



# Jesus, What a Savior!

## Overview for Parents



### THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Under God, parents are the most important teachers in a child's life. God has given parents the following command for teaching their children:

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*  
*<sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart*  
*and with all your soul and with all your might.*  
*<sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.*  
*<sup>7</sup>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.*  
*<sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,*  
*and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*  
*<sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*  
*—Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)*

For this reason, we have prepared a Growing in Faith Together page for every lesson in this curriculum. These pages are to assist you in nurturing the faith of your child.

### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The curriculum uses selected Bible stories presented chronologically to present these key redemptive themes:

- the incomparable greatness and worth of God, who is to be desired and treasured above all things;
- the desperate condition of sinners, who have fallen short of treasuring the glory of God and are helpless to save themselves;
- the all-sufficient work of Jesus on the cross to save sinners who put their trust in Him.

## How are the Growing in Faith Together pages used?

Each Growing in Faith Together page will include the following information to help you initiate meaningful discussions with your child:

### LESSON TITLE

The lesson titles have been carefully chosen to convey the overall theme of the lesson. They are purposefully worded in a manner that reinforces the centrality of God's greatness and worth.

### MAIN IDEAS

These are the key concepts that are taught in the lesson. Many are repeated over and over again in the curriculum. Discuss these concepts with your child and think of ways that you can help your child respond to these truths in his or her heart.

### MEMORY VERSE

Every lesson has one or two memory verses. These verses have been chosen to be both child-friendly and to give your child a strong Bible-based, theological foundation for redemption. All verses are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) of Scripture. We cannot overemphasize the significance of memorized Scripture in the walk of faith.

### SCRIPTURE

Every lesson in this curriculum is Bible-based. The Scripture references listed in this section are used in the lesson to reveal the Main Ideas. If possible, read these Bible stories and texts at home, and ask your child questions about the truths revealed in these texts. This will serve to reinforce the biblical truths taught. Challenge your child to embrace and grow in faith.

### LESSON SUMMARY AND DEVOTIONAL

This section is meant to not only give you an

overview of the main theological themes that were taught in the lesson, but also to inspire and build up your own faith.

### PRAYER POINTS

Offers a few suggestions of how you might be praying for your child as seek to instruct his or her mind and heart with the Gospel.

### AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Heart application is a vital part of each lesson. We do not want to just teach toward the goal of intellectual understanding, but also toward the goal of spiritual understanding so that the Gospel is fully embraced and treasured in the heart. Although teachers and parents cannot create saving faith in a child (this is the work of the Holy Spirit), we can challenge and encourage a child to rightly respond to biblical truth in his or her own life. To assist you in this endeavor, we have included several possible discussion starters to use with your child. Hopefully these will lead to further spiritual conversation between you and your child.

### ACTION STEP

Action Steps are simple activities to help your child understand that he or she must act in response to the Word, not just passively listen to it.

### MEMORY VERSE PICTURE

Because Bible memory is so important, all the verses are included with a picture at the end of the page. Display these verses in a place where your child can see them during the week. Help your child learn these verses and discuss what they means. Pray with your child about his or her response to the Word of God.



# Scope and Sequence

## Lesson 1: God is the Most Special Person of All

*Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b*

God's true Word, the Bible, tells us who He is and what He is like. He alone can make us truly happy.

## Lesson 2: God Created the World to Show How Special He Is

*Memory Verse: Psalm 19:1*

The overflow of God's greatness is seen in His creation where we can feel, touch, hear, and smell how special God is.

## Lesson 3: God's Created People to Enjoy His Glory

*Memory Verse: Psalm 16:11a*

God created people in His image to show how special He is. He desires to have an intimate relationship with His people.

## Lesson 4: Adam and Eve Sin and Reject God

*Memory Verse: Romans 1:21a*

Adam and Eve sinned: they did not love God most of all.

## Lesson 5: Sin Alienates Adam and Eve from God

*Memory Verse: Romans 6:23a*

God is perfect and hates sin, which separates people from Him. He is right to punish sin with death.

## Lesson 6: All People Are Born Sinners and Alienated from God

*Memory Verses: Romans 3:23, 5:19a*

All people are deserving of God's punishment of death (hell), but He is patient with sinners.

## Lesson 7: God Makes a Way for Sinners to Come to Him

*Memory Verses: Hebrews 9:22b, 11:6a*

In His love, God made a way to cover the sin of His people who come to Him in faith.

## Lesson 8: God Punishes a Sinful World

*Memory Verse: Psalm 1:6*

God is patient with sinners and will always keep His promises.

## Lesson 9: God Makes a Promise to Abraham

*Memory Verse: Psalm 86:9*

God desires to make a people for Himself and promises Abraham descendants from all nations.

## Lesson 10: The Ten Commandments Show Us God's Ways

*Memory Verse: Romans 7:12*

God desires to reveal His righteousness, and His laws and commands are perfect, right, and good.

## Lesson 11: The Ten Commandments Show Us Our Sin

*Memory Verse: Romans 8:7*

Sinful people are not able to obey God's commands. The law shows us that we are helpless in our sin and must trust God.

## Lesson 12: God Promises to Remove the Sin of His People

*Memory Verse: Ezekiel 36:26a*

People are helpless to save themselves, but God desires to remove the sin of His people so they can enjoy Him forever.

## Lesson 13: Jesus the Savior is Born

*Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21*

God loves His people and desires to save them from their sin. He was faithful to send Jesus as the promised Savior.

## Lesson 14: Jesus is the Most Special Person of All

*Memory Verses: John 1:1, 14a*

Jesus, the promised Savior, is fully God and became the Word of God in fully human form.

## Lesson 15: Jesus Understands Sinners

*Memory Verse: Hebrews 2:18*

Jesus was tempted in every way and is able to sympathize with sinners. But Jesus is God; He never yielded to temptation.

## Lesson 16: Jesus Proclaims His Good News to Sinners

*Memory Verse: Luke 4:18a*

God sent Jesus to proclaim His good news and to save sinners.

## Lesson 17: Jesus Teaches Sinners

*Memory Verse: John 8:31b*

Jesus reveals the truth about God through words, pictures, and actions to give understanding to sinners.

## Lesson 18: Jesus Call Sinners

*Memory Verse: Luke 5:32*

Jesus is all powerful. He came to save helpless sinners and chooses them to be His friends.

## Lesson 19: Jesus Heals Sinners

*Memory Verse: John 10:10b*

Jesus displays the power of God and has compassion on helpless sinners.

**Lesson 20: Jesus Spends Time with Sinners**

*Memory Verses: Luke 5:31-32*

Jesus came to save even the worst of sinners. No one is righteous or can be saved by their own merits.

**Lesson 21: Jesus Changes Sinners**

*Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Jesus is more powerful than Satan and came to free people from the bondage of sin.

**Lesson 22: Jesus Welcomes All Kinds of Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Psalm 67:3*

Jesus proclaims His message to all people and gives salvation through faith to Gentiles as well.

**Lesson 23: Jesus Calms Fearful Sinners**

*Memory Verse: John 14:1*

Jesus understands our weaknesses and has compassion on us. Every situation is under Jesus' control because He is God.

**Lesson 24: Jesus Satisfies Sinners**

*Memory Verse: John 6:35a*

Fallen man has both physical and spiritual needs. Jesus is God and provides for these needs.

**Lesson 25: Jesus Receives Childlike Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Mark 10:14b*

Jesus shows the love of His Father. All people, children and adults, need Jesus.

**Lesson 26: Jesus Gives Rest to Weary Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28*

God is grieved by evil and suffering.

**Lesson 27: Jesus Seeks for Lost Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Luke 19:10*

Jesus is like a shepherd and people are like lost sheep. He delights in saving sinners.

**Lesson 28: Jesus is Kind to Undeserving Sinners**

*Memory Verse: John 3:17*

Jesus is righteous and has the right to condemn sinners, but He is kind and merciful to those sinners whom He chooses.

**Lesson 29: Jesus Brings Joy to Unhappy Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Psalm 92:4*

Jesus displays the greatness of God in all He does. Praise and worship express the true happiness we find in Jesus.

**Lesson 30: Jesus Serves Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Matthew 20:28*

Even though Jesus is the most important person of all, He became a humble servant.

**Lesson 31: Jesus Loves Sinners**

*Memory Verse: John 15:13*

Jesus freely chooses to love unworthy sinners and calls them to be His friends.

**Lesson 32: Jesus is Patient with Sinners**

*Memory Verse: 1 John 4:10*

Jesus understands the hearts of sinners are weak and afraid.

**Lesson 33: Jesus Gives Up His Life for Sinners**

*Memory Verse: Romans 5:8*

Jesus is sovereign over all people's actions. He was obedient to His Father and willingly gave up His life for sinful people.

**Lesson 34: Jesus Takes Away the Sin of His Friends**

*Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:24a*

Righteous Jesus willingly received the wrath of God on behalf of His sinful friends.

**Lesson 35: Jesus Gives New Life to His Friends**

*Memory Verse: John 11:25*

Jesus paid the full penalty for sin. His resurrection is proof that He is all powerful and victorious, even over sin and death.

**Lesson 36: Jesus' Promise for His Friends—Joy Forever**

*Memory Verse: John 14:2*

Jesus has gone to prepare the special reward of heaven, which is a real place where Jesus' friends will enjoy Him forever.

**Lesson 37: Jesus' Friends Love Him Most of All**

*Memory Verse: Mark 12:30*

Jesus saves all those who believe in Him alone for salvation and love Him most of all.

**Lesson 38: Jesus' Friends Obey Him**

*Memory Verse: John 14:15*

Jesus gives His friends, who desire to obey Him, the Holy Spirit to help they obey God's commands.

**Lesson 39: Only Jesus!**

*Memory Verse: John 14:6*

Everyone is a helpless sinner and deserves God's wrath. Jesus calls sinners to put their faith in Him for Salvation.

**Lesson 40: Jesus Invites You to Receive Him**

*Memory Verses: John 1:12*

Jesus desires to save sinners so they may enjoy Him forever. All people must respond to Jesus—either in belief or unbelief.



# God Is the Most Special Person of All

## MAIN IDEAS

- **The Bible is God's true Word and tells us who God is and what God is like.**
- **God is perfect and the most special person of all.**
- **God alone can make us truly happy.**

## MEMORY VERSE

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

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Deuteronomy 7:9
- 2) Psalm 16:11
- 3) Psalm 90:2
- 4) Psalm 103:13-14
- 5) Psalm 115:3
- 6) Psalm 119:137
- 7) Psalm 145:8-9
- 8) Isaiah 44:24b
- 9) Isaiah 46:9b
- 10) Jeremiah 32:17
- 11) Matthew 7:11b
- 12) John 17:17b
- 13) 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- 14) 1 John 3:20b
- 15) 1 John 4:16b



## LESSON SUMMARY

Young children are extremely dependent on intimate and loving relationships. They, like us, seek out these relationships because of an inner longing for completeness and happiness. God Himself made us to be needy creatures with needs and longings that God alone can satisfy. God wants us to understand that our relationship with Him is the most important relationship that we can have because He is the only One who can ultimately satisfy our hearts. He is the most important person of all, and it is our urgent need to treasure Him rightly as His glory deserves. Our happiness depends on it. In this lesson, we used a variety of Scripture texts to give the children a taste of some of the many attributes and qualities of God that make Him truly matchless.

## PRAYER POINTS

Before you review this lesson with your child, meditate on the attributes of God. Then pray together...



- *that God would awaken each of your hearts to **“taste and see that the LORD is good”** (Psalm 34:8) so that you may glorify Him in all things.*
- *that God would open your eyes to see His greatness and worth as revealed in His Word.*
- *that you will embrace God as your greatest treasure, knowing that only God is able to make you fully happy forever.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

The words in the Bible tell us who God is and what God is like. All God's words are true.

- **Can you think of anything else the Bible tells us about God?**

Because God is so perfect and special, He alone is always able to act toward us in a way that will make us truly happy. Read and talk about some of the following verses that illustrate this:

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*Because God is compassionate, He is always able to comfort you when you are sad or afraid.*

- Psalm 16:11

*Because God is happy...He is always able to make you happy (Psalm 16:11).*

- Matthew 7:11b

*Because God created everything and everything belongs to Him, He is always able to provide you with all that you need.*

- Other examples include: 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 49:15; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 32:8; Psalm 145:9.

**ACTION STEP**

This week, tell someone about why God is the most special Person of all.

**The Bible  
says that  
God is...**



Compassionate  
All Powerful  
Patient Good  
Faithful Right  
Eternal Creator  
Love Happy  
All Knowing  
Everywhere

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





# God Created the World to Show How Special He Is

## MAIN IDEAS

- God is overflowing in His greatness and worth.
- Creation is a display of how special God is.
- In creation, we can see, feel, touch, hear, and smell how special God is.

## MEMORY VERSE

*The heavens declare  
the glory of God,  
and the sky above  
proclaims his  
handiwork.—Psalm 19:1*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 1:1-25
- 2) Psalm 19:1-4
- 3) Psalm 105:1-3



## LESSON SUMMARY

Most children are familiar with the creation story. They know that God made the sun and moon, the land and sea, etc. What they are less likely to know is why God made everything. Why did a perfect God, who is totally happy in Himself, decide to create other things and creatures? It was not because He was lonely or because He needed something. God is perfect and happy in Himself. Rather, it was out of His overflowing happiness in His incomparable greatness and worth that He created all things. God delights in displaying and upholding His greatness and worth—His glory—more than anything else. In other words, God created all things for His glory. All of creation is a meant to show how great and glorious God is—it is a “show-and-tell” in which we can see, smell, feel, and touch the glory of God. To help children better understand this concept, we will be defining God's glory revealed through creation as God showing how special He is as we explore Genesis 1:1-25.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that God would open your eyes to truly see His glory in all that He has made.*
- *that you and your child would come to a greater understanding and awe of God as He reveals Himself through all He has made.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

God created the world to show how special He is. With your child, look at various pictures of things that God has created.

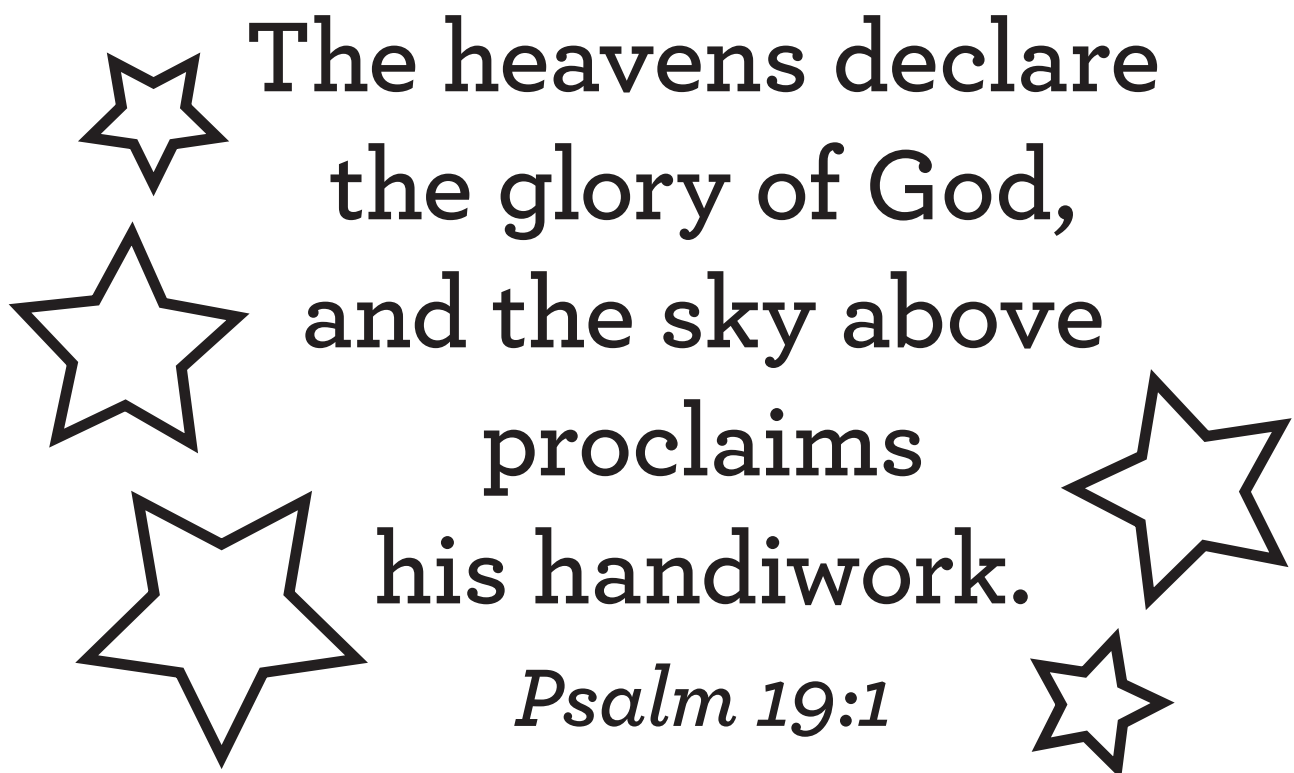
- What do you think God wants us to understand about what He is like when we look at what He has made? For example, if we see a large whale splashing its huge tail in the water, what might God be showing us about what God is like?
- When we see all the things God has made, what should we say to Him?
- Read Psalm 150 together.

Read and talk about Psalm 105:1-3 with your child.

- What should you do this week when you see something that shows you how great God is? How can you “make known His deeds”?
- How can we give thanks and praise to God right now?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, look through a picture book of animals. Point out something special about each animal you see, and then pray to God thanking Him for what a wonderful Creator He is.







# God Created People to Enjoy His Glory

## MAIN IDEAS

- God created people in His image to show how special He is.
- God desires to have an intimate relationship with His people.
- God wants people to know, love, and enjoy His glory more than anything else.

## MEMORY VERSE

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;*  
—Psalm 16:11a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 2:7-15, 18-25
- 2) Psalm 16:11a



## LESSON SUMMARY

Many lessons on the creation of man tend to focus on man. The main point children are taught is how special and wonderful people are. It is true that we have been fearfully and wonderfully made and that God's children are precious to Him. But our value is not due to any self-derived quality we possess or any perceived need of God's that we complete. We were made in the image of God, and therefore were created to show, reflect, and image forth that God is the most special person of all. People are not to display to God and to others their own greatness and worth, but the greatness and worth of God!

In this lesson, we reviewed the events presented in Genesis 2. How were Adam and Eve to show and reflect God's greatness and worth? By loving, trusting, obeying, and enjoying God. They were to be more satisfied in God than in anything else. God created people to be an echo back to Him that says: "You are great, God. You are wonderful. You are the best. There is no one else like You. You are my God. I will trust and obey You!"

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that God would cause your life to increasingly reflect His incomparable glory.*
- *that you and your child will see and embrace the purpose for which they were created—to enjoy God forever in an intimate relationship with Him. Pray that God will cause you to know and love Him more fully.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

God created people in His image and likeness. That means we were created with the ability to think, feel, and act in ways that show how special God is.

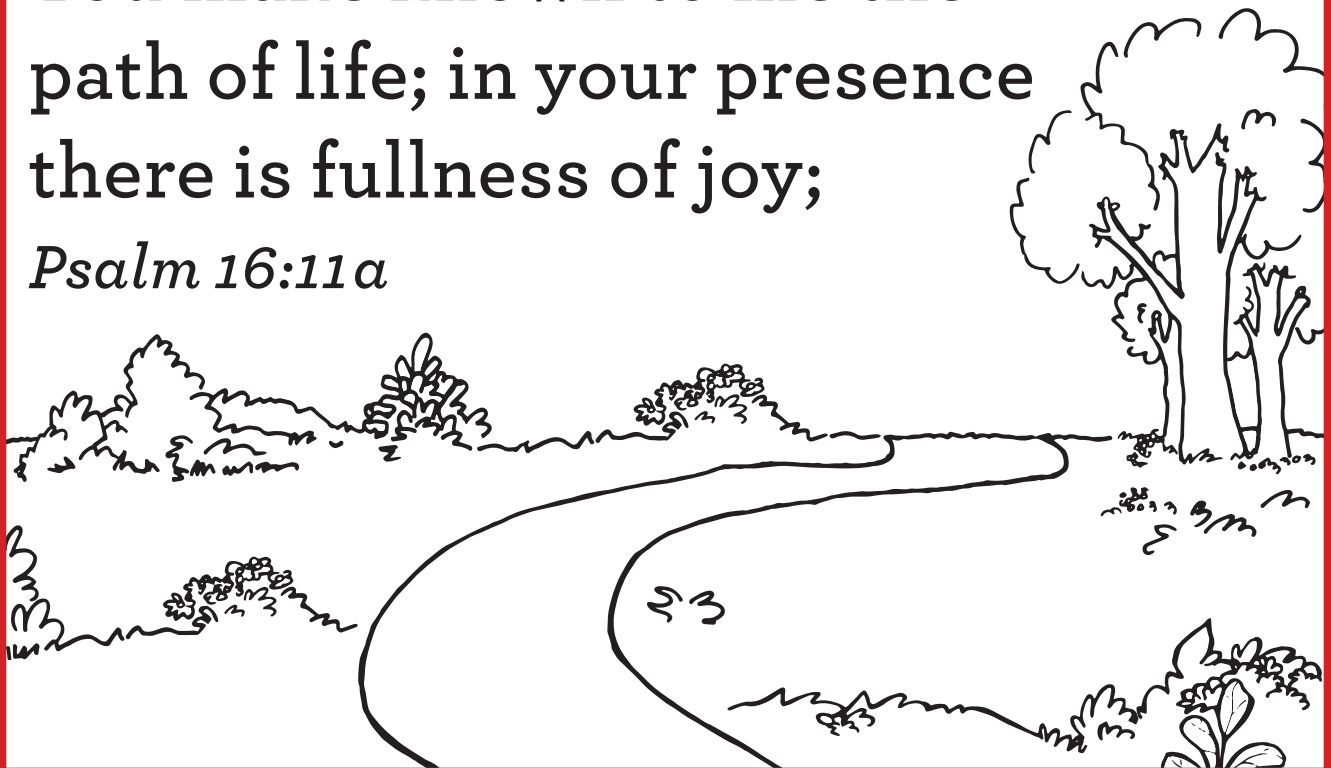
- In what ways are people different from things like stars, rocks, trees, flowers, and animals?
- How are your thoughts different from a dog's thoughts? Can a dog read from the Bible or think about how great God is? Can a dog express love for Jesus? Why not?
- What can you do this week to show that God is really great and special?
- Read and talk about Psalm 16:11.

