

Lesson Summary

In this parable, Jesus tells of a rich man who went on a long trip. He left his three servants in charge of his wealth. He gave one servant five talents, another servant two talents, and the last servant only one talent. A talent was an amount of money. When the man returned, he was pleased to find that the first two servants had used the talents to earn twice as many talents as they had been given. However, the third servant did not use the money, but rather buried it in the ground. The master was angry because the servant had been lazy and had not used the talent that was given to him. He took that talent from the lazy servant and gave it to the first servant. What can we learn from this story? We need to use whatever "talent" God has given us. It might be money or a special ability. If we use it wisely, God will increase it so that our lives will glorify Him. This lesson is not about money as much as it is about using our gifts that God has given us. The master gave a large amount of money to each of his servants according to their abilities. Like the talents in this Bible story, the gifts and abilities which God gives to us are very valuable. If we are lazy or afraid to use our gifts, God will take them away and give them to someone else. Let's glorify God by giving Him our very best!

BIBLE POINT: Give God Your Best

Ideas to Illuminate

Allow adequate time for each student to share his unique talent or ability with the class. Reward each student with a ribbon or certificate with the words "Well done" printed on it.

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. How many talents did the master give to each of his servants?
2. What did the servant who was given only one talent do with his talent?
3. What will happen if we do not use the talents or gifts that God has given to us?



Lesson: The Persistent Widow

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrew 11:6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Christians should never stop praying.

Materials: Small treats, candy, etc.

Memory Verse: "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

Lesson Summary

Jesus told a parable of a widow woman who went before a judge to ask him for protection from her enemies. This judge was not a godly man, and he did not have much compassion for people. At first he would not hear her petition, but she was persistent and kept pleading with the judge. He finally granted the woman her request, but only because he was tired of her asking over and over again. In this parable, Jesus explained that if an unjust, evil judge will help a widow because she is persistent, how much more will our loving God bring about justice for those who continually come to him in prayer? We must be persistent in praying. The Bible says to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Continuous prayer is a sign of our faith in God and His Word. We must believe that God will hear and answer our prayers. We tend to stop praying when we stop believing that a prayer will be answered. So we must not give up hope. We must pray in faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please" God (Hebrews 11:6).

BIBLE POINT: Ask, Seek, Knock

Ideas to Illuminate

1. Memory Verse Practice

Have the children practice saying the memory verse until they can recite it by memory. Discuss the importance of being persistent and never giving up. When they can recite the verse by memory, reward them with a treat.

2. Role Play

Allow the students to take turns acting out the Bible story. Let the class decide which student was the most persistent in his asking.

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. What did the widow do when the judge did not grant her petition?
2. Why did the judge finally grant the widow's petition?
3. What does it mean to be persistent?



Lesson: The Pharisee and the Publican

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 18:9-14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God wants us to have humble hearts.

Materials: Bible, balloons

Memory Verse: "For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:14b).

Lesson Summary

In this parable, Jesus compares the prayers of a prideful Pharisee and a sinful Publican. A Pharisee was a religious leader, and a Publican was a tax collector. Jesus told this story to teach the importance of being humble. The Pharisee and Publican were both in the temple praying. The Pharisee spoke to God with a prideful spirit. He told God how thankful he was that he was not like this unjust tax collector. This religious leader thought he was more important to God because of his fancy prayers. He looked down on sinful people. Then Jesus used the prayer of the publican as an example of how to be humble. The publican would not even lift up his head. He asked God to have mercy on him. Jesus wanted the people to understand that His love is not based on how good we look or act. Therefore, we shouldn't look down on others or think too highly of ourselves. God forgives those who are sorry and ask for forgiveness with a humble heart.

BIBLE POINT: Be Humble

Ideas to Illuminate

- 1) Act out this story. Assign one child as the tax collector and one as the Pharisee. Then, read the story as narrator. Have the children mime the actions as you read the story.
- 2) Illustrate the story by using balloons. Pass out a deflated balloon to every child. Talk about how each balloon is pliable, easily moldable and very flexible. Have the children put the balloon in their pockets, under their feet and then stretch the balloon around their wrists. Now, allow the children to blow up their balloons. Tie them off. Discuss how flexible the balloons are now. Will the balloons fit in your pocket or wrap around your wrists? Explain that a proud attitude is like the "puffed-up" balloon. God desires a humble attitude. **Caution: This activity requires adequate adult supervision. Please be safe with balloons, especially around younger children!**

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. Was the publican or tax collector a sinner?
2. Why did God forgive him?



Lesson: The Two Sons

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 21:28-32

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus wants us to be obedient.

Materials: Bible

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

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells the parable of the two sons. The story illustrates to us the difference between obedience and disobedience. The first son said he would not obey when his father asked him to work in the vineyard. Later on, he felt bad for not obeying so he went and did what his father had asked. The second son said he would obey, but then later, he did not. Which son was obedient to his father? Jesus used this story to explain how some people do wrong, but when they hear the truth, they repent to God and then begin to do right. But others say that they are doing right, only to go and do wrong again. In Jesus' day, the Pharisees, who were religious leaders, thought they were so smart in the things of God, yet they did not recognize the truth in Jesus when they saw it with their own eyes. They were not willing to obey God, and their actions proved it. They rejected Jesus. He spoke very clearly to the Pharisees. He told them that they had seen the truth, but they simply would not believe. Sometimes people are just stubborn. They see and hear the truth about Jesus, but they are not willing to accept Jesus into their heart and change the way they live.

