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Unit I: Jesus' Public Ministry (John chapters 1-12)

Lesson 1 [Intro and Chapter 1]"The Logos"

Introduction: *[This intro is for the teacher to pick from it what fits the kid's age]*

- The first books of the New Testament scriptures are the four gospels of Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The word gospel literally means good news or glad tidings. The gospels tell of the life and teaching of Jesus.
- They were written by the disciples of Christ, who were filled with the Holy Spirit after the Lord's resurrection, to bear witness to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the promised Messiah-Christ of Israel and the Savior of the world.
- The gospels of Saints Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the ***synoptic gospels***, which means that they "look the same". These three gospels are very similar in content and form and are most probably interrelated textually in some way.
- The gospel of Saint John is very different from the synoptic gospels. It is undoubtedly the latest written, being the work of the beloved disciple and apostle of the Lord at the end of his life near the close of the first century.
- In the Tradition of the Orthodox Church, a tradition expressed in the Church's iconography, the four gospels are considered to be symbolized in the images of the 'four living creatures' of the biblical apocalypse, the lion, the ox, the man and the eagle, with the interpretation connecting **Matthew with the man, Luke with the ox, Mark with the lion and John with the eagle** (Ezek 1.10, Rev 4.7).



- John is the eagle because his Gospel "flies" highest in revealing who Jesus is as the eternal Son of God.

The Author:

- From the Gospels, we know that St. John was the son of Zebedee and Salome.
- His brother is James, who is usually mentioned first, and was older.

- He and his brother James were fishing partners with Simon [Peter].
- John and James were preparing their nets in a boat when Jesus called them, both left the boat and their father to follow Jesus, Matthew 4:21-22
- He was tortured under Dematious and was exiled to the Island of Patmos.
- There he enjoyed the revelations concerning the Day of the Lord: The book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ. He remained in exile until his death.
- Of the twelve apostles, he was the only one that wasn't martyred, dying in exile on the island of Patmos. In addition to the gospel of John, he also wrote 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation.

Place and Date of Writing:

It was probably written in Ephesus, towards the end of St. John's life, in the late 80's or early 90's.

Purpose, Theme and Audience:

The purpose of the Gospel according to St. John is to confirm the believers in their faith that Jesus is the Christ Son of God, and through Him we will have life, written to believers in the whole world

Chapter 1

Lesson Goal:

The goal of this lesson from John 1 is to teach children about who Jesus is.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the everlasting Logos, one in essence with the Father [1-2]. He is the giver of life and light.

Lesson Body:

The Word of God 1:1-18:

Ask students, Is Jesus alive right now?

Jesus is alive right now. He is alive in Heaven. Jesus went to Heaven after His resurrection from death.

How old do you think Jesus is? [Eternal]

Did you know that Jesus has always been alive? Always. Even before He was born on earth.

Jesus is alive in Heaven even before He was born and when He died, He came back to life and went back to His home in Heaven.

Do you know who Jesus is? He's God. He's God in a human body. God has three persons: God the Father, God the Son (who is Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. Just as the sun is one reality experienced as the source [Father], the light [The Son], and the heat [The Holy Spirit], God is one being eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

These verses are telling us that Jesus, the Word, was with God from the very beginning. Jesus was always alive in Heaven. They are also telling us that the Word, Jesus, was God. Jesus took flesh and became God incarnate.

"Could the Word be made by God?

No, Because He too was with God since the beginning.

In verses 15, John helps us understand something confusing John had said. He was older than Jesus in terms of earthly birth, and yet, because Jesus is God and has always existed, Jesus came before John.

The bible tells us that the true light was coming into the world. Who do you think the light is? (The light is Jesus.)

How many of you like to be in the dark?

Sometimes, the dark is nice to sleep in, but the dark can also make trouble for us sometimes because you can't see in the dark. If you try to move and walk around in the dark, you might bump into things or trip over things.

If we're in the dark, what does "turning on a light" help us to do?

The light helps us to see. We can find our way better if there's a light on. And if there's a light on, it helps us not to be scared.

That's the way it is with Jesus. Jesus is our light that helps us find our way to Heaven. He's also our light because we know He is always with us, and if we know that if Jesus is always with us, then we don't have to be afraid of anything.

Game: Jesus Our Light

Play a game of Red Light, Green Light with the change of turning the light on and off. Students run from one side of the room to the other when the lights are on. But when you turn the lights off, they have to stumble around and pretend to be afraid. If they keep

running when the light is off, they're out. The winner is the first one who makes it to the other side of the room.

Remind students that Jesus is our light who helps us find our way and gives us courage not to be afraid.

A Voice in the Wilderness 1:19-28

Now, who remembers what John the Baptist's job was? What was John supposed to do? His job was to prepare the way for the Messiah [a preacher]. He was supposed to tell people about God and Jesus and he fulfilled his job.

> "26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

John is talking here about Jesus, and he says that he, John, is not worthy to untie Jesus' shoe for Him. John, who had such an important job as being a preacher and telling people about God and Jesus, said he wasn't worthy to untie Jesus' shoe. What do you think about that?

It shows his humility. We aren't worthy to serve God, to even untie His shoe for Him, because compared to God, we are nothing. But God made us and He loves us, and He wants us to do our best to serve Him. We only must remember how great He is so that we don't think we're too great.

Go Make Disciples 1:29-42

Hold up several pictures of famous icons that students might be familiar with. Do they recognize these people? If they were to see them out in the neighborhood, what might they do?

Explain that if students were to see a celebrity, they would likely be excited. They might point out the person's presence and be eager to share the sighting with others. Well, that is exactly what happened in the Gospel of John here. John the Baptist noticed Jesus, and He knew who He was. He couldn't wait to tell others about Him. He explained how he had seen the Holy Spirit on Jesus, making sure others knew that his claims were validated.

When we ask the Baptist: Then how did you know Him?' His response will be: "I knew Him when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him'".

The Lord came to be baptized to serve as a model of humility and to call us to receive our salvation through baptism. The Lord accepted to go through something which was not necessary for Him, yet it was necessary on our account.

John the Baptist shared this news about who Jesus was with his own disciples [Andrew and John] so they would go and follow Him instead.

What did these men do after their friend John pointed out who Jesus was?

They eagerly followed Him, even asking to spend the night! These disciples quickly and readily followed Jesus. But the story doesn't end there.

They were so delighted and excited they found the Messiah that they wanted others to know about Him too. So, Andrew shared the good news with his brother, Peter.

These [Andrew, John and Peter] were the first people to find and follow Jesus. They shared His appearance with others, too excited to keep the good news to themselves.

When something great happens, you should want to announce it and share it!

Our job is to share the love of Christ with one another. Our goal, as children of God, is to tell others about Him. We want to spread the good news of the Gospel. In fact, Jesus told us to do this!

Closing Prayer

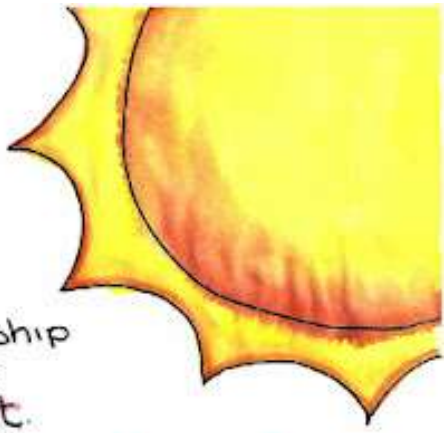
Jesus, help us always to remember how great You are. You are God in a human body. You were always alive, even before You came to earth. Help us to serve You the best way that we can. Amen.

Memory Verse:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jn 1:1



1 John 1



What we have seen and heard
we proclaim to you also,
so that you too may have
fellowship
with us; and indeed our fellowship
is with the Father, and with
His Son Jesus Christ. v3

These things we write, so that our **joy**
may be made complete. v4

This is the message we have
heard from Him... that
God is Light,
and in Him there is no
darkness at all. v5

...If we walk in the Light as
He Himself is in the Light we
have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus His Son
cleanses us from all sin. v7

If we confess our sins, He is
faithful and righteous to
forgive
us our
Sins... v9



Lesson 2 [Chapter 2]" The wedding at Cana"

Remember:

John Chapter 1 introduces Jesus as the divine "Word" (Logos) who existed with God and created all things, He took flesh and became God incarnate and lived among humanity, bringing grace and truth. It introduces John the Baptist, who identifies Jesus as the "Lamb of God," baptizes Him, and sees the Spirit descend. The chapter concludes with Jesus calling His first disciples.

Lesson Goal:

To learn that obedience to Jesus ("Do whatever He tells you") allows us to see His miraculous Hand working in us, even in small, seemingly insignificant tasks.

Lesson Opener:

TASTE TEST

Have a selection of branded and unbranded foods and drinks. Be sure to check for allergies. Place the items onto labelled plates or cups without anyone else seeing. For example: Branded cola in cup A – Unbranded cola in cup B. Make a note of which is which.

During the activity, players should taste the items and guess which is the branded item and mark which they prefer.

Talk about how the wine Jesus made from the water was the best wine. It was brand name.

Or THE MAGIC DRINK:

Have you ever seen a miracle? It could seem like a magic trick but more powerful. I want to show you a little trick now. I'm going to take this ordinary water (hold up water in a clear glass or bottle) and transform it into something new! Does that sound strange?

Just watch. I mean, I like drinking water but sometimes I want something more exciting and flavorful. Well, what if I took this plain water, and I poured it into another glass? (As you speak, pour the water into another clear cup with drink powder hidden at the bottom. Watch as the liquid and powder blend to make a new juice.) Wow! It's something completely new now! This will be a much more interesting beverage to enjoy.

Well, that was not exactly a magic trick or a miracle, was it? In fact, that was just the trick of a little drink powder in the bottom of a glass. But there are a lot of times in the Bible when we read of Jesus doing amazing miracles not like my trick, nothing is impossible for Him.

Lesson Body:

Water Turned to Wine 2:1-12

Do you know the first miracle that Jesus ever did? He transformed water, too! Only He didn't use drink mix. You see, Jesus was at a wedding, and in those days, weddings lasted a few days and included a lot of eating and drinking in celebration. Well, something unfortunate happened: the wedding ran out of wine! That would be like going to a birthday party and not having any cake. It would make the host look bad and make the guests a little upset.

St. Mary probably was not only one of the guests but one of the family. This would explain why she realized that they had run out of wine. The guest would not have known that, only those hosting the wedding would be concerned.

Now, running out of wine might not seem like the most important thing to be concerned about, but St. Mary knew that Jesus would care, and that He could do something about the situation. She came to Him and told Him what was going on.

The request is made in a spirit of humbleness as a person presents the situation without offering the solution to God and as though claiming to be more knowledgeable or more loving to others than the almighty Lord. She didn't tell Him what to do. She knows He will take care of the problem His own way.

At first, He tried to tell her it wasn't yet His time to be demonstrating divine power. But St. Mary believed in Him. She knew He could do anything, and she told the servants to obey His instructions and do whatever He told them to do. Verse 5: His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

This is the role of our mother Saint Mary and all the saints: to draw our attention to our Lord and obey Him completely ➔ The Intercessions of the saints

Jesus told the servants to fill some large jars up with water and serve it to the master of the house. They did what He asked, filling the jars with water. Only instead of plain water, when they served the master, he drank wine! Not only that, but the best kind of wine, and he commended the groom for saving the better wine for later in the celebration. With the belief of St. Mary and obedience of the servants, Jesus kept the guests well supplied!

This miracle, the first one we read about in the Bible, reminds us of a couple of special things. First, it tells us that God truly cares about our lives, even the little details. He wants us to enjoy life, and even something like running out of drinks matters to Him.

We also see how important it is to trust that Jesus can do anything. He continues to do miracles now. When you think about it, there are many marvelous little miracles that happen every single day. Even just waking up in the morning or taking a breath are miracles in a sense. Jesus is still present with us. He loves us and cares about us. He can make amazing things happen in our lives.

Whether it's something as simple as finding your favorite flavor at the ice cream store, or healing after being hurt or sick, God is working in every aspect of our lives. And He's already done the greatest miracle, conquering death to pay for our sins! So, we can give thanks each and every day for all the moments, big and small, in which we recognize the presence of Christ. Let's pray and thank God for marvelous miracles every day…



Jesus Cleanses the Temple 2:13-22

Use can use this video for little kids to illustrate how cleaning something restores its value

https://sermons4kids.com/sermons/jesus-cleans-the-temple?srsltid=AfmBOop8fj2tg8_9PBfYCU2ECwuvdPJ2ACIq1UWPQVDZKR_l8ROjFvoG

Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover. All Jews from everywhere, were called by God to go to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast in the temple. They need to sacrifice perfect animals to cover for their sins.

This is the first Passover that occurs after the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ. The second is mentioned in Luke 6:1; the third in John 6:4; and the fourth falls on the day the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified (Jn 11:55). Many scholars believe that the Lord purified the temple on two occasions: once during the first Passover which took place at the beginning of His service and as it is mentioned in St. John's Gospel; and again, a second time during the fourth and last Passover which was at the time of the Lord's crucifixion (Matt 21:12; Mk 11:15;Lk 19:45).

People would come to Jerusalem and use the money of their land to buy an animal to sacrifice to God. And now there were people who made their money by bringing a bunch of animals to the temple to sell to those visitors.

A scourge of cords is a sort of a whip. It is something to get their attention and GET THEM OUT! He drove the sellers and the animals out of the temple.

What else did He do? (He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables) And what about the doves? (he told them to take them away)

Why did He do this? What did He say to them?

(Stop making My Father's house a place of business.)

What did Jesus call the temple?

(My Father's house) He did this because the Temple was a HOLY place. It was a special place. It was God's house. The business owners that were doing business in God's house weren't treating it like it was God's house, like it was HOLY.
The Lord went up to Jerusalem in order to purify His Father's temple which had become a house of trade.

Zeal is a very special word. It is HOLY anger. God's house was supposed to be a HOLY place, a place that was different than other places. A place where people could meet with God! But these people who were selling animals and changing money in God's house, do you think they were keeping God's house special? (no).

Instead of admitting the corruption that had taken place in the temple, the Jewish leaders asked Jesus like that (What sign do You show us as Your authority for doing these things?).

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in 3 days I will raise it up."

Ummm....does that seem like a strange sign to you? (YES!) He didn't do a miracle like He did at the wedding, did He? (No!) What does it mean then?

He is talking about His body! He is going to die and three days later He will rise again!!"

Now, did the Jews understand what Jesus was saying? Did they see and understand the sign? Let's look at what they said, verse 20:

The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"

How long did it take to build the temple?

(46 years)

Can Jesus build it in three days if He wanted to?

(Yes! He can do anything!)

Let's read on, verse 21:

But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

What was He referring to?

(His body! Yes, and He is going to die on the cross and He will be buried in a tomb and then He rise again in 3 days)

But we know Jesus is speaking of the resurrection because we know that is what happened. Has all that happened at this moment in time?

(No!) So, can they know all He says here about the temple is about Himself? (No!) Let's read the next verse, verse 22:

So, when He rose from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

When did the disciples understand what Jesus had said?

(They remembered this day and understood what He meant after the resurrection.)

The Discerner of Hearts 2:23-25

Verse 23-24: They believed that He was the awaited Messiah, but they did not comprehend that He was the Savior of the world. Rather, they imagined that He was the King of Israel who would free them from the Romans. Consequently, the Lord did not place His trust in them.

Those last couple of verses in chapter 2 mention that Jesus KNOWS all men. He KNOWS what they believe about Him. He KNOWS whether they are following Him to see the miracles or because they believe He is God. Jesus can see their hearts. Why can Jesus see into men's hearts? (because He is GOD!)

Takeaway:

A. GOD IS A MIRACLE WORKER (JOHN 2:11)
   The wine ran out; this is a shameful situation.

Don't we all have situations like this in our lives, where we need God's intervention? We can always trust God to care for us in those moments. Any situation, which is impossible for us, is possible for God because He is a miracle worker.

B. WE SHOULD TRUST GOD WITH OUR PROBLEMS (JOHN 2:3)

While others began to panic, St. Mary knew exactly what to do. She took the situation to Jesus. There is no issue too small or problem too big for Him to care. (See: Mat 6:26)
We should trust Jesus not only with the difficult situations but our entire lives because He knows the best for us and can turn a hopeless mess into a miracle.

C. WE SHOULD DO WHATEVER JESUS TELLS US (JOHN 2:5)

As we walk with God, we must learn to do whatever He tells us. In Jesus Christ, we find the perfect model of obedience and as His followers we are called to follow His example.

D. GOD ONLY DOES THE BEST (JOHN 2:10)

The wine that Jesus made was "Brand name wine". From this, we can learn that man's best is never equal to God's best.
God's gifts are always the best (James 1:17).
Each year companies launch the newest best products, yet very quickly they become second best. God will never be outdone. God loves to show mercy. His goodness has no end.

CONCLUSION

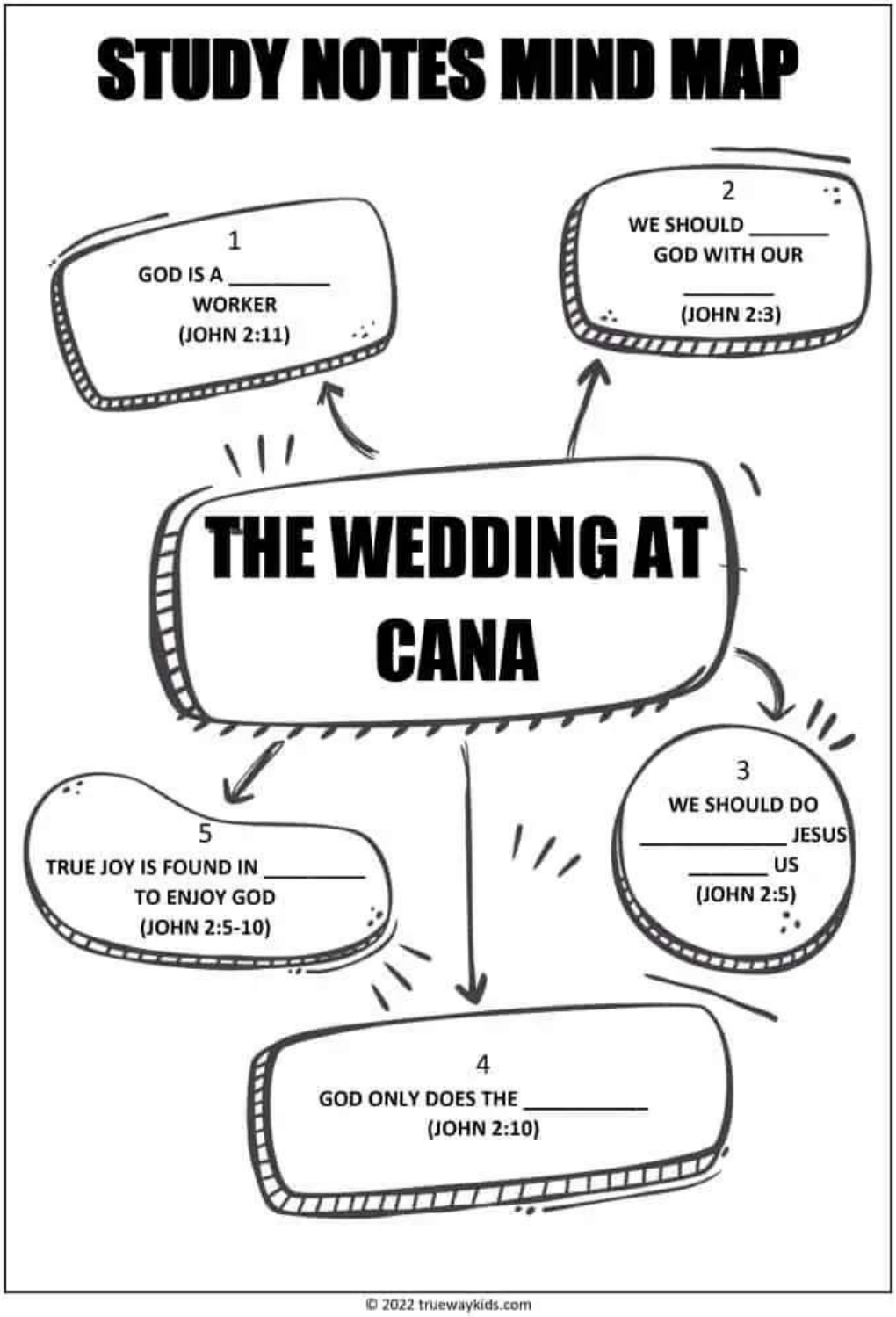
In conclusion, review the following and pray with them to round up the lesson:

1. When we trust in God, we will never be put to shame.
2. God specializes in turning a mess into a miracle.
3. When we obey God, we give Him the space to work miracles.
4. God does the best things for His children.

Memory Verse:

Jn 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

STUDY NOTES MIND MAP



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Jesus cleanses the Temple

Jesus went to the Temple in Jerusalem. When he saw people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and people trading with money-changers– right there in the Temple – he was upset. "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" he cried out! In these drawings of Jesus cleansing the Temple, can you find 10 things that are different?





ANSWERS:
1.The chicken has changed position. 2.The money bag is bigger. 3.There is one more sheep.
4.The praying people are distracted by the noise. 5.The cage seller has lost his big beard.
6.One of the cages has been moved. 7.The woman singing praises in the back has stripes on her robe.
8.The scroll is now much longer. 9. Jesus has black hair. 10.The doves are escaping.



LTABE

1

YOEMN

3 6

TATCEL

5 2

PIHW

4

Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers in the _____.