**ACTION STEP**

This week recite the memory verse from Psalm 16:11a before you go to bed at night and right after you get out of bed in the morning.

You make known to me the  
path of life; in your presence  
there is fullness of joy;

*Psalm 16:11a*





# Adam and Eve Sin and Reject God

## MAIN IDEAS

- God created people to show how special He is.
- People show how special God is by enjoying Him most of all.
- Satan is an enemy of God.
- Adam and Eve sinned: they did not love God most of all.

## MEMORY VERSE

*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,*  
—Romans 1:21a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 3:1-7
- 2) Romans 1:21-23



## LESSON SUMMARY

As described in the previous lesson, Adam and Eve had it great—the ability to fully enjoy all of God's wonderful creation and the enjoyment of God Himself as He walked with them in the garden. In this lesson we continued the narrative as presented in Genesis 3:1-7. The fall of Adam and Eve is an extraordinary example of what it means to “fall short of the glory of God.” They traded the incomparable worth of the glory of God for something that would never satisfy, showing us just how foolish they and we are in our thinking. Adam and Eve were created to show how special God is by thinking, feeling, and acting in ways that would image back to God how great and wonderful He is. But what they imaged back to God was: “You aren't as great as You say You are. You can't satisfy us. You can't really make us happy.” And that is sin!

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for eyes to see and a heart to feel the magnitude of what sin really is.*
- *for God to renew your heart daily to treasure Him as you should.*
- *that your child will have a mind and heart to understand what sin is and why it is so terrible.*
- *that your child will have a heart that embraces the truth of God rather than the lies of Satan.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

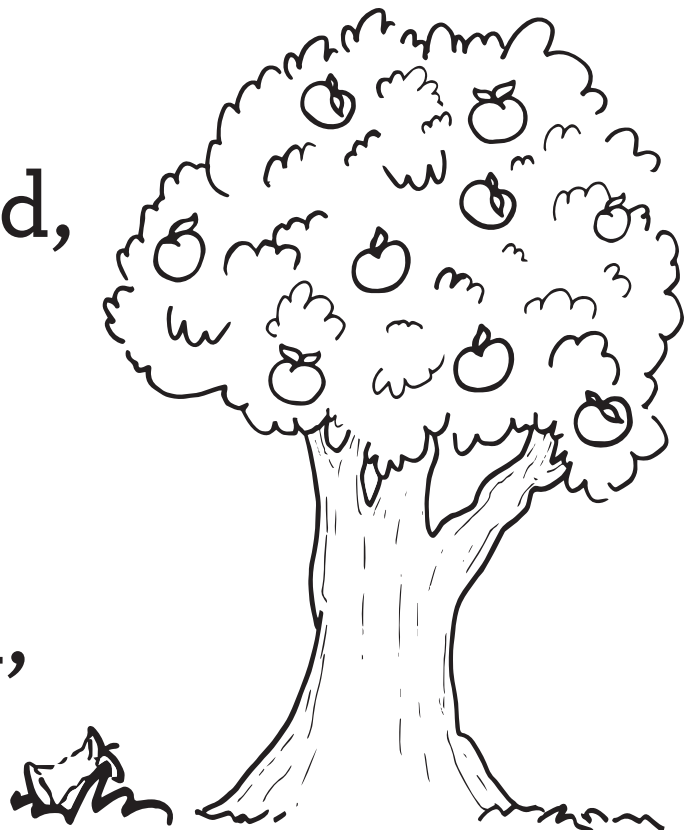
To honor God means to reflect back to God that He is the most special person of all. One of the ways people can show this is by always thanking God for how good He is to us and by trusting and obeying Him.

- Review the events from Genesis 3:1-7, and then read Romans 1:21.
- Were Adam and Eve thankful for all the good things God had given to them? Did they honor God when they disobeyed His command not to eat from the one tree?
- Who had changed, them or God? Had God stopped being loving, faithful, good, and righteous, or had Adam and Eve stopped showing that God was the most special person of all?
- Do you think you are ever like Adam and Eve? Do you always honor God? Do you always thank Him?
- Why do you think our own hearts are like Adam and Eve's sinful hearts?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, have your parents point out a time when your actions were not honoring to God. Draw a picture of this. Then pray with your parents and ask God to forgive you.

For although  
they knew God,  
they did not  
honor him as  
God or give  
thanks to him,  
*Romans 1:21a*





# Sin Alienates Adam and Eve from God

## MAIN IDEAS

- God is perfect and hates sin.
- Sin separates people from God, making people unhappy.
- God is right to punish sin with death: eternal suffering in hell.

## MEMORY VERSE

*For the wages of sin is death,—Romans 6:23a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 3:8-23
- 2) Romans 6:23a



## LESSON SUMMARY

In today's lesson we carefully presented the events of Genesis 3:8-23. Why was Adam and Eve's sin such a big deal? Why doesn't a loving God just forgive them? Because God is righteous, He always values and treasures what is most deserving of those affections: His own greatness and worth. God stands as the supreme delight of the universe, and is to be embraced as such. Any affection that falls short of loving God's glory most of all is sin. And God is right to be full of anger when He is not enjoyed and treasured above all things.

Often sin is presented to children simply in terms of how it makes them feel—sad, bad, guilty—and not in terms of the offense sin is to the greatness and worth of God. The big deal about sin is the latter, which is why the consequence of sin is so terrible. The ultimate consequence of sin to be experienced by sinners is hell. Hell is a place of God's everlasting wrath. Seen in that light, sin really is a *big deal*! Our children need to know this important truth in order to see their desperate condition before a holy God. Only then, in their desperation, will they recognize true salvation as we point them to the great hope of the Gospel.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that you and your child would have a deep reverence for the holiness of God and experience godly grief for your own sin.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

God is right to punish people with death when He is not treated as the most special person of all. Death means experiencing God's anger forever in a terrible place called hell.

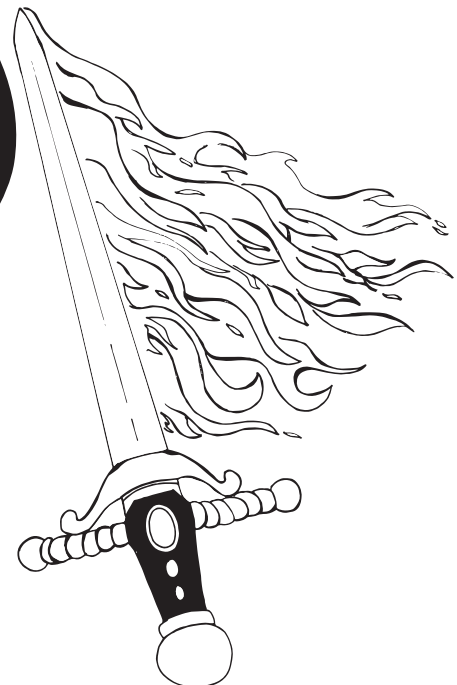
- How do we see and experience the “after” consequences of sin even now? Do you ever experience consequences after you've sinned?
- Do you have some special object that belongs to you, such as a doll, teddy bear, or other toy? How would you feel if your sister or brother came into your room and started to mark up, cut, or destroy your special toy? Would you be angry? Would you want her/him to be punished? Why?
- Is God more special than any toy you have? Is God angry when He is not thought of and treated in ways that show that He is the most special person of all? Why is His anger always right?
- God made a very special promise to Adam and Eve—someday He would solve the problem of sin and death (Genesis 3:15). Was this a good promise? Should it make us happy? Why? Do you know how God kept that promise?

**ACTION STEP**

Together with your parents read Genesis 3:8-23. During the week, think of five things that happen that show us the “after” consequences of sin.

For the wages  
of sin  
is death,

*Romans 6:23a*







# All People Are Born Sinners and Alienated from God

## MAIN IDEAS

- Because all people are descendants of Adam and Eve, they are born sinful and separated from God.
- All people are deserving of God's punishment of death (hell).
- God is patient with sinners.

## MEMORY VERSES

*...for all have sinned  
and fall short of the  
glory of God,  
—Romans 3:23*

*For as by the one man's  
disobedience the many  
were made sinners...  
—Romans 5:19a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 4:1b-2a
- 2) Romans 3:23
- 3) Romans 5:19a



## LESSON SUMMARY

The implications of Adam and Eve's disobedience went far beyond themselves. The corrupted human heart, darkened by sin and in rebellion toward God, along with the guilt of sin, was passed on to their children and to their children's children—to all people, even us. This concept is often referred to as “original,” “inherited,” or “imputed” sin. We are not born good or even “neutral.” This is something extremely important to recognize. In this lesson, we explained this concept starting with the birth of Cain and Abel and then extending it to other biblical figures such as Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Jacob, Moses, etc.

It is extremely important for children to see that even though they are young, they were born with sinful hearts (Psalm 51:5), are guilty before a holy God, and are deserving of His punishment (Ephesians 2:3). This is not a popular or comforting message, as it does not lend itself to affirming self-esteem. No one wants to hear a message that he deserves condemnation. However, it is biblical truth, and it is absolutely necessary in preparation for the glorious good news of the Gospel!

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, consider the condition of the human heart apart from the saving work of Christ. Meditate on the hopeless sin condition, and the need for a Savior. Pray that...

- *each of you will grieve your own sin and then embrace the saving power of the Savior.*
- *you would see and understand your own personal sin and be grieved by it.*
- *you would be humbly grateful for the patience and mercy of God.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

- Read and talk about Romans 5:19a and Romans 3:23.

How do these verses prove to be true? What do we know about the famous people in the Bible (other than Jesus)? Have you seen daddy and mommy sin? Your friends? Your brothers and sisters? Do you sin? Can you give an example of your own sin?

- Have you ever felt someone's anger? What did it feel like? Do you think a person can be truly happy if God is angry at him? How do you think the problem of God's anger at our sin can be solved?

- Sometimes people think that if they just act good and say good things, God will accept them. Is this true?

Read and explain Isaiah 64:6.

Can we ever do enough good things to earn God's forgiveness? No, because we are sinners with darkened hearts.

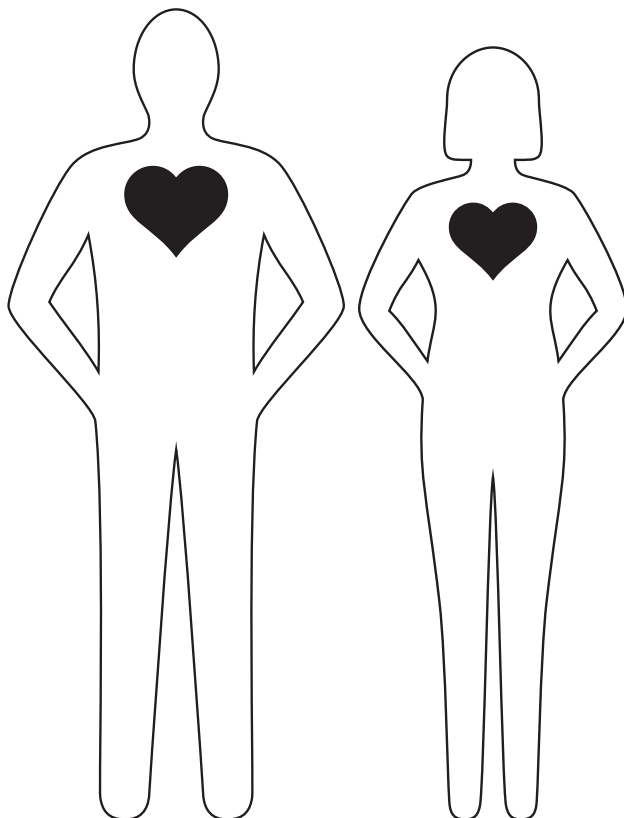
- Do you remember the special promise God gave to Adam and Eve?

Read Genesis 3:15 and Romans 5:1.

Can you guess who is the "one man" who was obedient and never sinned? [Jesus] Why is this good news for us?

**ACTION STEP**

Share with your parents at least one way in which you sinned this week. Pray to God and confess these sins to Him and ask His forgiveness.



**...for all have sinned  
and fall short of the  
glory of God,  
*Romans 3:23***

**For as by the one  
man's disobedience  
the many were  
made sinners...  
*Romans 5:19a***



# God Makes a Way for Sinners to Come to Him

## MAIN IDEAS

- Sinners are separated from God and helpless to save themselves.
- In His love, God made a way to cover the sin of His people.
- People must come to God by faith.

## MEMORY VERSES

*...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*  
—Hebrews 9:22b

*And without faith it is impossible to please him,*—Hebrews 11:6a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 4:2b-7
- 2) Hebrews 9:22a
- 3) Hebrews 11:6a



## LESSON SUMMARY

In this lesson we explored the narrative of Genesis 4:2-7 and the introduction of sacrifices and true faith. Sacrifices were extremely important in redemptive history. God never compromises the value He places on His holiness and glory, so without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sins. Sacrifices done in *faith*, in the form of blood offerings, were not a man-made idea, but God's command. It was God's way of *covering* the sins of His people (Hebrews 9:22) so that He could draw near to them without compromising His holiness. It was also a constant reminder to His people of their sinfulness and falling short of what He had created them to be. In killing an animal, they saw the horror and consequences of sin and also their desperate need for forgiveness to escape a worse death themselves. In God's acceptance of the sacrifice, they saw the only way to be a friend of God was to be totally dependent on His grace and mercy. However, the most important message of the sacrificial system was the foreshadowing of God's perfect and final sacrifice: Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *meditate on the goodness of God's mercy to provide His people with forgiveness from sins through faith in Christ.*
- *praise Him for the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the perfect once-for-all sacrifice.*
- *pray that both you and your child will recognize your own helplessness to earn favor with God.*
- *pray that you would embrace and rejoice in God's loving mercy that made a way for people to come to Him.*

**A note on the concept of "covering" sin:** This curriculum is an overview of redemptive history. In this lesson, children are introduced to the Old Testament concept of sacrifices made in faith "covering" sin, just as dirt swept under a rug is covered by the rug, but not removed by it.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

God wants to save His people so they can love and enjoy Him forever. A long time ago God commanded His people to kill an animal to cover their sin.

- How is killing an animal different from “killing” a plant? How do you feel when you bite into an apple? How do you feel when someone's pet dog or cat dies? What do you think God wanted to show His people by telling them to kill an animal?
- How do you feel when you sin? Are you sad about your sin? Do you remember how it makes God feel? This week, when you sin what should you try to

remember about sin? Do you think trying to do something good will take away the consequence of sin? Why won't this really work? What is the real solution?

- Read and talk about Hebrews 11:6

Do you have faith in God? Are you trusting Him to fix your sin problem? What has He done? What was God's final solution for fixing our sin problem? [sending Jesus to die on the cross]

**ACTION STEP**

This week, recite Hebrews 9:22b before you eat dinner. Recite Hebrews 11:6a after you complete a chore like making your bed or helping clean the dishes.

...without the  
shedding of blood there  
is no forgiveness  
of sins.

Hebrews 9:22b

And without faith  
it is impossible  
to please him,  
Hebrews 11:6a





# God Punishes a Sinful World

## MAIN IDEAS

- God, who is grieved by and angry at sin, will punish sinners.
- God is patient with sinners and will always keep His promises.
- Faith in God is needed to be pleasing to God.

## MEMORY VERSE

...for the LORD  
knows the way of the  
righteous, but the  
way of the wicked will  
perish.—Psalm 1:6

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 6-8
- 2) Psalm 1:6
- 3) Hebrews 9:22b
- 4) 2 Peter 3:9



## LESSON SUMMARY

The story of Noah and the ark is probably one of the best loved Bible stories for many young children. It has animals, Noah and his huge boat, the rain and flood, and a beautiful rainbow. It is a wonderful story of the faithfulness and grace of God. However, in that faithfulness there is also the promise of judgment and punishment for all those who continue to reject the treasure of the glory of God. This theme in the narrative is often ignored, to our detriment. Sometimes it is easier to think only about the comforting texts of Scripture, but we need to hear the whole counsel of God: the promise of everlasting joy that God extends to people who by faith put their trust in Him, and the promise of terrible, everlasting judgment that He extends to those who reject Him. God always keeps His promises, and we will live within one of these two promises forever!

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for eyes to see the whole counsel of God, and a heart that embraces all that God is and His wonderful mercy on those who humbly trust in Him.*
- *that God would open your eyes and the eyes of your child to see both His judgement and mercy in the testimony of the flood.*
- *that your child would be among those who heed God's warning and flee to Him for salvation from His judgment.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Many, many years passed from the time Noah began to build the ark until the time the flood came.

- Why do you think God waited so long to punish the people?

Read and talk about 2 Peter 3:9.

How did the wicked people in Noah's time respond to God's patience? What was the consequence?

- How have you experienced God's patience? In what way? What does this show us about God?
- Do you believe God when He promises

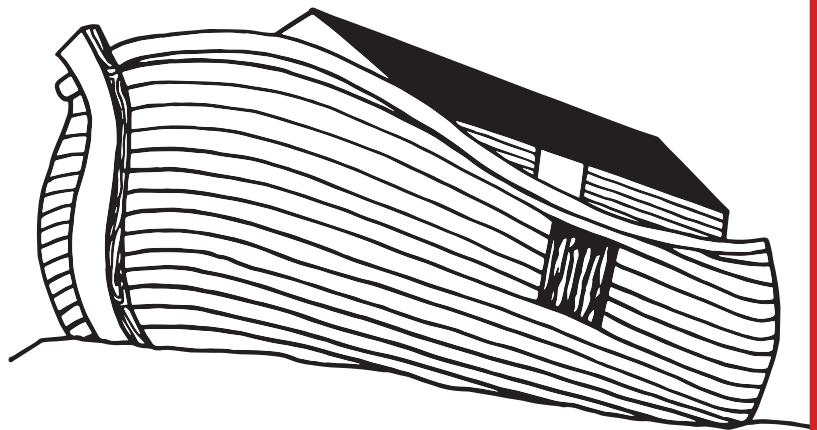
to punish sin? Does it change how you think about sin? Is sin a little problem, or a big problem? Why is it a big problem? Is there anything we can do about it? Can we just become perfect and stop sinning? Who can save us? Does anyone know what God did to finally solve our sin problem? [He sent Jesus to die on the cross.]

- Do you believe God when He says Jesus can save you from your sin?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, before you go to bed each night, think of a way that God was patient with you during the day. Next, pray to Him and thank Him for His patience.

...for the  
**LORD**  
knows the  
way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked  
will perish. Psalm 1:6







# God Makes a Promise to Abraham

## MAIN IDEAS

- God desires to make a special people for Himself.
- God chooses Abraham to be His friend and gives Abraham faith to trust in Him.
- God promises Abraham descendants from all nations.

## MEMORY VERSE

*All the nations you  
have made shall come  
and worship before  
you, O Lord, and shall  
glorify your name.*  
—Psalm 86:9

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 12:1-2
- 2) Genesis 15:1, 5
- 3) Genesis 21:1-3
- 4) Genesis 22:1-13, 17-18
- 5) Psalm 86:9
- 6) James 2:23



## LESSON SUMMARY

The story of Abraham emphasizes a major theme in the Bible: justification by faith alone. As we have seen in previous lessons, all people are helpless sinners and deserve God's punishment. The only way to be a child of God is to depend totally on His saving provision. In this lesson we highlighted some key events in the life of Abraham that demonstrated his faith in God. Abraham's faith expresses the extent to which he was trusting in God. Instead of depending on any ability he had within his own sinful nature, Abraham put his whole confidence in the greatness and worth of God, trusting that God would keep all of His promises (Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19). In Abraham, God revealed His purpose and promise to establish a great nation of people saved by faith—a nation that will someday include believers from all the nations and ethnic groups of the world.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, meditate on the promises of God and His power and faithfulness to keep them. Ask your child: Are you trusting in God alone for your salvation? Do you believe that God will keep His promises? Pray...