BIBLE POINT: Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Ideas to Illuminate

1. Play games such as, Simon Says or Mother May I to see who listens and obeys.
2. Play a game of charades. Allow the students to take turns acting out ways that we obey Jesus such as, reading our bible, praying, or helping others. The other children will guess the answer only by the actions and gestures.

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. Who should we obey?
2. How can others know that we are Christians?



Lesson: The King is Coming (Part 1 of 2)

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7, Matthew 1:23

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that prophets told of Jesus birth long before His great coming.

Materials: Bible, crayons, paper, and pencils.

Memory Verse: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). (NASB is a good version for this Scripture also.)

Lesson Summary

Long before Jesus was born, His coming was prophesied (foretold) about. Isaiah, a prophet in the Old Testament, told about many things that would happen in the future. Some of these things which He spoke about, particularly Jesus' birth were fulfilled in the New Testament. When Isaiah lived, Jesus had not been born; but because Isaiah was used of God, he was able to share the news of Jesus' birth with others. The people where waiting and watching for this child to come who would be wonderful, mighty, and a great King. He would be the King of all Kings. Isaiah also referred to Jesus as "Immanuel," which means, "God with us." What a joy to know that God loved us so much that He would send His only Son to be with us. It was more than 500 years after Isaiah lived that Jesus would be born. We see in the New Testament where a woman named Mary was visited by an angel. This angel told her that she was going to give birth to a son and His name would be called "Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23).

BIBLE POINT: The King is Coming!

Ideas to Illuminate

Fold several pieces of paper in half to make a booklet. Divide the booklet in two sections. Label the first section for the Old Testament and the second for the New Testament. On each section, have the children draw and write about things which were told in the Old Testament and then happened in the New Testament. This will help them see His foretold birth.

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. Was the Old Testament written before Jesus' birth?
2. If you were told that Jesus would be a wonderful, mighty, King, then what would you expect him to look like? How would you think He would come?



Lesson: The King is Coming (Part 2 of 2)

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-11; Luke 1:30-33, 2:8-20; John 14: 1-3

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus came (Christmas) and He will return for us.

Materials: Bible, M&M's

Memory Verse: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Lesson Summary

Last week, we read about an angel that came to a woman named Mary. He told her that she was going to have a son. This child was the Son of God. The shepherds were told by the angel to go see him. Later, three kings (Wise Men) followed a bright star to find baby Jesus. They brought gifts and bowed down to worship Him. As Isaiah had prophesied, this baby came into our world as a gift to us. He is and was the greatest gift anyone could ever receive. This gift came to teach us about His Father (God), and to give us eternal life. He did great miracles while He was here on Earth, but many did not believe that He was the Messiah. Since they did not believe who He was, they killed Him. His death had also been prophesied. After being buried for three days, Jesus arose from the grave. He met with His disciples and told them that He had to go back to His Father in Heaven. He promised that He would prepare a place for us and that He would come back to get us, so that we could live there with Him forever. Today, we celebrate Christmas because Jesus was born as a gift to us. Just like those that waited for Him to come the first time, we are waiting for Him to come again.

BIBLE POINT: The King is Coming!

Ideas to Illuminate

The M&M Christmas Story (Give each child an M&M candy to hold in his hand as you read this poem aloud.)

"As you hold this candy in your hand, and turn it, you will see; The M becomes a W, an E, and then a 3. They tell the Christmas Story, it's one I'm sure you know. It took place in a stable a long, long time ago. The E is for the East where the star shone O so bright. The M is for the Manger where the baby Jesus slept that night. The 3 is for the wise men bearing gifts, they say they came. W is for worship, hallelujah praise to His name. So as you eat these candies or share them with a friend, remember the Spirit of Christmas, and never let it end." - Adapted from poem written by Pam Ridenour

(Give each child a small bag of M&M's to enjoy.)

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. Why do we celebrate Christmas?
2. What is the greatest gift that we could ever receive?
3. What is this place that Jesus is preparing for us?



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Lesson: Receive the Son

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that he should receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons and paper

Memory Verse: "The said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him" (Lu. 20:13).

Lesson Summary

Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a large garden where grapes are grown and harvested. Instead of working in the vineyard himself, the owner hired some men to live there and take care of it for him. When it came time for the harvest, the owner sent a servant for the fruit, but the workers treated him very badly. They beat him and sent him away. He sent a second servant, and even a third, but the wicked men also beat them and refused to give the fruit to the owner of the vineyard. Finally, the owner, the lord of the vineyard, decided to send his own son whom he loved dearly. He thought the workers would respect and receive his son when he came for the harvest. But these wicked men rejected his son and decided to kill him and take the vineyard for themselves. When this happened, the lord of the vineyard came and destroyed these wicked men, and then he gave his vineyard to others who would serve him faithfully. This is what happened to Jesus when he came into this world. God sent his only begotten Son into the world to bring salvation to all who would receive him as Lord and Savior. Sadly, most of his own people (the Jewish people) rejected him and did not receive him. Although they refused to believe in Jesus, many others from nations all around the world have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

BIBLE POINT: Receive Jesus Christ

Ideas to Illuminate

Have the kids create/write a song explaining the story of today's lesson. Pick an easy tune for them to write to. Nursery songs are sometimes easy to put lyrics to.

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. Why did the lord send servants to the vineyard?
2. What happened when he sent them?
3. Who did he finally send to get the fruit of the harvest?
4. What did they do to his son?
5. What should they have done when his son came to the vineyard?
6. Have you received Jesus, God's Son, as your Lord and Savior?



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