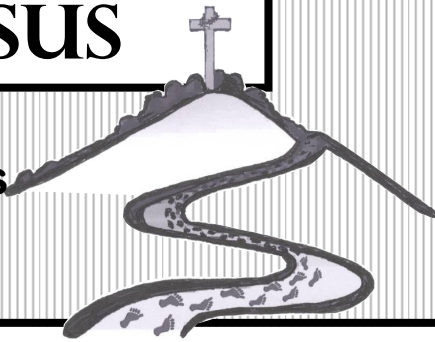


# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Pages

### Introduction



What is the Christian life all about? For many children who are growing up in Christian homes and attending church regularly, this question may seem to have an obvious answer. But does it? How well do our children understand the gospel message? Has it been carefully explained to them in words that they can understand? Have we given them the whole gospel or just bits and pieces? Have we simply assumed that they are saved because they are well-behaved and they do all the right things—pray, read the Bible, memorize verses, attend Sunday school?

As the above paragraph points out, there are many important questions that we need to examine in regards to our children. We often make two common errors: First, we assume that our children have been presented with a clear explanation of salvation—especially concerning justification—and we then assume that they have responded in belief simply because they know how to “talk the talk.” Because of this, we often treat our children as believers and press on to teach them about following Jesus’ commands. Children often come to think that it is good behavior that makes someone a Christian. In other words, we inadvertently steer our children down the deadly road of legalism. The second error is that we present children with a watered-down gospel—one that is easily responded to because it makes no demands and carries no life-changing effect. As long as the children acknowledge a few basic gospel facts, they are deemed saved by grace, and it becomes a secondary concern as to whether or not their profession is followed by true Christian obedience. In this scenario, we inadvertently lead our children down the dangerous road of licentiousness.

*To Be Like Jesus* was written to carefully steer children down the true, biblical road of the gospel message as summarized in Ephesians 2:8-10 and Luke 9:23:

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

*And He said to all, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”*

Please do not see the lessons as a “to do” list for the Christian life. Being a Christian is not a “to do” list (or a “don’t do” list). It is about having a real, heart-felt relationship with a living and reigning Savior and Lord. The Christian life is about having Jesus as your heart’s treasure and delight. It is about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and the Word in the life of every true believer. How does this happen? By grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone!

#### **Parental Responsibility:**

Clearly the responsibility (as well as the privilege) of nurturing the faith of children rests

primarily on parents. Parents have the most opportunity for teachable moments: everyday situations in which the truth of God's Word can be applied. Faith nurturing should not be seen primarily as a classroom experience, but rather should be seen as a consistent weaving of spiritual truth into everyday life. In order for the church and the home to partner together in nurturing the faith of children, Parent Resource Pages are provided.

### **Using the Parent Resource Pages:**

Every lesson in this curriculum has a corresponding Parent Resource Page. You will find the following information listed: Lesson title, key themes, Scripture presented in lesson, and one or more memory verses. Use this information to ask your child questions about the lesson. Encourage your child to memorize the memory verse. All memory verses are printed in the ESV version. The ESV is a version that is both readable and accurate. So a child using the ESV because it is readable can someday become an adult using the ESV because it is accurate. Since there is no need to switch versions as a teen or adult, verses memorized as a child will still be reviewed in adulthood. These verses have been carefully chosen to give children a strong Bible-based theological foundation. We cannot overemphasize the significance of memorized Scripture in the walk of faith.

After the memory verse, you will notice a section titled, **Take it to heart**. This title is very intentional. This particular study must be presented very carefully. The majority of lessons focus on specific commands of Jesus. The fear of legalism should be a very real one. As a parent you must be discerning. Listen carefully to how your child is responding to the lesson content. You must keep directing the focus to the response of the heart! The Christian life is about having a living, ongoing, heart-felt relationship with Jesus. Christian obedience is not about external acts that are done apart from faith in Jesus. Sanctification is growing in grace, evidenced by loving obedience to our Savior and Lord. The questions listed in this section are to assist you in getting to the heart of the matter—not merely seeing if your child has come to an intellectual understanding. Hopefully these questions will encourage further spiritual discussion between you and your child along with practical suggestions for putting faith into action.

Finally, you will find a section titled, **Pray about it**. As 1 Corinthians 3:7 states, *“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”* We are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit for giving us new spiritual eyes that see, trust, and treasure Christ. And it is only by His ongoing power, transforming the heart and mind, that we and our children can grow in grace. Prayer is the means by which we can come before our heavenly Father and cry out to Him for daily help. Praying with and for your child will encourage him to continually fix his eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

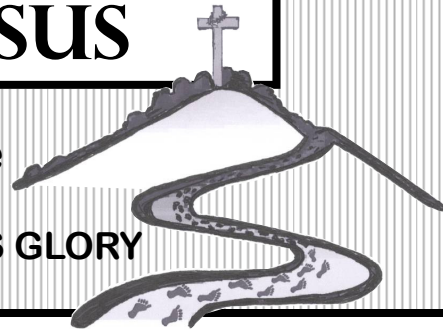
Deuteronomy 6:5-9 says, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 1:

## CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE FOR HIS GLORY



### Themes:

- ◆ We have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory.
- ◆ We are to show the greatness and worth of God in all of our thoughts, desires, and actions.
- ◆ God is righteous and holy, and it is our duty to be righteous and holy.
- ◆ Righteousness and holiness is the path to eternal life.

### Scripture:

Genesis 1:26a, 27; Isaiah 43:6b-7; Ephesians 4:24b; Habakkuk 1:13a;  
Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 16:11

### Memory Verses: 1 Peter 1:15 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

*But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

**Take it to heart:** How many words do you know that describe how great and wonderful God is? Is there anyone else like God? Why not? Read Psalm 86:8-12. What do these verses tell you about God? When you read through these verses, what do you think about? What do you feel in your heart? Do you have questions about what these verses mean? If you read these verses to an animal, would it have the same thoughts and feelings as you do? Why not? Why have you been created in the image and likeness of God? Do you see this as a great privilege and responsibility? What are the privileges? What are the responsibilities?

Review 1 Peter 1:15. Why does God require that His people be holy in all they do? Read Habakkuk 1:13a. Are *all* of your thoughts, feelings, words, and actions holy? Think of a specific example.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Why does God require that we do everything for His glory—showing His greatness and worth? Can you think of an example where you did something to show off your own abilities? Is there a way in which you could have had an attitude that glorifies God instead? How? Why is it hard to live out this verse? What are we tempted to do?

Read Psalm 16:11. Do you believe that lasting joy is found in God's presence? What are "pleasures forevermore"? What kinds of things do you enjoy? Will they last forever? Why not? What is the promise of Psalm 16:11? Do you want this promise to be for you? God requires that His people be perfectly holy and righteous in order to live in His presence forever. Do you meet this requirement? Do your parents? Why not? What is the consequence?

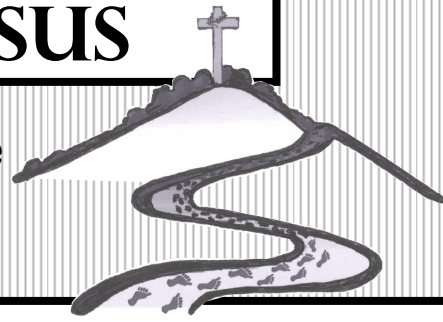
**Pray about it:** Have a time of prayer. Think about who God is and what He is like and ask Him to show you His greatness and worth. Ask Him to make Psalm 16:11 the true desire of your heart.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 2: ALL HAVE SINNED



#### Themes:

- ◆ We were created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
- ◆ God's commands are holy, righteous, and good and show us what He expects in order to gain eternal life.
- ◆ The commandments show us our failure to be perfectly righteous and holy.
- ◆ All of us have sinned and fail to measure up to God's commands.
- ◆ It is impossible for us to earn eternal life through our own obedience.

#### Scripture:

Ephesians 4:24b; 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 19:16-22; Romans 7:12; Leviticus 18:5a; Romans 3:23

#### Memory Verses: Romans 7:12 and Romans 3:20

*So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

*For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

**Take it to heart:** With your parents, review the story of the rich young man from Matthew 19:16-22. If you met this young man, would he appear to be a well-behaved, obedient, and nice person? According to Jesus, would this help him to earn eternal life? Why not? What didn't the young man see about himself, his heart, and God's holy and righteous commands? What do God's commands show you about your own heart? For example, the first command calls us to love and treasure God most of all. Do you always do that? Would you be like the young man and say, "Yes, I do that"? But is there anything in your life that shows that your life sometimes treasures other things more? For example, how much time do you spend playing computer games compared to how much time you spend reading the Bible or praying? Or, do you always honor your parents? Read Romans 3:23. What does this verse tell you about yourself?

Read Romans 3:20. If you look very carefully at God's law, what will it show you? Are you trying to be righteous by trying to be really good? Will it work? Why not? How does this make you feel?

Read Romans 6:23a. What is the consequence of your sin? Do you take this verse seriously or don't you care about your own sin? If you pretend that it doesn't matter, will that change the truth? Why not? Should you care about sin and death and hell? Do you want to enjoy eternal life with God? Can you earn eternal life? What answer did Jesus have for the rich young man? Did he accept it? Will you accept it?

**Pray about it:** Ask God to show you your sinful heart. Confess your sins to Him. Ask Him to help you. Are you ready to stop trying to earn eternal life and look to Jesus?

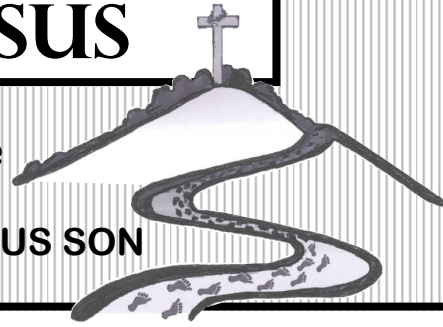


# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 3:

## JESUS, GOD'S HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS SON



### Themes:

- ◆ No one is righteous and holy—we all have sinned and fall short of God's glory.
- ◆ Sinners can never earn eternal life; instead we deserve death and hell.
- ◆ Jesus is fully God and also became fully human and lived among people.
- ◆ Jesus is without sin—He is holy and righteous and was the perfect law keeper.
- ◆ Jesus always pleased and glorified His Father in heaven.
- ◆ God sent Jesus into the world to save the world through Jesus.

### Scripture:

Romans 6:23a; Romans 3:23; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:2-3a; Colossians 2:9; John 1:14; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 5:17; John 17:4; Mark 1:11; John 3:17

### Memory Verse: John 1:14

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Take it to heart:** When you read about Jesus in the Bible—His words and actions—do you picture Him as a real person who actually lived, breathed, ate, and slept or does He seem unreal to you? If He doesn't seem real to you, do you know why He doesn't? What would help you? Can you find examples of Jesus' human qualities in the Bible?

Read Hebrews 2:17 and Hebrews 4:15. Has there been a difficult time when you felt that no one could understand what you are feeling? Can Jesus sympathize with you? Why? Did Jesus have the same temptations as you? But did He ever sin? How do you think He can help you when you sin? Do you ask Him to help you?

Why is it important to know that Jesus is fully God? When you read the Bible and think about Jesus, do you see His "God-ness"? Think of some examples.

Is it hard for you to understand how Jesus can be both fully God and fully human? Do you think that as you grow up, God can help you to better understand who Jesus is?

Because Jesus was a perfect law keeper, did He fulfill God's demands for earning eternal life? Is that important for you? How? Read Romans 5:19. What does this verse mean? How can Jesus make you righteous?