1 2 3 4 5 6

Lesson 3 [Chapter 3]"Nicodemus"

Remember:

Last lesson, John Chapter 2 features two major events: Jesus's first miracle at the Wedding in Cana, where He turns water into high-quality wine, revealing His glory; and His cleansing of the Jerusalem Temple, where He drives out money changers and sellers, prophesying His own body's resurrection in three days, which the Jews misunderstood.

Lesson Goal:

Knowing that the true spiritual life and entering God's Kingdom, requires being born "from above" (spiritually) through baptism and the work of the Holy Spirit, not physical birth.

Lesson Opener:

In today's movie clip, there's a young boy by the name of Forrest Gump, who has a bad back. He's been given these leg braces that are meant to help him learn how to walk correctly. Let's see if those braces teach Forrest how to walk in a better way.

Click to view this video clip (from the movie *Forest Gump*)
Sometimes the first way we learn how to do something isn't the best way to do the thing. The problem with learning something the "wrong way" is that it makes it harder for us to learn how to do it the better way.

Nicodemus thinks life with God involves braces on legs ("religious rules") but Jesus is saying, "But then you can't run. The rules will stop you from letting the Holy Spirit move you where you need to move." In essence, Jesus is like Jenny and is saying, "Run, Nicodemus! Run with God's Holy Spirit!" The same thing might be true for us, too. We may not want to relearn things we think we already knew but this clip reminds us of how rewarding that is.

Lesson Body:

NICODEMUS AND THE NEW BIRTH 3:1-21

Short video telling the story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNkdZeJEtX0&t=74s



Nicodemus was a very important man.

He was a leader of Israel.

He was also a pharisee. He studied and memorised the Bible every day and did his best to obey it.

Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.

1



One night, Nicodemus came to speak to Jesus in secret. He didn't want anyone else to see him.

Nicodemus knew that Jesus was special because he had heard Jesus teach and do miracles.

Nicodemus had lots of questions to ask Jesus.

2



Jesus told Nicodemus that to go to heaven you must be born again.

This didn't make any sense to Nicodemus. He knew it was impossible to be born two times.

But Jesus was talking about spiritual birth.

Jesus explained that like we are born as babies, we must be born again into a relationship with God.

3



Jesus spoke some amazing words to Nicodemus.

Jesus said, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Nicodemus understood. The only way to have eternal life is to believe and trust in Jesus.

4

What do we learn about this man, Nicodemus? (he was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews)

After crucifixion, he took permission from Pilate to bury the Body of the Lord in his new private tomb.

When did Nicodemus come to see Jesus? (at night)

What did Nicodemus say to Jesus? (we know You come from God, because no one can do the signs You do.)

How does Nicodemus know Jesus is from God? (the signs Jesus has been doing)

What does Nicodemus call Jesus? (Rabbi, teacher)

Nicodemus has not asked Jesus any questions, but Jesus responds to him with a very odd statement. What is it?

Verse 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

This doesn't even seem to be related to what Nicodemus said to Jesus, does it? We went from the signs pointing to Jesus' origin with God to the necessity to be born again to see the kingdom of God.

How does Nicodemus respond to this statement from Jesus?

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Why can't babies go back into their Mamas' tummies? (they are too big!) Nicodemus knows what we know about babies getting bigger. They cannot return to their mamas' tummies when they are older.

What kind of birth could Jesus be talking about here?

Jesus is talking about being born again from the spirit through Baptism. The new birth is from heaven, achieved through baptism by water and the Spirit.

What makes this birth different from the first birth? (flesh vs. spirit)

What do mama elephants give birth to? (elephants) What do mama whales give birth to? (whales)

Jesus is telling Nicodemus one of the laws of nature – animals are born after their own kind. And human beings are born after their own kind.

So, Jesus is saying that this second birth will also follow the laws of Nature. A person born of the Spirit will have a spiritual birth.

Jesus then turns Nicodemus' attention to another nature lesson in verse 8.

> 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

(Wind!) What do we learn about wind from what Jesus says in verse 8?

{the wind blows, can be heard, invisible, cannot be tracked}

What is He comparing the wind to?

Jesus is comparing the wind to the Spirit.

How is the wind like the Spirit? this is a hard one!

The people who are born again of the Spirit are not changed on the outside. The change is internal, invisible. But it is evident, just like the wind, we do not see it but watch its effect.

After Jesus' two nature lessons, does Nicodemus finally understand what Jesus meant when He said, "you must be born again?" Let's read the next verse – verse 9.

> Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" John 3:9

He still has some questions. If things that are born after their own kind and the second birth – the one of the Spirit is invisible, how can a man be born again? And how do we know we are born again?

Let's read verse 10 together to see what Jesus said,

> Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

What does Jesus call Nicodemus? (teacher). The Lord reprimanded him for not understanding, being a teacher to the Jews.

Let's go on to see what else Jesus says. Read verse 11:

> 11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

The Lord uses the plural probably to indicate that He is speaking in the name of the Holy Trinity.

Nicodemus is trying to understand his need for a new birth through the One who "came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven...." He alone ascends into heaven and carries all those who believe in Him to enjoy adoption through Him and be the children of God.



Jesus shows the reason why He descended from heaven, that He might be lifted up, i.e. crucified, for the salvation of man. As the serpent was raised up, so shall Christ be raised on the cross for us.

Here we come to the most famous verse in the Bible.

Verse 16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

It is as though the Lord is saying: 'Do not be amazed that I should be lifted up on the Cross so that you might be saved for this is God's decision. He has loved you so much that He has sacrificed His Son for His slaves. Clearly none of you would do that for a friend or for any righteous person.

If you really love others, you need to be willing to give up the best that you have for them. True love is not stingy. It doesn't keep back anything selfishly. It doesn't regret it once it has given something to others.

JOHN 3:18-21

When we believe in Jesus, we are saved by the salvation He did on the cross for us. We are no longer condemned; the death sentence our sin requires is forgiven because of the blood of Jesus Christ. People who reject Jesus and His work on the cross are condemned because they are already dead in sin, and they refuse to receive the life that Jesus has provided.

God sent us His light; He sent us a way to receive a new spiritual life. The light is Jesus. We receive life through Jesus' death. It is a gift from God, because He loves us so much. We simply reach out and receive the gift.

It is as though the Lord is saying: 'I have come to help the people out of the darkness. Therefore, they are condemned since they did not abandon the darkness and come to the Light. They have no excuses.

John the Baptist Exalts Christ 3:22-36

The Lord Jesus Christ began to baptize through His disciples before John the Baptist is put in prison to draw the disciples of the Baptist towards Himself, so they aren't scattered after his martyrdom.

When John the Baptist was asked about Jesus and was told that His disciples were baptizing too, he said: "30 He must increase, but I must decrease".

In other words, He will grant me good things and I will receive; He will be glorified and I will confess.

Do you see how he has nothing else to say of himself other than that he is of lesser stature and came from the earth and was born of it? As for the Lord Jesus Christ, He had come to them from heaven. With all these words, the Baptist is able to satisfy their jealousy.

Lesson Delivery Idea:

Measuring God's Love (John 3:16)

Theme:

God's love is immeasurable.

Objects to bring:

A measuring cup; a tape measure; a watch







Sometimes we measure ingredients. If I were making some cookies, which of these would I use to make sure that I put in exactly the right amount of flour, sugar, and milk? (Allow kids to pick between the measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch.)

That's right, we would use a measuring cup for cookies, but I wonder if we might use a measuring cup to measure God's love? The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want….my cup runs over" (Psalm 23:1,5). Well, if our cup runs over with God's love, I guess we couldn't use a measuring cup to measure it.

If we were building something, which of these would I use to measure the length, width, and height of different things? (Allow kids to pick between the measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch.)

That's right, a tape measure, but I wonder if we might use a tape measure to measure God's love? The Bible tells us that God's love is higher than the heavens (Psalm 108:4). If God's love is higher than the heavens, I don't think we could use a tape measure to measure it, could we?

Which of these would I use to measure time? (Allow kids to pick between the measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch.)

We use a watch to measure time. I wonder if we could use a watch to measure how long God's love will last. The Bible tells us that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 103:17). Wow! If God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, I guess we couldn't measure it with a watch.

Read (John 3:16). How do you measure a love like that? We can't measure it. We don't need to, but we do need to experience it.

My prayer for you today is, "That you may understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is. May you experience it, though it is so great you will never fully understand it" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Dear God, we thank You for Your love—a love so great that You gave Your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life, amen.

Memory Verse: 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lesson 4 [Chapter 4] "The Samaritan Woman"

Remember:

Last lesson, we talked about Nicodemus who met Jesus at night, and Jesus explained to him the spiritual birth. Also, the famous declaration that God sent His Son out of love for the world, so believers wouldn't perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Lesson Goal:

When we have Jesus in our hearts, our spirits are made alive, and we are no longer thirsty on the inside.

Lesson opener:

Ask your children if they have ever been thirsty? When you are cold, would you prefer to drink hot chocolate or iced lemonade? When you are very hot, would you rather drink water or milk? Pour a glass of fresh water and refer to it as you read the story with your child. Without drinking water, we could not live. Cut a flower and let it wilt. Then stick it into some water and check it later. The water has made the flower well again.
Jesus used water as an example to the Samaritan woman to show her how important it was to have Jesus in her life.
Without Jesus, our souls are dead. He is the living water that makes our souls well and strong, just like physical water makes our bodies, and pets, and plants well and strong.

Lesson Body:

Short story telling video for little kids:
youtube.com/watch?time_continue=77&v=pNxNWv6KZ7s&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsundayschool.works%2F&source_ve_path=Mjg2NjY

A Samaritan Woman Meets Her Messiah 4:1-26

Read the verses then ask these questions and they can look up the answers from the bible to tell the story:

- Verse 5 - What kind of city does Jesus arrive at? (A Samaritan city)
- Verse 6 - What time of the day is it? (Noon)
- Verse 7 - Who does Jesus speak to? (A Samaritan woman)

- Verse 9 - Who notices that this conversation is weird? (the Samaritan woman)
- Verse 10 - When Jesus talks about "living water," do you think He's talking about regular or special water that you drink? Or do you think He's talking about something else? If something else - what do you think He's talking about?
- Verse 11 - What does the Samaritan woman think Jesus is talking about? (regular water - she says He doesn't have a bucket)
- Verse 13 and 14 - What does Jesus say the living water does that He offers? (won't let you thirst again)
- Verse 15 - Does the Samaritan woman sound interested in living water? (Yes)
- Verse 15 - Even though she sounds interested, does she seem to understand exactly what Jesus is talking about? (Nope, probably not, since she says, "never...have to keep coming here to draw water")
- Verse 27 - Are the disciples ok with Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman? (Probably not - but they manage not to say their disapproving thoughts out loud)
- Verse 28 - Who does the Samaritan woman talk to about Jesus? (The people of the Samaritan city)
- Verse 40 - Because of the woman's words to the people of the city, how do the Samaritans respond to Jesus? (they invite Him to stay)
- Verse 41 - During their time together, what happens? (the people of the Samaritan city are believing what Jesus is telling them)
- Verse 42 - And what do the people of the city tell the woman who was at the well? (that they too think that Jesus is the Messiah)

<u>Discuss:</u>

Jesus was fully divine and fully human. Like us, He suffered from hunger and thirst and felt tired but did not waste the opportunity to reach out to the lost sheep.

The Samaritans in Jesus' time were strongly and greatly disliked by the Jews - and vice versa.

Samaritans and Jews had a lot in common and a shared history, but over the centuries, there was a split due to invasions and because of that split, the politics and religious practices varied just enough to cause the two groups of people to really, really dislike each other. The Jews in Samaria intermixed with other nationalities that were idol worshippers. The Jews despised the Samaritans as much as they despised the rest of the Gentiles.

So, the idea that Jesus would visit a Samaritan city, much less talk to someone in the city is pretty unexpected, considered so weird as in "outside of acceptable social norms" type.

But what we see is that Jesus is doing what He teaches - not only does He use Samaritans in His parables and calls them "good" and then says that there are no loopholes with sharing mercy, even with Samaritans -- He then DOES what He teaches.

Great way to teach, right?

But there's even more going on here than just the Samaritan / Israelite tensions.

There is also a Samaritan / Samaritan tension in this story.

Because not only is the Samaritan woman at odds with Jesus, but she is also an outcast in her own town. One of the hints that tells us this, is that she's at the well at noon - that's not the usual time to get water: Morning and evening are the usual times to get water.

In other words, the woman is there because no one else is. She knows that's not the usual time you'd go get water. She's there at noon so that she can avoid the rest of the townspeople

Getting water was usually a community event, but for this one woman, getting water had become something that REMINDED her that she wasn't part of the community. She was excluded for being a sinner.

But we were not made to be excluded, but to belong.

Which is why Jesus talks about this LIVING water with the excluded Samaritan!

Living water is Jesus' metaphoric way of talking about receiving and living God's life instead of just surviving life.

And then, we see how this living water, even just TALKING about it, starts to restore the woman to her community.

The Samaritan woman was filled with curiosity and wonder at the thought of this living water. She wanted some. She did not understand yet that Jesus was talking about spiritual water, the blessings that the Holy Spirit brings to every accepting heart.

Jesus offered her living water. She asked for some, but Jesus said, "Go, call your husband…" Why did He say that? Remember that Jesus knows all about us and He loves us . He knew this woman's heart. He knew she had something wrong going on in her life. She was not only physically thirsty, but she was spiritually thirsty. She needed Jesus! If she was to have His living water springing up inside her, she had to let Him fix the wrong things in her. She had to be honest with Him.

He knows everything anyway. We cannot hide anything from Him. We must come to Him with honesty.

Immediately, she tried to avoid what He was saying. She quickly said, "I have no husband." She wanted Him to think she was fine by wearing a mask. But Jesus lovingly removed her

mask and said that she had had five husbands and now lived with a man that was not her husband.

Wow! Jesus is very honest. Jesus knows all about us and He loves us. No mask that we try to hide behind fools Him. He loves us enough to pull off the masks that we try to wear to hide our sins. He gets close to us and tells us that we cannot hide from Him.

The woman knew Jesus was someone extraordinary. She called Him a prophet. But He was more than just a prophet. He was her Messiah, her Savior. He was the one who could heal her spirit and give her new life. Jesus was the One who could give her living water, if she would come to Him in repentance.

The woman still tried to avoid Jesus. She thought that if she could get into a discussion about God, Jesus might forget about her and her need, but He did not. He continued to remove her mask and help her be honest about her life, her sin, and her need for Him.

She wanted to know where to worship, but He simply told her that where one worships is not important. To truly worship God, we all must get down to the deepest things in our hearts. We must be open and honest before God, no masks. We must be real. When you are prepared to do that, you do not need to discuss the place of worship; the place is nothing. But worshipping in spirit and truth is everything.

There was something so right, so honest, so wise about Jesus that this woman began to wonder if He could be the promised Messiah, the Savior. Then He boldly claimed, "I who speak to you am He."

The woman left her water pot and ran off to tell the people in the city about Jesus. And they listened enough that they went to give Jesus a chance.

And then, because of this Living Water that Jesus is talking about, the townspeople really started to respond to Jesus (verse 42). He stayed with them for two days. Many of them believed in Him.



The Whitened Harvest 4:27-38

The disciples came back to Jesus with food. They were shocked! A Rabbi was not supposed to talk alone with a woman, but Jesus was doing just that!

He was showing them that their rules had nothing to do with God. They offered Him food, but He explained to them that His food was doing His Father's will.

What was God's will here at this well in Samaria? To talk to that woman and lead her into God's light.

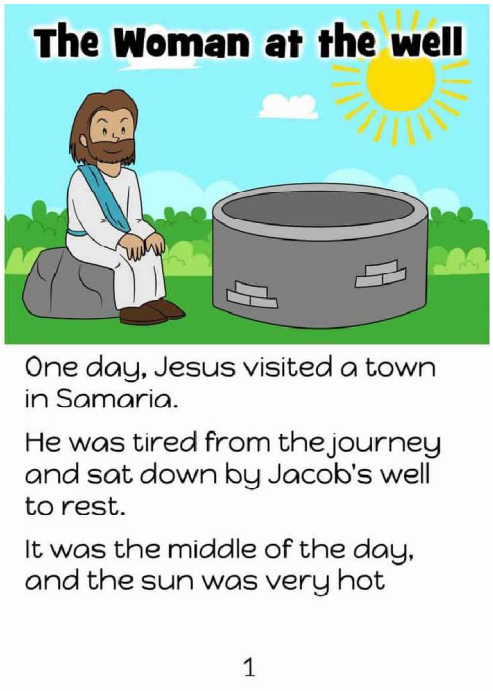
Then He told His disciples that there were people everywhere who needed spiritual food just like the Samaritan woman, people whose spirits were dead and miserable, hopeless and thirsty. They needed the living water of Jesus in their hearts.

We are His disciples, and we can go out and tell others about Jesus. If we share what Jesus has done in our lives, people will go to Jesus to see what it is He has for them.

Nobleman's Son Healed 4:46-54

Jesus performs His second sign in Galilee by healing a royal official's dying son from a distance. When the official asks for help in Cana, Jesus tells him, "Go, your son will live." The boy recovers at that exact moment, and people believe in Him.

Lesson Delivery Idea:







Jesus asked her for water.

Jesus told her about the things that she had done.

He said that He was the living water and the most important thing people need.

The woman couldn't believe that she had met the Messiah.

3



The Samaritan woman ran to tell all her friends about Jesus.

Many other people listened to her and put their trust in Jesus.

The people said, "We really know Jesus is the Saviour of the world."

4

Memory Verse: 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Takeaway:

Action item for the week:

This week, whenever you are hungry or have a craving for something, practice saying a short prayer before eating. It's easy to focus on our physical hunger and thirst, but remember this Gospel lesson and the importance of attending to our spiritual needs as well.

On the day of Pentecost the Samaritan woman and her five sisters were baptized by the name "Photini" which means the enlightened one. St. Photini became a missionary and was known for her brave Christian teachings. She would give her life and that of her children for the Lord Jesus Christ by refusing to deny the Lord Jesus and His teachings. St. Photini would become forever known as a saint. God blessed St. Photini.

Games:

- *Tell the children the following story, encouraging them to move their hands like a flowing river and say "whoosh" when they hear the word "**water**".*

Once when Jesus was traveling, He had to walk through Samaria. Jesus was tired from His journey. It was noon and the sun was hot, so He sat down at a **water** well. His disciples went into a nearby city to buy food. While Jesus was sitting at the well, a woman from Samaria came to the well to

draw some **water.** Jesus said, “Give me some **water** to drink.” The Samaritan woman was surprised and said, “Why are you asking for **water** from me, a Samaritan woman?” Jews and Samaritans did not get along, and the woman thought Jesus should know that!

Jesus said, “If you recognized me, YOU would ask ME for **water**, and I would give you living **water.**”

The woman said to Jesus, “You don’t have a bucket to draw **water**, and the well is very deep. Where do you think you can get this living **water**? Do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well to drink **water** from?”

Jesus answered the woman, “Everyone who drinks this **water** will be thirsty again. Whoever drinks the **water** I give will never be thirsty again. The **water** I give will like a spring of **water** that springs up into eternal life.”

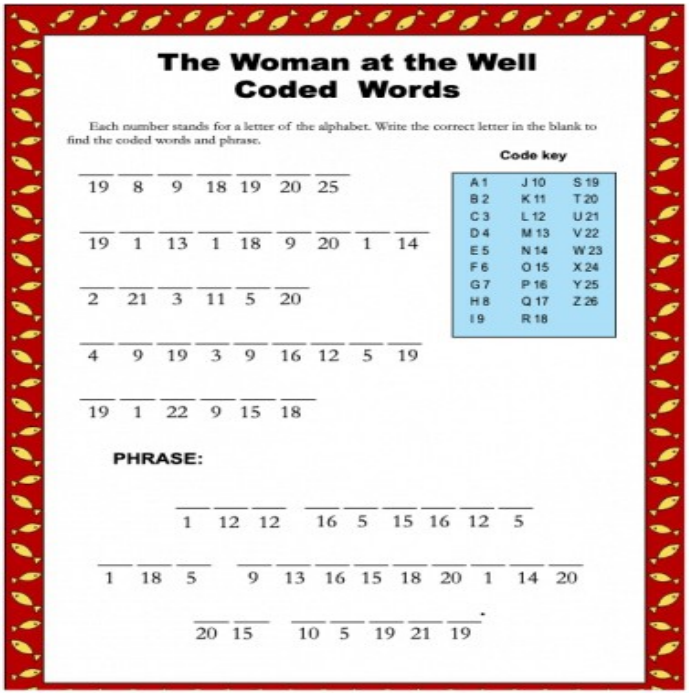
The woman was amazed and said, “Sir, I see you are a prophet. We Samaritans worship on this mountain, but your people say that we should worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus responded, “Soon, it won’t matter so much where you worship. True worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach us everything.” Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman put down her **water** jar and ran into the city. She said, “Come and see Jesus!” The people followed her from the city and went to see Jesus.

The disciples returned with food from the city. Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” The disciples were confused. Jesus said, “I am fed by doing God’s work.”



The Woman at the Well
Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

19 8 9 18 19 20 25

19 1 13 1 18 9 20 1 14

2 21 3 11 5 20

4 9 19 3 9 16 12 5 19

19 1 22 9 15 18

PHRASE:

1 12 12 16 5 15 16 12 5

1 18 5 9 13 16 15 18 20 1 14 20

20 15 10 5 19 21 19 .

Lesson 5 [Chapter 5] "The Paralytic by the pool"

Remember:

Last lesson, John 4, Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and offers her "living water," symbolizing eternal life, while teaching that true worship is in spirit and truth rather than tied to a place; through her testimony many Samaritans come to believe in Him as the Savior of the world.