- *for a heart of faith that will joyfully embrace and trust in the promises of God.*
- *that you and your child would have faith awakened in your heart.*
- *that God would use each of you to glorify God among the nations and gather for Himself a people from every tribe and tongue.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

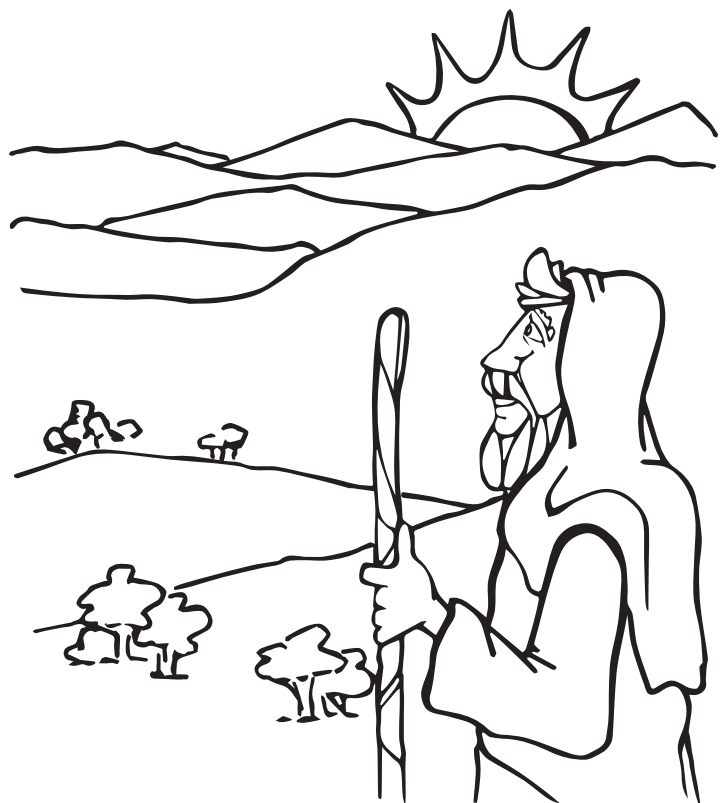
- How did Abraham show that he really trusted God? Recall the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. Do you think Abraham wanted to kill his son? If Abraham had done things his own way instead of God's way, what might he have done? How did God respond to Abraham's faith?
- Is it sometimes hard for you to trust God? For example, do you get scared during a bad storm? What true things about God can you remember? How should these give you confidence that God can always be trusted?
- Read God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 22:17-18.  
How do we see God keeping this promise today?
- If possible, show your child a map of the world and/or pictures of people from other nations.  
Does God want to share His love and joy with just a few people, or with lots and lots of people? Why is God able to save so many people?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, learn about a missionary family in your church. Make a card to encourage them and ask your parents help in mailing it.

All the nations  
you have made  
shall come and  
worship before  
you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify  
your name.

*Psalms 86:9*





# The Ten Commandments Show Us God's Ways

## MAIN IDEAS

- God desires to reveal His righteousness.
- God's laws and commands are perfect, right, and good.
- People should obey God's laws.

## MEMORY VERSE

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

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
- 2) Psalm 16:11a
- 3) Romans 3:23
- 4) Romans 7:12



## LESSON SUMMARY

The next two lessons will focus on the importance of the Law, specifically the Ten Commandments. Today's lesson focused specifically on the giving of the Law as described in Exodus 20:1-17 and Israel's response in Exodus 24:7. It is important that the relevance of the Law be clearly understood. The purpose of the Law was not for use as a job description or a to-do list for earning favor with God. The Law was given to show us the perfect ways of God—His holiness, goodness, and righteousness. The Law explained how people were to live as “image bearers” of God. However, in seeing how we should reflect that image, the Law would serve to show us our inability to measure up to God's standards through our own efforts. The Law reveals to us that we have sinned and fall short of treasuring the greatness and worth of God. In the Law, we see that we are helpless sinners. And with a written Law the people are without excuse to see their sinful hearts. The story of Israel and the Ten Commandments demonstrates the need of God's people for a perfect, law-keeping Savior.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...

- *meditate on the perfect righteousness of God as seen through His Law.*
- *praise God for His holiness, and His provision of a Savior.*
- *pray that you and your child would stand in awe and worship of the holiness of God in all that He says, does, and is.*
- *pray that you will see, understand, and embrace the true purpose of the Law.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read portions of Exodus 20:1-17 to your child. Explain and discuss a few of the commands. For example: The first commandment says that we should love and worship only the one true God. When we obey that command, we are showing God that we really believe He is more special than any other thing or person. We are saying to God, “You are the greatest! You are the best! I love You most of all!”

- Why would it be good for us to obey this command?
- Can you think of a time when you obeyed one of God's rules and it was good for you?
- Have you always kept every single rule? Why not? Can you think of a Bible verse that tells us what the problem is?
- Are we able to stop sinning just by trying harder? Is that a bad problem? Why?
- Who is the only One who can take away our sin problem? How is God able to solve this problem?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, draw a picture of the Ten Commandment tablets. Above the tablets write out the word “GOOD” in big letters to remind you that God's commands are good.



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

*Romans 7:12*



# The Ten Commandments Show Us Our Sin

## MAIN IDEAS

- **God's laws are perfect, right, and good.**
- **Sinful people are not able to obey God's commands as He expects them to.**
- **The Law shows us that we are helpless in our sin and must trust God.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*  
—Romans 8:7

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 32:1-8
- 2) Romans 8:7



## LESSON SUMMARY

Last week we learned that God's laws are perfect, true, and right. These laws, and the Ten Commandments in particular, were given to God's people to reveal how they should image forth the greatness and worth of God. Too often though, we miss the point that the Law also reveals to us our inability to measure up to valuing the greatness and worth of God most of all. In this lesson this is seen by the narrative in Exodus 32:1-8 in which Israel builds an idol to worship.

By nature, we are sinful people, hostile and rebellious to the commands of God. Therefore, the Law—perfect and good as it is—is also our death warrant. Where then is our hope? Faith in God! The Law was given to lead desperate sinners to be totally dependent on the gracious provision of God for salvation, so that we will look to God to give to us what He expects from us, namely His righteousness. As Galatians 3:23-24 states: “Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *praise God that in His mercy He saves everyone who is trusting in Jesus from the condemnation of the law that you might now be free to walk in obedience to Him through the justifying work of Christ.*
- *pray that you would both see how perfect and good God's law is, and how far you fall short of obeying it.*
- *pray that you would see your helplessness and run to God in faith and repentance.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Talk about the meaning of Romans 7:12 and 8:7.

- Give your child an example of some good rules that you have given: **Have daddy and mommy given you any rules that were sometimes hard to obey?** For example: “I want you to share your new toy with your brother.” **Why was it hard to obey? What does that tell you about your heart?**
- **How are God's commands like a mirror for our heart? What do we see about ourselves when we look at the**

**Ten Commandments? Do we always obey God's good and perfect rules?**

- **How does it feel knowing that you are not able to keep all of God's commands? How can you please God when you are sinful? How did Abel, Noah, and Abraham please God?** [by trusting in God alone and in his provision—by faith in God and in his Son; see Hebrews 11:6a] **Who does God want you to put your trust in?** [Jesus]

**ACTION STEP**

This week, cut out the shape of a heart using dark colored paper. Tape the heart to the bathroom mirror. When you look into the mirror and see the heart, remember that you are a sinner. Pray and ask God to forgive you.

**For the mind that is  
set on the flesh  
is hostile to  
God, for it does  
not submit  
to God's law;  
indeed,  
it cannot.**

***Romans 8:7***







# God Promises to Remove the Sin of His People

## MAIN IDEAS

- People are weighed down by the guilt of sin.
- People are weak and helpless to save themselves.
- God desires to remove the sin and guilt of His people so they can enjoy Him forever.

## MEMORY VERSE

*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.—Ezekiel 36:26a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Samuel 17
- 2) Psalm 51:1-7
- 3) Psalm 86:9
- 4) Ezekiel 36:26a
- 5) Isaiah 64:6



## LESSON SUMMARY

Two things have become very evident in the first 12 lessons: the incomparable greatness and worth of the holy God, and the desperate condition of sinful people. Since true and lasting happiness can only be found in God, and because God will not let His glory be diminished by sin, the way to happiness is forever out of our reach through our own merit. As Paul expresses in Romans 7:24, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?”

This expressed truth from Paul was also true of every great “hero” of faith, including David. In this lesson we reviewed some of David's accomplishments. But these need to be seen not as works of David's own greatness, but as the outpouring of mercy by a great and perfect God. David himself knew this very well as he came to grips with his sin for the murder of Uriah and cried out to God to clean his sinful heart. In His mercy, God heard the cry of His people, and through the prophets, God more fully revealed His great purpose and plan for His sinful people. The provision of animal sacrifices was only meant as a temporary covering for the sin of God's people pointing to a greater salvation to come—Jesus. Jesus would cleanse His people from all of their sin once and for all, opening the way for us to be able to enjoy God forever.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *for a heart that rejoices in the mercy of God to save undeserving sinners so that they can enjoy being with Him forever.*
- *pray that both you and your child will feel a desperate need for forgiveness because of your sin.*
- *pray that, if your child is not yet a believer, God would give your child a new heart so that he or she would call on Jesus for help.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Review Ezekiel 36:26a with your child.

- Is this a gift daddy or mommy can give you? Why not? Why would this be the best gift of all? What does this show us about God?
- Is a gift something that you have to work for? Is God's gift for people *because* they are strong? Or smart? Or pretty? Or good helpers? [No, God's gift is for sinners who trust in God alone to help them.]
- Do daddy and mommy love you even though you sometimes disobey? That means that our love for you is not

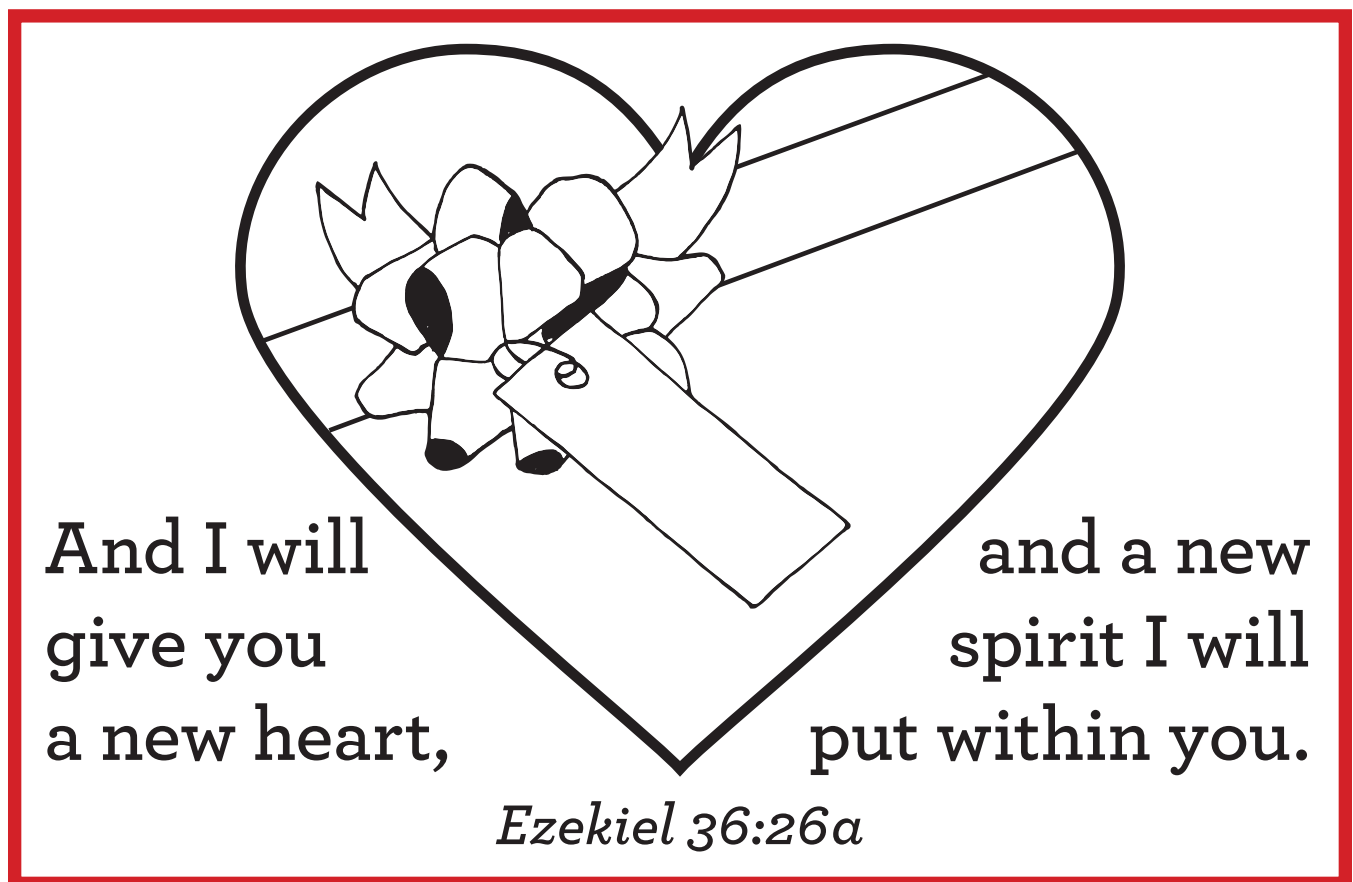
something you earn because of your deeds. We cannot earn God's love by doing great things. God loves His people because He is great in love. Can you think of ways in which God has shown His love to you even though you are sinful?

- Read Romans 6:23 to your child.

Have you received this good news? Should we keep this good news a secret? Who could you tell this good news to this week?

**ACTION STEP**

Draw a picture of a red heart and decorate the picture to look like a special present. Show the picture to someone and tell them about God's special present of a new heart for sinners.





# Jesus the Savior is Born

## MAIN IDEAS

- God loves His people and desires to save them from their sin.
- God was faithful to send Jesus as the promised Savior.
- God reveals His greatness to humble people.

## MEMORY VERSE

*She will bear a son,  
and you shall call his  
name Jesus, for he will  
save his people from  
their sins.*  
—Matthew 1:21

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 1:26-38
- 2) Luke 2:1-20
- 3) Luke 10:21b



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children love to hear the Christmas story over and over again because the story is filled with so many miraculous events and images. However, the main attraction is always the tiny baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Children relate well to that vision of God. Baby Jesus is small, touchable, and knowable. But, as comforting as this image is, it is not the end of God's revelation of His Son. Baby Jesus will grow up into a Man, the perfect Son of God, and His obedience will lead Him to a most painful, undeserved death on the cross.

In this lesson we reviewed the events of Jesus' birth with special emphasis on the faithfulness of God in keeping His promise and the wonder that God would send a little baby to do the hardest job of all—saving helpless sinners.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for a heart and mind to see and embrace the wisdom and ways of God in His way of salvation.*
- *praise Him for the incarnation of Jesus, God with us.*
- *pray that God would give your child eyes to see Jesus as God's promised Savior.*
- *pray that you will have humble hearts to embrace the greatness of God in baby Jesus.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

- If available, show your child a sample of a birth announcement.

Why do you think parents would want to send the news of the birth of a new baby?

- Jesus was God's baby. God wanted His people to share the joy of His Son being born.

Who God send His announcements to?  
What did the shepherds do when they heard the news? See Luke 2:15-20.  
How do you respond to this good news?

- Have you ever look forward to a very special gift for Christmas, but when you opened the present, it wasn't what you had expected it to be? Jesus was God's gift for sinners. Why might people have been surprised by the birth of a tiny little baby? What might they have been expecting from God? What huge job needed to be done for sinners?
- Should we keep the news about Jesus a secret? Should we tell it only to people we really like? Who needs to hear this good news? Who should we tell this news to this week?

**ACTION STEP**

Make a Christmas card to give to a neighbor or grandparent. Have your parents help you to write or include the memory verse from Matthew 1:21 on the card.

She will bear a  
son, and you  
shall call his  
name Jesus,  
for He will  
save his  
people from  
their sins. *Matthew 1:21*





# Jesus is the Most Special Person of All

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus is the promised Savior.
- Jesus is fully God and became fully human.
- Jesus is the Word of God in human form.

## MEMORY VERSES

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.—John 1:1*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,—John 1:14a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 2:21-32
- 2) John 1:1, 14a



## LESSON SUMMARY

In his song, *To the Mystery* (Sparrow Records, ©1988), Michael Card explains the incarnation in the following manner:

*When the Father longed to show the love  
he wanted us to know,  
He sent his only Son  
and so became a holy embryo.  
That is the mystery. More than you can see.  
Give up on your pondering  
and fall down on your knees.*

It is impossible to fully explain the mystery of the Incarnation. In this lesson the children were introduced to the amazing truth that Jesus is fully God and became fully human. Instead of trying to explain exactly how all this works and fits together, it is more important for children to know that it is true. That truth will help the children to begin to understand why God would send a tiny little baby to solve the biggest problem of all. We also told the story from Luke 2:21-32 where God revealed to Simeon that Jesus was indeed the promised Savior.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *for a mind that surrenders to the unfathomable ways of God, and a heart to rejoice in a salvation that is beyond anything we could ask or imagine.*
- *that God would give both you and your child eyes to see Jesus for who He is: fully God and fully human.*
- *that God would give you a heart to see, embrace, and praise the glory of Christ.*



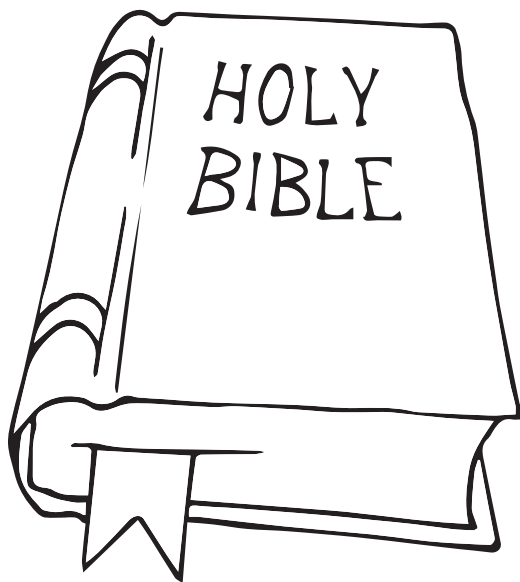
**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Review John 1:1, 14a with your child. Explain that “the Word” is another name for Jesus.

- Even as a tiny baby, was Jesus God? In what ways was Jesus also human just like us?
  - When you think of baby Jesus, is it easy or hard for you to believe that Jesus is fully God? What is God like? What are babies like? But what does the Bible say? [Jesus is fully God and became fully human.]
  - What really hard job did God send Jesus to do?
  - Since Jesus is God, how should you act toward Jesus? What did Simeon do? What did the shepherds do? What did the wise men do? What do you do?
- Spend some time together thinking about ways you can love, trust, and praise Jesus.

**ACTION STEP**

This week, recite the memory verses from John 1:1, 14a before you go to school, before you eat, and before you go to bed, and remember that Jesus did those kinds of things just like you.



In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was  
with God, and the  
Word was God.

*John 1:1*

And the Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us, *John 1:14a*





# Jesus Understands Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Because Jesus shared in our humanity, He was tempted in every way.**
- **Jesus is God; He never yielded to temptation.**
- **Jesus is able to sympathize with sinners.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

—Hebrews 2:18

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 4:1-11
- 2) Hebrews 2:18
- 3) Hebrews 4:15



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children often think of baby Jesus as He is portrayed in the familiar Christmas carol, *Away in a Manger*: "...the little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes." Because Jesus is God, it seems right to think of Jesus as a "perfect" baby—a baby who never even cried. However, the book of Hebrews provides some amazing insights into the humanity of Jesus—He was born and became like us in every way. Jesus cried, laughed, played, grew hungry and sleepy, scraped His knees, and was even tempted to sin, just like us. In Jesus, God did not come to earth as some intangible spirit completely separate from humanity, but as a real flesh and blood man. That was God's plan. Jesus did it *in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God* (Hebrews 2:17). Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses because He has worn frail flesh. And not only does His humanity allow Him to sympathize with us, it ultimately gave Him the means to die and destroy the one who has the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). In today's lesson we recalled Jesus' temptation in the wilderness from Matthew 4:1-11 to show both Jesus' humanity and His deity as He triumphed over sin.

## PRAYER POINTS

Before you review this lesson with your child, ask Jesus to help you reinforce the truths that your child has learned in the classroom: Jesus knows our every weakness and limitation, and stands as our Savior to strengthen us for every good work. Pray that...



- *God would give both you and your child eyes to see and hearts to embrace the full humanity of Jesus.*
- *God would give your child an awe of Jesus and rejoice in His compassion.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read Hebrews 2:18 to your child. Explain what the word “tempted” means.

- Encourage your child to share an experience in which he or she suffered hurt, such as a sickness or heartache.