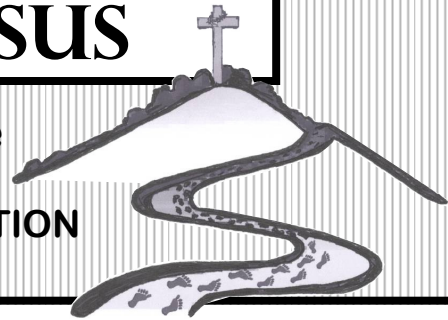
**Pray about it:** Ask God to open the eyes of your heart to see Jesus. Ask Jesus to make Himself real to you and take away any doubts that you may have. Praise Him for who He is and all that He has done.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 4: THE GOSPEL OF JESUS: SALVATION IN JESUS



### Themes:

- ◆ Jesus was perfectly holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life.
- ◆ We are unrighteous sinners, and it is impossible for us to earn eternal life.
- ◆ Jesus came into the world to save sinners and give them eternal life.
- ◆ The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus.
- ◆ The gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

### Scripture:

John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28; Matthew 20:28b; John 11:25b; Mark 1:15

### Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.*

**Take it to heart:** Read John 3:16. If someone came up to you today and asked you what this verse means, could you explain it to them? Why, or why not? Look at the verse carefully. Do you see any “bad news” in the verse that you need saving from? Why are sinners perishing? What is the good news in this verse? Why did God send Jesus into the world? Do you believe that this verse applies to you? Did Jesus come to save you?

Suppose someone says that as long as you do more good things than bad things, you can get to heaven without believing in Jesus. Or, you can get eternal life by believing in the help of other gods, or you can get eternal life by working to do five special things. Can you get eternal life in these ways also? Read John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. Can you depend on any other way to be saved? Are you trying to receive eternal life by depending on anything or anyone else other than Jesus?

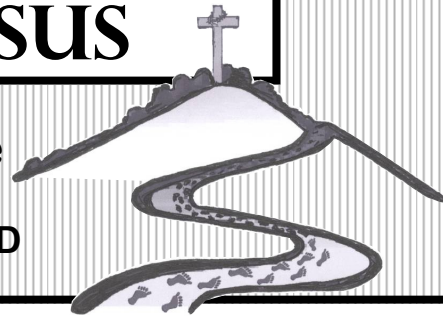
Have you ever felt a deep sadness for your sin and your inability to earn eternal life? Have you ever felt desperate because you have sinned against a holy and righteous God and deserve His judgment? Have you responded to the good news of the gospel? If so, how? If not, why not? What do you need to do in order to receive salvation from Jesus? Read Mark 1:15. Have you repented? Do you believe in Jesus? Read Luke 15:11-22, Luke 18:13, and Luke 9:23 to see what a repentant and believing heart looks and acts like. What does your own heart show?

**Pray about it:** Seek after God with all your heart. Ask Him to give you a repentant and believing heart. Have you prayed to believe in Jesus for your salvation? Have you thought about what it means to repent and believe? Call out to Jesus with a sincere and broken heart.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 5: SALVATION: CHOSEN BY GOD



### Themes:

- ◆ Salvation is found in Jesus alone.
- ◆ God alone chooses and predestines whom He will save.
- ◆ God's choices are based on His good pleasure—not on any merit of our own.
- ◆ God foreknows all things (exhaustive foreknowledge!).
- ◆ Salvation is a gift from God to undeserving sinners.

### Scripture:

John 3:36; Acts 4:12; Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 1:4a; Ephesians 2:8-9;  
Ephesians 1:11

### Memory Verses: Ephesians 1:4a and Ephesians 2:8-9

*He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

**Take it to heart:** Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Does anyone deserve salvation? Why not? Do you see salvation as a special gift from God to undeserving sinners? Have you received God's gift of salvation? If you have, do you ever boast about being a Christian? Is this the right attitude? Why not? What can help you remember not to boast in yourself?

Read Romans 9:14-18. Can you picture yourself as clay in God's hands? Why or why not? Are you happy to think of God as your potter? Why or why not? What does this show about your heart? Can God shape you in ways you could never shape yourself? Give an example.

Do you sometimes look at people and make decisions about them because of what they can do? For example, you pick someone for your baseball team because they are a great hitter and fielder. Does God make His choices this way? Read Romans 9:10-13. Why is it good for you that God does not make His choices based on your own abilities? How should knowing this change how you look at others who need to be saved?

If you have not yet received God's gift of salvation, should you say something like, "I give up! God hasn't chosen me and never will"? Read Jeremiah 29:13. Are you seeking Jesus with all your heart? How? If not, why? Read Acts 2:21. Are you calling on the name of the Lord? If not, why? Do you have doubts about who Jesus is and what He has done? Do you feel that the gospel message is boring? Why?

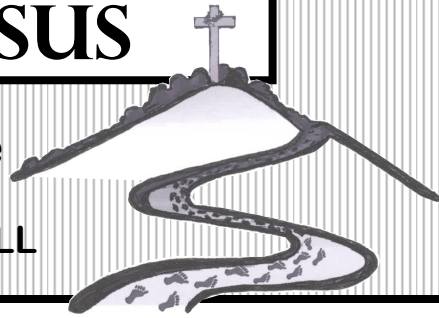
**Pray about it:** If you have received God's wonderful gift of salvation, spend a few minutes thanking and praising Him—He has given you the best gift ever! Ask Him to give you a humble heart to understand and appreciate His infinite goodness. Pray for others who need this gift.

If you do not yet feel liked you are saved, ask God to deal with your heart. Ask Him to give you trust. Ask Him to change your heart so that you will see Jesus as more valuable and important than anything else. Call out to Jesus with a sincere heart.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 6: SALVATION: THE GOSPEL CALL



### Themes:

- ◆ Salvation is by grace alone—God’s gift of undeserved kindness toward sinners.
- ◆ The gospel of salvation in Jesus is to be preached to all people (general call).
- ◆ Faith comes through hearing the gospel proclaimed.
- ◆ Jesus personally calls His chosen people to respond in belief.
- ◆ All those whom Jesus calls will respond in belief (effective calling).

### Scripture:

Ephesians 1:4a; 2:8-9; Romans 10:13-14, 17; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 16:13-14;  
Romans 8:30a

### Memory Verses: Romans 10:17 and Romans 8:30a

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

*And those whom He predestined He also called.*

**Take it to heart:** Ask your parents to describe to you how they became Christians. Have you ever felt the call of Jesus? If you have, what did it feel like? Is it hard to describe? Was it something similar to Lydia’s experience? If you have not heard Jesus’ call, should you just give up? What can you do? Have you tried praying to Jesus and seeking Him through the Bible and the help of others?

Read the following verses: Romans 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:12; 1 Peter 2:9-10. Have you experienced any of these things in your life? Do you feel the fellowship of Jesus in your heart? How? Do you feel like you belong to God? Why or why not? Do you have a special relationship with other Christians? Can you explain this? Do you want to live a holy life and follow Jesus? If these things don’t seem to apply to you, can you ask Jesus to make them true for your life also?

If you have been called by Jesus and are a Christian, do you ever worry that somehow you will be separated from Jesus? Why or why not? Read John 10:25-30. If God has called you, can anyone or anything take you away from Him? Why not?

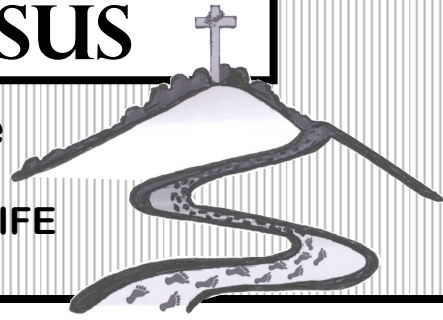
**Pray about it:** If you have felt Jesus’ call to believe in Him, take some time to thank Him and praise Him. Think of someone that would be encouraged if you told them of your experience of how you were saved.

If you have not yet felt Jesus personally calling to your heart to believe in Him, seek after Him with all your heart. Read through the book of Acts and pray and ask Jesus to open your heart. Ask your parents and other Christian adults to help you.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 7: SALVATION: NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE (REGENERATION)



### Themes:

- ◆ Salvation is found in Jesus alone.
- ◆ God chooses people and then calls them through the message of the gospel.
- ◆ In our sinful nature, we are unable to respond to the gospel in belief.
- ◆ We must be given new spiritual life in order to believe.
- ◆ God gives new spiritual life through the work of the Spirit.
- ◆ Those who have been given new spiritual life will believe in Jesus.

### Scripture:

Mark 16:16; Romans 3:11-12a; Romans 8:7; John 6:44, 65; John 3:3-4

### Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:4-5

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.*

**Take it to heart:** Can you explain to your parents the picture of the fish and its two choices (the worm on the hook or the weeds)? What does this illustration have to do with you and your own heart? (Read Romans 3:11-12 and Romans 8:7.) Read through Ephesians 2:1-3. Does this description of human nature apply to you also? How is this sometimes shown in your life? Do you recognize your own sin? How do you feel about it? How does God feel about it? (See Romans 1:18.) Can you change your sinful heart? Why not? Then how can you change? Read Ephesians 2:4-5. What does it mean to be “made alive in Christ”? Who alone can give you new spiritual life so that you will believe in Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

Read John 6:44 and 65. How does God enable someone to come to Him? How does God draw someone to Himself? Have your parents help you read through John 3:1-8. Can your parents explain verse 8 to you?

Has God given you new spiritual life? Have you been “born again”? Can you describe how this happened to you? How has this changed your life? Do you feel the Holy Spirit in your life? How does He act as your Helper? Can you give a specific example of this?

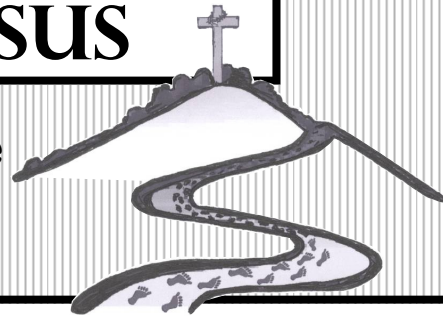
**Pray about it:** If the Holy Spirit has moved in your heart and given you new spiritual life so that you now are a believer in Jesus, give thanks to Him for changing your heart. Praise God for new spiritual thoughts and desires. Ask the Holy Spirit to constantly guide you in your daily walk with Jesus. Pray for a friend or relative who is not trusting in Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move and cause him to be “born again.”





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 8: Salvation: Conversion



### Themes:

- ◆ Belief in Jesus includes: a basic understanding of the gospel, an agreement of the facts, a personal trust in Jesus.
- ◆ Faith is trusting in Jesus alone for salvation.
- ◆ Faith must be accompanied by repentance.
- ◆ Repentance is a deep-felt sorrow for sin and a turning away from sin to Jesus.

### Scripture:

Mark 16:16; James 2:19a; John 3:16; Acts 20:21

### Memory Verse: Acts 20:21

*[I have been] testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Take it to heart:** Do you agree with the facts from the Bible about who Jesus is and what He has done? Who do you believe Jesus is? What do you believe He has done? Do you agree with the facts about who you are and what you have done? Is that enough to be saved? Read and discuss the following verses: Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3; and Hebrews 11:6.

Do you believe in Jesus as your living God, Savior, and Lord? Do you believe that when He died on the cross, He did it to pay the penalty for your sins? Are you depending on Jesus alone to save you and give you eternal life? Or, are you depending on something else? If you are depending on Jesus alone, how will this be shown in your life? If you are depending on your own work or effort, how would this be shown? Are you willing to follow Jesus in obedience, doing things His way? Do you trust Him in every area of your life? If someone talks to you and sees your life, will they see someone who is depending on Jesus?

Remember: BELIEF IN JESUS and TRUSTING IN JESUS = FAITH  
TURNING AWAY FROM SIN AND TURNING TO JESUS = REPENTANCE  
FAITH + REPENTANCE = CONVERSION

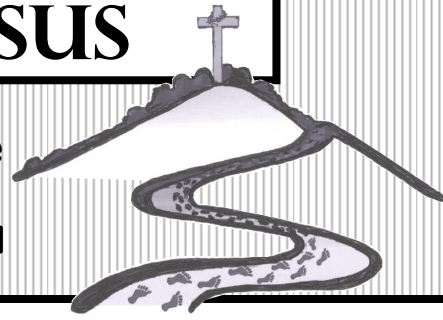
Have you repented? What do you think about your own sin? Do you feel that sin doesn't matter that much, or is it a big deal? Do you hate your sin? Does it cause you sadness? Do you understand how your sin offends God? Do you want to turn away from sin and get as far away from sin as possible? Have you turned to Jesus? Are you depending on Him to forgive your sin? Can you give an example of what this has looked like in your own life?