Lesson Goal:

It's important for us to realize and recognize where our trust and hope are found. We need to pay attention to God's Word and to be open to its truth. If we put our faith in the wrong things, we might miss the beauty of potential blessings.

Lesson opener:

Greet children, perhaps already with your pool gear.

Recommended possibilities: inner tubes, floaty wings, foot flippers, goggles, noodles, beach towel, sunscreen, etc.

So, who is ready to go for a swim? Summer is coming up, and one of the most fun activities of warmer weather is hitting the water. Whether you're heading to the beach or the pool, you need to be prepared with certain things, right?

So, here I've got my goggles (demonstrate or hold up goggles)…you'll need to protect your skin with some sunscreen; I've got that here… sometimes it's fun to bring extra toys and such to the pool, I've got those…oh, a nice towel!

Lesson Body:

Well, in today's gospel lesson, there was a man who wanted to get ready for a visit to the pool, but this was a special pool…the man in the story from John 5 was lame. He couldn't walk, and he hadn't been able to walk for 38 years. Thirty-eight years! That's a pretty long time to sit by a pool.

A Man Healed at the Pool of Bethesda 5:1-15



Now, the pool was called Bethesda, which means “house of mercy.” An angel went down at certain times into the pool and stirred up the water. And he granted with him power of healing so that the Jews learn that the God of angels can heal the sickness of the spirit.

And just as the nature of the water here, did not heal of itself (because if it did it would have healed at all times) but healed through the work of the angel, similarly, our purification is not by means of the water simply, but through the grace of the Spirit that is accepted and absolves us from all our sins. St. John Chrysostom.

So, lots of people who were sick or blind or lame would sit by that pool, day after day, just hoping they’d be the lucky one to make it into the water first if they saw the special whirlpool action.

Well, this lame man had been waiting there too, he continued lying down and did not withdraw from the pool. The sick man complained that he had no friends to help him. Even those who were healed went away in good health and met their friends. Not one of them was concerned about this poor man. He also complained that he was unable to compete with the others so that he may be the first to throw himself into the pool, for many stepped down into the water before him.

Give each child a cup of water and a drinking straw. Let kids blow bubbles in the water with their straws.

Say: Now let’s see how this water works. When you blow your bubbles, stick your finger in the water and see what happens. Allow time.

Ask: “What happened when you put your finger in the water?”

Collect the straws and cups of water.

Say: Your finger got wet, but nothing amazing happened. That's because healing isn't magic. It's not something a bubbling pool can do. Healing happens through God's power—and Jesus is God. So, let's find out what happened next.

Jesus came by and spotted this man. He singled the lame man out from the crowd and asked if he wanted to be healed. Well, that seems an obvious answer. Of course he wanted to be healed, why else would he be next to the pool? Jesus wanted to grow his faith.

The guy explained the situation, but he didn't realize who he was speaking with. So, Jesus gave him some directions. He didn't provide deep explanations or even tell the man who He was. He just told him to pick up his bed and walk.

Immediately, the man was healed! It didn't take special incantations. It didn't take another thirty-eight years, or special bubbling water. It was just a word from Jesus and an action of obedience, and the man was healed!

When we have problems, we can go to Jesus, too. We can trust that Jesus is God, and He has the power to help us. Even if He doesn't solve the problem in the way we want, Jesus can be there with us and help us through it.

Sometimes we come close to missing the identity of the true master healer. Maybe we try to put our hope in things…if we just say the right words, or go to the right places, maybe that will work out well for us. Or we pay attention to superstitions, or good luck charms.

Or we think if we follow the rules just right, that will bring us closer to God.

Well, if we focus too much on those silly things, we can miss out on the author of hope and healing, God Himself. Jesus is the only One in whom we can truly place our trust.

The lame man didn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah…but when he was willing to follow directions, and as a result received the healing he had hoped for after so many years of waiting. When we recognize that our hope is in Christ alone, we know that only He has power in our lives.

This does not always mean that miracles will happen. We might still experience pain or difficulty. But we trust that God knows what He is doing. And we need to be willing to change. We can't sit around hoping to jump in the pool someday. We must be ready to do something different, and to follow seemingly strange instructions.

We must know that only Jesus can bring peace—not legend or rules or silly things. Our healing might look distinct from what we would have initially expected, but we know that only God can bring hope and peace. Are you ready? Do you want to get better? Then jump on and follow Him!

The true hearts of the religious leaders are shown in this chapter. They did not even care about the man or that he had been made well. All they cared about was the fact that Jesus had broken one of their rules. Not so with Jesus, He cared more about healing this man according to God's will than keeping man's laws.

The Sabbath was a central issue in the conflicts between Jesus and His opponents (Mark 2:23, 3:4). Though the Mosaic Law required that work cease on the seventh day, the religious leaders added their own rules which were not of God. These human traditions often hid the divine intention in God's Law. God is always kind and merciful to people. Unfortunately, some religious people are not. This man did not think about the reaction of the religious leaders, he simply obeyed the words of Jesus.

Jesus later found the healed man in the temple area, which implies that Jesus came to him to speak to him. This time the man would receive a warning from Jesus. The warning was that his tragic life of 38 years as a cripple was no comparison to the doom of hell. Jesus was not just interested in healing this man's body. Jesus knew the more serious problem was the crippling condition of sin in his heart. Jesus wanted to heal the man spiritually, to cleanse him from his sins.

What a wonderful feeling of excitement and relief this man must have experienced through this miracle. What a miracle it was to be healed from a lifetime of sickness! But he needed an even greater miracle, to have his sins forgiven. His healing was great, but he had to turn from his sins and seek God's forgiveness to be spiritually healed. It is God's forgiveness that will ultimately be the greatest gift we can ever receive, for this is our greatest need.

Honor the Father and the Son 5:16-23

When Jesus healed a man, He showed people that Jesus is God. That can be hard to understand. God doesn't ask us to completely understand His nature. God's ways are higher than we can imagine!

So, let's compare God and Jesus to help us get a better idea of what it means that Jesus is God.

• Divide the room in half. One group of kids will reflect God's actions; the other half will reflect Jesus' actions.

• As you read the following statements about God, kids on the "God" side of the room will come up with an action to show what God did. Then as you read the statements about Jesus, kids on the "Jesus" side will copy the action created by the other side of the room.

God's group	Jesus's group
God showed His power **over water and wind** when He divided the Red sea so His people could walk safely across. (Exodus 14:21-31)	Jesus showed His power **over water and wind** when He calmed a storm on the sea. That kept the disciples safe from drowning. (Matthew 8:23-27)
God provided **bread from heaven** to feed His hungry people in the wilderness. (Exodus 16:14-35)	Jesus used a few loaves of **bread** to feed more than 5,000 hungry people. (John 6:5-14)
God helped **a widow** when He brought her son back to life. (1 Kings 17:17- 24)	Jesus helped **a widow** when He brought her son back to life. (Luke 7:11-17)
God used the prophets to **tell His messages** and show His power.	Jesus sent His disciples out to **share the message** of God's love, and He gave them His power to do miracles, too.

Have both groups sit down. Ask:

• What were some of the things you noticed that were the same about God and Jesus?

• What can this help you discover about Jesus?

Say: the more we get to know things about God, the more we understand and get to know Jesus. That's because Jesus is God. That can be a hard thing for us to understand! All God asks us to do is trust. As you grow in your friendship with God, you're also growing in friendship with Jesus! Because Jesus is God!

The Fourfold Witness 5:31-47

If He bore witness of Himself without the witness of the Father through the prophets, and without performing divine, miraculous works, they would have had an excuse to consider His witness false.

He mentioned in His conversation three witnesses: the first is the works that He did, the second His Father's witness, and the third is John the Baptist's announcement of Him.

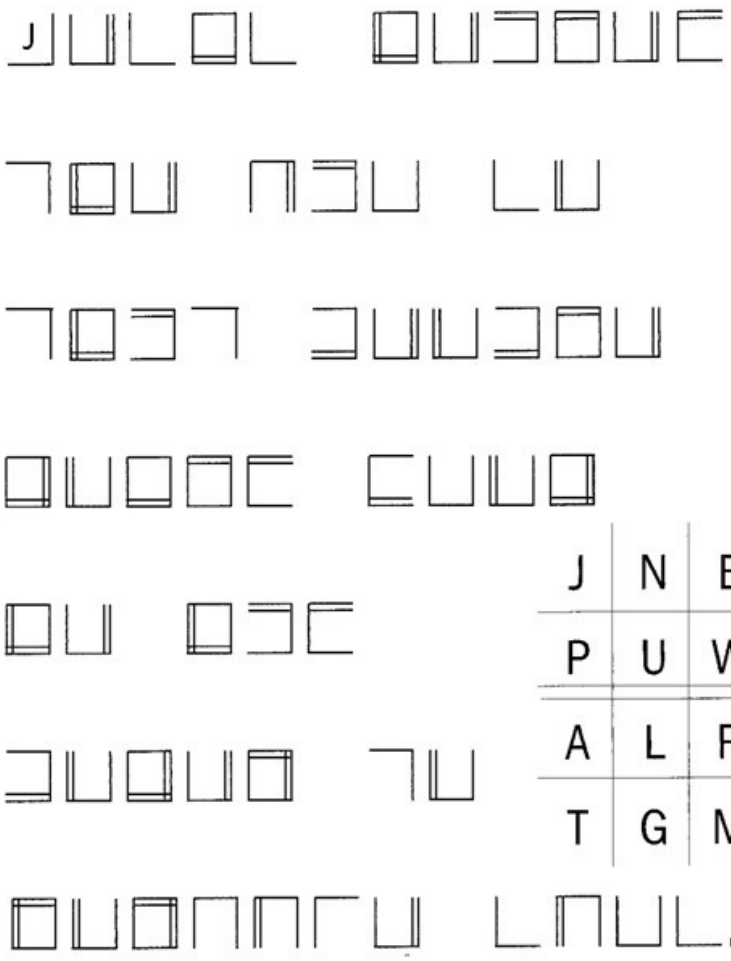
"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; these are they which testify of Me." [39] As though He says to them: 'It is not enough for you to pride yourselves upon possessing the Scriptures, and that you read them. It is necessary that you search them diligently so that you may enjoy your redemption and eternal life, because all the Scriptures revolve round My coming to you.

Memory Verse: 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

One day some men brought their friend who was paralyzed to Jesus. Jesus told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." Some teachers of the law didn't like what Jesus said, so instead Jesus said, "Get up, take your mat and walk." Why did Jesus heal the man?

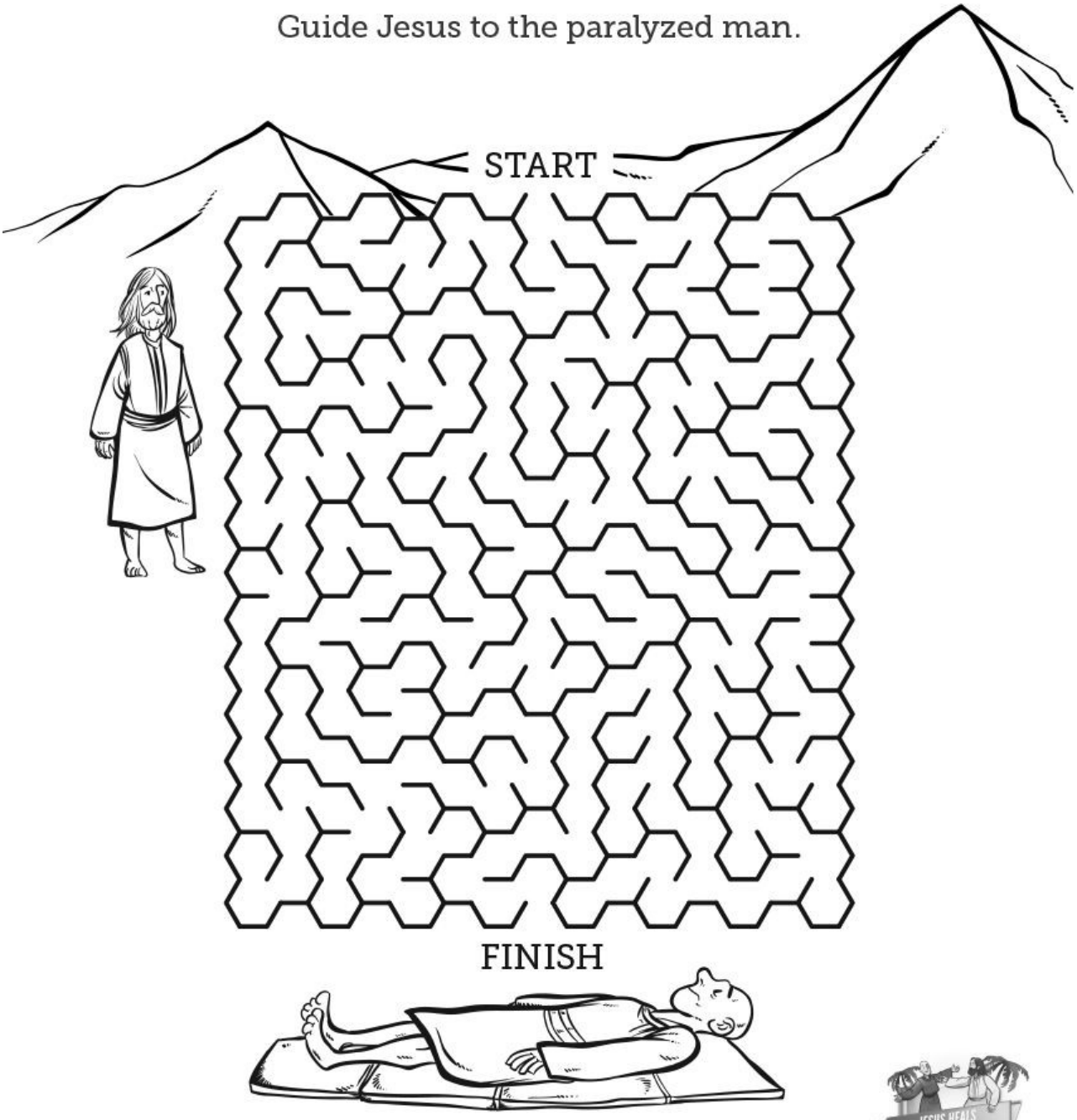
Use the code to find the letters that fit in the blank. Match the arrangement of the lines with those in the code. The first one is done for you.



J	N	E	O	S
P	U	W	H	K
A	L	R	F	D
T	G	M	I	V

JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

Guide Jesus to the paralyzed man.



Lesson 6 [Chapter 6]"Feeding the 5000"

Remember:

Last lesson in chapter 5, Jesus healed a paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath, triggering conflict with religious leaders. Jesus defended His actions by declaring He is one with God, asserting authority over life, judgment, and the Sabbath.

Lesson Goal:

1. Jesus can give eternal life.
2. Jesus is the bread of life.
3. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.

Lesson opener:

Give each student a pair of scissors and a piece of paper. Have the children hold up their papers.

Say: How many corners does your piece of paper have? Allow time for the kids to count their corners.

Say: Your paper has four corners. But what if I want to give someone a corner? Cut off a corner of the paper and hand it to a child. Hold up the paper, and say: Okay, now that I've given a corner away, how many corners do I have? Allow kids to answer and then say: Wait a minute. I have five. Count the corners to the kids. Then let each child cut a corner from his or her paper.

Say: You see, the more times Jesus divided the bread and fish, the more He had to give away. Have the children count the corners on the cut-off piece they each have. Not only that, but the people had also more than enough. Encourage the kids to each cut off more corners, each time counting the multiplying corners.

Lesson Body:

The story of the feeding of 5,000 is told in all the four Gospels. Each Gospel writer includes some different details. You can read the others in:

1. Matthew chapter 14

2. Mark chapter 6
3. Luke chapter 9

Feeding the Five Thousand 6:1-15

The twelve disciples had returned from the missionary journey Jesus had sent them on. During the same period, Jesus had received the upsetting news that King Herod had killed His cousin, John the Baptist.

Jesus decides to set sail on the Sea of Galilee to find a remote place to rest and pray with His disciples. Yet, when the people hear that Jesus is in the area, they rush to see Him. They bring sick friends and family to Him to be healed.

When Jesus saw the crowd, He had compassion on them. He didn't sail further away for His needed rest but stopped to teach them about the Kingdom of God and healed the sick.

After a busy day, it was time to eat. The disciples encouraged Jesus to send the crowds away to find food and rest. The disciples were likely fearful of the lack of resources in this remote place and the distance from major towns.

The disciples went to Jesus and said, "It is getting late and everyone is hungry. Send the people away so that they can go and get something to eat."

Jesus answered, "They don't need to go away," Jesus said, "you feed them."

"Feed them? How can we feed them? Even if we were to find enough bread in this remote place, Philip responds that it would cost two hundred denarii (more than an eight-month salary).

Though Philip had been walking with Jesus and witnessing His glorious ministry of wisdom and power, he continued to look at His ministry in relation to his own resources.

We should never limit God by our own abilities and resources when we are faced with trials in life and ministry. Jesus makes possible the impossible.

Andrew said "We have five loaves of bread and two small fish. That is all the food we have."

The "Philip and Andrew" Skit

Pick two children to be Philip and Andrew. Give Andrew two cans of tuna and five crackers. Have the children reenact the scene described in today's lesson. Make sure that Philip expresses the impossibility of the situation, and have Andrew offer the meager supply with doubt.

Explain to the class that Philip could see no way to feed so many, and that Andrew offered what was available but doubted that Jesus could accomplish such a miracle.

When Andrew spoke out, it must have seemed really silly for him to even suggest that five barley loaves and two fish could ever meet the needs of this crowd. Yet Andrew's perception was much broader than Phillip's. He looked at the resources he had but failed to rely on Jesus to meet the needs of this impossible situation.

Now that Jesus had forced them to realize their inadequacy, He told the disciples to bring their resources to Him [the bread and fish].

Jesus told the disciples to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. He took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. Then He gave the food to the disciples to give to the people.

Once they had given Jesus what they had, He multiplied it and gave it back. Jesus would supply, but the feeding would be done through the disciples. He is the source of the bread, but it is distributed to the people through His servants, the Clergy. [Priests give us communion]

Feeding as many as 15,000 people was no big deal for Jesus, but it was a big deal for His disciples to learn that they could always place their shortcomings and impossibilities into His hands. Jesus makes possible the impossible.

After all the crowd ate, the disciples collected twelve baskets of leftovers.



Takeaway:

So often we go to the Lord as a last resort, only after we have exhausted our own resources. Jesus wanted His disciples to turn to Him for help, just like you and me. We must turn to Jesus first and trust in Him to care for us and our needs. It is so important for us to bring

what we do have to Jesus. He does not ask us to provide the impossible, only to bring what we do have to HIM so that He can meet the need.

Many times, we look at how little we have and how impossible the situation is. But in Jesus we can "do all things." If He asks us to do something, we need to realize that He will give us the ability and resources that we need to carry out what He has asked of us. Jesus makes possible the impossible.

Jesus Walks on the Sea 6:16-21

The people Jesus fed sensed that He was the anticipated Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15) and tried to make Him king. They thought, surely if He could do such miracles, He must be the king that will free them from the Romans. Knowing the desire of the people, Jesus made His way up to the mountain by Himself.

It may be through the direction of the Lord Christ that the disciples took a boat to go toward Capernaum so that they may not be preoccupied with the useless dialogue about making Jesus king. He wanted to withdraw them from this test, but they face another test, which is the raging sea because of a great wind.

A storm had begun to come up and when they were halfway across the sea they saw a figure walking across the top of the water. They were scared to death as most of us would be. When Jesus saw them, He calmed them down and told them it was Him. Once again Jesus showed His power over this world by defying gravity. Also, when He got in the boat it immediately arrived at their destination.

He allows that His children have tribulations, but He does not leave them in the middle of their trial. He rather announces His presence to grant them rest and peace.

The Bread from Heaven 6:22:40

The Jews demanded of the Lord a sign so that they may believe in Him. Did they consider feeding the multitude among whom were about 5000 men, with five barely loaves and two fish, a trivial sign?

Bread from Heaven – Gathering Manna

Supplies – cotton balls

God fed the Israelites Manna for many years in the wilderness; people should gather only what they need for the day.

Say: Please, pick up 3 [cottons balls] pieces of manna for each person living at your house. One for breakfast, one for lunch, and one for dinner. If you picked up too much Manna, it would go bad the next day.

Manna was bread sent from heaven to keep the Israelites alive, but manna didn't last. Even if they ate all they could they would still be hungry the following day. And if they tried to store some up for later it went bad.

But manna isn't the only bread God sent from heaven. Anyone know what the other bread was?

This might sound a little strange, but Jesus is the bread. Just like the manna was sent to keep the Israelites alive, Jesus was sent to keep us alive. And unlike the manna, Jesus doesn't run out or go bad. Jesus was sent from heaven to save us and keep us alive for all time.

In the Bible Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Once we have Jesus, we are full. We have all we need. We don't need to keep searching for something else to save us. Jesus is it. He is all we need, and with Jesus we will live forever. However, the people still didn't quite understand…

They were not interested in hearing about the bread of life. They wanted their tummies to be filled, but Jesus wanted to fill their hearts.