**Does Jesus know how it feels to suffer? Why? Why is this good to know?**

- Pretend that we are at a store and you see a candy bar by the counter. No one is paying attention to you. Inside you, a voice says, “No one is looking. Why don't you just take the candy and sneak it into your pocket?” You are being tempted to do something wrong. It might be hard to

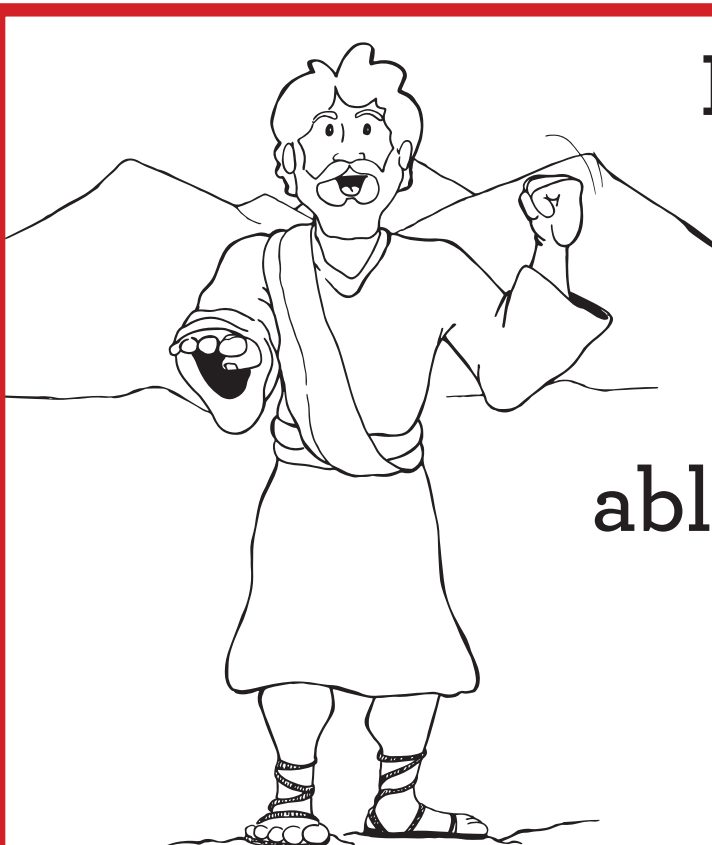
say “NO” because you really would like the candy bar. **Does Jesus understand how you feel? Would Jesus sin if He were in the same situation? Why not? Is Jesus able to help you when you are tempted?** See 1 Corinthians 10:13.

**Do you ask Jesus for help? Why or why not? How can Jesus help you?**

- **Are there things you need to ask Jesus to help you with this week?** Spend some time praying together to ask Jesus to help you during the week.

**ACTION STEP**

Tell your parents about something that was very hard for you to do this week (e.g., not losing your temper). Pray together and ask Jesus to help you not to sin when you are tempted again.



**For because he  
himself has  
suffered when  
tempted, he is  
able to help those  
who are being  
tempted.**

*Hebrews 2:18*



# Jesus Proclaims His Good News to Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus.
- Jesus came to proclaim good news to sinners.
- Jesus was sent by God to save sinners.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.”—Luke 4:18a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 3:1-6
- 2) Luke 4:14-21



## LESSON SUMMARY

After Jesus returned from His experience in the wilderness, the Bible says that He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14). He was now ready to begin the mission for which He was sent: to fulfill the word of the prophets by revealing that He, Jesus of Nazareth, was the promised Savior sent by God to save His people from their sin. Jesus was not shy or bashful in His approach. He went right into the synagogue, stood up, and declared His divine purpose. Some would see Jesus' message as the ravings of an insane blasphemer. But to many hopeless sinners who longed to be saved, Jesus' message was the greatest news ever proclaimed. It was rescue from sin and the wrath of God, so that they could rejoice in the presence of God forever. And to those who believed in Him, the Gospel of Jesus became the power of God for salvation.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for hearts that embrace and rejoice in the words of Jesus, and mouths that are eager to share His words of salvation with others.*
- *that God would give both you and your child ears to hear and minds to understand the good news that Jesus proclaims.*
- *that your child will embrace and rejoice in the saving message of Jesus.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Explain the meaning of Luke 4:18a to your child. For example: To “anoint” someone means to choose them to do something special. Poor people are people who need something—specifically, sinners who desperately need forgiveness.

- **Who chose Jesus to do a special job?** [God did.] **What was the good news that Jesus was going to preach?** help you feel better.”] **Why is Jesus' good news for helpless sinners the best news of all?**
- **Have you ever needed something really important?** For example, have you ever fallen and scraped your knee? **When something like that happens, what good news would you want to hear from daddy and mommy?** [maybe something like, “Come here, I have a hug for you, and a bandage and medicine that will
- **Are you excited that God has sent Jesus?** Think of one way you could praise God this week for the good news He has sent you.
- **If you are not excited about this good news, what keeps you from feeling happy that Jesus has come to save sinners?**

**ACTION STEP**

Pretend this week to be a news person on television and announce to your viewing audience (your family) the good news that Jesus came to share.

[Jesus said,  
“The Spirit of the  
Lord is upon me,  
because he has  
anointed me  
to proclaim  
good news  
to the poor.”

*Luke 4:18a*





# Jesus Teaches Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus reveals the truth about God through words, pictures, and actions.
- Jesus gives understanding to simple sinners.
- Jesus' friends are those who respond to Him in faith that is demonstrated in obedience.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,"*  
—John 8:31b

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 8:1, 4-15
- 2) John 8:31b



## LESSON SUMMARY

As presented in previous lessons, Jesus came to save sinners. But His message of good news was not always understood by sinners. Therefore, Jesus' ministry also included being a wise and patient teacher. His desire was to make known to educated and uneducated sinners alike the depth of the riches of the mercy of God. Rather than speaking in lofty ways that only scholars could understand, He taught the crowds using the vernacular, speaking with words and illustrations that were part of their everyday life. And yet, not everyone would respond in faith. And this is the point of the parables of Jesus—that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand (Matthew 13:13). Many of the most learned people would hear Jesus and remain unchanged. But to those who Jesus loved and called, He revealed the secrets of the Kingdom of God, and they were changed forever (Matthew 13:16-17). In today's lesson we presented the parable of the sower from Luke 8 as an example of Jesus' teaching.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *for a humble and eager heart to receive the teaching of Jesus and obey it.*
- *that He would equip you with the wisdom and patience to help reinforce the truth that your child has learned in the classroom.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

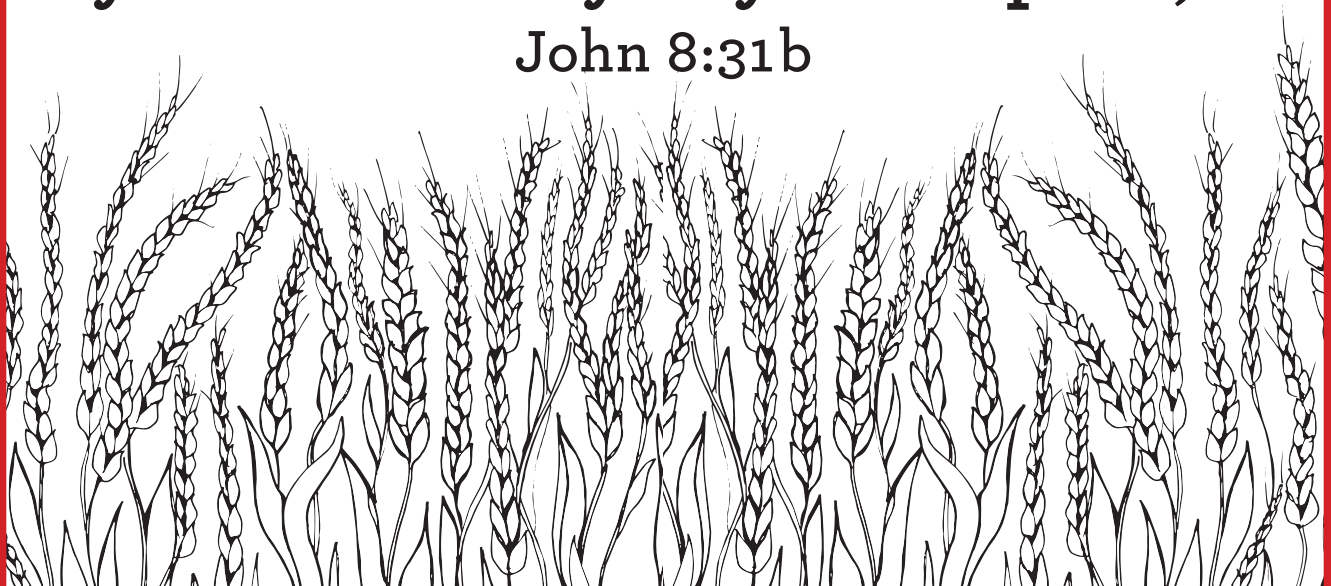
Jesus used simple words, pictures, and actions to teach people. You do not have to be smart, or the best reader, or know big words to understand Jesus.

- What kinds of things have you learned about Jesus? Where did you learn these things? Can you think of other parables Jesus told? What important things can you learn about God through these stories?
- In this week's Bible story, what was the Sower sowing? Did the seeds grow into big, healthy plants in all of the soils? Which type of soil did they grow in? What kind of person is like this good soil?
- What does it mean to be a disciple (or friend) of Jesus? Do you listen to Jesus? Are you excited to learn truth from Jesus? Do you believe that what He says is true? Do you trust Him to do what He says? Do you obey what He tells you to do? Do you want to be obedient to Jesus? Is it easy for sinners to want to obey Jesus? Why not? Who can help you want to obey Jesus?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, have your parents help you to read from the Bible every day for at least 5 minutes. Tell your parents one thing that you learned about God after every reading.

[Jesus said,]  
“If you abide in my word,  
you are truly my disciples,”  
John 8:31b







# Jesus Calls Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God.**
- **Jesus chooses sinners to be His friends.**
- **Jesus is all powerful.**
- **Jesus came to save helpless sinners.**

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*  
—Luke 5:32

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 5:1-11, 32
- 2) John 15:14



## LESSON SUMMARY

After Jesus' proclamation in the synagogue in the previous lesson, there was no doubt about what Jesus intended to do. He was intending to rescue helpless sinners from their sins. As seen in today's lesson from Luke 5:1-11, Jesus began His special mission by choosing for Himself a group of men to befriend and love. These men were not chosen because Jesus needed the help of their gifts and abilities in His ministry (Acts 17:25). None were of worldly importance. None were known for their great intelligence or eloquent speech. The 12 all had one common characteristic: they were all helpless sinners. They were not chosen as "helpers for Jesus," but as receivers of the greatest news of all: Jesus would display the greatness and worth of God by calling and saving sinners. This is perhaps the hardest part of the Gospel for the fallen heart to embrace—that we can do nothing to save ourselves or merit salvation, but must rely completely on Jesus to help us. But, it is also the most hopeful news a helpless heart can know and embrace.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for hearts that realize your own helplessness, and rests in the power of God to work through you.*
- *that God would grant you eyes to see Him at work in your family's life.*
- *that God would grant humility to see that Jesus is your only hope.*
- *that your child will receive the Gospel.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read and talk about Luke 5:32. Help your child find and point to the words “righteous” and “repentance.”

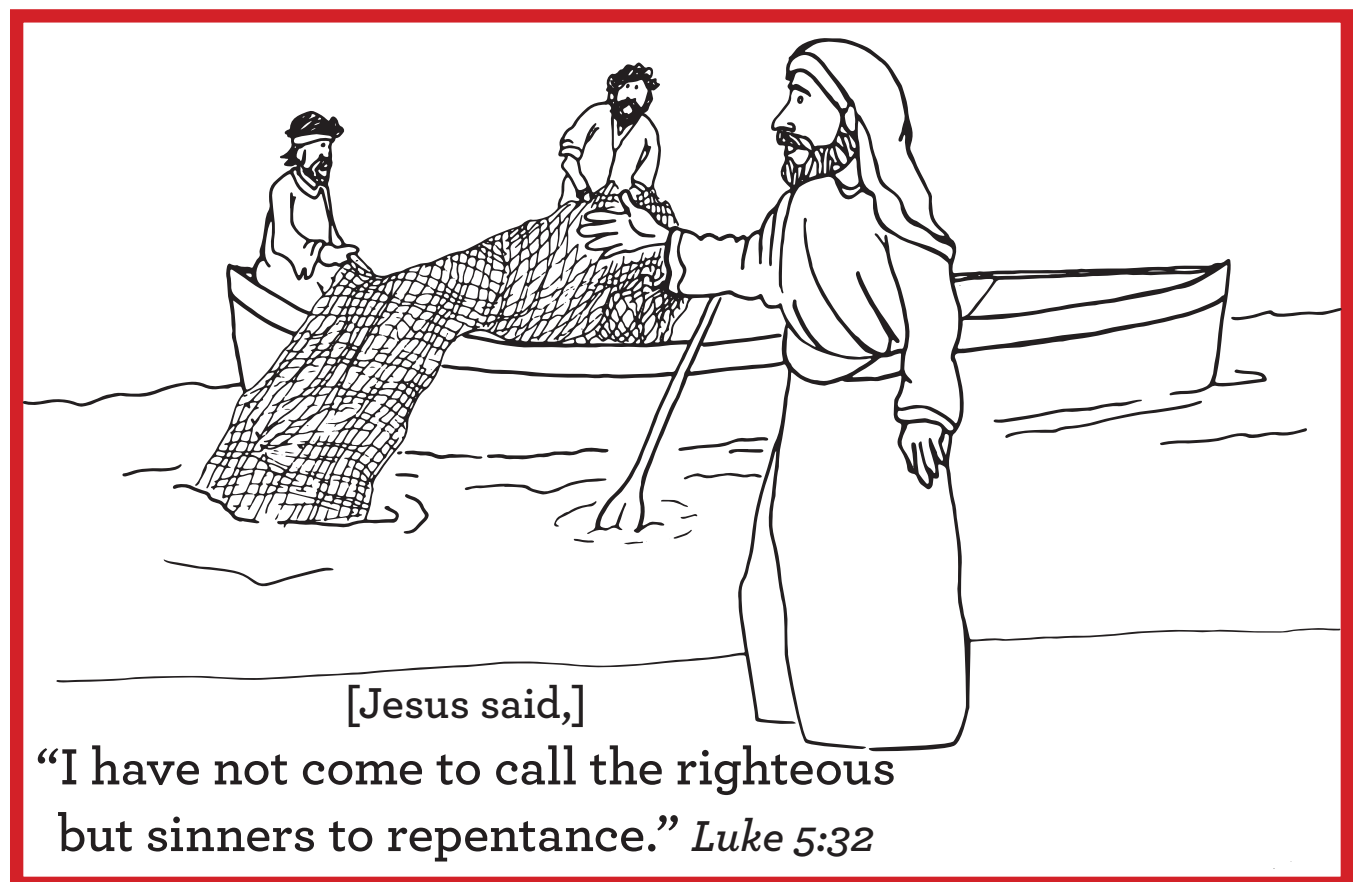
- Do you ever feel like you don't have any friends? Have you ever felt left out? Has anyone ever not wanted to play a game with you because you weren't good enough? Do you have to be good, strong, smart, or have a lot of friends *before* you can be a friend of Jesus? Who did Jesus choose to be His friends? [helpless sinners]
- Do you ever think that you do not need Jesus to save you from your sin? Do you think that you are a pretty good person? Though you do good things, do you understand that you are a sinner—that

you cannot fix yourself, and you need Jesus' help? Do you ask for His help with your sinful heart? Are you glad to have Jesus save you from your sin?

- In this week's Bible story, how did Simon Peter show that he was a repentant sinner? What did he do to show that he knew he was a sinner? [He humbly admitted his sin.] What did he do to show that he was looking to Jesus to fix his sinful heart? How did he show that Jesus was more important to him than anything else?

**ACTION STEP**

Tell your parents why it is good news that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. Pray that you would have a repentant heart.





# Jesus Heals Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus displays the power of God.
- Jesus has compassion on helpless sinners.
- Jesus knows that our greatest need, forgiveness of sin, Can only be met through trusting in Him.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,]  
"I came that they  
may have life and  
have it abundantly."  
—John 10:10b

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 2:1-12
- 2) John 10:10b



## LESSON SUMMARY

Jesus' proclamation that He was God's anointed Son was shocking, to say the least. Many reacted to His claims with unbelief and indignation: *Who does He think He is? He's just a carpenter's son!* Jesus had an answer for the skeptics: miracles! The miracles of Jesus were to stand as proof of His anointing from God. In John 10:38, Jesus said:

*But if I do it, even though you do not believe Me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.*

Jesus displayed the awesome power of God in miracles of all kinds—healing the sick, the lame, the deaf, and the blind. But the greatest miracle of all was the one that proclaimed forgiveness to sinners and healed their sinful hearts. The Miracle Worker had come to display the glory of God by forgiving sins and healing sinful hearts so that His people could have life and live life to the full. In today's lesson we reviewed the story of Jesus healing the paralytic, emphasizing that the man's bigger problem was his sin and not his inability to walk. In His great compassion and power, Jesus healed both his body and soul.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for a heart to embrace Christ as the God-man who can heal sinful hearts.*
- *that He would work in your heart so that you know and proclaim Him for the Savior He is.*
- *that you and your child would both have eyes to see the power of Jesus to forgive sins and hearts to rejoice in that power.*
- *that Jesus will forgive your sins and heal your hearts.*

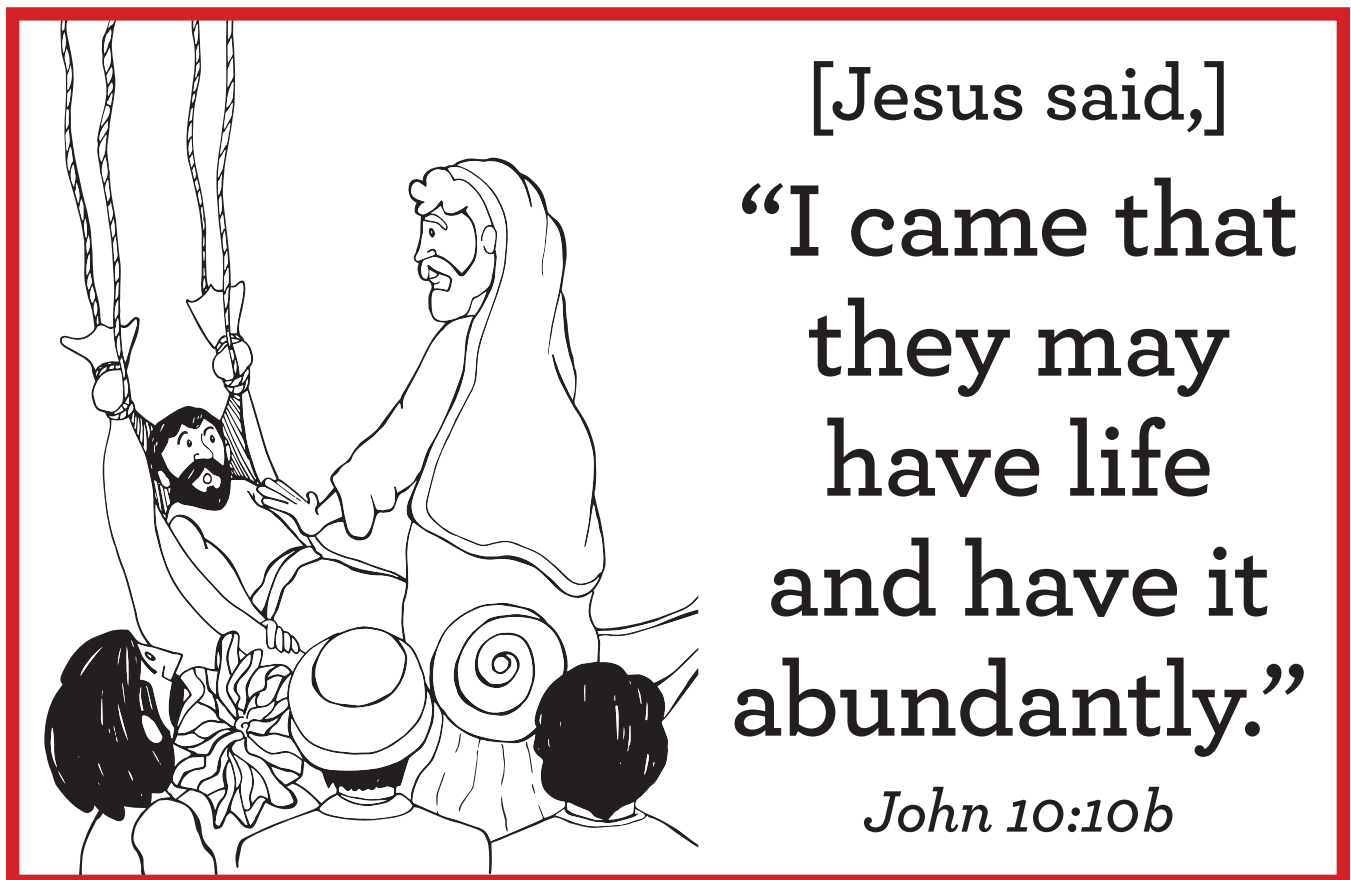
**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Ask your child about the lesson illustration in which the teacher was worried about a little problem while ignoring a much bigger problem. (For example, it may have been that the teacher was worrying about cleaning a dirty spot on a bicycle that was missing its front tire.)

- Does Jesus understand when people have problems that hurt? Was Jesus able to feel pain and weakness in His body? [Yes, Jesus had a real body just like us.] What was Jesus able to do for the man who couldn't walk? How was Jesus able to do that?
- What was that man's biggest problem? What did Jesus do for him? See Mark 2:5. Why was this even better than being able to walk? Could the man really have been happy with strong, healthy legs, but a sinful heart? Why not?
- What problems do you have in your life? What is your biggest problem? Do you feel that sin is your biggest problem? Why can it be easy to sometimes forget that sin is our really biggest problem?
- Who is the only one who can help you with your biggest problem? Are you looking to Jesus to forgive your sin?