**Pray about it:** Read and discuss Romans 2:4-5 and 2 Corinthians 6:2. Pray about your response.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 9: SALVATION: JUSTIFICATION



### Themes:

- ◆ All sinners are guilty before God and the punishment is death and hell.
- ◆ Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness.
- ◆ Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice for sin in order to satisfy the righteousness of God.
- ◆ Justification is a legal act of God in which He forgives sin, gives to us Jesus' righteousness, and sees us as righteous in His sight.
- ◆ Justification is through faith in Jesus.
- ◆ Everyone who is justified by Jesus will receive eternal life.

### Scripture:

Luke 23:39-43; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23a; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:1

### Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 5:1

*For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Take it to heart:** What thoughts and feelings do you have when you see a cross? What does Jesus' death mean to you? Do you think that what Jesus did on the cross is very important and precious? Why or why not? Have you asked God to make this truth precious to you?

Read Romans 5:1-2. Notice the words: justified (forgiveness of sin, given the righteousness of Jesus, seen as "not guilty" by God), faith (trusting in Jesus alone), and grace (God's undeserved kindness toward us). What does it mean to be at peace with God? Do you feel at peace with God? Why or why not? What has Jesus done so that you can be at peace with God? Have you responded to Jesus in faith?

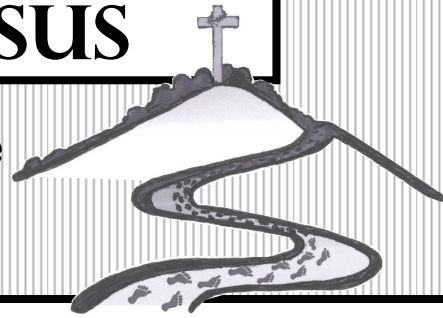
Pretend you had to go to court today and God Himself was the judge. Would God say to you, "You are a guilty sinner. Your punishment is death and hell!"? Or, are you confident that God would say, "You are not guilty and will receive eternal life and enjoy Me forever!"? What will determine how God judges you? Could you say to Him, "I tried really hard to be good," "I went to Sunday school almost every week," "I sang in the choir," or "I memorized 100 Bible verses"? What alone can justify you and make you right with God? Recall Ephesians 2:8-9. Remember: Justification is a gift of God's grace to sinners. There is nothing you can do to earn it. Jesus did all the work. You can receive His justifying work through faith—by trusting in Jesus alone just like the criminal on the cross. Are you trusting in Jesus or are you trying to work at getting right with God? Will you succeed if you try to earn God's favor?

**Pray about it:** When you see and understand what Jesus has done for sinners by His death on the cross, how should you respond? Is there any greater gift someone could give you? Could anyone love you more than this? Is anyone more precious than Jesus? Pray about your response.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 10: SALVATION: ADOPTION



### Themes:

- ◆ Adoption is an act of God in which He makes us members of His family.
- ◆ Everyone who is trusting in Jesus is given the right to become a child of God.
- ◆ God's children enjoy a special and intimate relationship with Him.
- ◆ God's children are heirs to all of His good promises.

### Scripture:

John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; Romans 9:25b; Ephesians 1:4-5a; Matthew 7:11; Psalm 103:13; Matthew 6:6; Matthew 25:34; Hebrews 12:5-6; Matthew 6:14; John 14:26; John 10:29; Matthew 28:20b; Isaiah 40:11; 1 John 3:1a, 2

### Memory Verses: John 1:12 and Ephesians 1:4b-5a

*But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*

*In love He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ.*

**Take it to heart:** What special privileges do you have in relation to your own parents? Do your parents treat you in a special way because you have *earned* your parents love and affection? That is because good parents love their children unconditionally—without regard to any merit in their child. Can you become a child of God and be loved in a special way by God because of anything that you have done to earn it? Review John 1:12 and Galatians 3:26. Do you feel that you are a child of God? Why or why not?

Do you feel loved by God? Do you feel free to call God your heavenly Father? Why or why not? Do you feel His provision and protection? Do you feel that God cares for and loves you in a way that is similar to how your parents care for and love you? Can you give an example of this? How can being in a loving human family help you to better understand what it's like to be in God's family? How can being a part of a church help you to better understand what it is like to be a part of God's family?

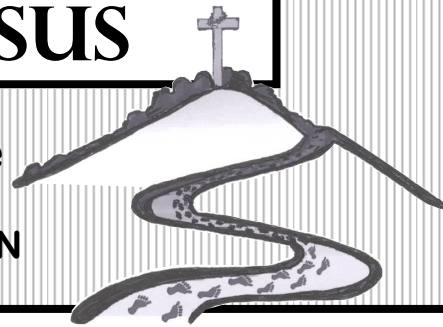
Along with the privileges of being a child in a family, there are also responsibilities such as honoring your parents and obeying them (Ephesians 6:1-3). If you are a child of God, are there special responsibilities that you have toward Him? Are there special ways that you should act towards Him? Can you give examples?

**Pray about it:** Go in prayer to your heavenly Father each day this week. Praise Him and thank Him for all the wonderful blessings that He has lavished on you. Remember that God gives only good gifts to His children! Pray for your parents also. God has given you parents to help you to better understand what He is like.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 11: SALVATION: SANCTIFICATION



### Themes:

- Salvation is through faith in Jesus alone.
- God adopts the people whom He saves into His family.
- God expects that His children grow in their salvation.
- Sanctification is the progressive work of God and His children in which they become more like Jesus.

### Scripture:

John 1:12; 1 Peter 2:2; Romans 8:29a; Ephesians 4:24b; 2 Thessalonians 2:13b (NASB); Hebrews 12:14b (NASB); Philippians 2:12b; Matthew 16:24; John 14:15; Ephesians 2:10a; Ephesians 5:1

### Memory Verse: Romans 8:29a

*For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.*

**Take it to heart:** Read Ephesians 4:24. Can you put on a new self without Jesus? Why not? Are you trying to become a “good” person without depending on Jesus? Is this pleasing to God? (Read Hebrews 11:6.) If trust in Jesus, have you experienced a difference in the way you react and deal with sin? How does your attitude toward cheating, lying, and bragging compare with Jesus’ attitude? Do you notice a stronger desire to live in a righteous way? Is there a specific way you are growing as a Christian? Do you become less angry? Are you more patient? Are you nicer to your family? Is this because of God working in your life?

Read the verses listed in the **Scripture** section. How many “action” words can you find? Why does God want His children to grow up and become like Jesus? Why is obeying Jesus important in becoming more like Him? Is this easy to do? Why not? Can you give an example of a way it has been really hard for you to be like Jesus? Can you think of ways you can “grow up” in this area? What kind of help can Jesus give to you?

Do you think that as a Christian grows and becomes more like Jesus that there is a point when he can say, “I’m finished working out my salvation. I don’t have to work at it anymore”? Recall 1 John 3:2. When will all believers finally be like Jesus? What does it tell you about sanctification? Can you say that you will be finished when you are 20, 30, 60, or 80? How can this encourage you? How can spending time with a person who has been a Christian a long time encourage you to keep on working at growing in your salvation?

**Pray about it:** Sanctification is hard work for Christians! But if you are truly trusting in Jesus, He expects you to grow up in your salvation. You can’t do it without Him! Pray and ask God to help you take “action.” Ask God to point out to you areas in your life where you need to grow. If you are a child of God, give thanks for the promise of Philippians 1:6.

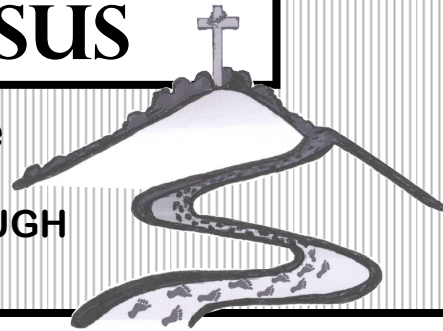
If you have been trying to be good in order to earn God’s favor, ask God to change your heart. Repent and turn to Jesus.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 12: BECOMING LIKE JESUS THROUGH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



### Themes:

- Justification is by grace through faith in Jesus.
- Sanctification is the evidence of justification.
- Sanctification is a necessary part of salvation.
- In sanctification a believer becomes more and more free from the power of sin and becomes more and more like Jesus.
- A believer is sanctified through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is God and lives inside every believer.

### Scripture:

Ephesians 4:24b; Hebrews 12:14b (NASB); Romans 7:15, 17-19, 21-23;  
John 14:15-18; Galatians 5:16b, 19a, 22-23a, 25

### Memory Verses: Galatians 5:16b, 22-23a

*Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

**Take it to heart:** Read the following verses: John 14:26; Romans 8:9; and 1 John 4:4. Do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? Can you think of a situation where the Holy Spirit counseled you? How did He counsel you? What were you able to do because of His help? Why is it hard to listen to Him sometimes?

Read Romans 8:12-16. Do you sometimes let sin become your master? Are there specific things that still try to rule over your life and draw you into sin—perhaps certain friends or books or movies or situations? If you are a child of God, has He given you the power to “master” sin? How can the Holy Spirit help you?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. Have you seen any spiritual growth in your life? How? Can you give a specific example?

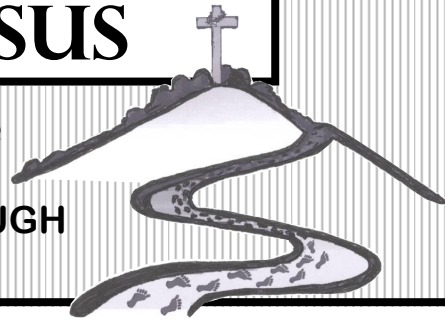
Read John 15:4-5. What does Jesus want us to understand through these words? Can we do any good deeds that are pleasing to God apart from Him? Why not? What kind of “fruit” is Jesus talking about in these verses? If someone were to examine your words and actions for a week, could they find any evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life? Does this mean that you have to be perfect? No, but are you growing?

**Pray about it:** Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation? Has He given you His Holy Spirit? Ask God to guide you with His Spirit. Ask Him to give you “spiritual ears”—a heart that is sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Confess to God the things that draw you into sin and away from attitudes and actions that are pleasing to Him. Pray for a mind and heart that is increasingly “dead” to sin and alive to the Spirit.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 13: BECOMING LIKE JESUS THROUGH TREASURING HIS WORD



### Themes:

- Christians are sanctified through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
- The Holy Spirit lives within everyone who is trusting in Jesus for his salvation.
- The Holy Spirit and the Word of God show believers the greatness and worth of Jesus.
- Christians are to treasure God's Word by reading and meditating on it, delighting in it, doing what it says, and fighting sin with it.

### Scripture:

2 Thessalonians 2:13b; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:1; Ephesians 4:24b; John 14:17;  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

**Take it to heart:** Review 2 Timothy 3:16. Recall that God's Word is useful for teaching what is true, rebuking what is wrong, correcting what is wrong, and training in righteousness. With the help of your parents, identify specific things that you struggle with. Make a list of these and then have your parents help you find Bible verses that address each of these issues. Can you give an example of how God's Word has helped you in a certain situation?

Suppose you are tempted to say something nasty in response to a bully at school. Can you think of a verse from the Bible that would instruct you how to respond? Will knowing this verse mean that you will automatically respond this way? Why not? What kind of struggle will you be going through? What else do you need in order to obey God's Word? The power of the Holy Spirit to overcome your sinful desires. Does Jesus only care about your outward response or does He care about the true attitude of your heart? (See Proverbs 16:2.)

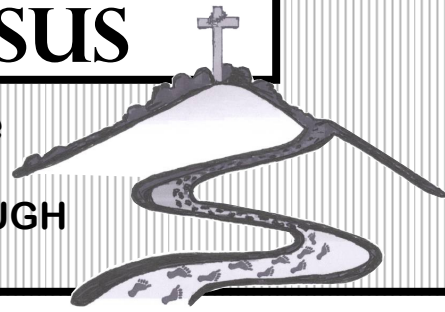
Read 1 Peter 2:2. What is "spiritual milk"? Why should Christians crave God's Word? Are you a Christian? Do you crave God's Word? How is this shown in your life? Is your Bible used every day or only once in a while? What kinds of things or attitudes keep you from spending more time in God's Word? Is Psalm 119:9-11 a desire of your heart? Why or why not?