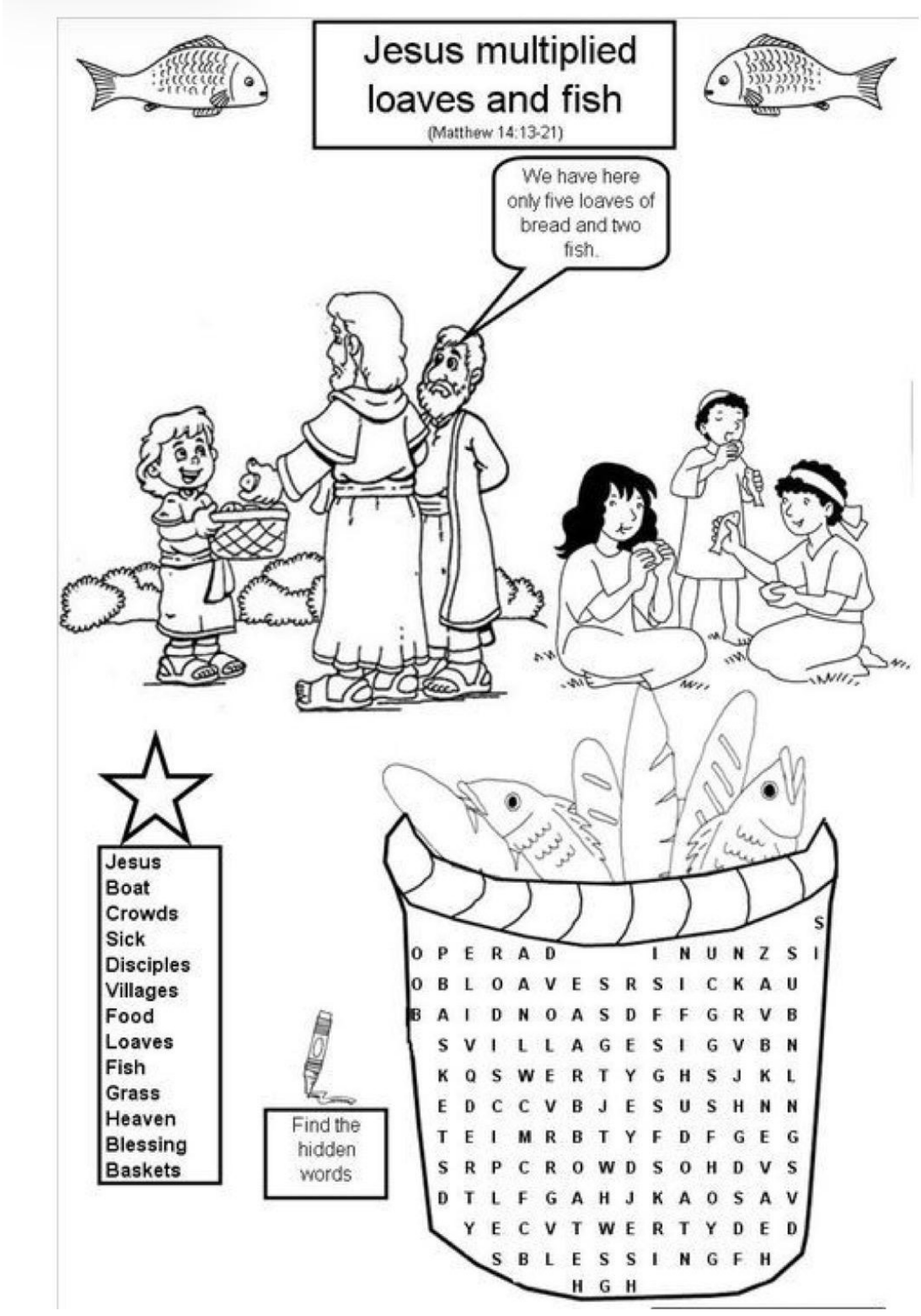
Unfortunately, the crowds still failed to fully comprehend who Jesus was and what He came to do. Christ made things pretty clear, but a lot of people at His time missed it. They missed the main point! But we don't have to do the same. We recognize that Jesus is the foundation of our lives. He wants to give us what we need to be healthy and "fed" spiritually. He has given His very life for us, and we know we can trust in His words.

The crowd asked what work God wanted them to do, and Jesus says, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one He has sent."

Who is the one God has sent? Jesus, of course! When we believe that Jesus is God, who come to earth to die in our place for our sins, He fills us up with the bread of life [Communion]. He gives meaning to everything we do and lets us live forever in heaven with Him!

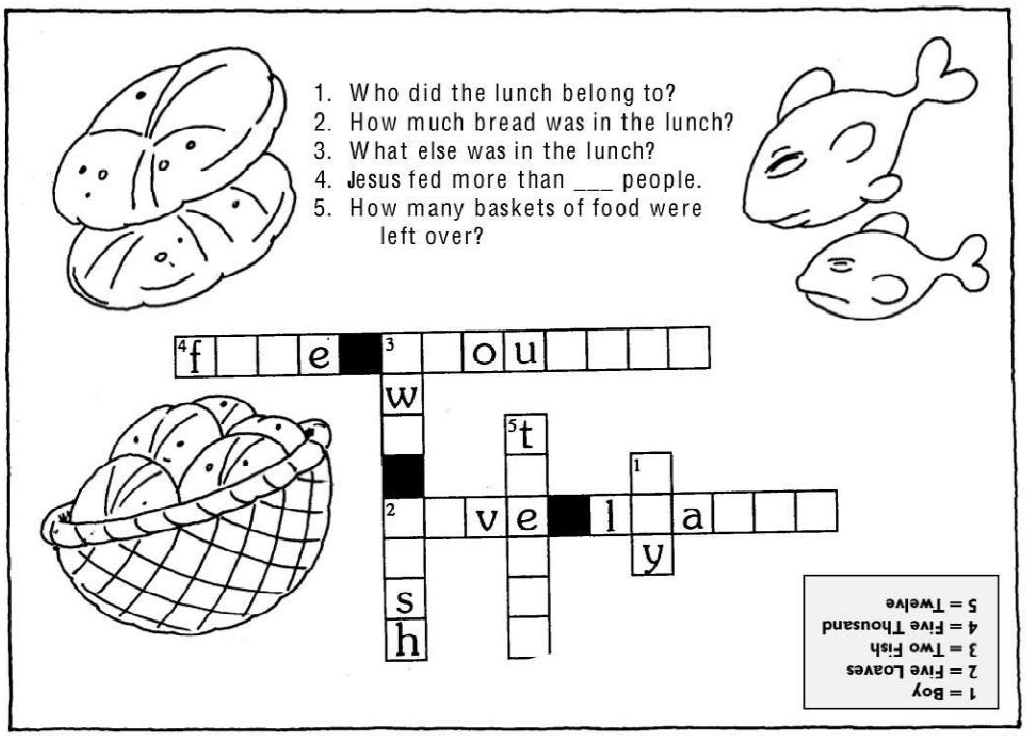
Verse 35: What does Christ promise? He does not promise a perishable thing but rather promises that mystery-—The Eulogia—in partaking of His Body and Blood.

Memory Verse: 6:47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life.



A Miracle Meal

Use the clues to finish the crossword.



More than 5,000 people were listening to Jesus teach. When dinnertime came a little boy gave Jesus his lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blessed the food and broke it into pieces. Everyone there had all the food they wanted to eat—and there were twelve baskets of leftovers!

Discussion questions:

1. What did the boy in the story have to share, and how did Jesus use it?
2. Why do you think Jesus had the disciples collect the leftovers? What does this tell us about God's provision?
3. Why did the people want to make Jesus king, and was it for the right reason?
4. What do you think Jesus meant by saying “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry"?
5. If physical bread fills your stomach, what does Jesus fill in your life?

Lesson 7 [Chapter 7] "The Promise of the Holy Spirit"

Remember:

In chapter 6, Jesus uses five loaves and two fish from a boy to feed a massive crowd, with 12 baskets of leftovers, prompting the crowd to try to make Him king. He walks on the Sea of Galilee to His disciples in a storm, immediately bringing their boat to shore.

Jesus tells the crowd to seek spiritual food, not just physical bread. He declares, "I am the bread of life".

Lesson Goal:

Jesus challenges the crowd to look beyond appearances and judge with righteous judgment: "Stop judging by outward appearances and start judging justly" (John 7:24). This lesson calls us to look deeper, beyond the surface, and to evaluate situations and people with fairness and compassion, reflecting God's justice.

Lesson opener:

I was in the marching band in high school. One of the fascinating things about marching bands is that it is genuinely one of the only places in all human civilization where the one thing you are trying to do is to *not stick out*. Everyone wears the same uniform. Everyone is marching. You must march according to the right beat. You must be playing the right notes.

Well, of course, this works against every inclination of the human heart because you have showboats in the marching band who want to show off their unique way that they can play. You also have people in the band who are the sort of person who is saying, "hey, I'm in the right spot and all of you are in the wrong spot, you all need to conform to me". So, they insist this is where I am going to stand, I can do no other. So, in that they are standing out from the crowd.

Everyone blends into the band perfectly, and no one at any point is standing out, it is something difficult and remarkable to behold. Because of our hearts, we want glory. We want to stand out in a good way, to be exalted and glorified, and people will start to look upon us and see our glory. So, it is hard to be in that kind of a situation. Jesus was called to show off but He refused.

Lesson Body:

Background:

The feast of Tabernacle is one of the three major Jewish feasts. During the first seven days of the feast, they brought water from the pool of Siloam. The water was brought in a golden vessel, and the high priest poured it in front of the people to declare that whoever is thirsty may approach and drink. This indicated the rock from which water flowed for the people in the wilderness. On the eighth day they did not bring water from the pool. This was to show that the people would drink from the springs of Canaan, not from the water of the wilderness. On that day, the LORD Christ who is the Supreme High Priest and Bishop of our souls, stood up to offer Himself as the spring that flows living water into the depths of the souls of believers. He asked the believers to drink joyfully from the wells of salvation.

Jesus' Brothers Disbelieve 7:1-9

The healing of the paralytic on the Sabbath aroused the anger of the religious leaders (John 5:16) and they sought to kill Jesus either by stirring up the people against Him or by formal accusation. For this reason, the LORD Christ preferred not to appear publicly in Jerusalem, and instead, to walk in Galilee because it was not His time to be crucified yet.

Therefore, Christ chose to remain in Galilee rather than make a public appearance in Jerusalem, since the time for His crucifixion had not yet arrived.

The Holy Bible usually calls relatives in the same family 'brothers.' Therefore, the words "His brothers" probably mean the LORD Christ's relatives.

Why did Jesus' brothers suggest He go to Jerusalem? How is their logic in verse four like many people's logic in the world?

Jesus' brothers suggested that Jesus go up to the feast and reveal Himself publicly there, showing His miracles to everyone. They are not sincere and don't really believe in Jesus. Their suggestion is in doubt. It reads kind of like a challenge. "If you are really who you say you are, then prove it! Now you have a perfect chance. Go to the feast. Show your miracles and we will believe in you!"

Why did He tell them He will not go but He went later?

It might be because if He went then, in their company, while multitudes were going, it would have too much the appearance of parade and ostentation; it might excite too much notice and be more likely to expose Him to the envy and opposition of the rulers.

[You can go] It makes no difference to you when you go up. Your going will excite no tumult or opposition; it will not attract attention and will not endanger your lives. Jesus therefore

chose to go up more privately, and to remain until the multitude had gone. They commonly traveled to those feasts in large companies, made up of most of the families in the neighborhood.

The Heavenly Scholar 7:10-24

He did not say I am not going, but not going yet, which means He would go alone, later in the feast to avoid the crowds.

People had different opinions about Him when He started teaching in the temple. Some said He was good and some said He was a deceiver.

The Jews marveled when they heard His teaching because He spoke with authority. He quoted from the books of the Old Testament. He explained, argued, and said proverbs. His teachings are profound and convincing.

Jesus here tells them three things.

1. He could teach like that because His teaching came from God.
2. Those who know God will discern true teaching from false teaching (the implication is they didn't know God so they couldn't tell).
3. The true teacher seeks the glory of God, not himself (like the Pharisees).

Look at Peter and John. They had NO education in the eyes of the world. These guys were fisherman. What in the world could they do? Their relationship with Christ transformed them. He gave them confidence and boldness. He gave them wisdom. He gave them strength to do the task. Remember, knowing God and having a close relationship with Him will give you much more success than the best degrees at the best schools in the world.

How did He explain to them that they are breaking the Sabbath not Him?

They claim that they keep the law, but they break the law when they kill the innocent. They blamed Him for breaking the Sabbath when He healed the paralytic by the pool.

The commandment of circumcision was established long before Moses; it dates to Abraham, as noted in Genesis 17:9-10. The Jews kept the circumcision ritual on the eighth day even if it fell on the Sabbath.

If that was the case concerning the practice of circumcision, how much more important was to heal the paralytic who was lying down on his bed for 38 years?

Circumcision was believed to be the "healing" of the newborn by bringing him into the sacred Covenant. Jesus' argument is that if it is lawful to "heal" part of the body, how can it be unlawful to heal the whole body when the need arises on the Sabbath?

The LORD Christ asks them to judge with righteousness, not according to appearance. Jesus shows that to do good is the most important thing.

Could This Be the Christ? 7:25-39

There was a common theory that the Messiah would be a "man of mystery" and His origins would be unknown. They thought they knew where Jesus was from so reasoned He couldn't be the Messiah. Jesus told them WHO He was from.

What spurred the Pharisees to seize Jesus? They heard some of the crowds believing in Him. It made them angry and jealous. They wanted to be leaders. They were prideful and wanted the crowds to follow them. Hearing the people believe Jesus made them want to kill Him. They failed at disproving Him or beating Him fairly through debate.

Jesus prophesied about His coming ascension. He wouldn't be in the world much longer, but after His resurrection, He would go up to heaven. Because of their sins and refusal to believe in Him, they would not be able to go be with Him in heaven.

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus made a big announcement on the last day of the feast. The Jews had a ceremony of carrying water from the Pool of Siloam and pouring it into a silver basin by the altar of burnt offering each day for the first seven days of the Feast of Booths. On the eighth day this was not done, making Christ's offer of the water of eternal life from Himself even more startling."

What is the significance that Jesus made the offer of living water on the last day of the feast?

Jesus offers living water. He will satisfy our thirst since there is no water in the world that can quench it. He will satisfy this by giving His Spirit to all who come to Him. This Spirit being in us, we can experience the blessings of God and the joy that comes only from Him. We will also be able to spread this joy to others. It will become a spring in us that nothing can contain.

As we live for God with His Spirit in our hearts our joy will spread to others. We will then be a channel of blessing for those around us in actions and words (verses in Proverbs). The way to have this is by coming to Jesus. That is the only way we can have this water and the only way we can become a spring of this water to others.

By this living water, He refers to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which were promised to the faithful. This is the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit after His ascension at Pentecost.

Who Is He? 7:40-53

Some doubted, as they did not know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem but thought that He was born in Galilee.

The Pharisees wanted to know why the officials they sent to arrest Jesus didn't bring Him. The only reason they had was that He speaks differently than anyone they had met before. Jesus' voice and teaching did certainly have a special power to it. Hearing and seeing Him they were simply unable to make a move against Him.

Verse 52: The leaders thought that Jesus was from Galilee, although He was born in Bethlehem of the house of David. They thought that most of His disciples were Galileans, yet He had many disciples from Judea. Moreover, they claimed that no prophet had arisen out of Galilee, but Elijah the prophet was from Gilead.

Lesson Delivery Idea:

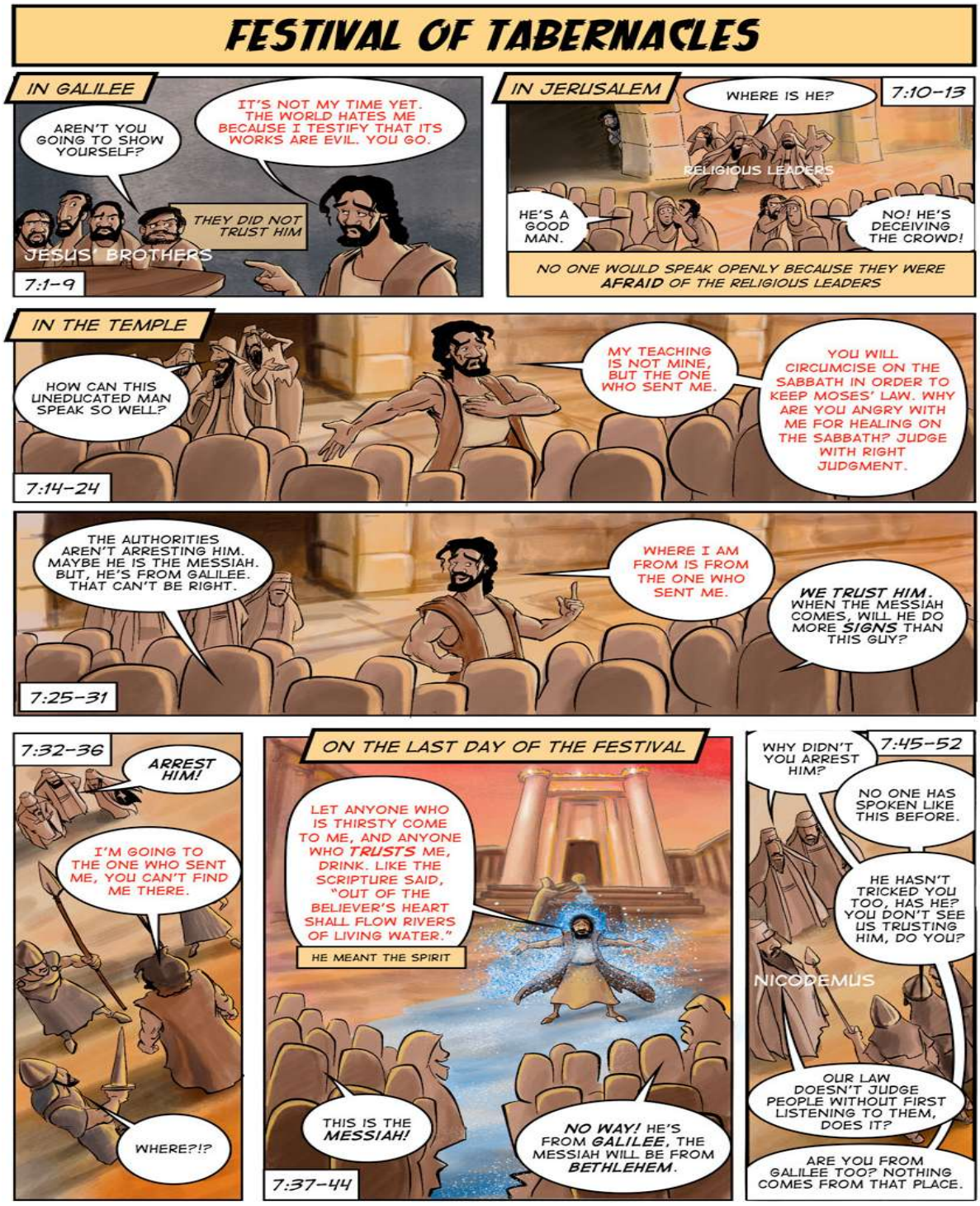
How do we develop and increase our love for the Father's glory?

The way we increase our love for it is the same way we increase our love for anything in this life. I never cared about classical music at all. In fact, if you said the words "classical music" I would have found the idea completely revolting. However, to get my business degree, I was required to take a fine art in college. I hated this idea. Why does someone who is getting his degree in accounting have to take a silly fine art class? So, I took a semester of classical music. You may not believe what happened. I started to like classical music. I started to appreciate it and began to enjoy listening to various composers. Beethoven and Vivaldi became instant favorites for me. How did this happen? I did not want to like it. I did not really try to like it. But by exposure I began to appreciate classical music and then developed a joy for it.

If you want to increase your love for the glory of the Father, spend your time looking at His glory, studying His greatness, and spending time with other lovers of the Father. This is how you will increase your love for God's glory and diminish your love for yourself. Focus on the

Father. Spend your time in His word. Gaze on His glory and you will love Him more and more.

Memory Verse: 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."



Name: _____ Date: _____

John Chapter 7

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

Popularity
Good Man
Sabbath
Bold
Embarassed
Luke Warm
Secret
Nicodemus
Healing
Laws

Lesson 8 [Chapter 8] "Drop the stone"

Remember:

Last lesson, we looked at John chapter 7, where Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles despite threats on His life. We saw how He taught openly in the Temple, declared Himself as the source of living water.

Lesson Goal:

Learn what it means to judge others and why it is wrong. Understand that only God is able to judge people's hearts. Recognize that we need God's help to change our attitudes.

Lesson opener:

Have you ever made a trap, perhaps to trick a friend, or catch an animal?

Here is an example: "A little boy once set a trap for his sister as a joke. He carefully balanced a cup of juice on the top of a slightly open door. He called his sister into the room so that when the door was pushed open the water would fall on her head. His trap worked flawlessly, except for one thing. It was not his sister that entered at the door; it was his mom! As you can guess, this story did not have a very happy ending.")

Today we are going to read how the Jews tried to trap Jesus.

Lesson Body:



The Adulterous Woman 8:1-12

Now while Jesus was teaching, the Scribes and Pharisees (proud and haughty) came to where He was. They had carefully planned a trap for Jesus. These religious leaders brought what they thought would be a big problem for Jesus into the middle of this crowd; they

thought He would be sure to make a mistake in front of everyone else. They hoped to trap Him and embarrass Him! But they obviously did not realize Who it was they were trying to trap. They brought to Him a sinful woman. She had directly broken one of the Ten Commandments! Now they presented her and her terrible sin to Jesus to see what He would do. Whatever He did, they felt sure they had trapped Him!

The Law of Moses said to stone such a woman. Roman law, the law of the land which all the Jews hated, said that a person's life could not be taken without Roman permission. If Jesus said she was to go free, He would be contradicting the Law of Moses in the Bible. If He said she was to be stoned, He would be in trouble with the Roman authorities. This was the trap the religious leaders were trying to set for Jesus.