**ACTION STEP**

Fold a large piece of drawing paper in half. On the outside draw a picture of the man who couldn't walk, before he met Jesus. Open up the paper and on the inside draw a picture of the man after Jesus had healed him. Use the drawing to tell someone about what Jesus did.





# Jesus Spends Time with Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus came to save even the worst of sinners.
- No one is righteous.
- People cannot be saved by their own merits.

## MEMORY VERSES

And Jesus [said],  
“Those who are well  
have no need of a  
physician, but those  
who are sick. I have  
not come to call the  
righteous but sinners  
to repentance.”  
—Luke 5:31-32

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 2:13-16
- 2) Luke 5:31-32



## LESSON SUMMARY

The story of Jesus calling Simon Peter, James, John, and Andrew is, in many ways, inoffensive. Most of us like to identify with these men: ordinary, unassuming people going about their jobs, not particularly sinister in their words or actions. The modern church readily embraces this vision of Jesus calling the “everyday” sinner. However, as we read on in Scripture, a more dramatic picture begins to be revealed as Jesus calls to Himself the most vile sinners—sinners who are outcasts in society. In today's lesson we reviewed the story of Jesus calling Levi the tax collector to demonstrate this concept.

The most religiously devout people of Jesus' day thought this was scandalous. If Jesus was truly from God, why wouldn't He come and befriend the good people? The people who behaved themselves and followed all the right rules? Good “church” people? Jesus has a terrifying answer to any who think of themselves as righteous by their own merits: ***I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*** (Luke 5:32). Jesus rejects those who trust in themselves and their own righteousness. His offer of salvation is to sick, helpless, wicked sinners—sinners who desperately need a Savior.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that you will know your own helplessness and so trust fully on Jesus for your salvation.*
- *for a heart that seeks the salvation of all sinners.*
- *that God would give your child understanding and humility to see that he is desperately sinful and cannot save himself.*
- *that you will turn to Jesus as the only one who is able to save sinners.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Present the following scenario: *Suppose a really important and rich person came to visit our city. What if, instead of eating dinner with other rich and important people, he brought dinner to a homeless family and ate with them? The rich and important people would complain, "Why is he spending time with them? They're poor, dirty, and smelly!"*

- **How might the rich man answer them? Who needed his help?**
- Have you ever thought something like this: [Person's name] *is very bad. Jesus won't love him because he is so bad. I am good. God will love me better than him because I am good.*

**Are these the right kinds of thoughts? What kind of people did Jesus come to**

**help and save? Will Jesus be your Savior and make you His friend if you think you're already good and don't need His help? What did the Bible story tell us?**

- **If we know someone who is a sinner and needs the help that only Jesus can give, what can we do for him? Can we tell him that Jesus came to save and help him? Can we pray to God and ask Him to make this person His friend?**

**ACTION STEP**

This week make a puzzle: Ask a parent or older sibling to write out Luke 5:31-32 on a large piece of paper. Decorate the paper around the verse with colored markers or crayons. Then cut the paper into 10–12 pieces. Mix the pieces up and then try putting them together again. Recite the verse each time you do this.



And Jesus [said],  
“Those who are well  
have no need of a  
physician, but those  
who are sick. I have  
not come to call the  
righteous but sinners  
to repentance.”

*Luke 5:31-32*





# God Changes Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Sinners cannot free themselves from bondage to the power of sin.
- Jesus came to free people from the bondage of sin.
- Jesus is more powerful than Satan.
- Jesus forgives sin and changes a sinner's heart.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

—2 Corinthians 5:17

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 5:1-20
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:17



## LESSON SUMMARY

In his excellent book, *The Gospel According to Jesus*, John MacArthur makes the following observation:

**Sin is no peripheral issue as far as salvation is concerned; it is the issue. In fact, the distinctive element of the Christian message is the power of Jesus Christ to forgive and conquer our sin. Of all the realities of the gospel, none is more wonderful than the news that the enslaving grasp of sin has been broken.<sup>1</sup>**

This is a glorious truth. By His almighty power, Jesus breaks the enslaving bondage of sin offering us true freedom from Satan's power. This inward work of saving faith in the heart will always be accompanied by outward evidences. Forgiven sinners live and act differently when set free by Jesus. The gospels give a wonderful testimony of the power of Jesus to free sinners from the power and bondage of sin in order to live in newness of life, to the glory of God. In today's lesson this was seen in Jesus saving the demon-possessed man as recorded in Mark 5:1-20.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that you would rejoice in the work of Jesus to set you free from sin.*
- *that He would continue to change your heart and build your life as a testimony to His saving power.*
- *that both you and your child will the bondage of sin and cry out to Jesus for help.*
- *that God would save and change many hearts.*



1. MacArthur, John F. Jr. *The Gospel According to Jesus*. (Grand Rapids: Mich.: Zondervan, 1988), 60.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Review the story from Mark 5:1-20. Discuss with your child what the man was like before Jesus changed his heart. When people are controlled by sin, they will act in ways that are hurtful to themselves and others.

- When Jesus changes someone's heart, what should that do to the way a person acts, thinks, and talks? Does he still live like sin is in charge of him? How does he live like a “new” person?
- Are there people you know that you think are too bad for Jesus to change?

Is anything too hard for Jesus to do? Is there anyone Jesus can't save? [Jesus is God—He is able to save anyone.] Have you ever told these people about Jesus?

- Read and talk about 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Has Jesus changed your heart? In what ways?

**ACTION STEP**

Draw a picture that will help you to memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.



Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ, he is a  
new creation.

The old has passed  
away; behold, the  
new has come.

*2 Corinthians 5:17*





# Jesus Welcomes All Kings of Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus proclaims His message to all people.
- Jesus gives salvation through faith to Gentiles as well.
- Jesus welcomes people from all nations into His family.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*  
—Psalm 67:3

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 67:3
- 2) John 4:4-26, 39-42
- 3) Romans 3:23
- 4) Revelation 5:9c



## LESSON SUMMARY

The Old Testament is primarily the testimony of God as He revealed Himself through His chosen people, Israel. As Israel waited expectantly for the long-expected Messiah, many grew more and more convinced that He would come exclusively to the Jewish people to rescue them from their political and religious enemies. Many Jews started depending on their national identity to save and deliver them, and to most Jews, anyone outside that Jewish identity was excluded from the great promises of God.

While it is true that God had chosen Israel as His special people, the true Israel was to be made up of a people of faith—and not just from those who had descended from Abraham. Just as Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6), so also to any who receive Jesus and call on His name, to them He gives the right to become children of God (John 1:12)—Jew and Gentile alike. So although Jesus came to the Jews first, He also came to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16-17). He even came to hated outcasts, such as the Samaritans as described in today's lesson with Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well. The Gospel of Jesus is a message to people from every tongue, tribe, and nation, that those who believe may rejoice and worship in the presence of God forever (Revelation 7:9-10).

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, rejoice in the mercy of God to seek people from all peoples. Pray...



- *for the salvation of Jew and Gentile alike, that God's name would be proclaimed and praised in all the earth.*
- *that God would be at work in your child's heart to see that the Gospel of Jesus is for everyone—including people who are different from them.*
- *that your hearts would truly rejoice anytime anyone comes to saving faith in Jesus.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Discuss with your child the many ways that we can “group” people. For example, we can group people who are boys or girls, children or adults, light skin or brown skin, from our church or from another church.

- **Do we sometimes think the group we are in is better than another group?**  
*I think girls are better than boys, so the girls should get the best treat. Is it right to think that?* [No, girls and boys are both sinners.] **Is any group of people better than the other?**

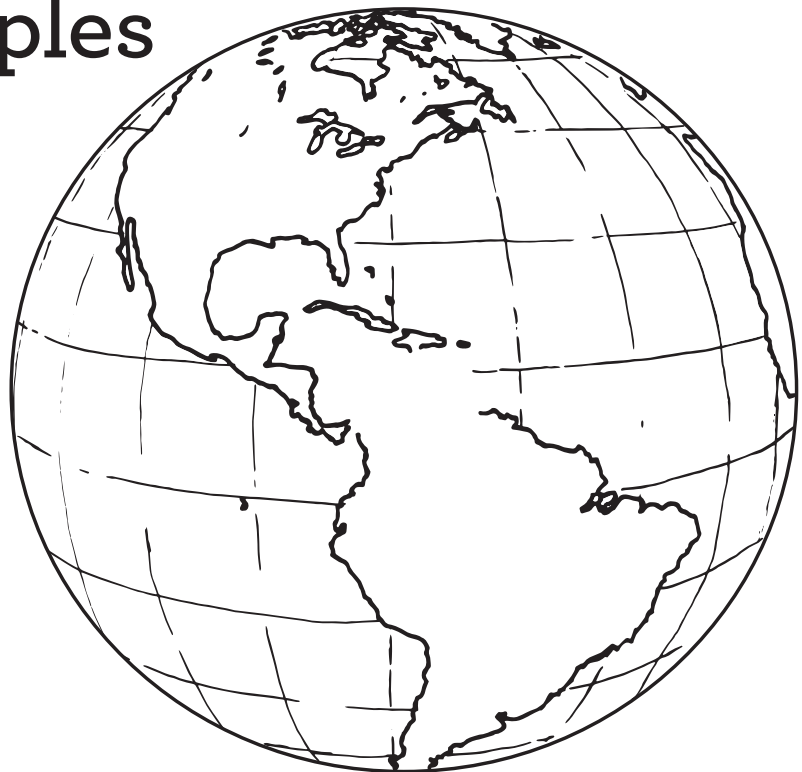
Read Romans 3:23. What does this verse say about everyone, including each of us?

- **Are there times when you act as if you are better than someone else? What might that look like?** Give an example of this. **Is this right? How did Jesus treat people who were different from Him? How should you treat other people? What is one thing you can do this week to be more like Jesus? Is there someone you could be more welcoming to?**

**ACTION STEP**

Have your parents help you come up with a idea of how you could be more welcoming to someone in need of a friend this week.

Let the peoples  
praise you,  
O God;  
let all  
the peoples  
praise you!  
*Psalms 67:3*





# Jesus Calms Fearful Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus understands our weaknesses and has compassion on us.**
- **Every situation is under Jesus' control, because He is God.**
- **Jesus wants sinners to trust Him.**

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."*—John 14:1

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 14:22-33
- 2) Luke 8:22-25
- 3) John 14:1
- 4) Romans 6:23



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children have many fears. This is usually due, in part, to children rightly perceiving their inability to ultimately control the events around them. Jesus came to demonstrate His almighty, sovereign rule of the universe. He has every situation completely under His control. He is completely trustworthy, and His children can have full confidence in Him, even throughout the turbulent storms of life.

In today's lesson we recalled the events of Jesus calming the storm and admonishing His disciples to trust in His sovereign power and care.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for that you would see Jesus in the fullness of His sovereign power and place your complete confidence in Him.*
- *that you would cast any anxieties you may have on Him because He cares for you.*
- *that both you and your child would have hearts that fully trust Jesus and His rule over all circumstances.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read and talk about John 14:1. Jesus wants us to know that He is God. He is in control of everything that happens. We can depend on Him. He knows the right thing to do in every situation. We do not need to be afraid that something will happen to us that Jesus didn't plan.

- What scares you? Who is bigger than these things? Who is stronger than these things? Who is in charge of these things? [Jesus is.] Who can help you to not be afraid anymore? How can Jesus help you to not be afraid anymore?
- What can you do this week to remind yourself to trust in Jesus when you are afraid?

- What should sinners be the most afraid of?

Read Romans 6:23a.

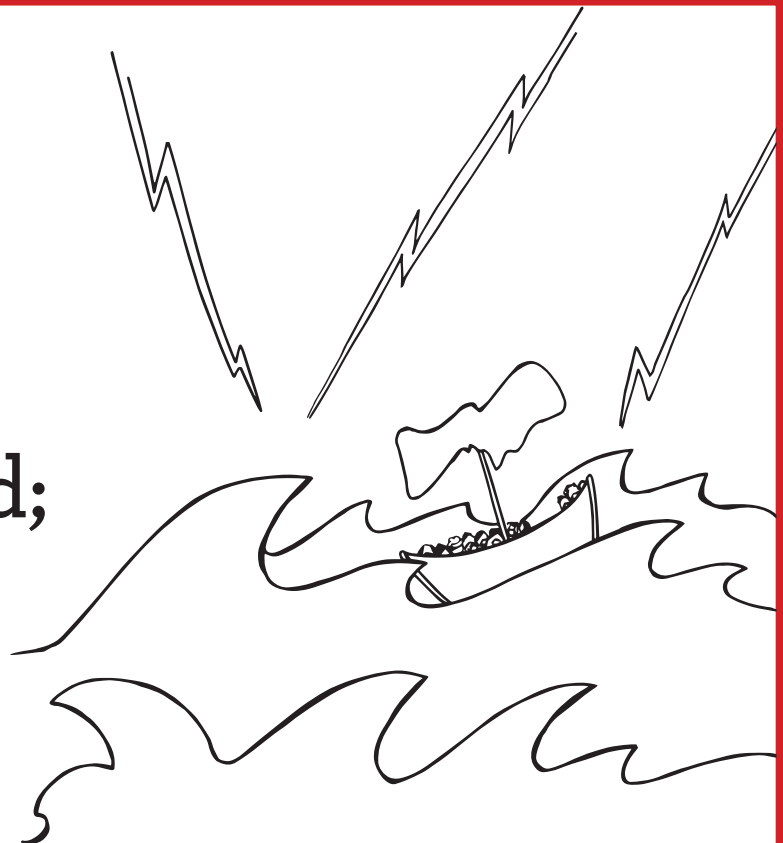
How has God promised to punish sin? Is that scary? [Yes—that is the scariest thing of all.] What did Jesus come to do?

Read and talk about Romans 6:23b.

**ACTION STEP**

On the outside of an envelope, write “Jesus is Almighty.” This week, when you become afraid or worried about something, draw a quick picture of it and then fold it up and place it in the envelope and recite John 14:1.

[Jesus said,]  
“Let not  
your hearts  
be troubled.  
Believe in God;  
believe also  
in me.”  
*John 14:1*







# Jesus Satisfies Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Sinners have both physical and spiritual needs that keep them from being happy.
- Jesus is God, and He provides for our physical needs.
- Jesus is God, and He provides for our spiritual needs.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus [said,] "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger,"—John 6:35a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 7:9-11
- 2) John 6:1-14, 26-35, 51b



## LESSON SUMMARY

C. S. Lewis once commented that the problem with people was not that our desires were too strong, but that they were too weak. He said it this way:

*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.<sup>1</sup>*

In the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, people sometimes conclude that Jesus simply meets our physical needs—even in miraculous ways. And while it is true that Jesus is able to meet those needs, we, like the crowd, are so easily pleased with bread that we fail to see the greater need He promises to meet. However, in the Gospel of John, Jesus goes on to reveal a much deeper need and desire that sinners have, namely, the need for true spiritual happiness. This is the need He ultimately came to fulfill. Jesus came to satisfy souls that are hungering for true and lasting joy by offering Himself to us as the Bread of Life.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *that God would strengthen your longing for Him, that you would know and savor Jesus as the One who satisfies the deepest desires of your heart.*
- *that God would give both you and your child eyes to see your greatest need: salvation in Jesus.*
- *that you would seek and be satisfied in Jesus to meet your needs.*

1. Lewis, C.S. *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1965), 1-2.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Place a favorite food on the table for your child.

- What do you feel like after you have filled up your tummy with your favorite food? Does it make you feel happy? Will that happy feeling last the whole day? Why not?
- Suppose you are lonely, would you want to play with a friend or eat the food? If you were afraid, would you want your daddy or the food? Can food always make you feel happy? Why not? What do people need more than full tummies?
- Read and talk about John 6:35a  
How is Jesus able to make someone happy forever?
- This week when you are eating, what should you remember? Who does all your food come from? How can you praise and thank God for giving you food? What else should you remember? [Jesus gives sinners something that is even better than food.]

**ACTION STEP**

This week before every dinner meal, recite John 6:35a for your family, and then share one reason why you are thankful for Jesus.



Jesus [said,]  
“I am the  
bread of life;  
whoever comes  
to me shall  
not hunger,”

*John 6:35a*



# Jesus Receives Childlike Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus shows the love of His Father.
- All people, children and adults, need Jesus.
- Jesus is happy with childlike faith.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said], "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of God."  
—Mark 10:14b

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 19:1-10
- 2) Mark 10:13-16



## LESSON SUMMARY

Anyone who has ever spent a lot of time with a young child can appreciate his curiosity, enthusiasm, and simple trust. If you offer a child a piece of cake, he doesn't pause and question your motives, or ask if there is some catch. Nor does he eye it suspiciously wondering if you have put something harmful in it. He simply accepts it and joyfully devours it. As adults we can learn from this, for children rightly see themselves as dependent receivers. Jesus did not come to instill in us a sense of self-reliance or independence but a heart that daily depends on and joyfully receives His love and grace. In today's lesson we presented these truths by reflecting on Jesus' words concerning children (Mark 10:13-16) and through the story of Zacchaeus' childlike faith in Luke 19.

God is a heavenly Father who pours out His love and goodness on undeserving sinners. He doesn't need anything from us (Acts 17:25). Therefore, He is free to give all things to His children. Jesus wants us to be like children who, joyfully and without question, become totally dependent on Him in all things.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that God would give you a heart that is happily dependent on Him, enjoying all of the love and grace He freely gives to His children.*
- *that God would give both you and your child humble, childlike hearts that depend fully and joyfully on Jesus.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

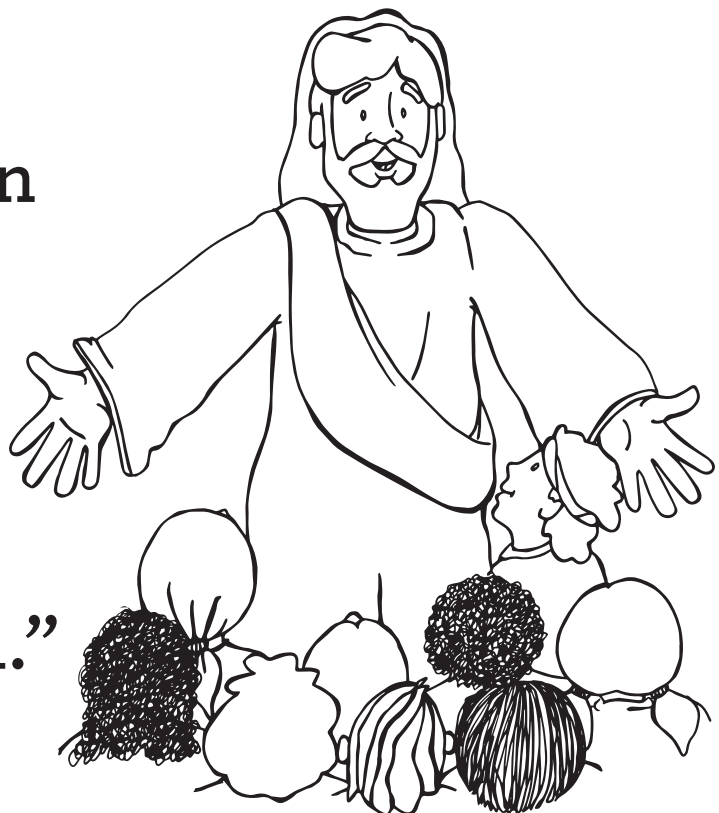
- Are there times when you don't ask for help even though you need it? Give an example of this. Why might a person not ask for help with something?
- What might keep someone from asking Jesus for help with his sin problem? Do some of these reasons stop you from asking Jesus for help?
- Have you ever seen a young child get in a car and drive to work in the morning? Why not? But can adults do this? But can adults do everything on their own? What do adults need help with? Can adults fix their sinful hearts? Who can? [Only Jesus! Both adults and children need Jesus.] What can we do this week to help us remember how much we all need Jesus?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, ask your parents what kinds of things they need help with, and then tell them about why Zacchaeus needed help from Jesus.

[Jesus said],  
“Let the children  
come to me;  
do not hinder  
them, for such  
belongs the  
kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:14b





# Jesus Gives Rest to Weary Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Sinners are not able to fully obey God's holy, righteous, and good law.
- Jesus came to fulfill the law for sinners so that they could be saved.
- Jesus gives rest to a sinner's heart and soul.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."  
—Matthew 11:28

## SCRIPTURE

1) Matthew 11:28-30



## LESSON SUMMARY

As we have seen in earlier lessons, the Scriptures make clear that God requires His perfect Law be loved and obeyed. But, as we have seen, sinful hearts are not able to fulfill the requirements of the Law, and thus will never find salvation through law-keeping. However, in Jesus' day (and in our own also) many sinners continued to desperately struggle to keep the law in the hopes of earning God's favor.

Furthermore, men such as the Pharisees imposed even more rules and traditions to weigh down an already weary sinner. But then Jesus came to fulfill God's perfect Law. Jesus took the requirement of law-keeping on Himself to complete for sinners what they were unable to do themselves. It is in resting in Jesus and in his perfect righteousness that we find acceptance with God and salvation.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *for hearts that fully rest in the perfect work and righteousness of Jesus alone for salvation.*
- *that God would give both you and your child a love for God's Law and, at the same time, a recognition that salvation can never be earned through obeying the Law.*
- *that you would see, embrace, and trust in Jesus as your perfect law-keeper.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Give your child an example of a rule you have given him/her. Help your child to see why the rule is good. For example, “Hold my hand when crossing the street.” It is a good rule because it protects you from getting hurt.