**Pray about it:** Make Psalm 119:9-11 into a prayer. If you do not feel that these verses express the true desire of your heart, repent and ask God to change your heart. Discipline yourself to spend time everyday reading God's Word and ask God to give you a heart that is tender to His instruction.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 14: BECOMING LIKE JESUS THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER



### Themes:

- God desires to have an intimate relationship with His children.
- Prayer is the means by which God's children come into His presence and speak to Him.
- In the Bible, Jesus teaches us how we should pray.
- In our prayers we should acknowledge who God is, express honor and love toward Him, seek His plans, ask Him to meet our needs, confess our sins, and ask for power against sin.
- Prayer should be done with an attitude of thanksgiving toward God.

### Scripture:

2 Thessalonians 2:13b; Matthew 6:5-13; Colossians 4:2 (NASB)

### Memory Verse: Matthew 6:9b-13

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

**Take it to heart:** Can you tell your parents about the five points of prayer that you learned about in this lesson: ADDRESS, SUBMIT, ASK, CONFESS, RECOGNIZE, and BE THANKFUL?

Do you remember a specific situation when being able to go to God in prayer was really important to you? How did prayer help you get through that situation? Is there a problem that you or someone you love is facing today? How could you pray about this?

With your parents, read through the words from the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Do you feel that prayer is a great privilege? Why or why not? How is this shown in your life?

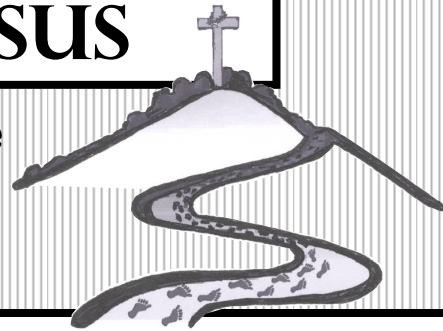
Read Luke 11:5-13. Should God's children just pray about something once and then just give up? What kind of a Father is God? What does He want to give His children? Is there something that you have been praying about for a long time? Maybe you have been asking God to save a friend or family member. Does it sometimes feel like God is not listening? Why? According to the Bible, is He listening? Does He want you to give up? What might He be teaching you?

**Pray about it:** Use the prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 as a guide in your prayers this week. Remember to address God in a way that is honoring and respectful of who He is and what He is like. Remember to spend time in praise and thanksgiving first so that your prayers don't simply become lists of requests. And keep Matthew 15:8 in mind when you pray. Is your heart sincere when you pray?



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 15: BECOMING LIKE JESUS BY SUBMITTING TO HIM



### Themes:

- God has designed roles of authority and submission.
- Jesus is Lord of all and all people should submit to Him.
- Christians must acknowledge Jesus as their Lord.
- Sanctification happens through a Christian's submitting to the commands of Jesus.
- God has given all Christians the Holy Spirit and the Bible to equip us for obedience to Jesus.

### Scripture:

Colossians 3:20; Matthew 10:24; Luke 5:1-6; 1 John 2:3-6; Romans 6:22

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

*And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

*Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.*

**Take it to heart:** Read 1 John 2:3-6. Do you claim to know Jesus? Do you show this through obedience to His commands? Why is obedience to Jesus sometimes hard? Why do you struggle with submission to Jesus, parents, and other authorities? What is it about you that wants to do things your own way? If you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation, how has He been working on your rebellious heart?

Can you think of an example of a command from Jesus that used to be something that you didn't like or understand but now you have begun to delight in it more and more?

Read 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 4:11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; and Galatians 2:20. Why are you to submit to Jesus? Why does He have authority over all people? Why is this especially true in the lives of Christians? Do you think that you can be a Christian but not submit to Jesus? Are there many people who say that they trust Jesus, but do not obey Him as their Lord? How is this shown in their lives? What does your life show? Is Jesus the Lord and Master of your life?

Ask your parents to share with you a situation in which they were disobedient to a specific command of Jesus. What was the outcome? If you are a Christian, will there be many times that you fail to keep His commands? Does it really matter? What should you do when this happens? How can you return to right relationship with Him? Read 1 John 1:8-9. What is confession? How can you confess your sin to Jesus? What does He promise to do for His children? How can this be an encouragement to you as you try to follow His commands?

**Pray about it:** Ask Jesus to give you a more submissive heart and cause you to delight in obedience to Him. Read, think about, and pray about Psalm 139:23-24.



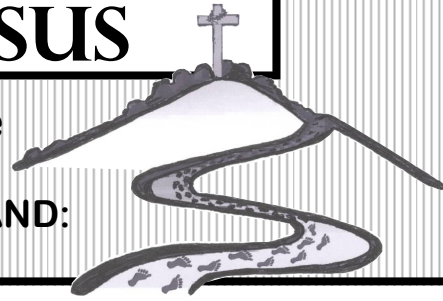


# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 16:

## THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMAND: LOVING GOD MOST OF ALL



### Themes:

- Jesus is Lord and His children are to imitate His life and walk in obedience to Him.
- Jesus loves and treasures God most of all.
- Jesus commands us to love God most of all.
- Obedience to Jesus is evidence of our love for Him.
- God's commands are to be our duty and our delight.
- True, lasting happiness is found in God alone.

### Scripture:

1 John 2:3; Romans 6:22; 1 John 5:3; Mark 12:28b-30; Philippians 3:7-9a

### Memory Verses: Mark 12:30

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

**Take it to heart:** Ask your parents to describe to you what Jesus means to them. What does Jesus mean to you? Is it hard to explain? Why? Is it because He is more precious and special to you than words can describe or is it because you feel that you don't really know Him? Read Philippians 3:7-9. Are these verses true for you?

Make a list of things and people that are important to you and your family. How long can these things satisfy you? What happens when the movie is over? What happens when the friend moves away or you have a fight with him? When you get hurt and can't play that sport anymore? Now make a list of some of God's attributes. How does God compare to other things and people? Why is it still hard to love and treasure God most of all? Why do those other things still pull at your heart? Why are we constantly being drawn to love other things more than God?

Read Mark 12:30. Why is this command not only to be your greatest duty (what you should do) but also your greatest delight (what you are happy to do)? Can you think of something that your parents tell you to do that you are also happy to do? How do you feel about this kind of command? Does it feel burdensome? Why not? Why does God give you a command to love Him most of all? Does God know what will make you happy forever? Read Psalm 16:11.

**Pray about it:** Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. Has God done this in your heart? If He has, praise and thank Him for this wonderful gift! Ask Him to give you more and more love for Him so that you may be more and more satisfied in Him. If you feel no or little love for God, what other things are drawing your heart away? Confess these to God and ask Him to take away your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

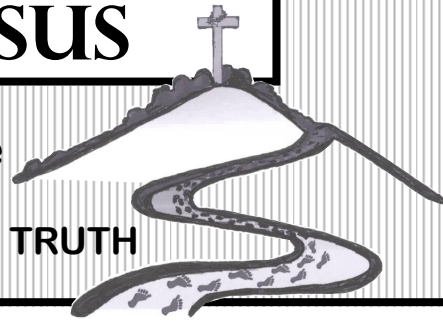


# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 17:

## WORSHIPPING GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH



### Themes:

- The most important command is to love God most of all.
- True love for God will be expressed as worship.
- Worship is gladly expressing to God that He is your greatest treasure and delight.
- Worship must be done in spirit and truth—treasuring Jesus for who He is and what He has done.
- All of life is to be an act of worship.

### Scripture:

Exodus 15:1-4, 11; Job 1:20-21; Luke 5:8; John 4:24; Matthew 15:8-9a

### Memory Verse: John 4:24

*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

**Take it to heart:** Recall that WORSHIP = Recognizing true things about God + A right heart response. Read Revelation 4:11. Who alone is worthy of all worship? Why? (Read Isaiah 42:8 also.) Do you worship Jesus? Do you find other things or people to be more worthy of your worship? If so, why? How do we intentionally focus our minds and hearts on these things? Is there a way that you can intentionally focus your mind and heart on Jesus?

How could you worship God while you're playing with your dog? What true things about God can you recognize? Who created your dog? Who gave you the dog? Who gave you the ability to run and play and laugh? Is there a right, heart-felt response that you could express to God? How could you worship God as you eat pizza? How could you worship God as you do your school work?

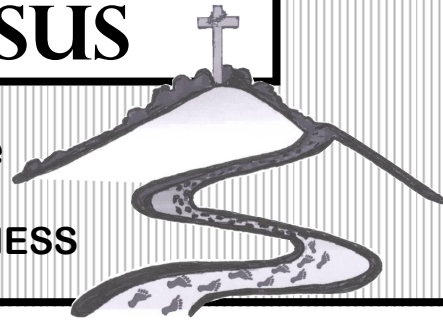
Have your parents help you to choose a familiar worship hymn to study this week. Look for words and phrases that recognize true things about God. Do you believe these things about God? Next, look for words of a right heart response. Has your heart responded to God in this way? If you simply sing the words to the song, is it worship? Why not? Read Matthew 15:8-9a. Do you worship Jesus in spirit and in truth?

**Pray about it:** Read Psalm 96:1-9. Can this psalm of worship be turned into a prayer? Does it express what you recognize to be true of Jesus? Does it express the response of your heart? Ask God to show you His glory through the greatness and worth of Jesus. Ask Him to “wow” you and speak to your heart so that you will gladly worship Him in spirit and truth.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 18: HUNGERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS



### Themes:

- Christians are to have a strong desire for Jesus' righteousness in their daily lives.
- God wants His children to become righteous and holy.
- We must find out what thoughts, words, and actions please God.
- The Bible provides us with God's righteous commands for every situation.
- Jesus promises happiness to those who hunger for His righteousness.

### Scripture:

Matthew 5:6; Ephesians 5:8-10; Philippians 4:4; Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:24b; Proverbs 31:9; 2 Timothy 3:16

### Memory Verse: Matthew 5:6

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

**Take it to heart:** Do you find yourself thinking about what is right to do in every situation? Why is this hard? What kinds of things often appear to be more fun and exciting? Can you think of a situation in which doing what was wrong seemed fun at the time but afterward, you wished you had done what was right? Is obedience to Jesus' commands popular with the world? Will it be hard to "be different" and do what is right? How can Jesus help you with this struggle? Do you go to God's Word to find out what is righteous? Do you pray for righteousness in your life? Do you hunger for righteousness or do you simply care about appearing to act right? What's the difference?

Are there things in your life that are hurting your growth in righteousness? Will you grow in righteousness if you are constantly hungering after more television or computer games or sports? Do you put as much effort into training for righteousness as you put into those other things? Can you think of something that you can do this week that will help you to better grow in righteousness?

Read Romans 6:13-18. Why are Christians called to be "slaves" to righteousness? If you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation, who is your Lord and Master? Do you offer your tongue, hands, feet, ears, and every other part of your body in order to do the righteousness of Jesus? Can you give an example of how your tongue, arms, and feet could participate in doing something righteous?

**Pray about it:** Hungering for righteousness is not about merely performing external righteous acts—it's about your heart's desires. Does your heart crave doing what is right and pleasing to Jesus? Ask God to give you a true, constant hunger for righteousness. Read 1 John 1:8-2:1. Examine your heart and pray about your response.

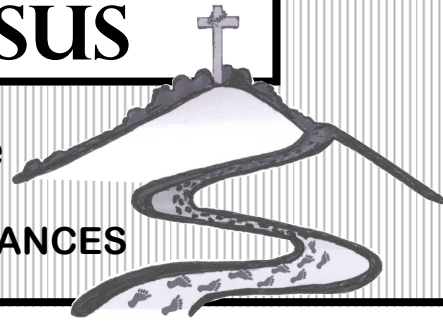


# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 19:

## TRUSTING GOD IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES



#### Themes:

- God has done the hardest thing of all for His people—giving up Jesus to die on the cross in order to save sinners.
- God is a loving heavenly Father who desires and is able to care for all of the needs of His children.
- God is sovereign over all things.
- Jesus wants us to trust Him daily, in every circumstance.