Wow! WWJD? What would Jesus do? Everyone in the crowd saw themselves in this woman. What would He do with her? What will He do with each of us when He confronts our sin, whatever that may be?

The first thing we see in our lesson was that Jesus dealt with the Scribes and Pharisees before He dealt with the woman. He stooped down and wrote in the sand.(*Demonstrate by stooping and writing with your finger on the floor.*) We do not know what He wrote. God did not choose to tell us. They continued asking Him what He was going to do with this sinful woman.

In Deuteronomy 17:7, it tells us that by Jewish law, the accusers were to throw the first stone. Jesus said that those without sin should cast the first stone! Wow! That sentence should put all of us out of the stone-throwing business for the rest of our lives! Even the Scribes and Pharisees left one by one! They knew how guilty they were in their hearts. Perhaps many were guilty of the same sin as evidence by how they left the scene. They had not trapped Jesus at all. They had just embarrassed themselves. Jesus cleared them out. Now comes the best part of the story.

Jesus was left with the woman and His followers. What He did with her would indicate what He would do with them and their sin and ultimately how He would deal with us and our sin. According to what Jesus had said about the sinless having the right to cast the first stone, He was the only one with the right to cast a stone at her; He is the only sinless one. But He did not do that. Instead, He called her by the same name that He used for His mother at Cana and the cross, "Woman." It was a word Jesus used with infinite tenderness. I am sure her face was greatly changed since she had first been brought to Jesus.

The Pharisees were cruel but now she was looking at Jesus, and she humbly answered His question. He asked, "Where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?" She answered, "No one, Lord." She called Him Lord. She knew men, and she knew this was no

ordinary man. It was the Lord. Jesus is the Lord, and He told her, “Neither do I condemn you.” She humbled herself before Him and acknowledged Him as Lord, and He forgave her.

Jesus was not being easy on her sin, but He forgave her because of her repentant spirit, knowing that He would one day die for her sins. Forgiveness is free for us, but it cost Jesus everything to give it to us. He put Himself and His redeeming, atoning love between her and her sin. He would pay the great price for her sin, just as He paid the great price for our sin. He makes sure that His gracious forgiveness is not an excuse to sin.

He tells her to “go and sin no more.” She would not be sinless, but in response to God’s grace, she would offer Him an obedient life. She would no longer live in willful disobedience. She would confess any sins she was guilty of to her new Lord, Jesus Christ. We learn from her that our response to forgiveness should be obedience.

Verse 12:

“I am the light of the world…” [12] ➔ Without Him everyone would remain in darkness, despair, and death. The Pharisees realized that by saying these words the Lord was indicating that He is the awaited Messiah, since the prophets had used the symbol of light when they spoke of Him.

Jesus Defends His Self-Witness 8:13-20 ***[Skip for younger kids]***

The Pharisees retorted to Jesus’ astounding claim (8:13), “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” They were ignoring Jesus’ many miracles, His amazing teaching, the witness of John the Baptist, and the many Old Testament prophecies that pointed to Jesus and rejecting Him based on the superficial reason that the law stipulated that to be valid in court, a claim had to be backed by two or three witnesses (Deut. 19:15).

People who do not want to follow Jesus come up with all sorts of superficial reasons for rejecting Him.

Jesus had said before, “If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not true.” In that context, He meant that if He acted independently of the Father, His witness would be invalid. But in that same context, He showed that the Father testified of Him through the witness of John the Baptist, Jesus’ works (miracles), and God’s Word. But here, the Pharisees are not raising honest questions. Rejecting the witness that they had been given, they were desperately looking for any excuse they could find to reject Jesus’ claims.

Jesus came from heaven and He was returning to heaven. That’s why He can claim to be the Light of the world. But the Pharisees were in the dark. They judged Jesus outwardly, according to the flesh. He did not judge people that way. When He judged people, He did it in truth because He depended on the Father who sent Him. Conceding their point about

two witnesses, Jesus claims that He has not only His own witness, but also that of the Father.

Then the Pharisees retorted (8:19), “Where is Your Father?” They were probably thinking of Jesus’ human father. Jesus answers, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.” The only way anyone can know the Father is through the Son (Luke 10:22). By refusing to follow Jesus, these religious leaders remained in spiritual darkness. But in their minds, they had “biblical reasons”! Unbelievers always come up with “reasons” why they don’t follow Jesus.

Conclusion

So, Jesus’ astounding claim (8:12), draws a line and asks, “Which side are you on?” With the Pharisees, will you reject Jesus’ claim for some superficial reason because you don’t want the Light exposing your sin? Or will you follow Him by trusting Him as your Savior and obeying Him as your Lord? He is either a religious crackpot, or He is who He claimed to be. There is ample evidence that His witness is true, which means that you should follow Him.

Jesus Predicts His Departure 8:21-30 ***[Skip for younger kids]***

The Doom of Unbelievers:

Here, the Lord tells them that He was going to leave, that in leaving them they would die in their sin rather than have life. When they are in trouble, they seek the help of the Messiah whom they have rejected and crucified. However, He will not be found according to their whims. They had rejected Him and gone after false messiahs who offer the wrath of God rather than eternal life.

They must make a decision about Him before it is too late. Jesus issues a warning to unbelievers.

Jesus has clearly asserted His divinity with the reference to Himself as "I AM" in verse 24. That is why they sought to kill Him.

It is only when “He is lifted up on the cross” they will realize that they have crucified the Lord of Glory. This reality will be revealed to them because of the signs that will occur during and after His crucifixion, as well as at His resurrection after that.

The Truth Shall Make You Free 8:31-36

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Jesus first spoke these words to those who claimed to believe Him but did not continue believing what Jesus has said nor walked in obedience to Him.

Jesus is talking about freedom from the guilt and enslaving power of sinful patterns of behavior. Without Jesus, we are unable to escape from the power of sin over our lives. Through faith in Him and following His teaching, we can have true freedom. This practical freedom from sin is one aspect of the Good News. Only Jesus' power can set us free from these habits.

Learning Aim: Children will identify specific habits (from a list) that trap them in sinful patterns.

Basic Supply List:

- Display the above verse on a board. 8:31-32
- One large black trash bag cut into about 5 long strips. These will be used as pretend ties that represent the bondage of sinful habits in our life.
- One pair of safety scissors for the children to cut the plastic strips off the volunteer.

Say "Today we are going to learn about freedom from sin.

Bondage of Sin: Ask for one volunteer to come to the front of the class and sit in a chair. Explain to the children that you are going to show that sinful habits can become traps in their lives.

Ask the children if they can explain what habits? Say, "A habit is something you do over-and-over and it becomes hard to stop. It's an action or thought you repeat many times and it becomes a pattern. Some habits are good and some are bad."

Show them the black trash bag strips and say that each one will represent those type of habits. Offer the following examples and carefully use plastic to tie up the volunteer's feet and hands.

- Making mean jokes about other children at school
- Telling made up stories so other kids will like you better
- Keeping secrets from your parents

Say, "These are not just bad things. They are habits that get easier each time you do them. Soon they become traps and you find it hard to not do those things. This is how sin becomes more powerful and takes charge of your life. The Bible says this is like becoming a slave with sin as your master."

Allow the children to suggest other habits that do the same thing. For each add another tie to the volunteer in the chair. Listen carefully to their ideas and affirm their efforts by saying,

“That’s a good suggestion, who else wants to try…” Use these extra examples if they are confused:

Arguing or yelling at your parents / Stealing / Eating more food than you need / Doing lazy work for chores or school / Playing video games without a time limit / etc.

Set You Free: Explain to the class that you need their help to set this person free. Ask for volunteers who can repeat the memory verse (or read from the display). Allow each child to say the verse and cut off one strip of the black plastic tie.

Abraham’s Seed 8:37-59

If you boast on account of your lineage from Abraham, then you need to promote yourselves and live in the same manner as he did. Abraham was not a murderer of an innocent person.

Lesson Delivery Idea:

Stop judging others:

Have you ever seen someone doing something wrong and you pointed an accusing finger at them? I think most of us would have to admit that we have.

Remember, when you point your finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at you. Try it, point your finger at someone and then look at your hand. Three fingers are pointing back at you!

That is the point of Jesus' teaching in our lesson today. Not one of us is perfect and we should remember that when we want to point fingers or throw stones at someone else. I have a small stone for each of you. Take it home and put it somewhere that you will see when you think you might be tempted to point out someone else's faults.

Ask: Is it easier to see our own faults or those of someone else? Many times, we put other people down for things that we do, too! We do not see these things in ourselves, but we notice them in others. It is easier to put others down than to try to change ourselves.

But Jesus says that we should not be like this. He knows that we all have things in our life we need to work on. And we must focus on changing ourselves before we look at another person’s weakness. We need to ask Him to forgive us and to help us live for Him.

Jesus has a word for people who judge others—hypocrite. A hypocrite is a person who says one thing but does another. If we say we love God and other people but then we put others down, we are being a hypocrite.

God knows what is in our heart. He knows the things that we need to change. He is waiting for us to ask Him to help. But if we only look at the wrongs of others, He cannot help us deal with our own sin!

Some people judged Jesus wrongly. They did not understand that He was really God's Son. They had a trial and judged Him guilty when He was innocent! They made a horrible mistake. They crucified Jesus on a cross.

However, this is not the end! Jesus died, but He died for a special reason. He died to pay the price for all the wrongs WE have done. He traded places with us! Then, He came back to life 3 days later!

If we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our hearts, He will clean out all our sins and make us pure. We do not have to worry about all the wrongs we have done. He has forgiven them. He will stay with us and help us live for God and do things His way. Then, one day, He will take us to heaven.

Review questions:

1. What does it mean to judge someone? (Answer: to think we are better than them and point out their faults)
2. What did Jesus say to the religious men when they brought a sinful woman to Him? (Answer: You can stone her if you have no sin)
3. What is a hypocrite? (Answer: Someone who says one thing but does another)
4. What should we do before we judge someone else? (Answer: look at our own faults and ask for God's help)

Prayer: Ask God to help us not to judge others this week. It will really take some practice to show love and kindness instead of judgment. Ask for help from God.

Application: Think about your friends at school. What if they were all putting down someone in your class? They might say something like, "He is dumb" or "nobody likes her." Remembering what Jesus said about judging others, you could tell your friends that we all have things to work on. Maybe instead of judging, they could be nice to them and help them.

Jesus was known for "hanging out" with people that nobody else would be around. Think of examples (Zaccheus, the woman at the well, Mary Magdalene, etc.). Because Jesus showed them love instead of condemning them, they experienced God's forgiveness and their lives were changed! We can do the same.

Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." 8:11

Lesson 9 [Chapter 9]"The man born blind"

Remember:

Last lesson in chapter 8, we saw a woman caught in adultery, Jesus foils a trap set by the Pharisees by challenging them to examine their own sins, demonstrating that grace triumphs over condemnation. Following this, Jesus declares Himself the "light of the world," offering guidance to those in darkness.

Lesson Goal:

Let us move from spiritual blindness to seeing and believing in Jesus as the Son of God, enabling us to trust Him during tough times.

Lesson opener:




{Hold up the play dough and one of the molds. Have a conversation while you make the mold impression. Ask:

- What happens if I squish the play dough into the mold? [It becomes the shape of the mold.]
- Can I make more than one shape? [Yes, out of more play dough.]
- Can I put the molded play dough back into the mold? Will it fit? [Yes.]
- Will this molded play dough match this second mold? [No.]
- What will happen if I try to put this molded play dough into a mold it doesn't fit into? [Play dough will squirt out of the sides, the other molded shape will be ruined.]

Similarly, the Pharisees wanted Jesus, and the expected Messiah, to fit into their little mold [how they wanted the messiah to look like]. They wanted Him to do exactly what they thought He should do.

Over and over Jesus tried to explain to the Pharisees, and everyone, Who He was and Who sent Him. But that didn't fit the mold of the people and the Pharisees. Lines were crossed and life became squishy and messed up. So, when Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath, it caused a real stink.

Lesson Body:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5bVMGj3hFI&t=213s

This is the only chapter in all the Old and New Testament books where there is any mention of opening the eyes of a person born blind. [There are 6 blind people healed by Jesus, he is the only one born without eyes]

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight 9:1-12



The place was probably some spot near the Temple, perhaps one of its gates where beggars sit.

We are going to see Jesus give sight to a man who was blind from birth. Jesus proves to the world that He truly is the Messiah, fulfilling the prophecies that the Messiah will give sight to the blind.

Jesus would be the One to heal us of our spiritual blindness, when the hearts are filled with the darkness of sin. As a public demonstration of His claim, He gave sight to a man born blind. *Jesus is the light of the world*.

What a tragedy it would be to be born blind, never to have seen anything in your life. Just think; this man had never seen people or colors or trees or flowers, only darkness. What a sad condition to be in.

In that day and age, he could be nothing more than a beggar, yes, this was a tragedy.

But an even greater tragedy is the blindness over the minds and hearts of unbelievers who are deceived by Satan to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of Jesus. This is called spiritual blindness. Jesus is the light of the world; He brings light to the hearts of those in darkness (Acts 26:18).

It was a common belief in Jewish culture that tragedy and suffering were a direct result of some great sin, and unfortunately, the religious leaders and their followers believed this man was blind because of sin even the disciples were confused and asked Jesus "*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

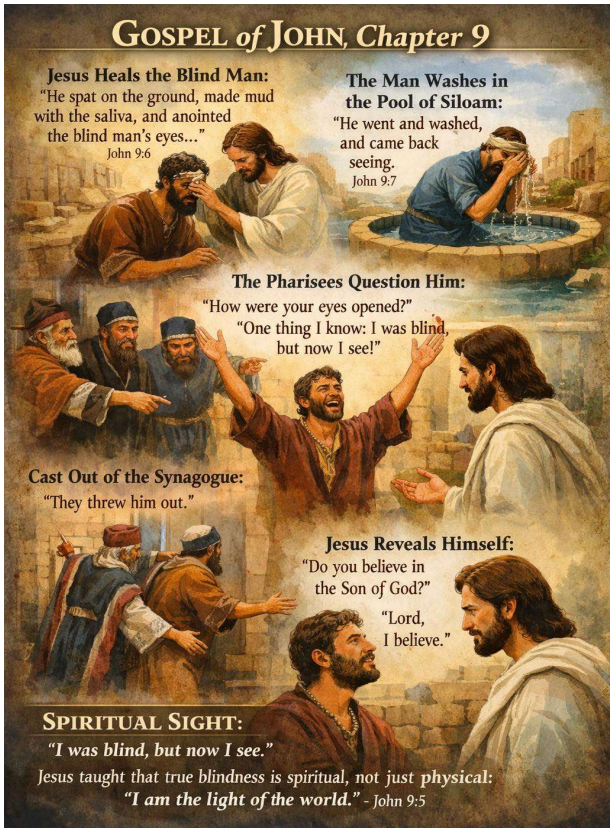
The disciples' question probably originated from the Paralytic man's miracle when Jesus told him to sin no more. How could this apply on him if he was born blind, he could not have sinned before birth? Was it his parents? But God doesn't punish kids for their parents' sins.

When Jesus looked at him, He saw his need and earnestly met it. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Since He is the light of the world, He gives us salvation to meet our greatest need.

9:4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

The Lord performs the same works as the Father.

The period of His service is an opportunity to work openly even if that is done on the Sabbath.



This is an invitation for us to work and to seize every hour in our lives; lest our work remains unfinished when the day of our lives comes to an end. The Lord has granted us the day so that we may labor.

Why did Jesus use clay?

A confirmation that He is the Creator and Savior.

WAS IT NECESSARY TO GO THROUGH THESE STEPS TO BE HEALED? He could have just said, "See" to the man? It is well known that mud would damage a healthy eye.

1. None of the steps would cause healing on their own. The power was in Him, and He could heal anyway He chose.
2. We must obey Jesus' command and wash in water. Baptism regains sight, it is needed to enjoy the Light of the Holy Spirit through the new birth.
3. He sets an example of not postponing good work. [Sabbath]

The instructions Jesus gave to this man could not have been simpler; "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." The blind man simply went, washed, and came back seeing. Jesus helped strengthen this man's faith, for his simple obedience is all Jesus required. All this man had to do was trust in Jesus and obey.

Could you imagine the excitement this man experienced as he made his way through the streets where he once walked in darkness? But not everyone shared in his celebration of this miraculous healing. Some of the people had a hard time believing that this was the same blind man, but many did believe.

The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man 9:13-34

The neighbors were astonished as he had been born and had grown among them. There were conflicting views, according to human knowledge, healing appeared to be impossible in such a case.
Was he the same man who had been blind and begging?

When God does something exciting in our life, there are some people who will not share our excitement. Some of the religious leaders hated Jesus and everyone who believed in Him. Because of their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah, they would persecute this man.

We have to be prepared for those who would reject us as Christians. Jesus said that we are blessed when we are persecuted and spoken evil of for His namesake (Matthew 5:10-12).

The man confirmed the story to 1) the neighbors then to 2) the Pharisees.

This man refused to be intimidated by these religious leaders and made a stand for Jesus and the miracle He worked in his life.

Maybe he wasn't blind, let us ask his parents!





You can be sure that his parents wanted to share in their son's miracle, but they were afraid of the religious leaders and their power. Their son stood alone for what Jesus did in his life. Unfortunately, his parents were afraid of losing their friends and position in their synagogue and left their son to face the angry religious leaders alone.

By now the man who had been blind had heard the same questions over and over. He knew that his life had been miraculously changed and was not afraid to tell the truth. He simply told them what happened, "I was blind, and now I see." We do not need to know all the answers in order to share Jesus with others, but we do need to be a good witness by telling others what Jesus has done for us and the change He has made in our life.

The religious leaders were very sure of themselves, and they considered Jesus a sinner especially for healing him on a Sabbath. The man was slandered and cast out from the Temple. They concluded that he was born in sin and could not possibly teach them anything, so they cast him out of the meeting.

Though the hearts of the religious leaders were filled with darkness, the light of Jesus shown in this man's heart, for Jesus is the light of the world.

<u>True Vision and True Blindness 9:35-41</u>

Look who finds this man. Jesus again seeks him out to help him understand who He is and calls him to a commitment of faith in the One who healed him.

Jesus cares for our physical needs, but our spiritual need is much greater. The man wanted to believe, but he was ignorant of who Jesus is. After Jesus revealed that He is the "Son of Man," which was a title of the Messiah, the man responded in faith and worshipped Him.

He not only gained physical sight, but spiritual sight as he recognized Jesus as a caring person, then Prophet, then Lord. Gradual growth in faith.

When we turn to Jesus, we begin to see Him differently. The longer we walk with Him the better we will understand who He is. Peter tells us to "grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world." Jesus wants us to know that He will pronounce decisions on the ungodly like a judge (John 5:22, 27).

The blind that come to sight are those who, admitting their sinfulness, trust Jesus for their salvation. Unfortunately, the religious leaders claimed to see, thinking that God favored them because of who they were. They failed to see their need for Jesus and willfully sinned, bringing judgment upon themselves.

Everyone needs Jesus because we live in spiritual darkness without Him. Do you need a new life like the blind man did? Like him, we can receive a new life by walking in the light of His mercy and love. Jesus can remove your spiritual darkness, for truly Jesus is the light of the world.

Lesson Takeaway:

It is so great to know that Jesus will find us when we have been cast away. That man had been telling the truth, but because what happened did not fit into the mold of the Pharisees, they cast him away.

People cannot argue away your personal relationship and experiences with Jesus. They cannot refute it. They can cast you away, ignore you, mock you, and hurt you, but they cannot change the truth that Jesus does amazing things that are unexplained and unexpected in your life.

But sometimes when we have a need, and we go to Jesus with it, we expect Him to answer our prayer exactly how WE want it to be answered. {Hold up the mold.}

We try to fit Jesus into our mold. Some people call this “putting God into a box.” But scripture tells us that God wants to do immeasurably more than anything we can imagine. It’s like He wants to do “far more than” we can imagine. And waiting and watching God do “far more than” can be amazing!!

Memory Verse: 9:25 He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” Jr Elementary verse 9:25: “I was blind, now I see.”

Word Search for Jesus Healed a Blind Man

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L	I	S	I	T	N	A	B	L	I	N	D
M	U	D	A	L	A	T	U	W	R	I	T
L	O	R	E	C	T	E	M	P	A	T	O
N	S	I	N	N	E	R	E	H	U	S	S
N	O	N	S	E	Q	U	I	A	L	A	H
P	R	E	B	E	G	G	A	R	R	U	R
L	O	O	R	E	M	O	L	I	R	S	R
S	U	O	N	D	R	E	T	S	T	I	E
I	T	N	L	H	E	N	I	E	M	G	D
T	I	E	Y	E	S	D	E	E	M	H	E
L	S	I	L	O	A	M	N	S	C	T	E
T	U	E	D	O	L	O	R	E	I	Q	U

BEGGAR
BLIND
EYES
MUD
PHARISEES
POOL
SIGHT
SILOAM
SINNER
WASH

Lesson 10 [Chapter 10]"The Good Shepherd"

Remember:

In John Chapter 9, Jesus heals a man born blind by making mud with spit, putting it on his eyes, and telling him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. Jesus explains the man was blind not because of sin, but so God's power could be shown. The man gains sight, believes in Jesus, and is questioned by skeptical religious leaders.

Lesson Goal:

Recognize the Shepherd's Voice and follow Him!

Lesson opener:

Good Shepherd Relay

The goal of this relay race is to be the first team to have each "shepherd" (child) get their team's balloon sheep to the "green pastures" at the other side of the room and back again. Divide children into equal teams.