- Have you ever broken a rule that you tried really hard to obey? Did daddy and mommy stop loving you? Why not? [because you don't need to earn your parents love]
- Can you earn God's love and be saved by obeying all of His perfect rules? Why not?
- Have your child try to lift an object that

is too heavy for him/her. **Would it be foolish to keep trying to lift it, knowing it is way too heavy?**

Sometimes, people can be like that. Even though they are sinners, they keep trying to be good enough to earn their way into heaven instead of trusting in Jesus. **Can anyone ever be good enough to get to heaven? What is the only way a sinner can get to heaven?**

**ACTION STEP**

Act out the memory verse from Matthew 11:28 for your family. Use hand and body motions, and a heavy sack to help you.

[Jesus said,  
“Come to me,  
all who labor  
and are heavy  
laden, and I will  
give you rest.”

*Matthew 11:28*







# Jesus Seeks for Lost Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus is like a loving shepherd, and people are like lost sheep.
- Jesus seeks after and rescues individual sinners.
- Jesus delights in saving sinners.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”—Luke 19:10

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 15:1-7
- 2) Luke 19:10



## LESSON SUMMARY

We often read stories in the gospels of desperate sinners seeking out Jesus for help with all kinds of problems. What we need to keep in mind, though, is that before they came seeking, Jesus had already sought them out. In John 15:16 Jesus says, ***You did not choose Me, but I chose you.*** These are words of great hope for sinners. Left to our sinful selves with our darkened hearts, we would never see and embrace the light of the Gospel. How we need a Shepherd to seek and save us! This lesson recounted Jesus' story of the lost sheep found in Luke 15:1-7. Jesus is the great Shepherd who delights to seek, save, safeguard, and satisfy His sheep. What a wonderful picture in Isaiah 40:11:

***He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom...***

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *praise God for the work He has done in your life to save you.*
- *pray that He will help you to be earnest and joyful in praying and proclaiming salvation to the lost.*
- *pray that both you and your child would have eyes and hearts to see and embrace Jesus as the loving Shepherd who came to rescue them.*
- *pray that God would soften your child's heart to trust in Jesus for salvation.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read and talk about Luke 19:10.

- How are you and I like a lost sheep? How is Jesus like a good shepherd? Why can He be trusted? Do you trust Jesus to be a good shepherd for you? What would that look like? For example, will you go and do things your own way, or desire to do things Jesus' way? What does it mean to be found by Jesus?
- Imagine having a pet that ran away. What it might feel like? If you loved your pet, would you want to go and look for it? Are people always able to find a lost pet? Why not? Do you think that lost sinners are much more important to Jesus than a lost pet? Yes. Is Jesus always able to find the lost sinners that He seeks? Yes. He is God.

**ACTION STEP**

This week, pray every day for one or two people who don't know Jesus. Pray that Jesus would seek and save them.

[Jesus said,]  
“For the Son  
of Man came  
to seek  
and to save  
the lost.”  
*Luke 19:10*





# Jesus is Kind to Undeserving Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **All people are sinners and deserve condemnation.**
- **Jesus is righteous and has the right to condemn sinners.**
- **Jesus is kind and merciful to those sinners whom He chooses.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*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.*

—John 3:17

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 3:17
- 2) John 8:1-11
- 3) Romans 3:23
- 4) Romans 6:23a



## LESSON SUMMARY

Jesus is relentless in His pursuit of sinners. No spiritual bondage is beyond the saving grace of the almighty God. Even to the woman caught in the act of adultery—a sin so horrible that the offender could be stoned to death—Jesus extended His loving-kindness and mercy. As usual, the teachers of the Law were quick to use this event in an attempt to set Jesus at odds with God's holy Law.

But Jesus could not be trapped by faulty human reasoning. The very Law, by which they wanted to condemn an adulteress to death, would also condemn them. Jesus wanted them to see that the main purpose of the Law is to point undeserving sinners, including themselves, to dependence on the greatness of God's mercy for the forgiveness of their sins. This grace doesn't ignore sin, but rather offers forgiveness through the perfect, substitutionary atonement of Jesus on the cross.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *praise God for the mercy He has shown to you and pray for a heart that seeks to share this hope with other sinners who desperately need it.*
- *pray that both you and your child would see the perfect righteousness of Jesus.*
- *pray that you would be quick to seek the mercy of God for yourselves and others.*

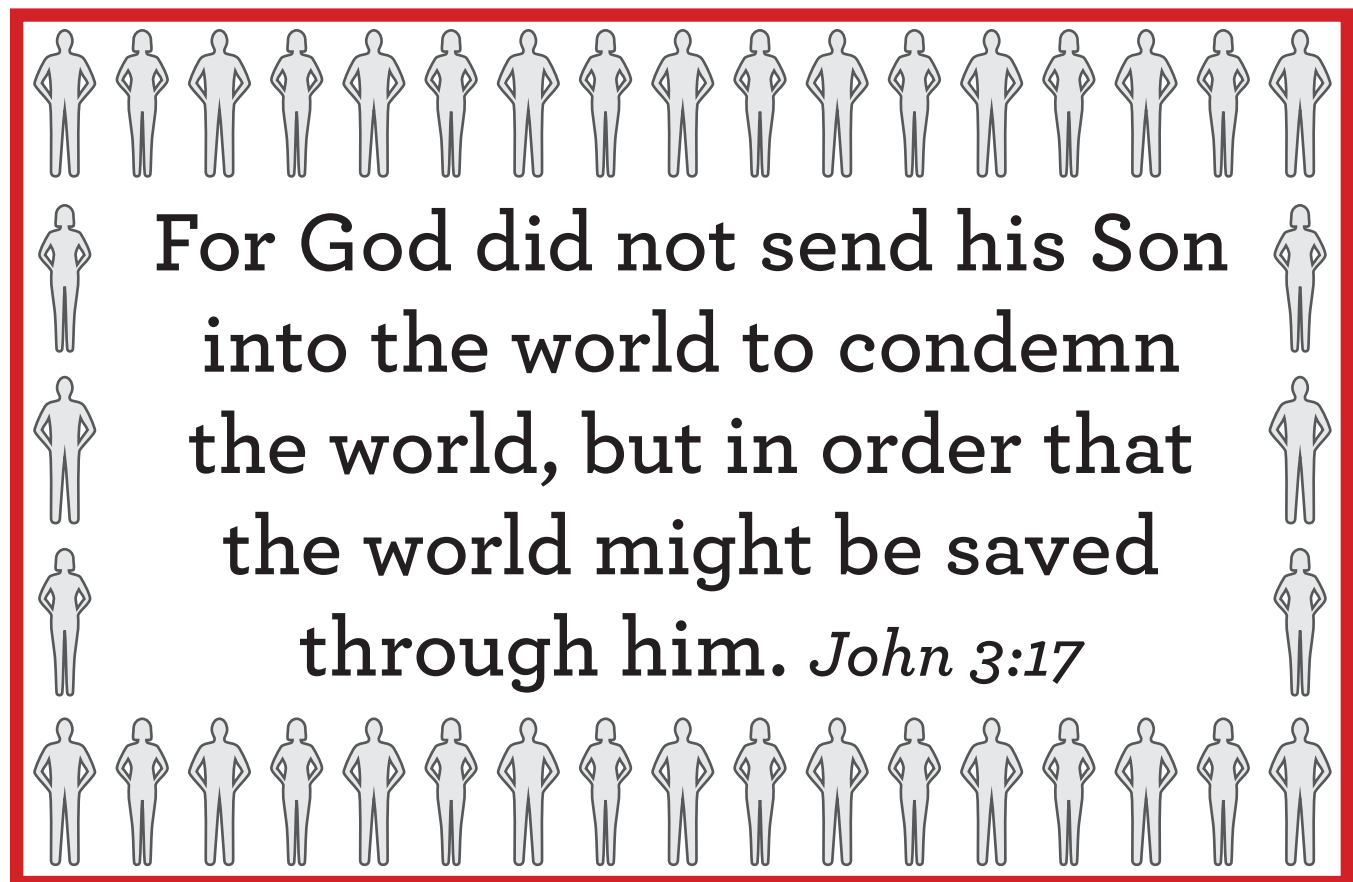
**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Review the story from John 8:1-11.

- How do you think the woman felt when the teachers caught her sinning? How do you think she felt knowing that she deserved to die? How do you think she felt when they wanted to stone her to death? What good news did Jesus have for her?
- Have you ever been the one caught in the act of doing something wrong? Did you hope that whoever caught you was eager to punish you? Why not? Why is it good news that Jesus is eager to forgive sinners? What must you do to be forgiven?
- Sometimes people think something like, *It's okay if I do bad things because Jesus is kind. He will forgive me. Is sinning okay? What did Jesus tell the woman after He had forgiven her?*
- Read John 8:11. The kindness of Jesus should lead us to repentance—to feel very sorry for our sin, and then seek to love, trust, and obey Jesus more than anything else. See Romans 2:4.

**ACTION STEP**

This week, tell your parents about something that you need Jesus' forgiveness for. With your parents, pray to Jesus and ask for His mercy and forgiveness.





# Jesus Brings Joy to Unhappy Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus displays the greatness of God in all He does.
- Jesus has power over death.
- Praise and worship express the true happiness we find in Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSE

*For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.—Psalm 92:4*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 92:4
- 2) Luke 19:28-40
- 3) John 11:1-43
- 4) John 12:17-18



## LESSON SUMMARY

Imagine the joy of Lazarus' sisters and friends as they saw him brought back to life. Lazarus had been dead for days and was buried in the tomb—and then Jesus spoke His all-powerful words, “Lazarus, come out.” The great enemy of all people—death—had a Master. But this life wouldn't last. Lazarus would die again. Something more had to be done to defeat death forever, and secure lasting joy. Although it was not fully understood at the time, Jesus had come to save His people from eternal death and condemnation in order that His people might experience the greatest joy of all: eternal life with God.

The promise of eternal life with God has an irrepressible response: praise and worship of Jesus! In his book *Desiring God*, John Piper summarizes worship in the following manner:

**Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of his worth. This cannot be done by mere acts of duty. It can be done only when spontaneous affections arise in the heart.<sup>1</sup>**

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that Jesus would speak life into your hearts, bringing new life and lasting joy.*
- *that your child would be captivated by the promise and hope of eternal life with Jesus.*
- *for hearts that increasingly express praise to the One who is worthy of our worship.*



1. Piper, John. *Desiring God*. (Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah Books, 1996), 83.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read and talk about Psalm 92:4.

- What are some ways that we can show how happy we are? How could you show happiness in Jesus? What deeds and works has He done that should make you glad? What did Jesus do for Lazarus? Why was this so amazing? Why should it make us sing for joy?
- What are some ways that you could show other people how Jesus is the most special person of all because He can make you happy forever?
- Is there a song of praise we could sing to Jesus right now?

**ACTION STEP**

Choose a song of joyful praise to sing to Jesus. Have your family join you in singing it.

For you,  
O LORD, have  
made me glad  
by your work;  
at the works  
of your hands  
I sing for joy.

*Psalm 92:4*







# Jesus Serves Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- Even though Jesus is the most important person of all, He became a humble servant.
- Sinner must be made clean.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
—Matthew 20:28

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 20:28
- 2) Luke 19:38a
- 3) John 13:1-8



## LESSON SUMMARY

In Philippians 2:6-8, Paul describes the attitude of Jesus in the following manner:

*Who [Jesus], though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

In this lesson we reviewed the events of John 13:1-8 where Jesus' washed His disciples feet. Here, living among His people, was the almighty Creator and Ruler of the universe. But instead of taking upon Himself rightly deserved exaltation, He willingly took the role of a humble servant. And that role was not one to be taken lightly, because that service would cost Jesus His life. Jesus came to do the hardest job of all: bear the terrible wrath of God on the cross for helpless, condemned sinners!

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *that God would change your heart to be more like Jesus, learning from His humility and obedience.*
- *that He would give you a heart to serve your child in reinforcing the truths of this lesson.*
- *that God would give both you and your child hearts that would be amazed by the servanthood of Jesus.*
- *that you will have desires and attitudes that are transformed by the humility of Jesus.*

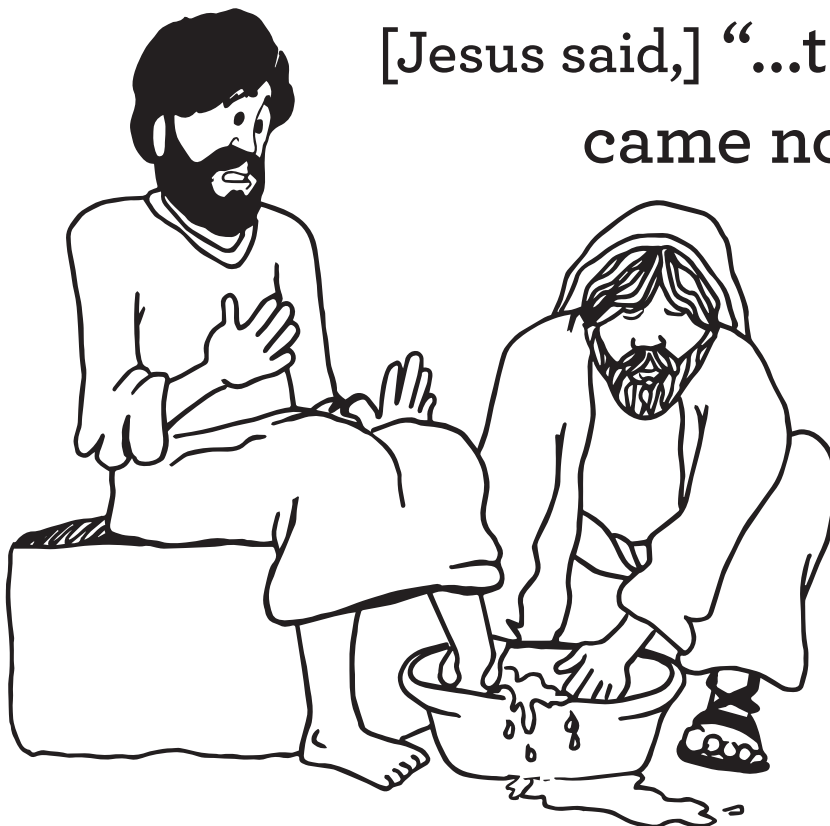
**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Review the events of John 13:1-8, and then read Matthew 20:28.

- Do you need Jesus to wash your feet? What do you need Jesus to wash? Can anyone else take away your sin? Who is the only person who can solve your sin problem? Do you think Jesus can just wash away your sin with soap and water? What did Jesus do to solve our sin problem? What does it mean that He gave His life as a ransom?
- How does Jesus serve you? Does He serve you because you are like a great and important king? What is He showing us by serving helpless sinners? [He is showing us how great He is; that He is able to meet all of our needs; that He alone can make us happy; etc.]
- If Jesus, the king of the world, serves other people, what do you think Jesus' friends should do? Should they serve other people, too? How could Jesus' friends serve other people? Who could you serve this week?

**ACTION STEP**

Think of a special way that you could serve someone this week—make it a surprise (something you do for them that you don't have to be told to do).



[Jesus said,] “...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

*Matthew 20:28*



# Jesus Loves Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus demonstrates the love of His Father.**
- **Jesus freely chooses to love sinners and calls them to be His friends.**
- **Jesus shows unworthy sinners the depth of His love.**

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”—John 15:13

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 13:31-38
- 2) John 14:1
- 3) John 15:9-15
- 4) John 21:25



## LESSON SUMMARY

It is helpful to sometimes take a step back and look at the whole picture of Jesus' life and ministry, because it is then that we see that all of His teaching and deeds point to one ultimate goal—displaying of the glory of God. That glory is demonstrated by the obedient Son who loves sinners, just as His Father does, and who freely chooses to give up His life in order to redeem them. His great love toward us is not due to any qualifications or merits of our own. It is an immeasurable love that overflows out of the joy that God has in the greatness and worth of His own Son, and it enables God's people to enter into that joy forever.

In this lesson we reviewed, ways in which Jesus had demonstrated His love towards sinners as taught in previous lessons. Then we focused on the Last Supper and Jesus' words from John 15:13.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *that God would help to you comprehend the love of God at work in your life through Christ.*
- *that He would cause you to wonder anew and rejoice in His love.*
- *that God would give both you and your child hearts to see and receive His amazing love expressed through Jesus Christ.*
- *that God would give you hearts to embrace Jesus as your greatest treasure.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

The Bible says that we will really understand what love means when we understand that Jesus, who is without sin, died for sinners.

- Show your child a treat or some prize.

Would you jump up and down 10 times in order to get this treat? Would you memorize a Bible verse to get this treat? Would you clean the whole house to get this treat? Would you give up your pet to get this treat? Would you die for this treat? How does this show how much you really care about this treat?

- Read John 15:13.

What was Jesus willing to do in order to save you? How does that show us how great His love is for us? What would happen to sinners if no one solved our sin problem?

- How should we respond to the love of Jesus? What could we do to show Jesus how great He is? [Trust Him and obey Him. Love and praise Him, etc.]

**ACTION STEP**

This week, have your parents help you to read these verses in your Bible: John 3:16; 15:9-13; Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:9-11.

[Jesus said,] “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” *John 15:13*





# Jesus Is Patient with Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus understands that the hearts of sinners are weak and afraid.**
- **Sinners are unworthy of God's love.**
- **Because He is God, Jesus loves and is patient with sinners.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.—1 John 4:10*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 14:27-72
- 2) Luke 22:44
- 3) John 15:13
- 4) Romans 2:4
- 5) 2 Peter 3:9
- 6) 1 John 1:9



## LESSON SUMMARY

After the recorded conversation that Jesus had with His disciples during their last Passover meal together, one would think that the disciples were overwhelmed by the words of love and assurance Jesus had expressed in this intimate setting. Jesus' words, ***Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*** (John 15:13), revealed the extent of His love for them, as well as what awaited Him.

The announcement by Jesus that He would be betrayed by Judas was indeed shocking, but more startling than that was Jesus' statement to the remaining disciples, ***You will all fall away...*** (Mark 14:27). Peter was emphatic that this would never happen—he, Peter, would not abandon his Lord! But Jesus knows the human heart is sinful, weak, and afraid. Our hearts are prone to wander in their affections and loyalties, as the disciples would be reminded shortly. Unlike us however, Jesus' heart never wanders in its affections. Jesus will always display the greatness and worth of the Father, and He will not waver from this mission. How good for us that Jesus is faithful and patient with sinners! In this lesson we recounted the events in the Garden of Gethsemane, including Jesus' arrest and betrayal.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *pray that God would work in your heart to give you a more steadfast trust in Him.*
- *thank Him for His grace-filled patience in your own life, and rejoice in the fact that this undeserved kindness brought you to saving repentance.*
- *pray that both you and your child will have hearts that increasingly realize the depths of your sin and the depths of Jesus' mercy.*
- *pray that God will be at work in your child's heart to receive the redeeming work of Christ on the Cross.*

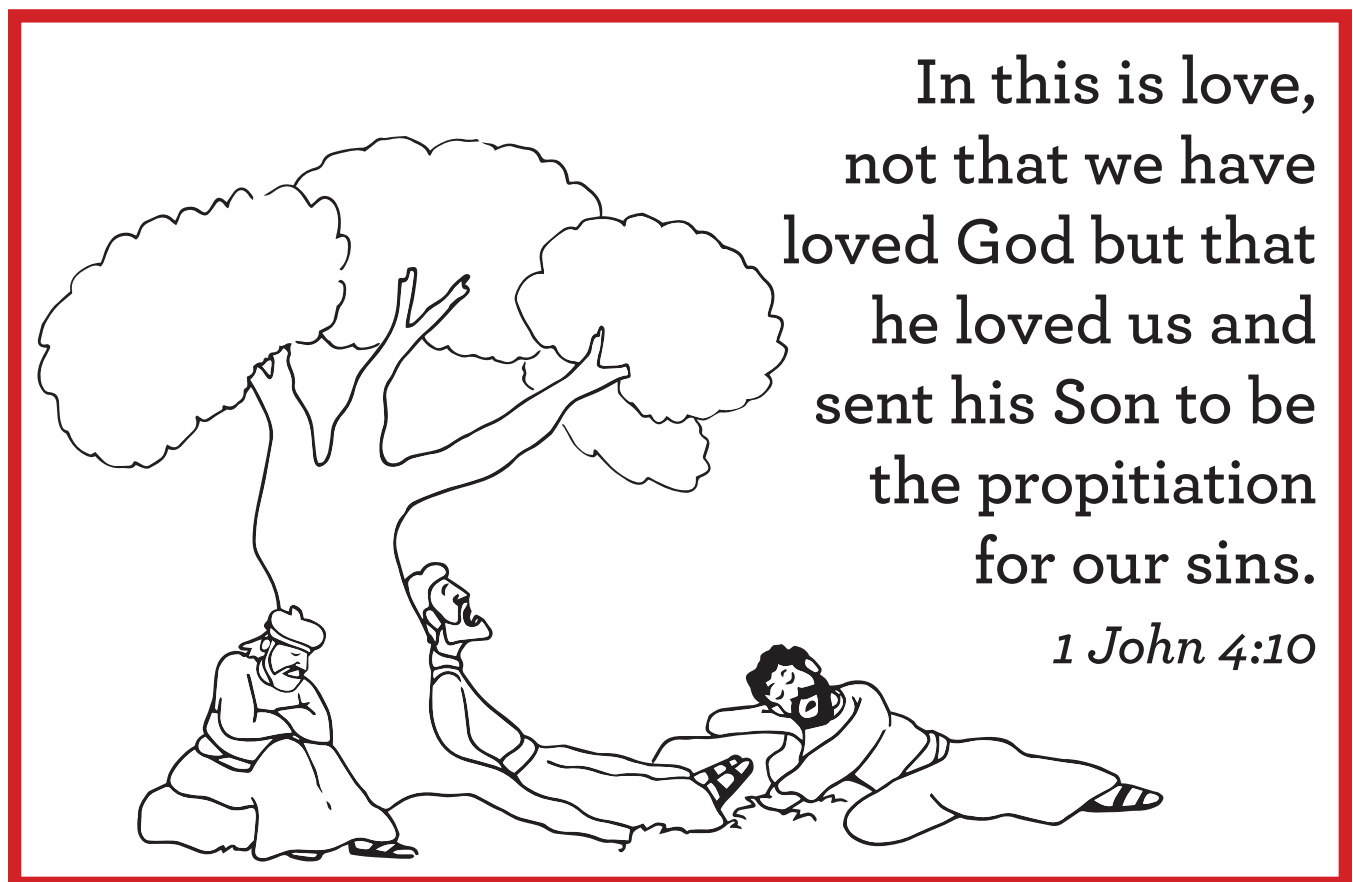
**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Review the events of Jesus in Gethsemane from Mark 14:32-42.