#### Scripture:

Romans 8:32; Matthew 6:25-26; Matthew 10:29-31; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6

#### Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:7

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

*Casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.*

**Take it to heart:** What kinds of things do you worry about? Why do you worry about these particular things? Do you sometimes have doubts about God's ability to care for all of your needs? Do you sometimes doubt His love for you? Does it feel like some situations are out of God's control? Why? Read the following verses with your parents: Psalm 100:3; Psalm 139:1-5, 16; Isaiah 46:10-11; Proverbs 16:9; Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 40:11; and Luke 12:32. What do these verses tell us about who God is and what He is like? What do these verses tell us about the relationship that God has with His children? Are you a child of God? Can He be trusted to do good things for His children in every situation? Can these verses be prayed as promises when you begin to worry about something?

Read Psalm 46:1-3 and Psalm 121. Do you memorize verses such as these so that you will have a strong defense ready when you are tempted to worry? Have you any favorite verses that are helpful when you become anxious and worried? Why do these verses help you?

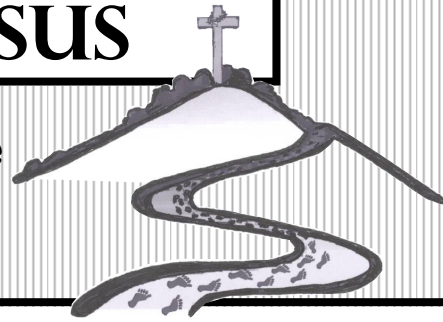
**Pray about it:** Review Philippians 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:7. Are you anxious about anything? Cast your worries on Jesus. Give thanks to Him for all He has done and has promised to do. Give praise to your sovereign heavenly Father.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 20: BEING CONTENT



### Themes:

- Jesus commands us to be content with what we have.
- Everything that we have is a gift from a good and generous heavenly Father.
- We are often not content with what we have and are envious of what others have.

### Scripture:

Matthew 20:1-15; Isaiah 44:24b; Psalm 24:1a; Psalm 135:6; Matthew 6:8b;  
Acts 17:25b; Matthew 7:11; Psalm 103:5a; Hebrews 13:5

### Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5

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

**Take it to heart:** Do you often compare what you have with what others have? Why? Do you feel that you need what they have in order to be happy? Why? If and when you feel this way, what are you saying about what you think will make you truly happy? Is this what God tells us will make us happy? Is God your heavenly Father? Do you trust Him to provide for you all that you need in order to be happy?

What kinds of things do you ask God for? Why do you ask for these things? Do you believe that God wants to give you good gifts? (Read Matthew 7:7-11.) Do you complain about the good things that God has already given you? Why is it hard for us to sometimes be thankful for what God has given us?

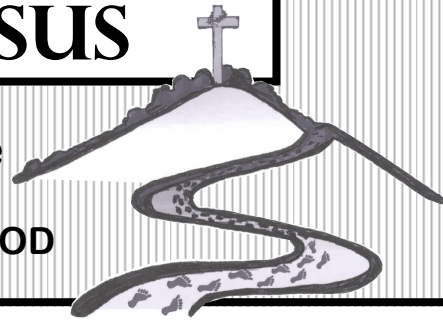
Review these verses: Isaiah 44:24; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 135:6; Matthew 6:8; Acts 17:25; Matthew 7:11; and Psalm 103:5. Because all of these things are true about God, is He able to satisfy your every need? Therefore, if He withholds something from one of His children, like a bigger house or having your own bedroom, is it because He isn't able to provide you with those things? Is it because He is stingy? Why might God choose to withhold something from you? What good thing might God be teaching you? Can you think of an example?

**Pray about it:** When you have feelings of envy creep into your heart, do you stop to think about how generous God has already been to you? Do you thank Him for life and breath and everything else? Go to Him in prayer and thank Him. Ask Him to give you a grateful and contented heart.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 21: USING YOUR ABILITIES FOR GOD



### Themes:

- God has given all Christians special gifts and abilities.
- Christians are to use their abilities in service to God.
- When Jesus returns, all Christians will have to give account for how they have used their abilities.
- All service to others that is done in loving obedience to Jesus is service to God.

### Scripture:

Matthew 25:14-26a; Acts 9:36-39; Matthew 25:40; Colossians 3:23

### Memory Verse: Colossians 3:23

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

**Take it to heart:** What special abilities has God given to you? Do you feel that you are using your abilities for God's service? Is there anything that prevents you from using your abilities more? Are you lazy? Fearful? What needs to change? How can you change your attitude towards the abilities that God has given you and how you should use them?

Review Colossians 3:23. Have you ever thought of how you are using your abilities? Do you use them mainly to serve yourself? What might this look like? Do you try to think of ways that you can use them to serve God? What might this look like? Can you give an example?

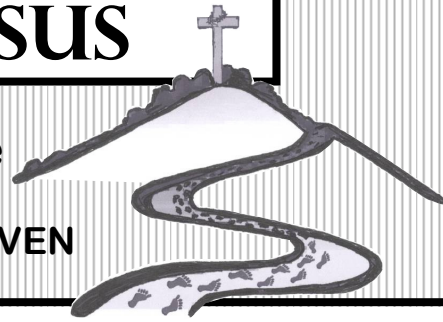
If you think that you are not good at something, like being an encourager, should you just give up? Why not? Often we find out through prayer, studying, hard work, practice, and the guidance of others that we may have an ability that we did not expect to have. God wants us to depend not simply on our natural abilities, but most importantly, on the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Pray about it:** Thank God for the special abilities that He has given you. Turn Colossians 3:23 into a prayer. Ask God to give you ideas as to how you can use your abilities in His service this week. Examine your heart. Are there attitudes that need changing? Do you need to confess these to God and ask for forgiveness?



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 22: LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN



### Themes:

- God provides for all of our needs.
- Earthly things are only temporary.
- Christians are not to lay up earthly treasures but rather to lay up heavenly treasures—eternal rewards.
- What we treasure shows what we love.
- Everything that a Christian does in obedience to Christ will reap a heavenly reward.

### Scripture:

Luke 12:16-21; Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 6:25-26; 1 Timothy 6:7; John 14:1-2;  
1 Peter 5:6; Luke 6:35; Matthew 6:14; Matthew 6:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:18-19;  
Colossians 3:23-24a

### Memory Verse: Matthew 6:20-21

*But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Take it to heart:** Make a list of some of your favorite possessions. How much do you value these things? How is this shown in your life? Do you value these things more than heavenly treasures? Explain. What is the hardest struggle you have when you think of earthly treasures? What kinds of things “feed” this feeling? What do commercials, movies, books, and store advertisements tell you is worth “laying up”? How can you protect yourself from this in some measure? Do you do this or do you continue to feed your appetite for earthly treasures?

Read John 14:1-4. Do you believe that this promise is true for you? Why or why not? Is it hard for you to think about the joy you will have from something that you cannot see or fully understand now? Have you ever had to wait and save up for something special? How did you learn to be patient and wait? What can help you to be patient and wait for heavenly treasures?

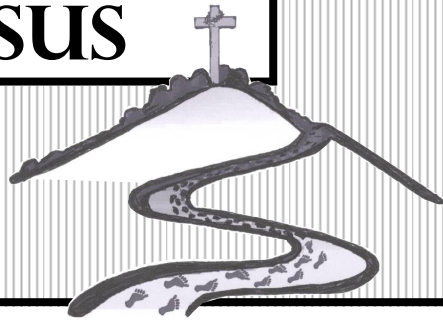
Have you ever received something that you were really happy and excited about? Suppose you had asked your parents for a new bike for months. One day, your parents presented you with a wonderful new bike. Did you feel as excited about the bike a week later? A month later? Two years later? Why not? What does this tell you about earthly treasures and the happiness they bring? Will this happen to heavenly treasures? Why not?

**Pray about it:** What is your heart’s treasure and delight? Think about this for a few minutes. Read Psalm 27:4. Is this verse true for you? Is Jesus your heart’s treasure and delight? How does Jesus compare with all other things and people? Who alone can make you happy forever? Ask Jesus for a sincere heart that loves and treasures Him above all other things. Ask Him to give you a love for heavenly treasure. Ask Him to draw your heart away from the love of earthly things.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 23: GUARDING YOUR HEART



### Themes:

Christians are not to let sin rule in their bodies  
The heart is the source of our desires, emotions, attitudes, motives, and thoughts  
Christians are to guard their hearts above all things  
We must train our hearts for godliness

### Scripture:

Romans 6:12; Mark 7:20b-21a; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23; 1 Timothy 4:7b-8

### Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

**Take it to heart:** Can you think of how seemingly little sins can grow to become bigger and bigger sins? For example, can a little lie to your parents lead you to further and further deceit? Can a small bit of unforgiveness lead to bitterness and hatred? What kinds of sins do you struggle with? What kinds of things could they lead to if they are not dealt with? Do you want this to happen? Does Jesus want this to happen? What can you do this week that will help to guard your heart?

Talk with your parents and together form a plan to help you guard your heart. Here is an example of what you could do the next time you are tempted to sin: 1. Stop and take time out to think. 2. Identify your sinful thoughts and feelings. 3. Have one or two verses memorized that offer correction. 4. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you remove these sinful thoughts. 5. Respond in obedience to Jesus.

Do you sometimes put yourself in situations that make it more difficult to guard your heart? Why? Are there certain situations that you try to avoid in order to guard your heart? Has this helped you? How? If you do not avoid these situations, why don't you? Do you enjoy sin? If you say that you are a Christian, can you also love sin and want it to control your thoughts and feelings? Do you take sin seriously? Are there changes that you need to make in your life? How can you go about making these changes? Can you depend on your own strength? Why not? Who has promised to help you?

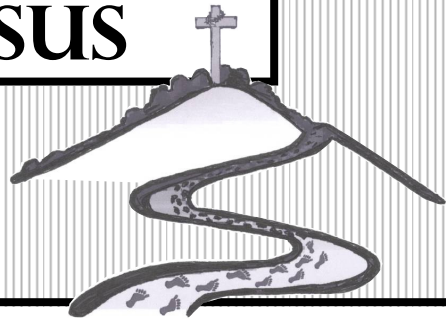
**Pray about it:** Read Psalm 119:11 and Ephesians 6:17. Are you using God's Word to guard your heart from sin? Do you hate your sin? Have you repented of your sin and turned to Jesus? Do you desire to walk in a way that is pleasing to Jesus? Do you have any "little" sins that you need to confess? Have you asked God's Holy Spirit to give you strength in guarding your heart? Pray about these things.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 24: HONORING YOUR PARENTS



### Themes:

- Parents are called to represent God to their children.
- Through good parents, we learn to better understand who God is and what He is like and how we are to act toward God.
- We are to honor our parents by recognizing and respecting their authority, loving them, trusting their decisions, obeying them, and going above and beyond what is expected.

### Scripture:

Psalm 30:2; Isaiah 40:11b; Ephesians 6:1-3; Mark 12:30

### Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:1-3

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

**Take it to heart:** Do you see your parents as a wonderful gift from God? In what ways do you see the goodness of God through your parents' words and actions? What good things do your parents do for you? How do they show their love for you?

Tell your parents about the symbols you learned about: Badge, heart, "T," "YES," and "+." Do you always honor your parents? Is it sometimes difficult to recognize and respect their authority? Why? Do you sometimes question the decisions they make? Why? Do you find it hard to love them at times? Is it hard to obey some of their rules? Which ones? Do you find yourself doing "the minimum" that is expected of you at times? What does this show about each one of us? Is there anything that we can do about this? How can Jesus help us to be more honoring to our parents?