Give each team a blown-up white balloon with a sheep face drawn on it in permanent marker, and a cane or stick of some sort. A cheap, plastic walking stick would be best, or a Christmas candy cane outdoor decoration. If you want to get really fancy, you can use large paper or newsprint to make a green pasture, full of flowers and still waters to place at the opposite side of the room from your students. This is not a necessary step, though.

Play one round, watching carefully to see how the shepherds treat their sheep. Are they in such a hurry that they hit the sheep hard, expecting the balloon to move faster, or are they gentle with their little balloon lamb? After everyone has had one turn, discuss the differences in how they treated the sheep. Have the kids comment on which method worked best. It is easier to get to and from the other side of the room, the green pastures, when they gently guide the sheep. When they whack or push the sheep too hard, it has a tendency to go off in the wrong direction. Remark that this is how Jesus guides us: with a gentle nudge.

Lesson Body:

This chapter is considered as the extension of the Lord's discourse with the Pharisees . The Pharisees had displayed at the end of the previous chapter [9] great hostility towards the Lord and opposed Him as they considered themselves the teachers and shepherds of

God's church. Jesus confirmed that they were blind to the truth as they were not convinced by the miracle of the born blind, they did not want to follow God.

In this chapter, Jesus compares Himself to a Good Shepherd and the Jewish leaders to thieves or wolves who came to steal His sheep.

Jesus the True Shepherd 10:1-6

Jesus is using a metaphor here. He explains that robbers or thieves might try to steal sheep from a flock. The roles of shepherds were to take care of sheep and make sure wild animals or thieves did not snatch them away. Sheep tend to follow wherever their guard leads them, trusting the shepherd and letting him lead. Jesus says that sheep know the shepherd's voice, as we should know His voice.

Ask: Have your parents ever talked to you about staying close to them in a crowd? What should you do if a stranger tries to talk to you and your parents aren't close? A shepherd was a guardian for the lambs. They would listen carefully for his voice.

Jesus wanted people to know how much He cared for them, and to understand why He had come. He came to care for us and ultimately to die for us. Sometimes, the shepherd would lie down in front of the gate to protect the flock from danger or escape. Jesus said that He did the same thing. In fact, He said that He would lay down His very life. A great shepherd is willing to go up against enemies in order to keep the sheep safe. Jesus conquered death to give us life.



The word 'door' refers to the Holy Books. These are the doors that bring us to God. Through the holy Word we get to know the shepherd and recognize those who are not. Also, Jesus is the door and doorkeeper.

The sheep, who are unreasoning creatures, know their owner and adhere to him. Because they do not know the voice of strangers, they flee from them. Jesus called them by name [Personal relationship], He doesn't need to compel them to follow Him, He simply calls them and they obey. We must know how to differentiate His voice from the voices of thieves.

Studying Scripture through the teaching authority of the Church and its father and faithfully receiving the Sacraments are the best ways to become familiar with His voice.

Jesus the Good Shepherd 10:7-21

Jesus wanted to emphasize that He was the "real thing." If danger came, a servant or other guardian would be more likely to run away than stay and fight off a foe for the flock. The true shepherd would genuinely care for the lambs. Jesus is that true shepherd. This is a comforting image for us, because we know that Jesus cares for us deeply and knows us.

Ask: Do you have any pets? You probably love and care for your pets, and they know that you do…Jesus loves us so much more than that! And He wants to care for us.

There is a lot to learn from this short passage. Before we go on, let's get a good idea on what sheep are like. When Jesus compares us to sheep, He is not paying us any compliments. Have any of you ever seen sheep at a petting zoo or farm? (Allow a few students to briefly share.)

1. Sheep aren't the cleanest of animals, aren't they? They are **smelly and dirty**. Every time they lay down, they get grass, burs and dirt caught up in their wool, even bugs too. They can't help it. If someone doesn't get rid of these bugs, sheep can go blind. So, without the shepherd's help, sheep will stay dirty.
   Let's think about us now. Can we clean ourselves of our spiritual dirtiness? Is there anything we can do, all by ourselves, to wash away our sins? Of course not. We must go to Jesus, our good shepherd, to be cleansed of our sins.
2. Not only are sheep dirty, but they are also **pretty dumb** too. I know it seems silly, and "dumb" is not a word I ever want any of you to use when talking about yourself or anyone else. But with sheep, it really is true. Sheep don't think for themselves. They just follow other sheep who seem to be in charge. This means that sheep will even follow other sheep right over the edge of a cliff without another thought. Can you think of ways we follow others without thinking? (Allow responses.)
   Sometimes we are so eager to fit in, to be cool or liked that we do or say things that other people do or say without even thinking about it. It is very important for us to think through our actions and words and even our beliefs. I don't want any of you to follow others just because what they say seems right! Whenever you make a decision about something to say, do, or believe, be sure to pray, read your Bible and ask for the church's guidance to decide whether what you are doing or saying or believing lines up with what the Bible says or not.

3. Another interesting fact about sheep is that they are **directionally challenged**. The poor things couldn't find their way out of a wet paper bag. If they wander off from the flock and shepherd, it's hard, if not impossible, for them to get back on their own. This is what our good shepherd, Jesus, does with us when we start to wander away from Him. He comes after us and carries us back to the fold, and then He celebrates that we are back in right relationship with Him.
   Now imagine if the shepherd didn't come after the little lost sheep. The sheep would probably be okay, right? I mean, if a cat or dog get lost, they can fend for themselves pretty well for a while, can't they? a dog, if it feels it's being attack, will bare its teeth, growl and bite an attacker. So, a sheep, if it's going to be attacked by a wolf, will fluff itself up to look big and mean, and then it will start growling, show off its sharp, pointy teeth, and charge the attacker, right?
   No way! Sheep don't have sharp, pointy teeth or claws. They can't even run away; they aren't fast enough on those scrawny little legs. If a shepherd doesn't come after a lost sheep, that sheep is destined to become wolf chow.
   How are we like sheep in this way? When we wander from the flock, when we stop going to church and spending time with other Christians, we have a harder time living like Jesus wants us to. We can't protect ourselves from the dangers and temptations of the world. If we want to be like Jesus, which is what life is all about, then we need to spend time with Jesus and others who are learning to live like Him.
4. The last fact I want to share about sheep is pretty funny, and also a good picture of us. If a sheep falls down and **ends up on its back**, it can't get up again on its own. It will just lay there, flailing its little legs, until either someone helps them up, or they die. When we get into a place in life where we feel like we are flat on our backs, either through our own sins or through tough times, we can't save ourselves. We are totally dependent on Jesus Christ to save us, to lead us, and to keep us clean.

Now we see how much we are like sheep, let's look at shepherds and hired hands. The crowd Jesus was speaking to would have understood all about bad shepherds and what they meant spiritually. If Jesus is the good shepherd, who do you think that bad shepherds were? At that time, they were the Pharisees.

Bad shepherds are the people who don't really care for the sheep, but for what they can get from the sheep. They want the sheep's wool and their meat and their milk, but they don't want to put in the work required to help the sheep grow.

Can anyone tell me what Jesus says the good shepherd does? Look back at your Bibles, at John 10:11-16, to remind you. (Allow the students to respond after looking up the reference for themselves.)

Twice in this passage, Jesus says that the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He says it twice because it is so, so important for us to remember. In fact, this may be the most important thing we ever learn.

Jesus, our good shepherd, sacrifices His life for ours. Based on everything we have learned about sheep, and how much we are like sheep, why do you think we need Jesus to lay down His life for us? (Allow responses.)

Sheep are dirty, dumb, directionless and defenseless. We too, are full of sin, we make wrong choices instead of trusting and following Jesus, we easily get lost, and there is nothing we can do to protect or save ourselves. Without our good shepherd, we will die.

The wolves, or temptations and sin, come in and threaten to kill us, but then Jesus our good shepherd steps in and dies in our place. Jesus knows that if He doesn't protect us, we will die because of our sins.

He came to lead us, teach us, keep us safe and give us everything we need to live a good and healthy life. Jesus is alive today, and He lives in us when we choose to listen to and follow Him. We need to listen to Jesus voice by reading the Bible, coming to church, and praying. We are His well-loved and well cared for sheep when we follow Him.

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep 10: 22-30

If You are the Christ, tell us plainly. why do you deceive the simple- hearted in order to win them as your disciples?

They knew that the Messiah would be a king. But they believed, according to their minds, that He would be an earthly king. Therefore, they asked Him to give them a clear answer to that effect. This would enable them to report Him as someone who is a rebel and traitor to the Roman authorities.

The Lord indicated that He had informed them previously by words as well as by deeds. He had proclaimed previously that He is the Son of God and the Son of Man who possesses the power of life within Himself; and that He has the Authority to judge.

The Lord puts the blame on them because they deprived themselves from belonging to His flock due to their lack of faith. He offers here the gift of eternal life to those who believe in Him.

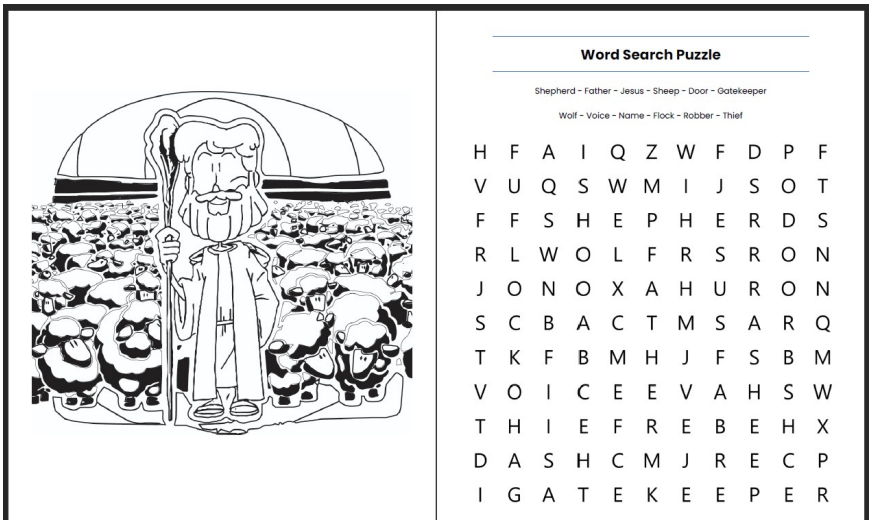
Closing:

Today we are going to close in prayer in a slightly different way. I am going to read Psalm 23, which is a song that praises God for being our good shepherd and tells of the great things He does for us. Bow your heads and praise God as you listen.

The LORD *is* my shepherd;
I shall not want.
2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
3 He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Memory Verse: 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Activities:



Word Search Puzzle

Shepherd - Father - Jesus - Sheep - Door - Gatekeeper

Wolf - Voice - Name - Flock - Robber - Thief

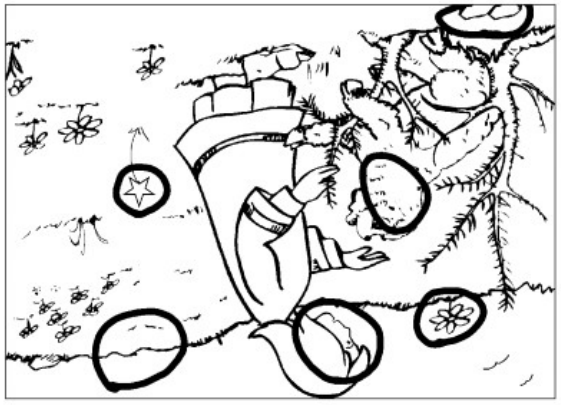
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J	O	N	O	X	A	H	U	R	O	N
S	C	B	A	C	T	M	S	A	R	Q
T	K	F	B	M	H	J	F	S	B	M
V	O	I	C	E	E	V	A	H	S	W
T	H	I	E	F	R	E	B	E	H	X
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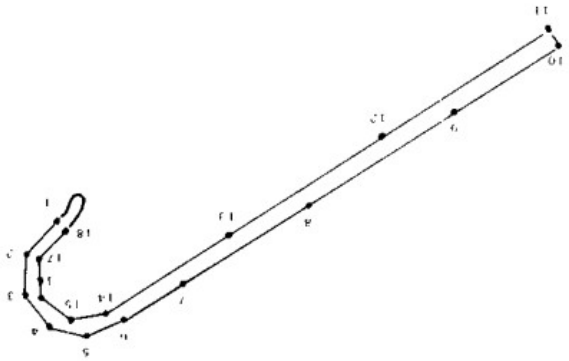
Finish The Picture. What do shepherds use sometimes to keep their sheep from running off and getting lost? To find out, finish the picture below by connecting all the numbers, starting with number 1.



Picture Differences. A good shepherd takes good care of his sheep. Below are two pictures of a good shepherd, but there are 6 differences in the pictures. As soon as you find something different, circle it. See if you can find all 6.







ANSWERS

Lesson 11 [Chapter 11]"Lazarus, Come Forth!"

Remember:

Last lesson, Jesus said He was the "Good Shepherd" and the "door" to the sheepfold, showing His sacrificial love, protection, and provision of abundant, eternal life for His followers.

Lesson Goal:

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, He has absolute authority over death, and He grants eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Lesson opener:

The "Who's in Control" Lottery:

Make out as many slips of paper with the number "8" on them as the number of children in your class. Put them in a bowl and have each child draw one out. Instruct them to be careful not to let anyone else see their number.

Tell your class that you are going to pick a number and whoever has the corresponding slip will win a prize. Tell the class that if their number is called, they must jump up and shout, "I win! I win!" Pick the number "8."

Explain to your class that the reason everybody won was because you had complete control of the game. You wrote out the numbers, you chose the prize and you picked the winning number. Everyone was a winner because you were in control of the situation.

In today's lesson we will learn that Jesus is in control of every situation and He had great compassion too. Pass out to each member of your class a small prize.

Or GRAVE CLOTHES RACE:

Toilet paper, trash bag (for cleanup)

Provide each Team with 2-4 rolls of toilet paper and instruct them to designate who will be "Lazarus" for their Team. When you say "Go," the children in the Team will wrap Lazarus from neck to feet, going around and around their body with the toilet paper roll.

When Lazarus is covered with "grave clothes," instruct all the students to stand around Lazarus in a circle. One by one, let each student recite today's Memory verse. When a student says it correctly, that student may unwrap part of Lazarus. Once everyone has said

the Memory verse correctly, tell Lazarus that he or she may break free from the grave clothes.

Lesson Body:



Lazarus was very sick.

His sisters, Mary and Martha, took good care of him, but he was not getting any better.

They were very worried.

They sent a message to tell Jesus his friend was sick.

1

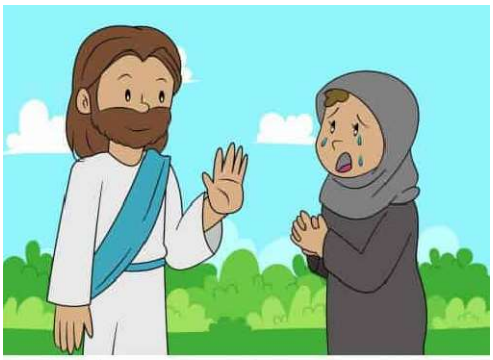


Jesus was away preaching.

When the message arrived, he told his disciples not to worry.

He stayed there for two more days before going to Bethany to see Lazarus.

2



Martha ran out to see Jesus.

She told Him that it was too late. Lazarus had died.

Jesus told her, "Don't worry, your brother will rise again."

Martha did not understand.

3



Jesus ordered the stone to be removed from the tomb.

Jesus prayed and then called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus walked out of the cave alive.

Everyone was amazed, and many believed in Jesus.

4

The raising of Lazarus occurred on the Saturday preceding the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. Thus, this event took place a short while just before the last week of the life of Jesus on earth. The miracle is not recorded in the other three Gospels.

Informing the Lord that Lazarus is Sick 11:1-16

Now a certain man named Lazarus, who was a friend of Jesus and the brother of Mary and Martha, was sick. Jesus often stayed at their home when visiting the town of Bethany. The sisters sent a message to Jesus, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard the news, He purposefully didn't hurry in making His way to Bethany.

Jesus knew Lazarus was dead. Jesus knows all things. Jesus was not happy about it, but He was glad for His followers to see what was about to happen; that the upcoming event would help affirm that Jesus is God's son. After a few days, Jesus made His way to Bethany.

At first glance these verses seem to show Jesus as being out of touch with the reality of Lazarus' situation. Verse 5 tells us again that Jesus loved Lazarus, but when He heard he was sick, He stayed in the place where He was for two more days, instead of going to His sick friend! Don't you think He should have rushed over there? Well, remember that Jesus is in control of every situation.

Jesus had a good reason for not going right away. He would raise Lazarus from the dead, but He would do it in God's perfect timing. By waiting, an opportunity for Jesus to demonstrate His power over death was made possible, and Jesus was able to give another lesson of faith to His disciples. We may not always understand God's timing, but rest assured, He is in control of every situation!

The disciples were like you and me. They doubted a lot at first. They often forgot who Jesus really was and what He desired to do in their lives. Jesus was going to use the death of Lazarus to strengthen His disciples' faith and remind them that He is the Master of every situation. The disciples knew that the Jews were angry with Jesus, and they were seeking to kill Him. Going to Bethany would be taking them closer to these angry Jews. But Jesus knew all of that and was not afraid. Jesus is in control of every situation.

Jesus said Lazarus was just sleeping. The word sleep is often used in scripture to mean the death of a believer. The disciples got confused and thought if Lazarus had been sick and was now resting that he was getting better and they did not have to go. Jesus had to tell them plainly "Lazarus is dead." He lets His disciples know that He will use the death of Lazarus as an opportunity to strengthen their faith and show them that He is in control of every situation.

The Lord travels towards the home of Lazarus family 11:17- 33

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, He found that Lazarus had already been buried in a tomb for four days. Many people had arrived to comfort Mary and Martha. They were grieving over their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary stayed at home.

As students follow along in their Bibles, ask two volunteers to read the conversation between Martha and Jesus recorded in John 11:21-27. Ask one volunteer to read Martha's words and the other volunteer to read Jesus' words.

If Jesus had been with Lazarus during the final moments of Lazarus' life, He might have healed him rather than let him die. Jesus knew that He Himself would raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus wanted Mary and Martha to grow their faith in Jesus as the only one who can restore life here on this earth and for eternity. They had not yet realized that Jesus is present everywhere. They believed that His presence could have prevented death from touching their brother. Martha believed that if the Lord prayed for anything, He would get it. She dared not ask Him to resurrect her brother.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." [25] By these words, the Lord revealed His authority. He revealed that He did not need anyone to help Him since He Himself is the life.

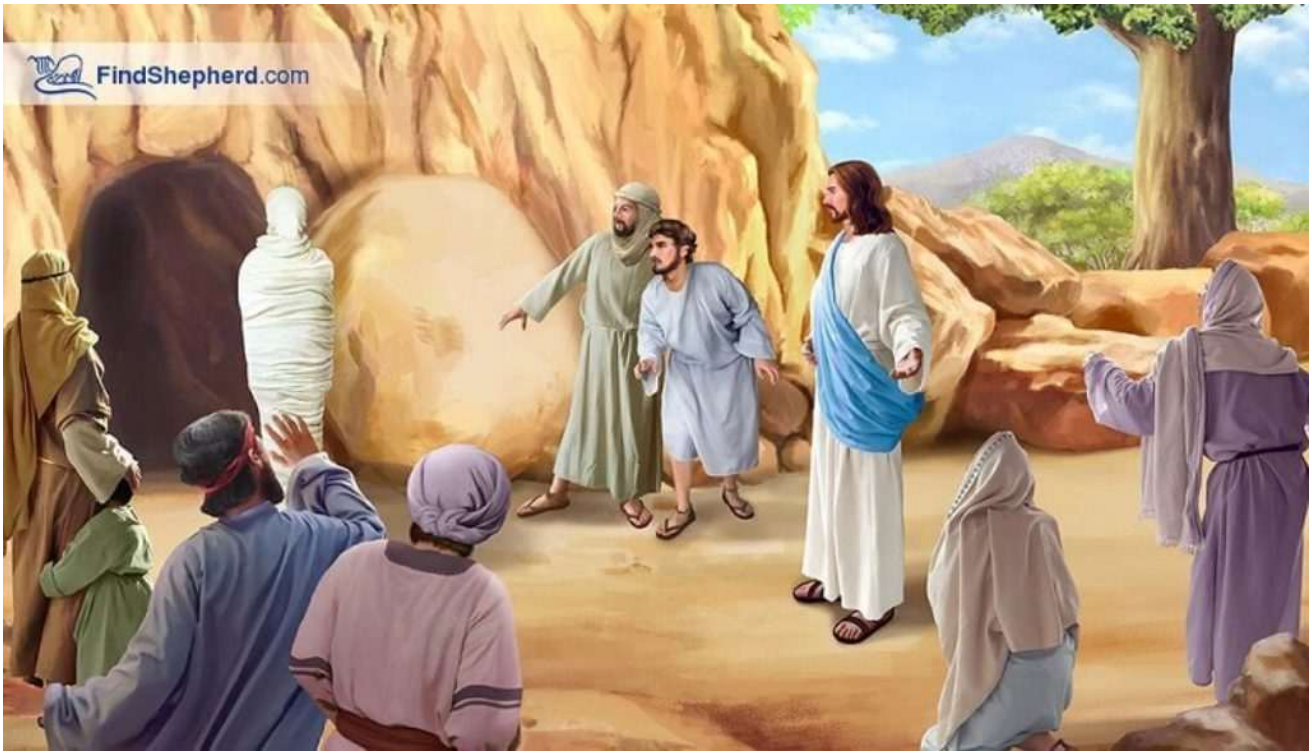
When Mary heard Jesus had arrived, she went quickly to Him and fell down at His feet, crying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw how sad Mary was and all the people who were crying with her, He was moved with compassion. Jesus asked, "Where have you buried Lazarus' body?" They replied, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. The people could see how much Jesus loved Lazarus.