- What does the word “agony” mean? Why was Jesus in agony? What had He promised to do for His friends? [Die for them.] Was it going to be an easy thing to do? Even though Jesus was really God, He also was human. He had real emotions, real tears, and real hurts.
  - Were the disciples' actions loving toward Jesus in the garden? What about at Jesus' arrest? How did Jesus show that He still loved them in spite of this?
- Read and talk about 1 John 4:10.
- Why is it a good thing that Jesus is patient with sinners who don't yet believe in Him?
- Read and explain the meaning of Romans 2:4 or 2 Peter 3:9.
- God's patience is meant to lead sinners to repent and believe in Jesus. Can you give an example of how Jesus has been patient with you? Are there people you know of who are not yet trusting in Jesus? How could you pray for them this week?

**ACTION STEP**

On one side of a piece of paper, draw a picture of Jesus praying in the garden. On the other side, draw a picture of what His disciples were doing. Use the picture to share the story with a sibling or friend.







# Jesus Gives Up His Life for Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus displays the greatness and worth of God.**
- **Jesus was obedient to His Father, and willingly gave up His life for sinful people.**
- **Jesus is sovereign over the actions of all people.**

## MEMORY VERSE

...but God shows his  
love for us that while  
we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.  
—Romans 5:8

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 53:4-5, 7
- 2) Matthew 27:11-54
- 3) Mark 1:15
- 4) John 15:13
- 5) Romans 5:8



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children have an acute sense of fairness, especially as it pertains to their own well-being. For example, if you ask a child to accept the consequences of a sibling's wrong doings. He will immediately respond with a strong and negative "But that's not fair!"

Now picture the narrative of Isaiah 53—the vision of a suffering servant, a quiet and perfect lamb, despised, rejected, pierced, crushed, and punished to death. Willingly, He goes to the cross to bear not His own sin, but the sin of others. That vision depicts Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners. All the events of His life led to this moment in history. It was not for His own sin or rebellion that He died; Jesus was perfectly righteous. Rather, it was for the sin of His people that He suffered. Every moment leading to Jesus' death—the trial, the floggings and beatings, the nails, the mocking crowds—were all part of God's glorious plan to vindicate His righteousness by punishing sin and saving sinners. This was Jesus' mission, and He completed it in joyful obedience to the Father. Even in the anguish of the Cross, Jesus never cried out, "But it's not fair." Instead, Jesus cried out, "*It is finished.*" Jesus said "yes" to the will of the Father to show the greatness and worth of God in saving unrighteous sinners. In this lesson, we focused on the events of the crucifixion as depicted in Matthew 27:11-54.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *the glorious truth of the cross would impact your heart anew.*
- *God would cause you to cherish Christ more, and to cast yourself fully on Him for salvation.*
- *God would work in both your heart and the heart of your child, that you might be more fully moved by the willingness of Jesus to give up His life on behalf of sinners.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read Matthew 27:27-31 to your child.

- Is this a hard story to listen to? Why? Did Jesus deserve to be treated this way? Why not? Was this a surprise to Jesus?

Read Isaiah 53:4a, 5, and 7b. These verses speak of the death of Jesus even before He was born. The death of Jesus was planned by God. It wasn't a surprise to Jesus. God planned everything that was going to happen, and He was in control of everything that happened.

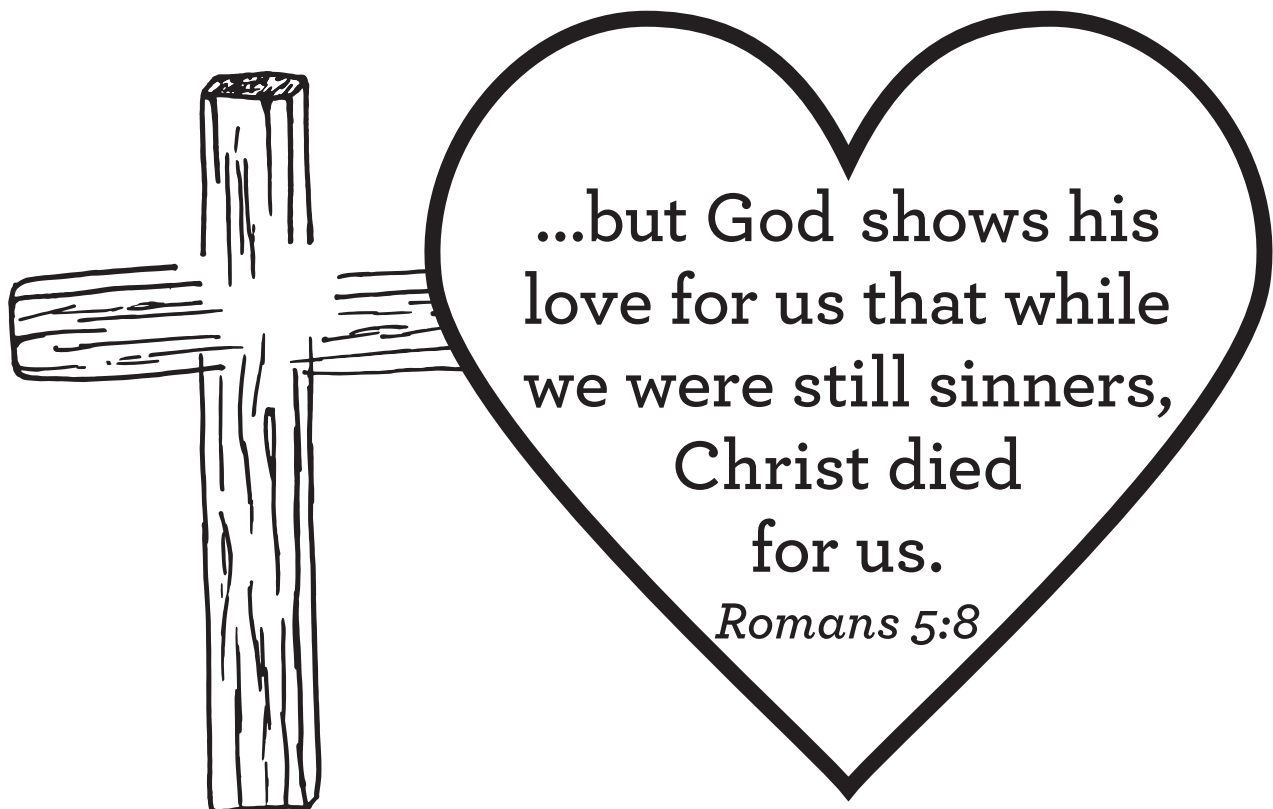
- Pretend that you are going to be in charge of everything that will happen

to you for the next day. Would you want to plan just fun things? Eating your favorite foods? Watching videos? Playing all day? Why would Jesus plan to have something very sad and painful happen to Himself?

- Read and discuss Romans 5:8. What should sinners do when they see how much Jesus' loves them? What should you do?
- Read Mark 1:15 and have a time of prayer, thanking Jesus for what He has done, and asking God to give hearts that repent and believe.

**ACTION STEP**

Have your parents help you to cut out the shape of a cross and a red heart. On the red heart, write out the memory verse from Romans 5:8. Attach the red heart to the cross. Tape the cross and heart somewhere where it will be seen often.





# Jesus Takes Away the Sin of His Friends

## MAIN IDEAS

- All people are unrighteous sinners, except Jesus.
- God hates sin and is right to punish sin.
- Righteous Jesus willingly received the wrath of God on behalf of His sinful friends.

## MEMORY VERSE

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*  
—1 Peter 2:24a

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 23:39-43
- 2) John 1:29
- 3) John 8:31b
- 4) Hebrews 9:22b, 28a
- 5) 1 Peter 2:24a
- 6) 1 Peter 3:18



## LESSON SUMMARY

In last week's lesson, we related the story of the crucifixion of Jesus. From outward appearances, it didn't seem like Jesus had accomplished much on behalf of sinners. After all, His death did not bring the hoped-for deliverance from political enemies, nor remove the godless burden imposed by the religious leaders. However, unseen by any human eye, something extraordinary was happening.

In this lesson we focused on the justifying work of Jesus by first reviewing previous themes concerning God, man, sin, and judgment, and then connecting these to what Jesus accomplished on the cross. As Romans 3:25-26 explains, God would not compromise the value He places on His own righteousness. Sin must be punished if God is to be just. So God presented His own righteous Son as a perfect substitute and poured out on Him the punishment His sinful people deserved—saving His sinful people from the wrath they deserved. It is important that children understand what the death of Jesus on the cross truly means: Jesus' death bore our sin and ultimately the terrible wrath of God. This is how God stands as both Judge and Justifier.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- God would cause the hearts and minds of both you and your child to understand the work Christ accomplished on the cross.
- God would work in your child's heart to see the greatness of Christ and cling to Him alone for salvation.



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Remind your child that in Old Testament times God had commanded His people to kill and shed the blood of animals in order to cover sin. Read and discuss John 1:29: “...*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*”

- How is taking away sin different from covering sin? Which is better? See Hebrews 10:1-4 and Hebrews 9:26. Jesus is much more special than any animal. Only the blood of Jesus could take away sin.
- What is your response to Jesus? Do you believe He is God and has come to take away sin? Is there anything that keeps you from trusting in Jesus? What is it? Who can help you trust in Jesus?

Spend some time praying with your child that God would give you hearts to truly see and love God's gift of salvation in Jesus.

- Read 1 Peter 2:24a.

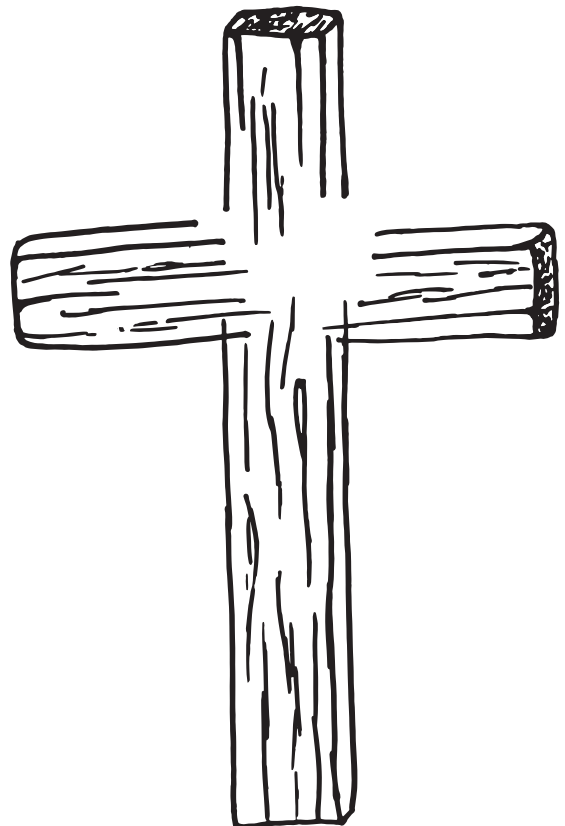
What does it mean that Jesus “bore our sins”? What does it mean to “die to sin and live to righteousness”? Who is righteous? [Jesus.] Who should we want to live like? What is one thing you could do this week to “die to sin and live to righteousness”?

**ACTION STEP**

Have your parents help you to read 1 Peter 2:24a. Go away to a quiet place in the house and spend some time thinking about the verse and what it means for you. Pray to Jesus, asking Him to make this verse true in your heart.

He himself  
bore our sins  
in his body on  
the tree, that  
we might die to  
sin and live to  
righteousness.

*1 Peter 2:24a*





# Jesus Gives New Life to His Friends

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus satisfied God's righteousness when He paid the full penalty for sin.
- Jesus' resurrection is proof that He is all powerful and victorious even over sin and death.
- Jesus makes His friends who trust in Him right with God.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus said..., "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,"*  
—John 11:25

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Ezekiel 36:26a
- 2) Matthew 27:57-66
- 3) Matthew 28:1-10
- 4) John 11:25
- 5) John 20:24-29
- 6) Acts 4:12
- 7) Romans 5:19a



## LESSON SUMMARY

In commenting on the significance of the resurrection Pastor John Piper states the following:

The resurrection of Jesus is God's gift and proof that his death was completely successful in blotting out the sins of his people and removing the wrath of God...From the cross the Son of God cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). And by means of the resurrection, God the Father cries, "It was finished indeed!" The great work of paying for our sin and providing our righteousness and satisfying God's justice was finished in the death of Jesus. Then, in the grave, he had the right and the power to take the keys of death and open the door for all who come to him by faith.<sup>1</sup>

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- God would cause you to have greater joy and assurance in the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
- God would grant your child a greater understanding of Jesus' resurrection.
- God would bring about true belief in your child so that he or she would embrace and rejoice in the resurrection of Christ.
- God would give you boldness to share the testimony of Christ's death and resurrection.

1. Piper, John. *The Passion of Jesus Christ: Fifty Reasons Why He Came to Die*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2004), 100-101.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

- Read and talk about John 11:25.

**What is the promise that Jesus gives in this verse? Who is the promise for? What does it mean to believe in Jesus?**

- Tell your child about the encounter Thomas had with the risen Jesus from John 20:24-29.

The Bible tells us that Jesus came to save sinners by dying in their place on the cross, and then He rose from the dead. **Did you see it happen? Do you still believe it really happened? Do you believe Jesus died to offer you eternal life? Do you believe Jesus will really**

**keep His promise to raise His friends from the dead even after they die?**

Share with your child how God brought you to saving faith.

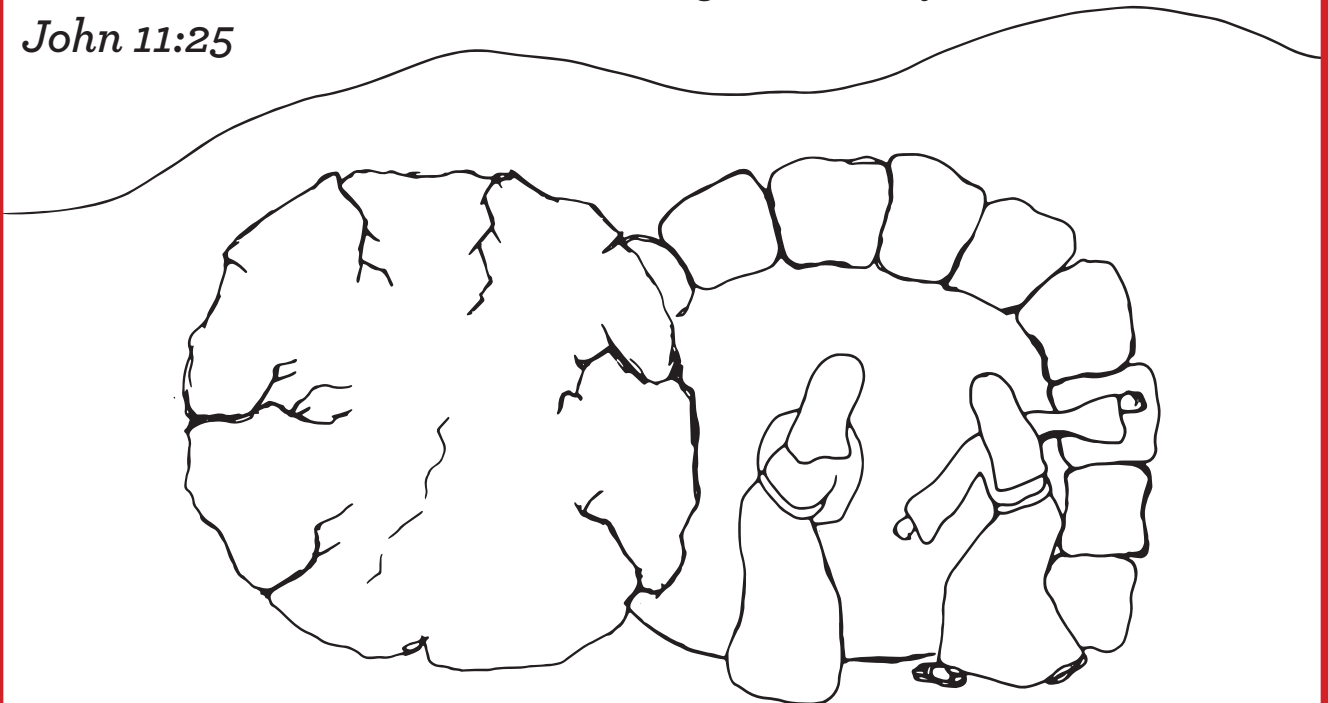
- Jesus' death and resurrection brings us near to God by taking away sin and death, and making us a friend of God. **Is there a different way to become a friend of God? For example, what if you just try to be really good? What if you try to find someone other than Jesus to help you? What does the Bible say?**

See John 14:6 or Acts 4:12.

**ACTION STEP**

Retell the story of Jesus' resurrection to your family. Add actions and sound effects (like the rumbling of an earthquake) to make it even more interesting.

**Jesus said..., “I am the resurrection and the life.  
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,”**  
*John 11:25*







# Jesus' Promise for His Friends— Joy Forever!

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus has gone to prepare heaven, a special reward for all of His friends.**
- **Jesus keeps all of His promises.**
- **Heaven is a real place where Jesus' friends will enjoy Him forever.**

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*—John 14:2

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 28:19-20a
- 2) Luke 24:50b-53
- 3) John 14:1-4, 16-19
- 4) Revelation 21:1-27
- 5) Revelation 22:1-5



## LESSON SUMMARY

Children, like adults, tend to live in the here and now. But we should not neglect to look forward to the wonderful promise that Jesus has prepared eternal joy in heaven for all those who love and trust Him. Heaven is that real place where we will dwell in pure joy in the presence of God forever. It is the place where there will no longer be death, sickness, sorrow, or pain. Throughout history, the reality of heaven has given hope and strength to believers as they have walked through pain and trials this present world. Our children need to be reminded that this broken world is passing away, and that Jesus is preparing for His friends a glorious home, beyond imagining, and that those who trust in Him will be in heaven someday enjoying Him forever!

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *God would cause you to wonder and rejoice anew in the promise of heaven—that your heart would be encouraged by the hope of eternal life in the presence of God.*
- *God would help your child understand that heaven is real.*
- *God would work in your heart and in the heart of your child to yearn for spending eternity with Him.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read John 14:1-3 to your child.

- What promise is Jesus making in verse 2? Where is this place He is preparing? What promise is He making in verse 3? Who are these promises for? Does Jesus keep all of His promises?
- Does it make you happy or sad that Jesus isn't on earth right now?

Read John 14:16-19.