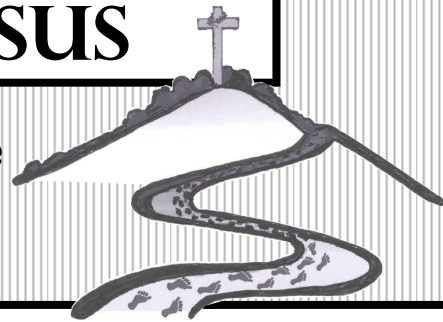
Read Psalm 103:13-14. Can you think of a time when your parents showed compassion and understanding toward you, keeping in mind that you are weak and young? How did it feel to be loved in this way? What is God showing you about how God acts towards His children? When your parents are understanding toward you, do you remember the compassion of God? Read Hebrews 12:9-11. What do you think of your father's discipline? Why do your parents discipline you? Do you always like it while you are going through it? But what are your parents trying to teach you through it? What does this show us about how God acts toward His children? Why does He discipline His children? What does He want us to learn through discipline? Read Hebrews 12:5-6.

**Pray about it:** Thank God for your parents. Ask Him to change any attitudes that are dishonoring toward them. Pray for ways in which you could show your parents special honor this week. Ask God for a submissive and cheerful spirit. Pray for your parents. Ask God to guide them and protect them.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 25: LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR



### Themes:

- God is a compassionate heavenly Father.
- The most important command is to love God most of all.
- The second most important command is to love your neighbor as yourself.

### Scripture:

2 Corinthians 3:3; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:30-36; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

### Memory Verse: Mark 12:31b

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

**Take it to heart:** Review Mark 12:28-31. Can you choose to do the second commandment but not the first? Why not? Can you choose to do the first commandment but not the second? Read 1 John 4:14-21. Who is the “source” of love for our neighbors? What will be the “result” of true love for God? Do you love God most of all? How is this shown in your life? Are you growing to be a more loving person? Do you recognize when you are being unloving? Do you see it as sin? Do you confess it to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you and help you to become more loving?

Read Romans 13:8-10. What commandments are mentioned in this verse? How are they summed up? Why is loving your neighbor so important? Why did Jesus add the words “as yourself” to this command? What do those words help us to understand? What kinds of people is it hard for you to love as yourself? Why? Does Jesus put any qualifications on the command to love your neighbor as yourself? For example, has Jesus said to love your neighbor only if he is nice to you?

Do you have a “neighbor”—someone who needs to be loved in a special way this week? Can you think of specific things that you could do this week to love this person? For example, maybe an older woman from church is sick. How do you like to be treated when you are sick? Do you want these same things for her? How can you love her this week?

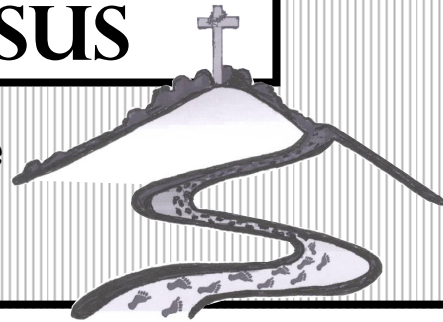
**Pray about it:** Turn 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 into a prayer. Ask God to make your heart more and more loving towards God and others. Confess sinful feelings toward others. Cry out to Jesus to help you to see people as He does—through eyes of love.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 26: LOVING YOUR ENEMIES



#### Themes:

- Jesus commands us to love others—including our enemies.
- We can love our enemies by forgiving them, praying for them, and by doing good to them.

#### Scripture:

Luke 6:32-33, 35; Matthew 5:43-45a

#### Memory Verse: Matthew 5:44-45a

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.*

**Take it to heart:** Tell your parents about the story of Corrie Ten Boom. Have you ever said that you hated someone? Why did you say it? What kinds of feelings were you expressing? Did you ever want to get revenge on someone who is mean to you? Why? Is this okay with Jesus? Why not? What if someone had done something terrible to you, then is it okay? Why not? Did Corrie Ten Boom feel hatred for the man who had betrayed her family? Why? How did she express this? Did she instantly repent of these feelings? Why not? Why is it so hard to love our enemies? What helped her to finally come to a place where she could love her enemy? What did she recognize about her own heart? Have you ever had a similar experience with someone? Are you still struggling to love them? What thoughts or feelings might be keeping you from loving them?

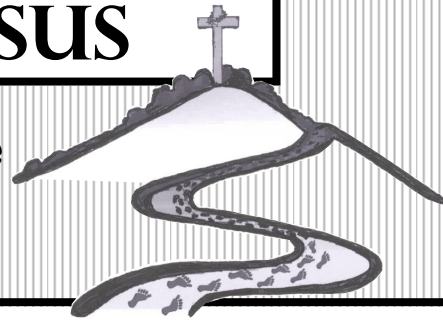
Read Luke 6:35 and Matthew 5:43-45a. Can you think of specific person that is very hard for you to love or someone who may be considered an “enemy”? You may not have yet reached the point where you feel you are loving them, however, are there ways that you could begin to pray for them this week? Can you also pray that Jesus would change your heart toward this person? Are there any other ways that you could practically show love towards them and do good to them? Even very small things to begin with?

**Pray about it:** Choose one or two “enemies” to pray for this week. Confess any hatred you may feel. If you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation remember that you were once His enemy. While you were still a sinner, He loved you and died for you on the cross to make you His friend. Thank Jesus for His wonderful love! Ask Him to give you a heart to love other sinners—even mean people.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 27: FORGIVING OTHERS



### Themes:

- We have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin.
- God is forgiving to all those who are trusting in Jesus alone.
- Christians are to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven them.

### Scripture:

Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32

### Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Take it to heart:** Can you think of an example in which you wronged someone? What did you do? Were you able to undo the damage you had done? Did you say you were sorry and ask for forgiveness? Do you like being forgiven by others? Why?

What do you feel is the greatest thing that you have done wrong? Do you consider your sin against a holy God to be a greater offense than you have ever done against anyone else? Have you felt terrible for your sin and gone to Jesus and asked Him to forgive you? What does God's forgiveness feel like? How do you feel when someone wrongs you? Are you quick to forgive or is it sometimes hard to do? Why? What would be good to think about when you are having a hard time forgiving someone? Read Ephesians 4:32.

Suppose you say that you forgive someone. What kinds of thoughts, feelings, words, and actions would show that you really had forgiven him? What does true forgiveness look like? How do you know if you have really forgiven someone from your heart? Read the following verses: 1 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 12:17-19; and Luke 6:28. Do you practice true forgiveness? Are you holding any "little" grudges against anyone? What will happen if you keep a grudge? Will it get bigger and bigger? What do you need to do with it?

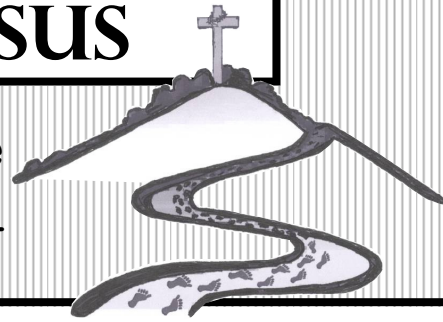
**Pray about it:** Take some time to examine your thoughts, feelings, and actions. Have you confessed your sins to God? Are you trusting in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins against a holy and righteous God? Do you treasure the gift of God's forgiveness? Are there any grudges you need to confess? Turn Ephesians 4:32 into a prayer. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to help you become a forgiving person. Pray that God would give you a humble and sensitive heart. Ask God to show you if you need to take any action concerning forgiving a specific person.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 28: BEING A HUMBLE SERVANT



### Themes:

- Jesus is fully God.
- Jesus commands believers to follow His example of true humility.
- Jesus commands us to consider others better than ourselves and serve them.
- In Jesus' eyes, true greatness is found in humility.

### Scripture:

Mark 9:33-35; Matthew 23:11-12; John 13:3-5, 12b-15; Philippians 2:3-7

### Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3

*Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

**Take it to heart:** Read John 13:15. What is so amazing about what Jesus was doing? Who is Jesus? Why was He doing such a lowly job? Is it hard for you to act in this way? Why? Why do we like to be first? Why do we like attention? Why do we like others to serve us? Why does Jesus want His people to be humble and serve others? Can you think of ways in which you could humbly serve your parents? Your sister or brother? Your friends? Others?

Read Philippians 2:3-4. What is “selfish ambition” and “vain conceit”? How does this verse define humility? If you are humble, how will you think of other people? If you see someone as better or more important than yourself, how will that change your attitude toward them and how you act? Why do humble people look toward the interests of others as well as their own?

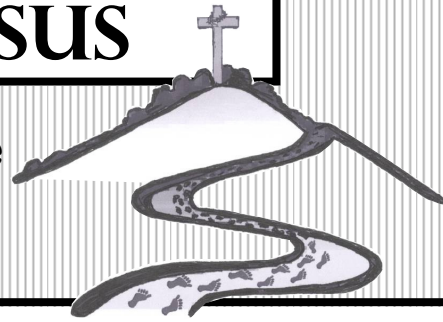
Is it wrong to want to study hard and do your best on a spelling test? Is it wrong to be awarded a first place ribbon when you have won a race? Would boasting about your prize show humility? Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. Why shouldn't we boast about what we have done? (Read Acts 17:25 and Romans 11:35-36 also.) How can you do your best and yet have an attitude of humility? For example, suppose you win the spelling contest and the child sitting next to you came in last place. Is there a way in which you could humbly serve that person?

**Pray about it:** Read Philippians 2:5-8. Pray about your attitude—is it proud? Do you have the same attitude as Jesus? Ask God to give you the attitude of Jesus. Pray that you would see Jesus, King of the universe, washing dirty feet when you are tempted to be proud and selfish.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 29: SHOWING MERCY



### Themes:

- God is merciful and He wants His children to be merciful to others.
- Mercy sees people in distress, feels compassion for them, and acts to help them.
- Jesus demonstrated what mercy is to be like.

### Scripture:

Luke 10:33-38; James 2:15-16; Mark 1:40-42; Luke 18:35-42; John 19:25-27;  
Luke 6:36; Titus 3:5

### Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*

**Take it to heart:** Can you recall a time when you were in distress and needed help? Did someone show you mercy? How? Read Ephesians 2:3-5 and Titus 3:3-5. Have you been on the receiving end of God's mercy unto salvation? If you have, what does Jesus want you to do? Read Luke 6:36. Are you growing in this? How? Can you give an example of how your parents or other Christians have shown you how to help people in distress? When you help someone, how does it make you feel? Does this encourage you to look for even more ways to show mercy? Why?

Is being merciful a thing that comes easily to us? Can you give an example of a situation in which it is really hard to feel compassion for someone? Why was it hard? Are there situations in which it is easier to ignore a person's need? What may prevent you from wanting to help them? Do you ever feel that someone deserves to suffer so you don't really want to help them? Are these thoughts pleasing to Jesus? What should you do when you have these feelings? Read Psalm 32:3-5 and Psalm 51:1-2.

Read James 1:27a. What does Jesus want to remind us of? Is being a Christian just about knowing the right things—memorizing Bible verses, knowing what big words mean, or being able to say good prayers? How does showing mercy to others help us understand what it means to be a true follower of Jesus?

**Pray about it:** Have you experienced the mercy of God unto salvation? Thank Him for His wonderful gift. Are you a person who shows the mercy of Jesus to people in distress? Ask Jesus to give you eyes that see distress, a heart that feels compassion, and understanding to know how to act in order to help. Pray for opportunities this week to be merciful to others. Confess feelings of anger or indifference to others.

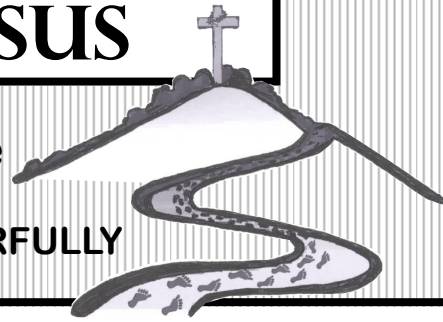


# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 30:

## GIVING GENEROUSLY AND CHEERFULLY



### Themes:

- God established tithing in the Old Testament in order to meet the needs of vocational ministers.
- When giving, it is not the amount that counts but the heart—a generous and cheerful heart.
- God promises overflowing blessings for those who give generously and cheerfully.