Jesus is a Savior who cares about every detail of your life. In these verses, we read that Jesus was overcome with emotion and He wept, not just cried, but He wept. Jesus empathized with the grief and sadness of His friends. You can know Jesus has compassion and He cares for you enough to weep with you in your sorrow.

Raising Lazarus from the dead 11: 34- 44

We see Martha voice her unbelief here. She does not simply watch in belief, knowing that Jesus is in control of every situation. She tells Jesus that Lazarus has been dead and buried for four days. His body would be starting to decay, and it would stink very badly if they opened the tomb. Jesus reminds her to believe and watch what He does. He reminds us of that, too. We are reminded by Jesus to believe His Word no matter how discouraging or hopeless the circumstances might appear.

Jesus reminds us, as He did Martha, that we must live by faith and not by sight. No matter how it may look (or smell!), Jesus is in control of every situation. We just need to believe Him and watch what He does. Verse 43 shows us what a powerful God we have. If He can conquer death, then He is God indeed.



Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42, And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Lazarus, still wrapped up in burial cloths, walked out of the tomb. Jesus brought Lazarus back to life! Jesus commanded them to take off Lazarus' burial clothes and let him go. Lazarus had been dead four days – FOUR WHOLE DAYS! However, Jesus, in full power and control, simply called him by name, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Just imagine that for a minute – a man who was dead, already laid in a tomb, was called back to life by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This amazing story shows Jesus' power and might AND His care and compassion.

Effects of raising Lazarus from the dead 11:45- 57

Many of the family's Jewish friends believed in Him. Most of them came from Jerusalem, which is the nearest city to the village of Bethany.

God is a God of 'Big Picture', and the Biggest Picture is as many as possible coming to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

The chief priests and Pharisees recognized that they could not oppose or deny the truth for the miracle just shouted it out. However, they wished to kill the One who had resurrected the dead.

Caiaphas, the high priest said that Jesus should die for the nation to be saved.

God uses even the evil of the high priest to give testimony for the truth. Moreover, his words predict the redeeming work of Christ for the Jews as well as for God's children all over the world: both Jews and Gentiles.

Lesson Takeaway:

Because Jesus has shown such compassion to you, there are many ways you can show compassion to others. Open your eyes and watch the people around you. You'll see people needing compassion on the playground, in your classroom, in the cafeteria, on the bus and in your home. If you ask God to show you those around you that need compassion, He will help you see those people. The greatest way we can show compassion is to tell others about how God showed us compassion by sending His Son!

The same power that raised Lazarus from the dead and raised Jesus from the dead is mighty enough to save us from sins. His compassion gives all people a chance to accept His free gift of eternal life. It's as simple as A-B-C. All you have to do is ASK, BELIEVE and CHOOSE TO FOLLOW.

Memory Verse: 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what book of the Bible was today's story found? (John)
2. Recite today's Memory Link. (John 11:25)
3. What did Jesus do when He found out Lazarus was sick? (He stayed where He was a few more days)
4. How did Jesus show compassion after Lazarus died? (He cared for the sisters; He wept)
5. How did Jesus bring Lazarus back to life? (He spoke)
6. What was Lazarus wearing when He came back to life? (grave clothes)
7. How does Jesus show compassion to us? (by dying on the cross for our sin)
8. Name one way you can show compassion to others.

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS ACTIVITY PLACEMAT

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

VERSE TO REMEMBER:

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die."

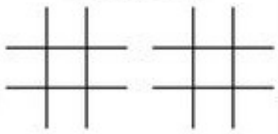
— John 11:25-26

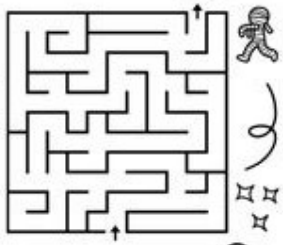


COUNT ALL THE LAZARUS!



"TIC-TAC-TOE!"

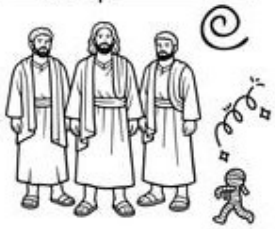




"DID YOU KNOW?"

The shortest verse in the Bible is ***"Jesus wept."*** — *John 11:35.* It is found in the story of Lazarus, showing that Jesus felt deep love and compassion even though He knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead.





"WORD SEARCH!"

Can You Find the Hidden Words?

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

- BETHANY
- DELAY
- LAZARUS
- FAITH
- MIRACLE
- JESUS
- FRIEND
- RAISED

"TRUE OR FALSE!"

Put a ✓ if True or ✗ if False

_____ **1.** Lazarus was alive when Jesus arrived.

_____ **2.** Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb.

_____ **3.** Jesus prayed to the Father before calling Lazarus.

_____ **4.** Lazarus had been dead for four days.

_____ **5.** Lazarus, along with his sisters Martha and Mary, was a friend of Jesus.

_____ **6.** Jesus went to Judea even though it was dangerous.

"HELP JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES TRAVEL TO JUDEA!"

Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus was sick, so He told His disciples to go back to Judea, even though it was dangerous. When they arrived, Lazarus had already been dead for four days, and his sisters were very sad. Jesus wept and prayed, then called Lazarus out of the tomb. Lazarus came back to life, showing Jesus' power over death.

Name _____

Memory Verse Code

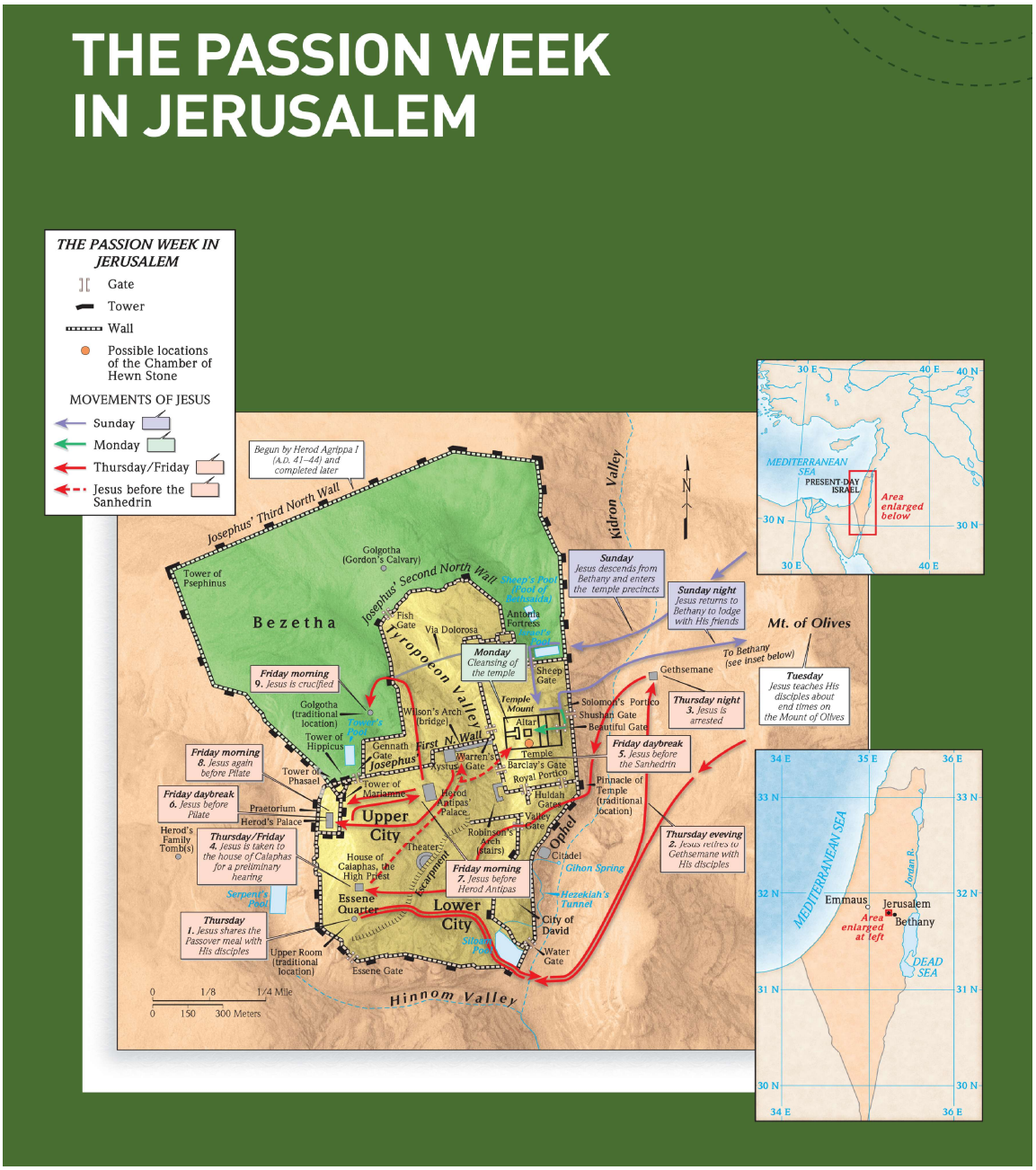
Use the code below to fill in the blanks and complete the verse.

Jesus  to he, " am the   ection and the life. Whoe bel  n me, though he de, yet hall he l e."

John 11:25

Key:  =I  =R  =S  =V

Unit II: Jesus' Private Ministry (John chapters 12-21)



The previous 11 chapters covered Jesus' public ministry which lasted about 3 years, the second half of this Gospel from chapter 12, covers His last week "Passion week"

Lesson 12 [Chapter 12]"The Triumphal Entry"

Remember:

Last lesson, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, demonstrating His power over death and declaring Himself "The Resurrection and The Life".

Lesson Goal:

Jesus is our king, following Him requires humble devotion, obedience, and a willingness to honor Him above everything else in the world.

Lesson opener:

Imaginary dialogue: Let some kids act the scene out to the class.

- Jesus arrives at Lazarus' house soon after He has raised him.
- "Wow!" said Jesus when He came into the house, "It's so nice of you to have us all over for dinner!"
- "Well, it's the least I can do," said Martha. "I mean, you saved my brother's life! I'm just so grateful to you."
- "Martha," said Lazarus, "He didn't just save my life. He brought me back after I'd been dead for four days!"
- "I know!" said Martha. "It's still so amazing I can hardly think of words to say. So, I'm cooking for you. That's my way of saying 'thank you.' And of saying 'I love you.'"
- Jesus and His friends were on the floor around a low table, leaning on cushions, enjoying the first part of the feast. Mary came over to Jesus and poured perfume on His feet.
- But just as soon as you could smell the perfume, you could hear an angry voice. It was Judas.
- "What a waste!" he said. "That perfume could have been sold for a lot of money! Why didn't you do that so we could give it to the poor?"
- "Hey, it's my perfume!" said Mary. "I get to use it for whatever I want. And this is my way of saying 'thank you' to Jesus."
- "You are welcome, Mary," said Jesus. "That was a beautiful, generous gift. Thank you. And Martha, thank you for this wonderful meal. And thank you, Lazarus, for

sitting here and talking with me tonight. Those are all wonderful ways of saying 'thank you.'

- "I still think it was a waste," grumbled Judas.
- "Oh Judas," said Jesus sadly. "You can show your thankfulness by caring for the poor someday soon. But Mary's gift points to my death and burial."

Lesson Body:

Now we are starting the events of the Holy Week.

Anointing the Lord's Feet with Spikenard 12: 1-11

It has been said that we spend more time asking God for things we need rather than giving Him the thanks and praise that He deserves. If you think about it, we can never worship God enough. In our lesson today, we will see the difference between one who worships from a humble heart of praise and one who has a heart filled with selfishness and pride. Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart.

JOHN 12:1: Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

It was six days before the Passover, and Jesus would soon triumphantly enter Jerusalem, riding on a humble donkey, and have a great multitude express their praise to Him. His days of ministry were coming to an end. This would be His last Passover celebration because He would be crucified on the cross as our Passover Lamb. He went back from Ephraim to Bethany where Lazarus lived and attended dinner in His honor.

JOHN 12:2: There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

Jesus knew that the religious leaders were out to arrest Him and kill Him, but He still returned to Bethany only two miles away from His enemies. Why? He wanted to spend some quiet time with His friends: Mary, Martha, Lazarus and others. How precious it is to have a friend like Jesus, who desires a relationship with us.

Martha was a perfect example of one who has a desire to work and serve the Lord. The religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus because of the witness he was of the wonderful miracles that Jesus performed. Lazarus was a living testimony of the Lord's power over death.

JOHN 12:3: Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Mary's act of love and worship demonstrated a beautiful heart of humility to Jesus. Not only was it public, but spontaneous, sacrificial, lavish, and personal. Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart. Mary's act of worship pleased Jesus very much.

It would have required a year's wages from a common laborer to purchase that ointment, perhaps a lifetime of savings. Yet, her beautiful act of worship was an example to us of what true worship is. Jesus was the most important one in her life and she was willing to give everything she had to please Him.

How much do we love Jesus? Are we willing to make the same sacrifice that Mary did? This ointment was used to anoint kings, and Mary's expression of worship spared no expense as she anointed her kingly Messiah. Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart.



Mary understood who Jesus was and that He would soon give His life for her because she was content to sit at His feet and hear His every word. She wanted to spend as much time as possible with her Lord.

Judas appeared to be a man of integrity, but his heart was filled with selfishness and pride. He often dipped into the disciples' funds for his own use. Jesus of course knew this, but apparently never did or said anything about it. God might not immediately do anything to stop us, but this does not mean He approves of our actions.

Judas acted as if he was concerned about the poor as he criticized the "waste" of this perfume. His real desire was to pocket some of the money for himself. Mary gave openly and sacrificially; Jesus wants us to worship Him with a humble heart.

Shortly after this incident, Judas would betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver!

Jesus immediately defended Mary's act of love and devotion. It was a foreshadow of His burial. There will always be the opportunity to help the poor, but the opportunity to show love to Jesus while He was on the earth was limited.

Many of the Jews had heard about Lazarus being raised from the dead. It was the talk of the whole city. Therefore, people came not to see the Lord but to see the one who had been raised from the dead.

The Lord's Entry into Jerusalem 12:12 -19

Pin the Tail on the Donkey game:

Draw a tail-less donkey on the dry erase board. Make a tail. Choose children to tape the tails on the donkey. Blindfold each child one by one, turn them around several times and point them in the direction of the donkey.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, the people lined up in the street to form a parade. They took their coats off and put them in front of the donkey Jesus was riding. They also put branches down so Jesus could parade over them. This was a celebration that people would only do for a triumphant king.

The palm tree branches are symbols of victory. Our Coptic church competes in decorating the churches with them on Palm Sunday.

People expressed their feelings by shouting "Hosanna!" or 'Hoshaana' which means 'He has redeemed us.'

In Zechariah 9:9, it was prophesied that Jesus would enter Jerusalem and be worshipped, while riding on a donkey. You see, God had a plan, and He revealed it to men thousands of years before Jesus even came to earth.

The Greeks Honor the Lord Jesus Christ 12:20 - 26

The Seed Analogy (Visual):

Use a seed, a cup of soil, and a picture of a fruitful plant to explain how death leads to new life.

Sir, we wish to see Jesus: These Greeks had heard of Jesus, perhaps of His reputation as a teacher and worker of miracles. What they did know of Jesus made them want to know more about Him, so they came to Philip asking to see Jesus.

Let us learn from them to seek Him. Sadly enough, during our big Coptic feasts, many Christians are so preoccupied with the preparations for the feast that they do not yearn to see the Lord Jesus Christ!!!

Jesus gives a word picture here that has some prediction as to His upcoming death. He uses a plant analogy to describe how a grain of wheat has to "die", in a sense, in order to

come up out of the ground and grow and bring plants and food to many. Jesus knew that He was like that wheat, and that He would have to die and give up His life to help others. Through His death, we have life!

The Heavens Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ 12:27 - 43

Read 27-33:

Everyone who was around heard this voice. They might have been puzzling, wondering what Jesus was talking about. But then they heard a thundering promise from Heaven that God's name would be glorified.

Can you think of other times that God's voice was heard? (Consider the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus). How can we bring glory to God in our lives?

Jesus knew that the people around Him would still not fully understand who He was, but that God's voice had been spoken aloud for their benefit. He knew His purpose, and how powerful it would be for all the world. He came to drive out darkness, death, sin, and the devil, and to do that, He knew He'd have to die.

Ask: What do you think Jesus means? How was Jesus "lifted up" ?

Jesus affirmed who He was and solidified for doubters His status as the Son of God who would be glorified. On the cross, Jesus was literally lifted up for all to see. After His death, He was lifted up in resurrection. All who look to Him, then, are lifted up by God and will live with Him forever.

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

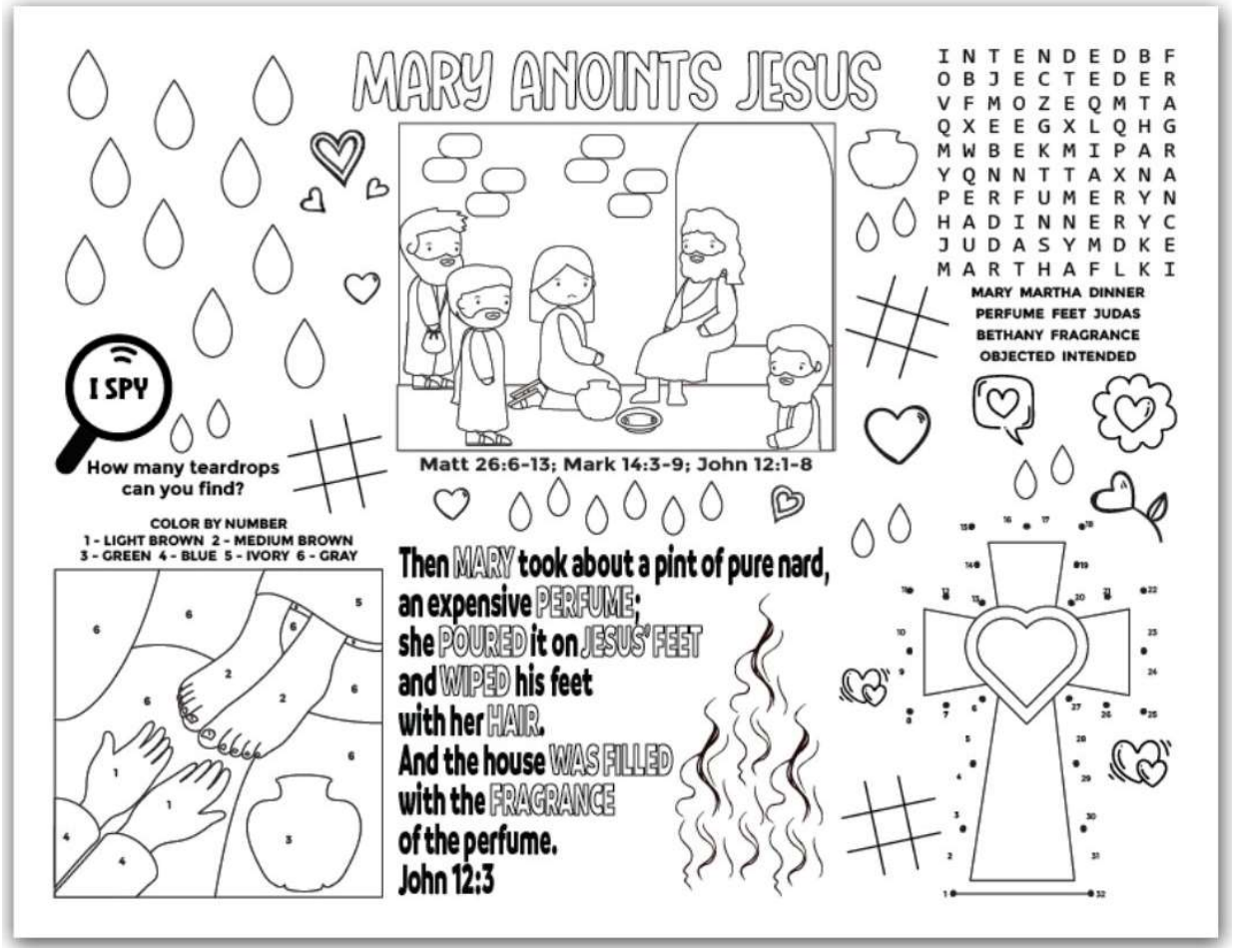
Light, in this context, symbolizes truth and revelation. Those who embrace the light—who believe in Jesus—are freed from judgment. But those who reject Him, who choose to remain in darkness, will face condemnation, not because Jesus came to judge them, but because in rejecting Him, they reject life itself.