Who did Jesus send to be with His

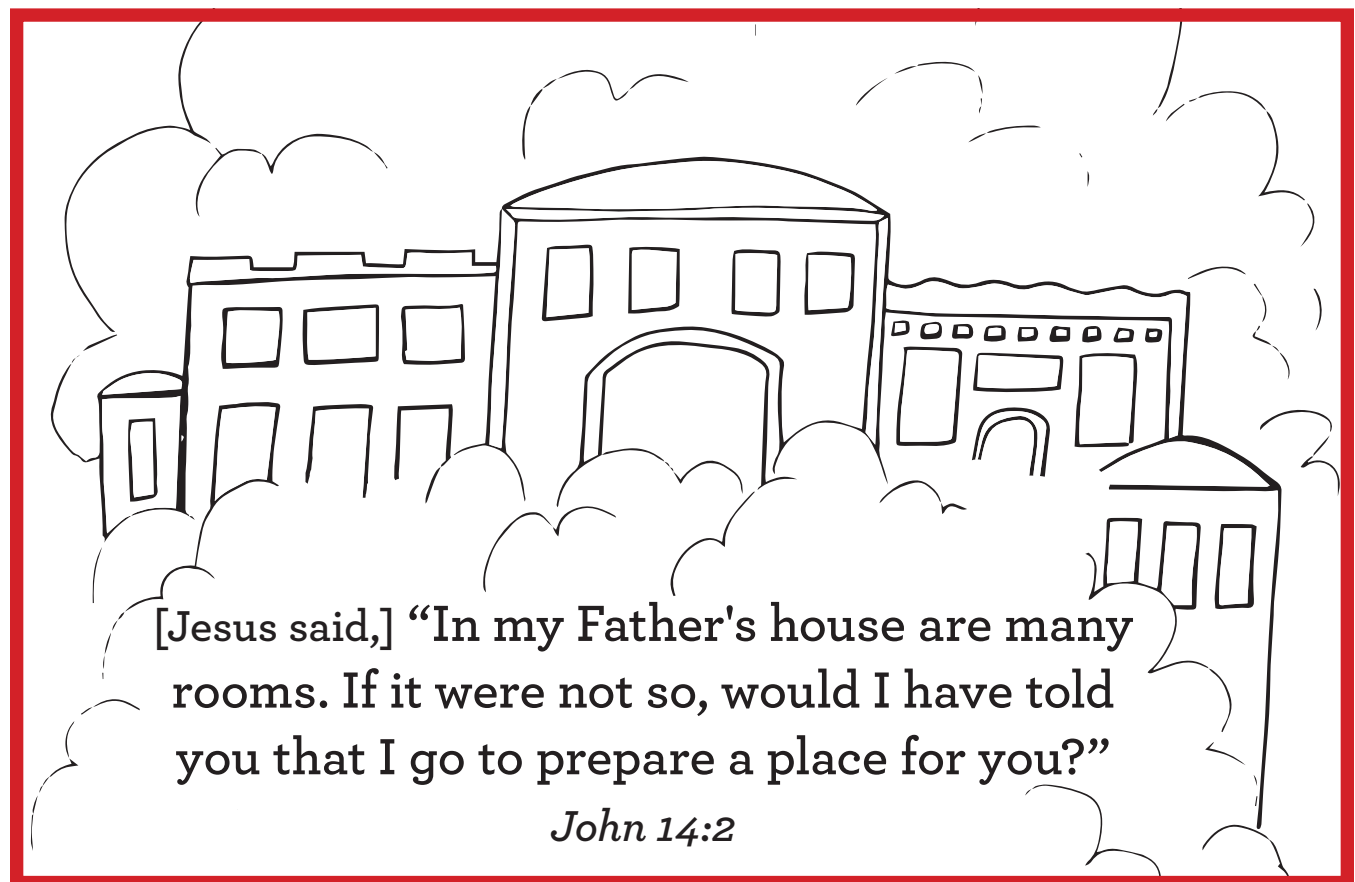
friends? Can we see Him? But is He always with Jesus' friends? How does He help Jesus' friends?

- What do you think Heaven will be like? What is the most exciting thing about Heaven? Do you want to see Jesus and be with Him forever? Is there anyone better than Him or greater than Him?

Read and talk about Psalm 16:11.

**ACTION STEP**

Take a few minutes to imagine what heaven will be like. Draw a picture and make it look as special and beautiful as possible.





# Jesus' Friends Love Him Most of All

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus saves all those who believe in Him alone for salvation.
- People who believe in Jesus know that they are helpless sinners.
- People who believe in Jesus love Him most of all.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."*—Mark 12:30

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 19:16-30
- 2) Mark 12:30
- 3) John 11:25
- 4) John 21:15-17



## LESSON SUMMARY

Jesus promised in John 11:25 that He will give salvation and eternal life to all those who believe in Him. The question then becomes: what does it really mean to *believe* in Jesus? Is it saying a prayer? Is it knowing the truth about Jesus? Is it living a life that is outwardly godly? Is it sharing the Gospel with others? True saving belief will result in all of those elements in increasing measure. But look at the story of the rich young man who came seeking Jesus. From outward appearances, he was every parent's dream—well-behaved, successful, and outwardly godly. But to *believe* in Jesus, as Jesus defined belief, would have required of him something that he was unwilling to do. At the very heart of this young man was a deep and passionate love for earthly riches. Where our treasure is, there will be our hearts. Believing in Jesus means to passionately, without reservations, trust in Him alone for our salvation. True belief will result in loving Jesus more than anything or anyone else and having Him as our priceless treasure.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *God would help you to daily treasure Jesus more and more.*
- *God would work in both you and your child's hearts to cause you to truly believe in and love Jesus.*



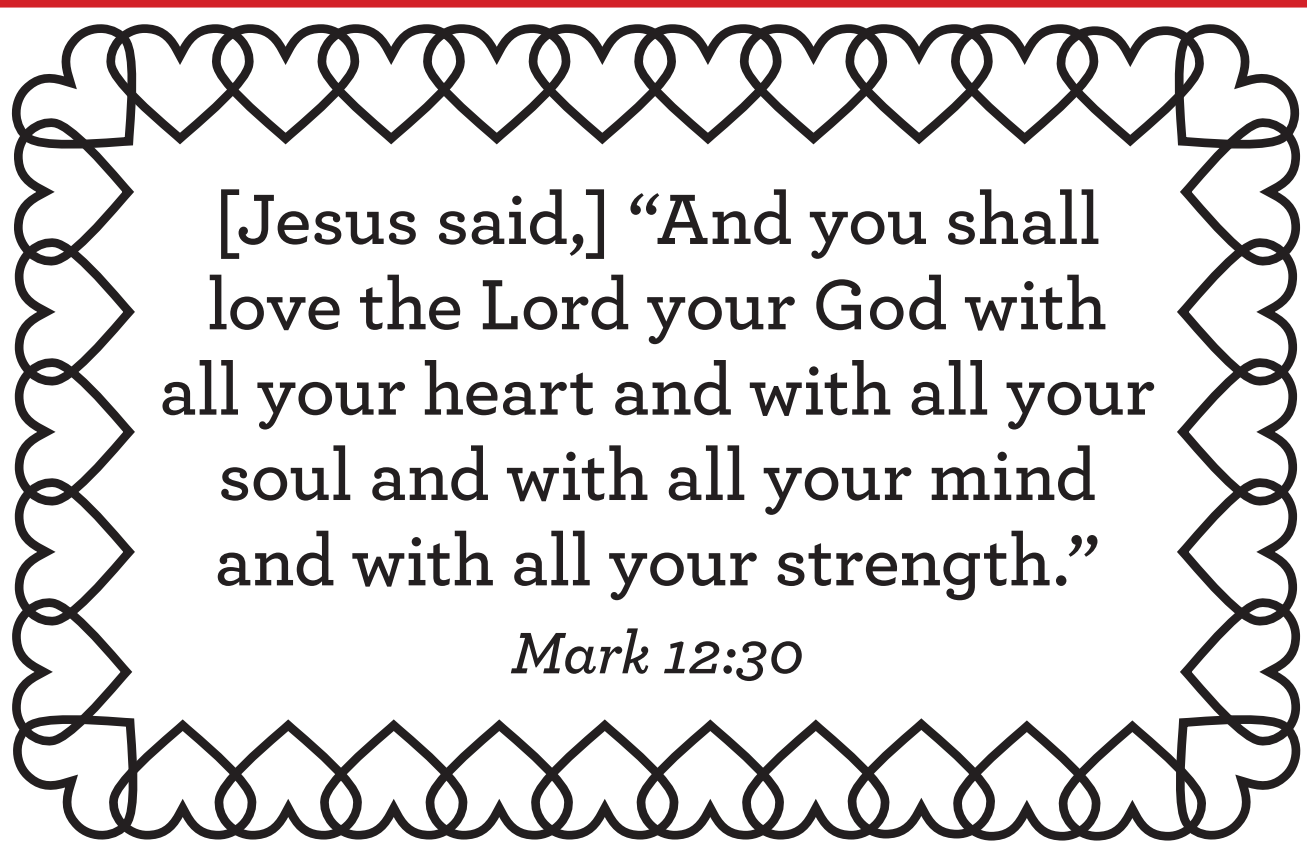
**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read Mark 12:30 to your child.

- What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Do you love Jesus like the verse says? Do you love Him more than your toys, favorite foods, pets, friends, and even more than daddy and mommy?
- How do daddy and mommy show their love to you? Are there some things we are not able to do for you? Can we clean your sinful heart? Why not? Can we make you a friend of God? Why not? Can we give you eternal life and make you happy forever in heaven? No. Who is the only person who can do all of those things for you? Yes, Jesus is the only one. You should love Jesus most of all!
- How can we show Jesus how much we love Him? [e.g., trust Him; read the Bible; pray; praise Him; enjoy the world He has made; tell others about His love; etc.] What is one thing you could do this week to show Jesus how much you love Him? What could we do right now?

**ACTION STEP**

Choose one or two things that you could do this week to show Jesus how special He is.



[Jesus said,] “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

*Mark 12:30*



# Jesus' Friends Obey Him

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus deserves our obedience.
- People who love Jesus will desire to obey Him.
- Jesus gives His friends the Holy Spirit to help them obey God's commands.

## MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said,] *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*  
—John 14:15

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Mark 12:30-31a
- 2) John 14:15-17
- 3) Acts 2:42-47
- 4) 1 John 1:8-9



## LESSON SUMMARY

We live in a generation of passing fads and amusements. Unfortunately, many people include "faith" in this category. Many people respond to appeals or invitations of salvation as a means of receiving all the benefits that a Savior can bring to prosper their life, but with a minimum of interference on their lifestyle. Obedience to the Lordship of Christ is sometimes seen as a profitable, but unnecessary, part of that salvation. However, the Gospel that Jesus proclaimed does not leave obedience to His commands as optional! True faith in Jesus will be evidenced by a desire to daily die to sin and increasingly live righteously by the power of the Holy Spirit. A heart that treasures Jesus no longer sees His commands as burdensome, but delights in their holiness and goodness, unleashing us to do good works that glorify our Father in heaven. In this lesson, we used various texts and examples of what it looks like to live in obedience to Jesus.

## PRAYER POINTS

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

- *God would cause you to love the commands of Jesus, and to desire to daily submit and be obedient to Him.*
- *God would work in the heart of your child, to call your child to saving faith in Christ.*
- *God would cause your child to love His ways and to desire to be obedient to Him in all things.*



**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read and talk about John 14:15.

- **Why does Jesus deserve your obedience? Can you name some of His commands? Why are these commands good for you?**
- **Is it always easy to obey Jesus? No. Why is it hard to obey at times? Has Jesus given His friends a Helper?**

Read John 16-17. The Holy Spirit is God, too, just like God the Father is God

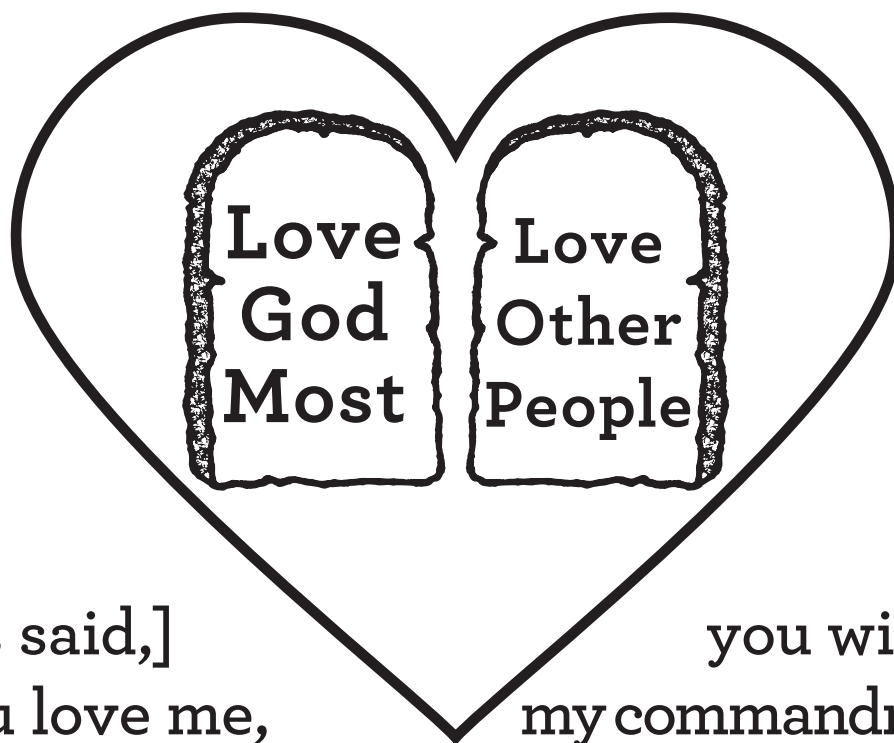
and Jesus is God. Even though we can't see Him with our eyes, He is always with those who love Jesus to help them obey Jesus' commands.

- **Even when you love Jesus most of all, will you still sometimes sin? Jesus has a command for us when we sin against Him. Do you know what it is?**

Read and discuss 1 John 1:8-9.

**ACTION STEP**

This week ask your parents a way in which they would like to see you grow in obedience to Jesus. Pray together and ask Jesus to help you trust Him to give you the desire and strength to obey.



[Jesus said,]  
"If you love me,

you will keep  
my commandments."

*John 14:15*





# Only Jesus!

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Everyone is a helpless sinner and deserves God's wrath.**
- **Jesus calls sinners to put their faith in Him for salvation.**
- **Jesus is the most special person of all.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."—John 14:6*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 14:6
- 2) Romans 3:23
- 3) Romans 6:23a



## LESSON SUMMARY

A few years ago, I asked a class of first grade children, "How does a person get saved from their sin?" Many eager hands went up. The responses of these eager children? "By obeying God," "By being kind to people," "By being real good." Not one child made reference to Jesus' death on the cross for sinners. It was not that these children did not know about the cross and its message, but it was not on the front burner of their hearts and minds. And so, the curriculum, *Jesus, What a Savior!* was born. The past 38 lessons have tried to present the children with the following main themes:

- The incomparable greatness and worth of God, who is to be desired and treasured above all things.
- The desperate condition of sinners who have fallen short of treasuring the glory of God and are totally helpless to save themselves.
- The all-sufficient work of Jesus on the cross to save sinners who put their trust in Him.

*This is the glorious Gospel of Jesus!* Salvation from sin cannot be found in any other person or place. Only Jesus is able to save us from our sins.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *pray that God would cause you and your child to look first and only to Jesus for salvation.*
- *pray that God would overcome any obstacles that may be hindering your child from fully trusting in Jesus.*
- *thank Jesus and praise Him for His marvelous work in saving helpless sinners!*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

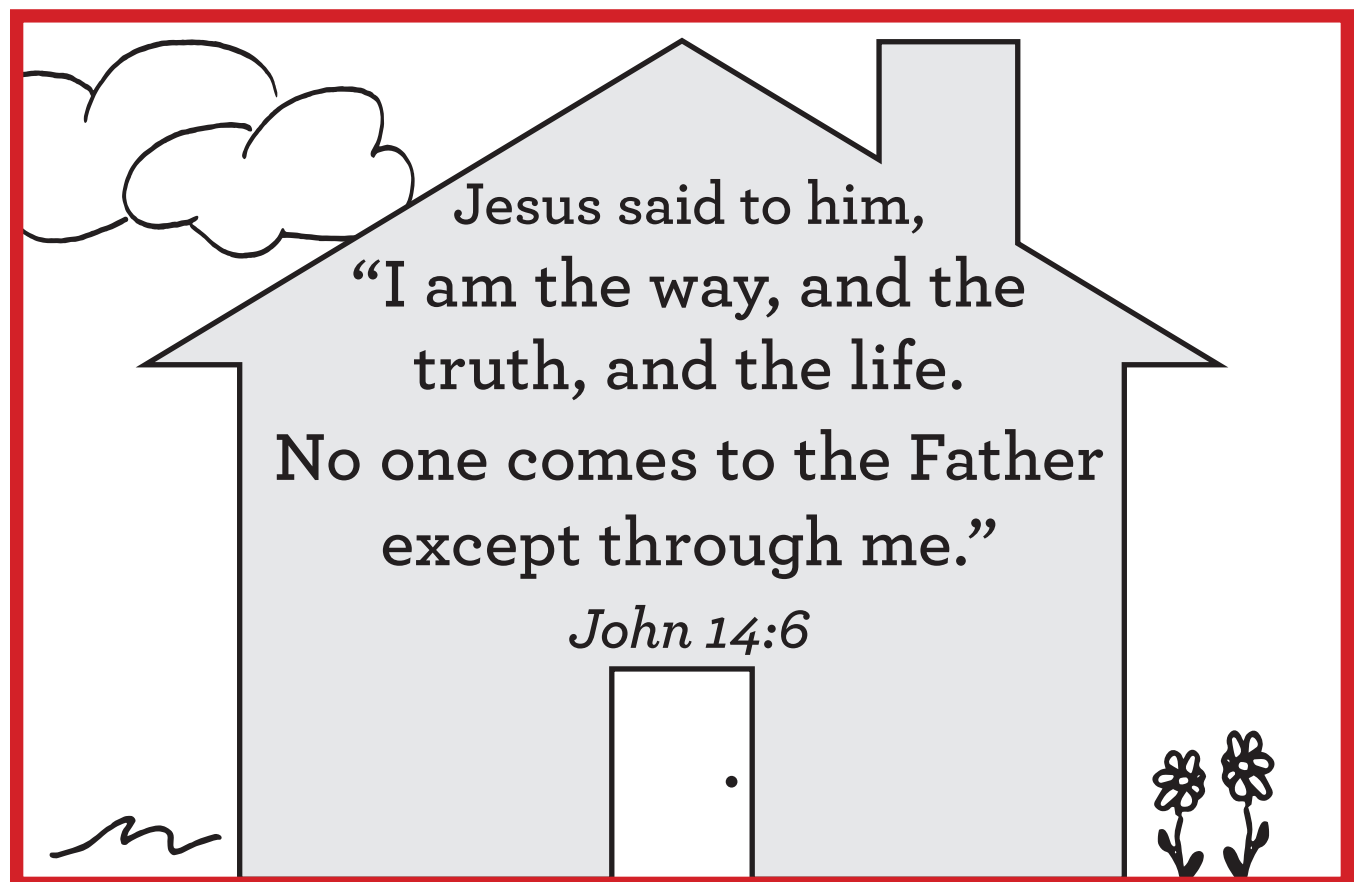
- What is the only way that we can be saved and enjoy eternal life with God?
- What other things can we be tempted to trust in besides Jesus? Example: People trust in how good they behave. “I am a good person, so I have earned the right

to go to heaven.” Are you sometimes tempted to trust in something else? What else? Can any of these things save you? Can you be good enough to be saved? Why is Jesus the only way for sinners to be saved? Do you believe this?

**ACTION STEP**

Sing “My Hope Is Built” by Edward Mote together with your family. Here is the first verse:

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*





# Jesus Invites You to Receive Him

## MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus desires to save sinners so that they may enjoy Him forever.
- Jesus invites you to trust in Him.
- All people must respond to Jesus—either in belief or unbelief.

## MEMORY VERSE

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,—John 1:12*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 14:15-24
- 2) John 1:12
- 3) Revelation 3:20



## LESSON SUMMARY

Contemporary Christianity has often mistakenly presented a gospel of easy believe-ism. Receiving Christ is often reduced to saying a prayer or walking an aisle. But the true Gospel message echoes the call of Christ in Scripture. He is the one who calls hearts to receive and treasure Him—and his invitation doesn't stop there. It is an invitation to receive more than forgiveness of sin. As Matthew Henry stated, “Many who in profession are Christ's own, yet do not receive him, because they will not part with their sins, nor have him reign over them.”<sup>1</sup>

Receiving Jesus means to not only receive His saving grace, but also His daily lordship over our lives. It is to receive His Word, His commands, demonstrated by humble submission to His will brought about by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. True belief is not a part of our life, it *is* our life. True belief puts Jesus at the center of all things.

In this lesson, we explained the story of the Great Banquet from Luke 14:15-24 and Jesus' invitation to receive Him.

## PRAYER POINTS

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



- *you would rejoice in Christ's reign in your life.*
- *God would cause Christ to become larger in your heart's affections and your own self-centeredness to become smaller.*
- *your hearts and minds would be increasingly amazed by Jesus, causing you to love and trust Him more.*
- *God would move in your child's heart to bring about true repentance and belief so that he or she might experience the incomparable and lasting joy of being a child of God.*

1. Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1999), 1507.

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Read and talk about John 1:12.

- Ask your child to list some special gifts he/she has received.

**Did you receive those gifts gladly? How does the worth of those gifts compare to the worth of Jesus? Will you receive Jesus gladly? What does receiving Jesus look like?**

- Suppose I gave you a wonderful gift. You unwrapped it and said thank you, and then you took it, put it in your closet, and forgot about it. **Would you really have received my gift in the way I wanted it to be received?** To receive Jesus means

to trust, love, and treasure Him. **If you treasured the gift of Jesus, how would you show that?**

**Are there things in your life that stop you from trusting in and receiving Jesus?** (e.g., Jesus doesn't seem “real”; I'm just a kid and this stuff is for grown-ups; I like doing things my own way; etc.) **Who can help to remove these things from your heart and mind?**

- Pray together that God would move in your child's heart and mind to truly receive Jesus. Pray that He would remove any obstacles or doubts your child may have.

**ACTION STEP**

Cut out a piece of special wrapping paper and glue it to a piece of stiff paper that is the same size. On a smaller piece of plain paper, write “Jesus is the best present of all!” Glue this to the wrapping paper. Show it to your family and friends and tell them why Jesus is the best present of all.



**But to all who  
did receive him,  
who believed  
in his name,  
he gave the  
right to become  
children of God,  
*John 1:12***