### Scripture:

Luke 6:38; Luke 12:33-34; Matthew 10:8b; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

### Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**Take it to heart:** Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-17. Who is the giver of all wealth and money? How should we respond to God's generosity towards us? How does giving generously and cheerfully to God show that we understand who He is and what He is like? Read verse 17. What does it tell us about giving and our hearts? What does your own giving show about your heart?

Review the Scripture verses from the lesson. Do you take Jesus' command to give generously and cheerfully seriously? When you get your allowance or other earnings, do you first set aside a generous amount to give to church? Why or why not? Is there anything preventing you from doing this? When you give, do you do it with a cheerful heart? Do you examine your heart before you give or do you just do it out of habit? Do you ask God to guide you when you give?

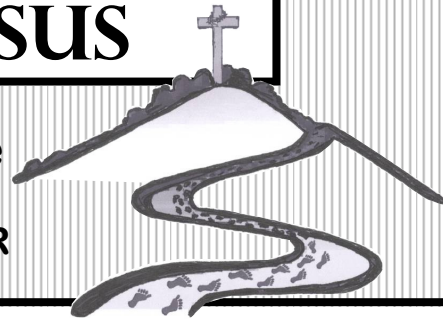
Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 11-15. What should be the end result of generous and cheerful giving? Have you seen this happen in the life of your church? In your family?

**Pray about it:** Have you thanked God today for all that you have? Do you understand that everything that you have belongs to God? Do you agree with 1 Chronicles 29:10-17? Ask God to give you a heart that sees Jesus as your greatest treasure and delight! Pray that God would cause your heart to be growing in generosity. Pray that your giving would come from a willing and cheerful heart.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 31: CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER



### Themes:

- The church is one body in Christ.
- The church is the community of Christians—each member being important, and each member needing the others.
- Jesus commands Christians—His church—to care for one another in special ways.
- God wants His people to help each other so that, as a church and as individuals, we will grow up to become more and more like Jesus.

### Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-22, 24b-27; Colossians 1:18, 24; John 15:12b; Romans 12:10; Galatians 5:13b; Romans 12:16a; James 5:16a; 1 Peter 4:9a; Romans 15:14b; Romans 15:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 5:19a; Ephesians 4:32a; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 13:11

### Memory Verse: John 13:34-35

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

**Take it to heart:** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 with your parents. Is every Christian an important part of the church even if he is a child? Could an adult say, “You are just a child. You are not very important. We don’t need you”? In what ways can a child care for the needs of others in the church? In what ways can a child be cared for by others in the church? Read through and talk about the “one another” commands presented in the lesson. Can you think of ways in which you and your family could put these commands into practice?

Many times when people hear the word “church,” they simply think of a building in a specific location. According to 1 Corinthians 12, is the church just a building? Who is the true church? Do you feel that you are a part of Christ’s body of believers? Why or why not?

Read through and memorize John 13:34-35. Why is it important for Christians to love one another? Do you show that you are a disciple of Jesus?

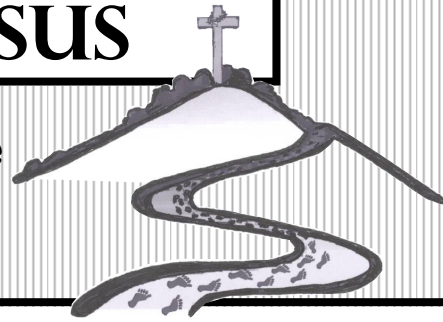
**Pray about it:** Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation? If you are, you are a part of His church. Ask God to show you ways in which you can help care for others within the church. Thank God for other Christians who help you to grow in your faith. Pray for your pastor, teachers, and all the others who serve in your church.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 32: SEEKING LOST SINNERS



### Themes:

- Jesus seeks to save lost sinners
- Christians are to follow Jesus' example and seek after lost sinners.
- Lost sinners need to hear the gospel of Jesus.
- All of heaven rejoices over the salvation of one lost sinner.

### Scripture:

Luke 15:1-10; Luke 19:10; Mark 1:17; 1 Peter 3:15

### Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15

*But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.*

**Take it to heart:** Have you ever lost something special? How did you feel? Did you go looking for it? Did you find it? How does Jesus feel about lost sinners? Read Luke 15:1-10. Are you a lost sinner who has been found by Jesus? How does it feel to be found? Do you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a lost sinner? Have you ever tried to “seek” after them? How could you do this?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. How can a Christian prepare to give answers for his faith? (Hint: Review the main points of the gospel presented in Lesson 4.) Why does this verse command us to do this with gentleness and respect? Can you role-play a situation with your parents in which you share your faith to someone with gentleness and respect?

If you are a Christian, ask your parents to help you write out a simple testimony of how Jesus called you to believe in Him.

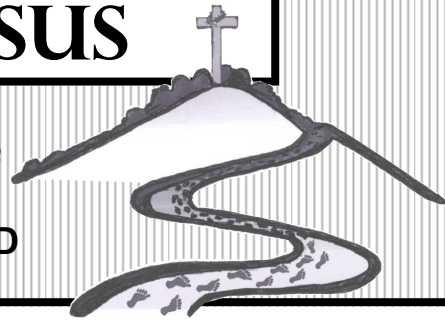
**Pray about it:** Do you still feel like a lost sinner? Have you cried out to Jesus to save you? If not, why? Ask your parents to pray with you. Seek after Jesus with all your heart. Ask Him to give you a new heart—one that trusts in Him for all that He is and for all He has done on your behalf. If you are a Christian, praise Jesus for seeking you out while you were hopelessly lost. Thank Him for your salvation! Ask Him to give you a heart that desires to see all of your family, friends, neighbors, and even enemies saved through His wonderful love and mercy.

Use your “Remember to pray for . . .” card and pray for the people you listed on the card. Pray for them daily. Ask Jesus to seek them out and save them. Ask Jesus to give you opportunities to share your faith with them.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 33: GOING INTO ALL THE WORLD



### Themes:

- Jesus wants His gospel spread throughout the world to every tongue, tribe, and nation.
- All Christians are to be involved—either in going or sending—in worldwide missions.

### Scripture:

Mark 16:15b; Romans 10:13-15a

### Memory Verse: Mark 16:15b

*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*

**Take it to heart:** Do you feel that you have an important part to play in spreading the good news about salvation in Jesus? Why or why not? Read the following verses for the answer: Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:18-20.

Do you want to see people from all around the world be saved? Do you have a world map at home? Could you choose a different country every day to pray for? Do you have a list of missionaries from your church? Could you choose one family every week and pray for them every day during that week? Could you set aside a special offering every month to send to a missionary? Have you ever prayed and asked Jesus if He would like you to someday go out and be a missionary? Is there anything that scares you about being a missionary? Can you think of any promises from the Bible that would help you to overcome these fears?

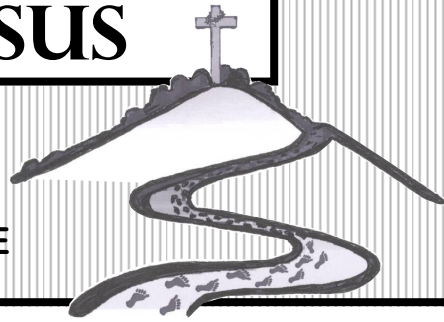
Ask your parents for books of missionary biographies. As you read, look for answers to these questions: Why did they go? What did they experience when they went? What did they give up in order to serve? What did they gain in terms of heavenly rewards? How did God care for them and provide for their needs? What did God accomplish through their ministry?

**Pray about it:** Use a world missions resource such as *Operation World* (by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk) or *You Can Change the World* (by Jill Johnstone) and choose a country or people group to pray for every week. Pray for the missionaries from your own church. Ask God how you can be a part of “going into all the world.” Ask Him how you can be an eager “sender,” helping others go out and spread the gospel. Pray that Jesus would make you open and eager to become a missionary someday.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 34: LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE



### Themes:

- Jesus is the light of the world.
- Christians are to “show off” the greatness and worth of Jesus.
- Christians are to be prepared and take every opportunity to show Jesus to the world.

### Scripture:

Matthew 5:14-16; John 8:12b; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 5:8-9; 1 Peter 3:15;  
Colossians 4:5-6

### Memory Verse: Matthew 5:16

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

**Take it to heart:** Does your life have the “light” of Jesus shining out? Explain. Do you know of someone whose life shows the light of Jesus? How is this shown? Do you want to be more like this person? Do you want people to see Jesus through your words and actions?

Suppose a friend cheats playing a game with you. How could you be a light shiner? How could you show him that Jesus is righteous? How could you show him that Jesus is forgiving? How could you show him that Jesus is loving? Can you think of other examples? Do you always “let your light shine”? Why is this sometimes hard to do?

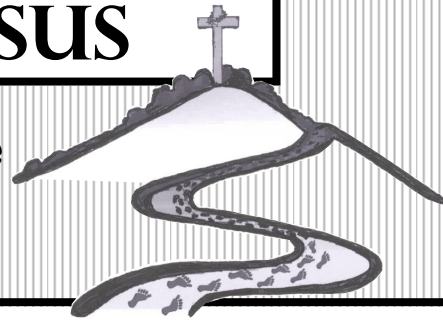
Read Matthew 5:16. How can you do good deeds in a way that points people to the goodness of Jesus? For example, suppose you and your mother decided to make some soup for a sick neighbor. What could you say or do that would point that neighbor to the goodness of Jesus?

**Pray about it:** Pray that God would give you more boldness so that your life will show others the goodness of Jesus. Confess your fears. Recall and pray some of the promises of God. Ask God to help you recognize opportunities and give you the power to share Jesus. Make a list of Jesus’ attributes—“Jesus is almighty, good, righteous, holy, . . .”—and daily praise Him for all that He is.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 35: REJOICING IN SUFFERING



### Themes:

- If you are walking in obedience to Jesus, you will suffer.
- Jesus commands Christians to rejoice in that suffering.
- Suffering is only temporary for a Christian and cannot compare to the great, everlasting joy we will someday experience in heaven.

### Scripture:

Matthew 5:11-12; John 15:18-20a; 1 Peter 4:12-13; 2 Corinthians 11:24-27;  
2 Corinthians 4:17

### Memory Verse: Matthew 5:11-12a

*Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.*

**Take it to heart:** Have you ever experienced something difficult in which you were able to see it from two different points of view? On the one hand, it was very sad or painful, but on the other hand, it was worth it? Have you ever experienced this in the Christian life? Is it always easy to see suffering from the point of view of the eternal reward that it will bring? Why not? Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Does this mean that you won't feel sadness while you suffer? Can you feel both sadness and gladness at the same time? Explain.

Read Romans 8:17-18. Are you trusting in Jesus? Has God adopted you into His family? Are you growing up to become a little more like Jesus from week to week and month to month? Have you become like Him in His sufferings in any ways? Should you be surprised that experiencing suffering is one of the ways that you become more like Jesus? Do you worry about this part of the Christian life? Why or why not? Has God given Christians any promises that you can depend upon to give you confidence and strength? (Hint: read Psalm 46:1; Philippians 4:13; Joshua 1:9; and Hebrews 13:6.)

Do you ever feel that someone cannot understand what you are going through and feeling like? Can Jesus understand how you feel? Has He been through similar situations? Read 1 Peter 2:21-23 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. How can this help you when you suffer? Have you ever experienced this kind of sympathy and comfort during a time of suffering? In what ways?

**Pray about it:** Are you going through a difficult time right now? Are you suffering in any way? Are you becoming like Jesus in His sufferings or are you suffering because of your own sin? Have you ever asked Jesus to make you more like Him in His sufferings? What promises of God can you pray when times of suffering come?

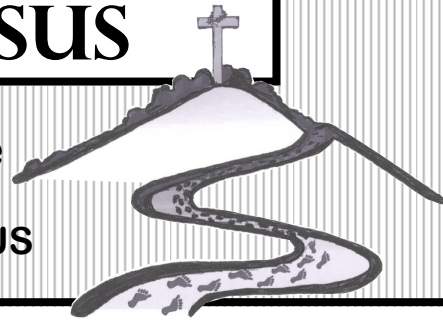
Pray for the many Christians around the world who daily suffer because of their faith in Jesus. Pray that Jesus would comfort them and strengthen them.





# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 36: LOSING YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS



### Themes:

- Anyone who would choose to be a Christian must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Jesus wherever He leads.
- The only way to gain eternal life is to give up your life totally to Jesus' control.

### Scripture:

Luke 9:23-24; Revelation 2:10b

### Memory Verse: Luke 9:23b-24

*And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."*

**Take it to heart:** Review Luke 9:23-24. These verses are not saying that we must look for a way to be killed. These words from Jesus are about dying daily to your own ways, taking the difficult road, and following Jesus wherever He leads you. Are there situations in which it is hard for you to deny yourself—"dying" to wanting to do things your own way? Do you sometimes still resist doing things Jesus' way? Do you think that living out Luke 9:23 is ever "easy" for a Christian? Why not? What is the promised reward in verse 24? Do you believe this for your own life?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and answer these questions: Is there anything that you can do to earn your salvation? Why not? What is grace? What is faith? Who do grace and faith come from? Can anyone boast about their salvation? Why not? Are you saved? Are you trusting in Jesus alone as your Savior and Lord?

Read Luke 14:27-33. Have you counted the cost of following Jesus? Are you willing to be committed to Jesus forever? Are you willing to follow Him and give up your right to choose who you will love, where you will go, what you will be, and how you will live? Are there things that you are fearful about when you look at verses like Luke 9:23-24? Does it seem like something that is too difficult to do? Read Matthew 11:28-30. What does Jesus promise in these verses? Do you believe His promises? Are you ready to follow Him?

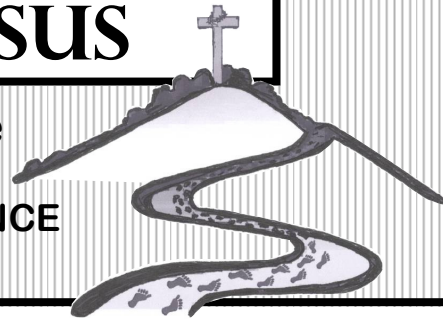
**Pray about it:** Carefully think about Luke 9:23-24. Is this the desire of your heart? Why or why not? Have you asked God to change your heart? Have you cried out to Him to help you? Matthew 11:28-30 is an invitation from Jesus. Have you prayed to receive it?

Are you already a follower of Jesus? Are you still trusting in Him and following Him today? Pray about areas in your life that you need to grow in: Wanting to do things Jesus' way instead of your own way. Learning to "die" to self. Following Jesus in obedience even when it is hard.



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 37: SALVATION: THE PERSEVERANCE OF BELIEVERS



### Themes:

- Only people who persevere in faith to the end are truly Christians.
- All true Christians will be kept by God's power and will persevere in faith to the end of their lives.

### Scripture:

Luke 8:11-15; James 1:4, 12; Philippians 3:14; 2 Timothy 4:7-8a; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

### Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:8

*[Jesus] will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Take it to heart:** Read Philippians 1:6. Do you believe that this promise is for you? Why or why not? This promise is for every Christian! Because of this, should Christians take for granted that they will continue in faith? Should you just say something like: "I trust in Jesus so I'll let Him worry about keeping my salvation. I don't need to do anything about it"? Read Philippians 2:12-13. Why should you work out your salvation with fear and trembling even as God is working through you?

Read Philippians 3:12-16. Why does Paul talk about taking hold of something? What is this "something"? What is the prize? Eternal life. But who has already taken hold of it for Paul? Jesus! Do you feel as if eternal life already belongs to you? Why or why not? If you believe that eternal life belongs to you and that Jesus will make sure that you persevere, will that make a difference in how you live your life? (Do people who are confident most of the time do things with a different kind of determination than people who are worried most of the time?)

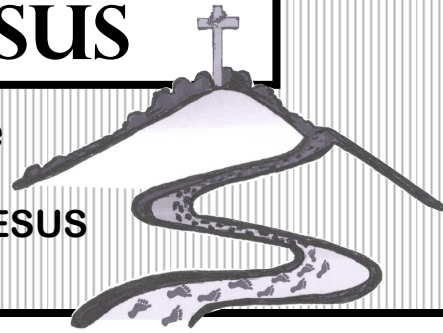
Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9. Who makes sure that Christians will finish the race of faith? Why is this such good news? Are there days that you cannot depend on what you feel for Jesus? Do you have days of doubt, when your faith seems very tiny? If you're truly a Christian, who is keeping you in faith during these times? Does Jesus ever get weak or does He ever fail to keep His promises? No!

**Pray about it:** If you are trusting in Jesus, turn the promises of Philippians 1:6 and 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 into prayers. Thank God that He not only saves you, but keeps you trusting in Jesus till the very end!



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 38: SALVATION: WE WILL BE LIKE JESUS (DEATH & GLORIFICATION)



### Themes:

- For a Christian, death is the means by which we go to be with the Lord forever.
- Glorification is the final step of our salvation.
- Glorification will happen when Jesus returns and raises believers from the dead and gives us new bodies like His own.
- Jesus will make all Christians to be like Him so that they may live with and enjoy Him forever in heaven.

### Scripture:

Ephesians 4:24b; Romans 6:23; Acts 4:12; Revelation 2:10b; Philippians 3:20-21;  
1 John 3:2b; Revelation 21:2-3

### Memory Verse: Philippians 3:20-21

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.*

**Take it to heart:** Why do most people fear death? Is there anything you can do to stay young and healthy so you won't need to experience death? What should death remind us of? [Romans 6:23a.] Do you fear death? Why or why not? Are there parts of death that are scary to you? What are they? As much as death is a very sad and painful thing to think about, even for Christians, what do Christians also need to remember? Why should they look forward to it?

Read Philippians 3:20-21. Is this true for you? Why or why not? For whom is this promise? (Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation?) Is it hard to view death as something that must happen so you can receive something wonderful beyond what you could imagine? Have you ever considered what it will be like to have a new, perfect, and glorious body like Jesus? Do you look forward to no longer experiencing sin, guilt, suffering, sickness, and sadness? Do you look forward to seeing Jesus face to face? What do you think that will be like?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16. What is this referring to? What evidence do you see of "outwardly wasting away" in your grandparents? Others? And yourself? How is a Christian being renewed day by day? Are you becoming more and more like Jesus as you get older? Do you know of a very old person whose body is weak, wrinkled, and sick and they are strong in faith? Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. If you know that you are running toward a great prize, how will that effect how you run the race? Are you living your life as if you are anticipating eternal life?

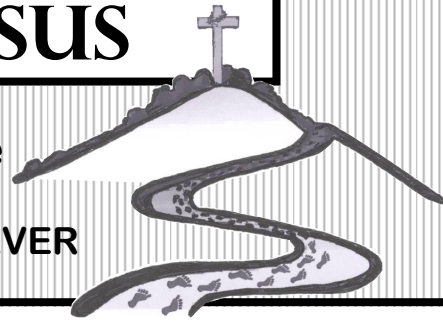
**Pray about it:** Does death scare you? Why or why not? Read John 14:1-3. Do you believe this promise is for you? Why or why not? Pray about your response. Pray for others you know who need to be saved so they can claim this wonderful promise.

If you don't feel that this promise is for you, is there anything you can do? Can you call out to Jesus to save you?



# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page Lesson 39: MAKING MUCH OF JESUS FOREVER



### Themes:

- The main purpose of salvation is that God's people may see Jesus clearly, to enable them to be amazed by and enjoy the greatness and worth of Jesus forever.

### Scripture:

2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 13:12a; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 16:11b; Revelation 5:11-13

### Memory Verse: Psalm 27:4

*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.*

**Take it to heart:** If you were to have only one wish, for anything that you wanted, what would you wish for? Why would you desire this? If you received this one wish, would it make you happy forever? Why or why not? Review Psalm 27:4 and Psalm 16:11b. Do you desire to see Jesus more than anything else? Do you desire to be with Him forever? On some days would you answer these questions differently than on other days? Why or why not? Why might you feel strongly about wanting to be with Jesus more than anything else on one day, but then the next day, forget about Him? What does this show you about yourself and your need to be made like Jesus in order to see Him as you should?

What kinds of things tug at your heart and make you think they are more wonderful and exciting than Jesus? Do you want this to change? Are there things that you can do to make those things grow more "fuzzy" so that you can see Jesus more clearly?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6. Has God shown you Jesus? Has He given you a new heart that sees Him as your Savior and Lord? Can you pray that God would open your "eyes" and cause you to see the greatness and worth of Jesus? Is there anything that God has done in your life recently that has excited and wowed you? What kinds of things could you do in order to focus your attention more and more on the glory of Jesus?

Who alone deserves all of the boasting if you are saved? Do you boast about Jesus more than anything else? Do you look forward to heaven and being wowed by seeing and enjoying Jesus forever? Does heaven seem like something that is not quite real? Why? Are you confident that you will be part of the thousands upon thousands of people referred to in Revelation 5:12-13?

**Pray about it:** Choose one of the gospels to read daily over the next few weeks. As you read, have a notebook and pencil handy and write down one or two sentences telling about something great that Jesus said or did. If this is hard for you to do by yourself, ask your parents to help you. After you do your daily reading, pray and ask Jesus to show you His greatness and worth. Ask Him to make it real in your heart. Ask Him to make Psalm 27:4 your heart-felt desire.

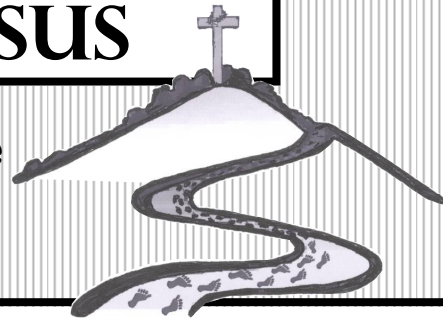




# TO BE LIKE JESUS

## Parent Resource Page

### Lesson 40: COME TO JESUS



#### Themes:

- Not everyone who says he is a Christian is truly a Christian.
- The evidence of true belief is a life that is growing in obedience to Jesus.
- Christians are people who come to Jesus, look to Jesus, and remain in Jesus.
- Being a Christian is about loving and trusting Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and truest Friend.

#### Scripture:

Matthew 23:27-28; Matthew 7:21a; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Matthew 19:22; Mark 1:15b

#### Memory Verses: Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 12:2a, and John 15:5

*Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.*

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

**Take it to heart:** Have you ever wondered if you are a true Christian? Have you just assumed you are because your parents are Christians and you do things like read your Bible and pray and go to church? Does it matter to you whether or not you are truly a Christian? Do you understand who Jesus is and what He has done and will do for sinners? Do you take sin and death and hell seriously? Do you believe that trusting in Jesus is the only way to be happy forever?

In Jesus' time, the word "hypocrite" meant someone who was a play-actor. Jesus most often used the term for the Pharisees. If a person wanted to play-act being good Christian today, what kinds of things could he say and do that would look good? Do real Christians do these things? Why? Can hypocrites also do these things? Why? How do you know if you are a true Christian or a hypocrite? Read 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Matthew 13:21. If you do things like going to church, reading your Bible, praying, etc., are you doing it because you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation? Is Jesus your greatest love and treasure so now you want to do all of those things out of love for Him and in obedience to Him? Or, do you do those things because it's expected of you and you want to appear like a Christian? Have you ever examined your heart?

Do you love Jesus? When you feel very small and weak in your faith and love toward Him, do you go to Him and ask Him to help you? Do you look to Him to be your strength and salvation? Do you remain in Him by continuing to depend on Him? Can you see any fruit in your life? Would other people recognize you as a follower of Jesus?

**Pray about it:** Being a Christian is not about following a list of do's and don'ts. It is about having a heart-felt relationship with Jesus. Being a Christian is about loving and trusting Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and truest Friend. And when Jesus is the greatest treasure of your heart, you will desire to walk in obedience to Him. Is this true in your heart? Read Revelation 3:20 and 22:17. Examine your heart and go to God in prayer.