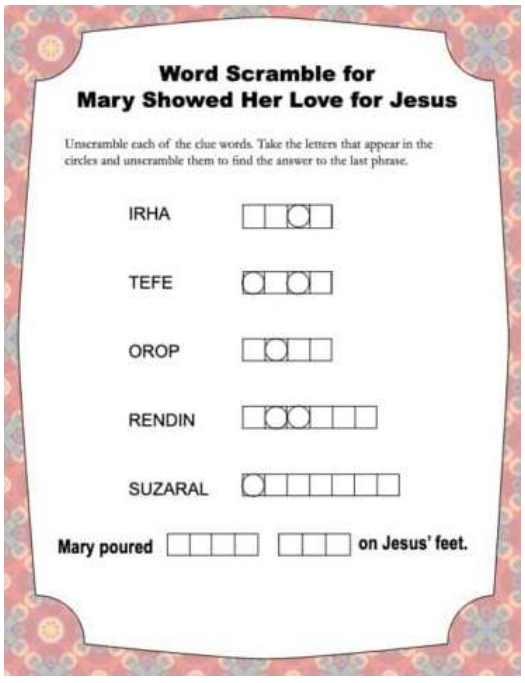
The Lord Witnesses for Himself 12:44 – 50

The Word that He has spoken—the truth He has revealed—will serve as the standard for judgment on the last day. In other words, people are judged by their response to the gospel—whether they receive or reject the light that has been given to them.

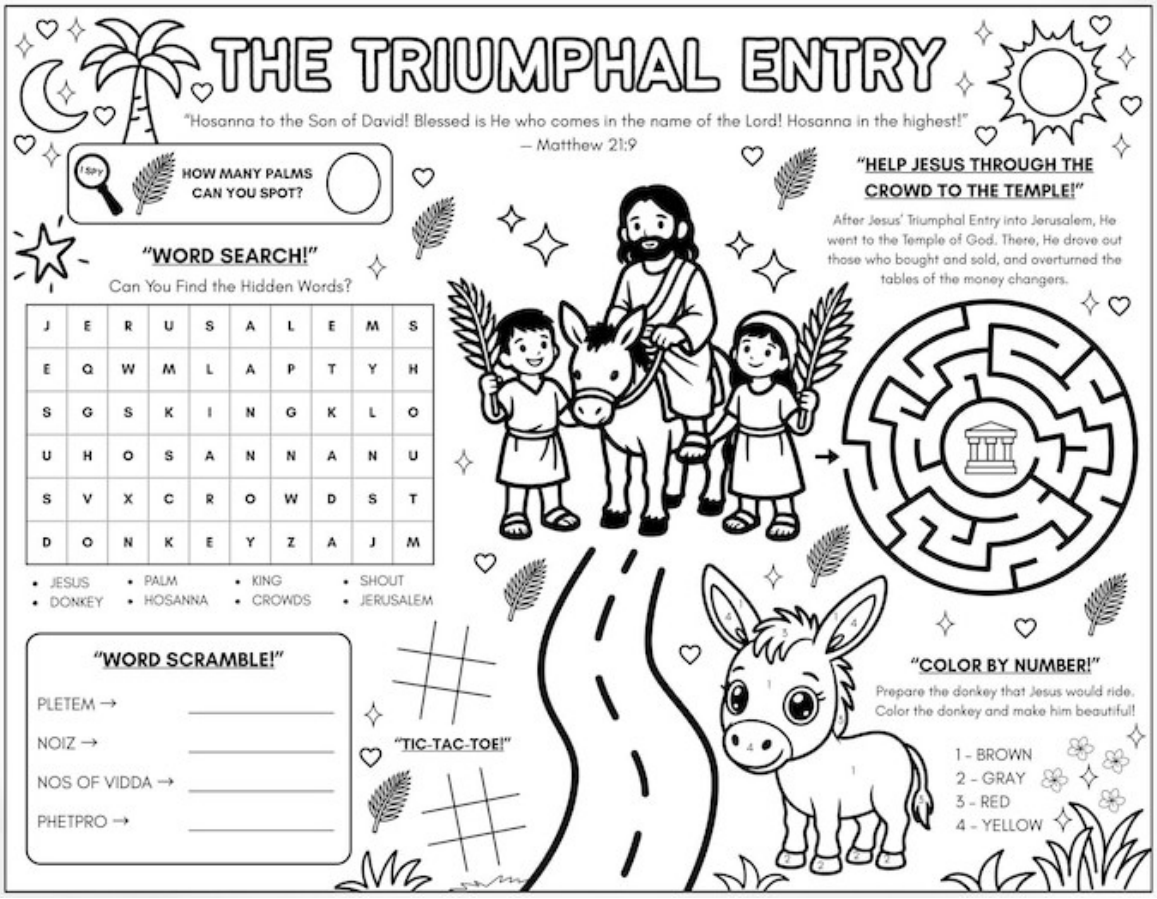
Memory Verse: 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Activities:


MARY ANOINTS JESUS
I SPY
How many teardrops can you find?
Matt 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8
COLOR BY NUMBER
1 - LIGHT BROWN 2 - MEDIUM BROWN
3 - GREEN 4 - BLUE 5 - IVORY 6 - GRAY
Then MARY took about a pint of pure nard,
an expensive PERFUME;
she POURED it on JESUS' FEET
and WIPED his feet
with her HAIR.
And the house WAS FILLED
with the FRAGRANCE
of the perfume.
John 12:3
I N T E N D E D B F
O B J E C T E D E R
V F M O Z E Q M T A
Q X E E G X L Q H G
M W B E K M I P A R
Y Q N N T T A X N A
P E R F U M E R Y N
H A D I N N E R Y C
J U D A S Y M D K E
M A R T H A F L K I
MARY MARTHA DINNER
PERFUME FEET JUDAS
BETHANY FRAGRANCE
OBJECTED INTENDED


Word Scramble for
Mary Showed Her Love for Jesus
Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circles and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.
IRHA
TEFE
OROP
RENDIN
SUZARAL
Mary poured on Jesus' feet.

PALM SUNDAY ACTIVITY PLACEMAT



Lesson 13 [Chapter 13 & 14]"Washing the feet"

Remember:

Last lesson , chapter 12 marks the start of Passion Week, we saw Mary anointing Jesus' feet, the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, and Jesus predicting His death on the cross to draw everyone to Him.

Lesson Goal:

Jesus commands us to serve one another and to trust in Him as the "Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Lesson opener:

Can I Give Ya' a Shine?

Bring a shoeshine kit from home and begin to quietly clean the shoes of your students while seated. If they object or question you, go about your task until you feel you have adequately made the point. Explain to your class that cleaning someone's shoes is a very humble job. You must bow down before the person, clean a potentially dirty and even "germy" article of clothing, etc.

Explain that in today's lesson, we will see that Jesus humbled Himself to do what was considered a very lowly job to be an example to His disciples. Jesus wants us to serve one another.

Lesson Body:

Story telling slide show: https://missionbibleclass.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/11.07-Jesus-Washes-the-Disciples-Feet_Mary1.pdf

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet 13:1-17

When Jesus and His closest disciples gathered for the Passover meal, Jesus performed a task usually done by servants. He was their teacher but modelled true service and love by washing His disciples' feet. He then goes on to teach them that they should show this kind of love and service to others.

Like we do today, the food was gathered, and the dishes were laid out. It was time to eat, but there was a problem.

The dishes were clean, and the cups were clean. The problem was that there was still something that was not clean. In those times, there was something else that should be cleaned before anyone else began to eat. Can you guess what else needs to be cleaned? What do you think it was?



If you guessed “feet”, then you are correct. In those days, washing your feet before the meal began was very important. People wore sandals and walked in the very dirty streets at that time.

Normally, a servant would wash the feet of people as they entered a house. This was very important when eating a meal. Instead of sitting in chairs at tables, diners of the time reclined on low couches. They would have been reclined close to the feet of the person beside them.

But then something happened that they never expected. Jesus stood up and took off His outside clothes. He got a towel and a bowl of water and then bent down in front of each of the disciples to wash their feet.

Everyone was in shock! Jesus was their teacher! He was too important to do this job. This was a job for servants and not teachers!

15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter was shocked. “Stop, I will never allow you to wash my feet!”

But Jesus told Peter that it was all right. Jesus wanted Peter to know that good teachers and leaders love their friends and take care of them. They don’t have to act better than everyone else. Jesus was the teacher, but He was willing to be like a servant and show love to others.

Jesus was going away soon. He was setting His followers up to be genuine and effective leaders. If Jesus could humble Himself in this way, they could also go on to serve others after His death.

Jesus told Peter that He wanted to show love to His people in this way. “Peter,” Jesus said, “if you do not let me wash your feet then you are not one of my people”.

Of course, Peter wanted to be one of Jesus’ people. He wanted this so much that he said, “If you want to, then you can wash my feet and my hands and even my head!”

A believer needs to be washed in the baptismal font by the action of God’s Holy Spirit. The Lord underlines that the washing with the baptismal water occurs only once.

Jesus taught His disciples many other things after this. He knew He would die on the cross, so He told them that He would have to go away. Jesus wanted His disciples always to remember that they should love one another. They should not act proud and try to be bossy. They should be like servants and help one another. If Jesus could do this, then so could they.

After washing their feet, Jesus continues the meal and mentions the upcoming betrayal and denial by Judas and Peter. This is followed up by many of Jesus’ teachings. In chapters 14-17, St. John covers vast subjects such as Jesus preparing a place, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, Jesus as the true vine, rejection by the world, sorrow turning to joy, overcoming the world and finally, Jesus’ prayer.

In John 13:31-35 Jesus makes it clear that love will be the key to helping people understand God. If people see love expressed between disciples, then they will recognize that they are God’s people.

Review:

1. Who washed the disciples’ feet when Jesus and the disciples were at a meal together? (Jesus)
2. Which disciple said Jesus could wash not only his feet, but his hands and head as well? (Peter)
3. Why did Jesus wash the disciples’ feet?
4. Why do you think Jesus decided to spend time serving His disciples on His last night with them?
5. Why did Peter not want Jesus to wash his feet?
6. After Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, what does He say the disciples should do? (serve each other, just like how Jesus served them)

7. Jesus said that people will recognize His disciples if they have something for each other. What is it? (love)
8. What did the disciples learn about love from Jesus washing their feet?
9. What did you learn about Jesus in this story?
10. What did you learn about people in this story?

Jesus Identifies His Betrayer and Peter's denial 13:18- 38

The Lord unveils the plan of Judas to betray Him to Peter and John which He had covered before. No one suspected him at all. When the Lord dipped the bread and gave it to Judas, the disciples thought He had done so to have him hurry up and accomplish a certain task.

After the Lord had given Judas the piece of bread, the devil entered him. Jesus gave him the permission to leave as he wished.

The Way, the Truth, and the Life 14:1-11

The tightrope walker:

Have you ever seen a tightrope walker at a circus? A tightrope walker walks across a wire that is stretched high in the air with just a pole to balance him. Well, there was once a tightrope walker that decided to go across Niagara Falls with a wheelbarrow to balance him. As he put his wire across the falls, a crowd gathered. They waited breathlessly as he walked slowly across the wire pushing the wheelbarrow. When he reached the other side, the crowd cheered. He then turned to the crowd and asked, "Do you think I can make it back across?" They all said, "Yes!" He asked again, "Do you really believe I can?" They answered, "We just saw you go across. Of course you can!" The tightrope walker then said, "Then get into the wheelbarrow and go with me."

Our story today is about trust. Can we trust Jesus enough with our lives to "get into the wheelbarrow" and go with Him?

Jesus, in the upper room with His disciples, was trying to prepare them for what was coming. He was telling them not to be afraid and to trust Him no matter what happened. Even when it doesn't seem like it, Jesus is in control!

We can also trust Jesus with every part of our lives both now and in the future. Sometimes things may happen in our lives that we don't fully understand or that frighten us. But like Jesus' disciples, we can put our eyes on Jesus and not on the problems. When you are afraid, just trust in Jesus.

When Jesus wanted to encourage His disciples, He would tell them about heaven. Jesus is preparing an eternal home for all of us that will make this world seem like a memory. Jesus will keep His word.

Thomas was asking an honest question. He was saying that he didn't understand where Jesus was going [The cross then Heaven].

JOHN 14:6 Jesus said to him, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"*. Jesus was telling us very clearly that He is the only way to God the Father, to heaven and eternal life.



Jesus Promises Another Helper 14:12-31

Jesus assured them that He would not leave them in their weakness. He would grant them the power to do great deeds, they could do the same deeds as those the Lord had done, and even greater ones [all in His name].

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter whom the Lord promised to send to His disciples. The word 'paraclete' is translated as 'Comforter.' It also means lawyer or advocate, for He stands in defense of the Lord's Church and against her enemies.

Verse 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.": It is not enough to just know the commandments. We need to observe and apply them to the full.

He leaves them feeling peaceful as He grants them a precious inheritance: which is His peace!

Takeaway:

Love and obedience can't be separated. Jesus makes it clear that if we love Him, we will obey Him. If you are not, you are a hypocrite if you say that you love Him. We really need to consider our lives to examine if we really do love Him or not. Saying it with our mouth is not enough.

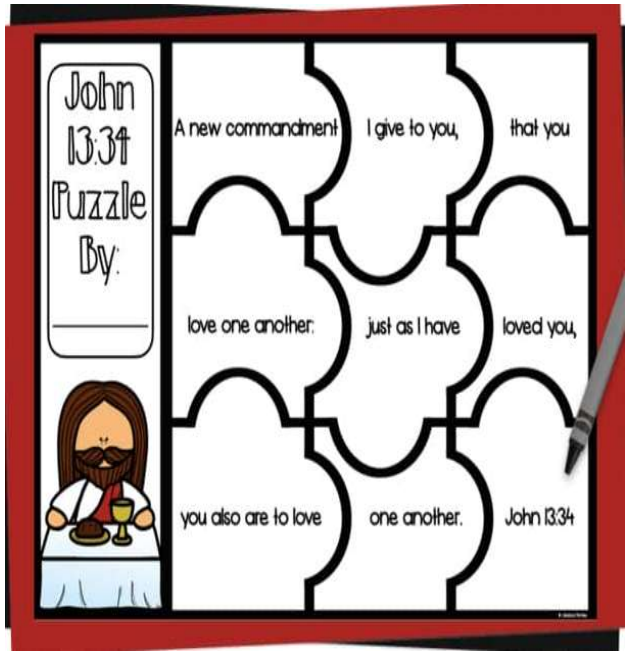
Jesus is saying, "Words are not enough. Show me by action."

Imagine Christy is talking to her mom. Mom says, if you love me, tell me how you show it. Christy says, "Come on. I listen to you at least half the time. I don't track mud onto the floor at least half the time. I respond to at least half of your questions. I don't throw my dirty clothes on the floor at least half the time. I am there for you half the time. I've only broken 40% of the dishes." Will her mom be happy with that? It's not really love if we only do it half of the time. We need to make a practice of obeying God's commandments **all the time**.

Memory Verse: 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Activities:





Lesson 14 [Chapters 15-17] "Abide in Me"

Remember:

Last lesson, in John 13, Jesus demonstrates ultimate humility and love by washing His disciples' feet during the Last Supper, setting a servant-leadership example. In John 14, Jesus comforts His disciples before His crucifixion, promising to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. He declares Himself as "the way, the truth, and the life".

Lesson Goal:

To teach us to abide (remain) in Jesus, the True Vine, to bear spiritual fruit, which glorifies God.

Lesson opener:

Soak It Up!

About twenty-four hours before your class, prepare a cut stock of celery into two pieces. Take one piece place it in a clear cup of water that has been heavily dyed with red food coloring. The celery will soak up the food coloring, exhibiting what it has been abiding in. Leave the other piece of celery out of the water without refrigeration.

Exhibit those two pieces of celery to your class. Explain that the one piece has been left out and has not abided in anything. It should now be limp and beginning to discolor. Explain that the other has been abiding in the colored water. Show the class how it has taken on the characteristics of what it has been abiding in. When we abide In Christ, we start taking His character.

Lesson Body:

Chapter 15

The True Vine 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3] You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Jesus said that He was the vine, and that we are the branches. What might that mean? He was explaining how important it is for us to stay connected to Him. Just as the vine provides nutrition that helps fruit grow on a plant, Jesus gives us all that we need to grow in our faith. The branches on a grape vine must stay connected to the vine so that they can produce delicious fruit. Otherwise, they'll dry up and wither.

God cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit while every branch that does not bear fruit, He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. God uses a disciplining process [pruning] to make His people more spiritually productive, growing us into His image.

The vine is the source of life and the branches growing there belong to the vine. The vine supports, nurtures and feeds the branches. Without the vine, the branches would not live. Without Jesus we could not live spiritually.



5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.

What is the one word that is used 11 times in this chapter?

"Abide". We are told that we are to abide [remain] in the vine. This refers to an intimate and constant relationship.

How do we abide in the vine? Abiding in Christ refers to constant choices to live a Christian life, trusting our Lord and obeying His Word.

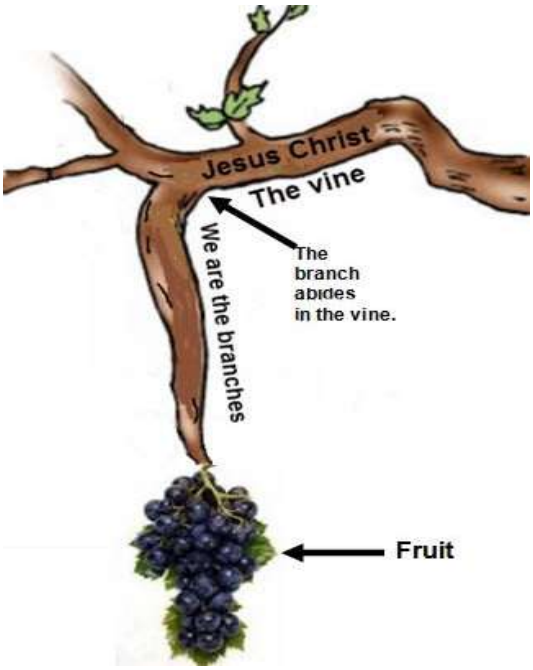
You are already clean because of the words I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. We need to stay close to Christ so that He can produce "fruit" in us. Of course, we aren't going to start sprouting grapes or anything. Spiritual fruit refers to things

that help others and show that Jesus lives in and through us. Those are things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

How do we make sure we are connected to Jesus? We read God's Word and study the Bible. We pray, talking to God and listening, too. We go to church so we can be connected with other "branches" that also abide in Him.

If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up , thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



That They Must Love One Another 15:9-27

Jesus commands us to love in a particular way in verse 12. What is it?

Love one another as I have loved you.

What is the love of Jesus like? Unconditional, a choice, not based on externals, never-ending, unselfish, immeasurable, unfathomable.

Story: No greater love than this: Read 15:13

There was a story of a young girl and her brother. The girl had leukemia and needed a blood transfusion. The doctor asked her little brother if he would be willing to give his blood for his

sister. The boy thought for some time and finally soberly answered, "yes." When the doctor inserted the needle and was taking the blood, the boy meekly looked up and asked, "when am I going to die?" The precious boy had believed that giving his blood meant he was going to die to save his sister. Although the doctors then assured him it would not cost his life, they were amazed at the boy's sacrificial love.

Jesus faced the same situation as the boy, but He had to give His life by choice because of His love for you. He sacrificed Himself for them and for us.

We keep the commandments, not only in our hearts, nor by meditating on them and studying them, but also by practicing them, being always alert, correct and truly eager that we may enjoy them.

Jesus did not stop at sacrificing Himself for them, but He also made a covenant with them that they become His friends who enjoy knowing His secrets, for they are not servants. The master may love his servant and may treat him gently, but he does not allow his servant to share his personal secrets.

So why does the world hate Jesus?

Jesus testifies that its deeds are evil and exposes their sin. People reject Jesus because they do not know God who sent Him (verse 21).

He gave them a path that seemed extremely difficult as He asked them to abide in Him like branches in the vine. That seemed impossible to a human being, for how can a weak man abide in the heavenly Son of God? How can they love to the point of death? How can they tolerate persecution?

He, therefore, comforted them by His promise to send His Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. He is the heavenly teacher, the true guide who will lead them to Christ's perfect truth and accomplish all the above.

Chapter 16

Jesus Warns and Comforts His Disciples

The Lord informs the disciples beforehand about the sufferings they will endure so that they do not stumble.

They would be kicked out of worship places and be killed. All these things would be done by people thinking they were serving God like the Pharisees. But they were actually fighting against God. Paul is a perfect example. He had been taught by many people that following Jesus was evil and that he needed to wipe Christians out. He dedicated himself to the task.

But he found He was fighting against God. Whoever fought against God, did it because he/she didn't really know Jesus nor the Father.

Jesus did not tell His disciples those things at the beginning when they followed Him so that they may not be confused or worried. When He was with them in the flesh, He comforted and supported them. Now they would not see Him, but He leaves to them His word and His promise that He will send to them the Holy Spirit ➔ the Helper.

It is better for them to have Him inside of them [The Holy Spirit] rather than walking side by side on earth with them.

At the same time the disciples were grieving, the world was rejoicing at Jesus' death. Satan and his armies were celebrating. But in an instant when Jesus came out of the tomb everything, EVERYTHING, changed.

Satan's biggest triumph was turned to a crushing defeat. The rulers' excitement that it was over was turned into worry and anxiety at how to respond to the grave being empty. Resurrection is the turning point of everything.

Jesus spoke these things to give us peace. He does not conceal from them the fact that in the world they will have tribulation. However, He asks them to be of good cheer in the middle of tribulation because He will be revealed in their life as overcoming the sinful world.



Chapter 17

The Farewell Prayer

This chapter could be called the Lord's Prayer. What we normally call the Lord's Prayer was His model prayer to His disciples, but here is the only place a lengthy prayer of Jesus is recorded. It gives us a lot of valuable insight into the close relationship Jesus had with the

Father. It also shows us the kind of things Jesus often prayed about. Part of the prayer is Jesus' talking with the Father about His mission and what He was doing, etc. The rest is Jesus praying for the disciples and all believers.

What if you could pray the way Jesus did?

1. Put God's Glory First in Prayer: 17:1-5 Jesus starts by praying for His Father's glory and the fulfillment of His plan. He's focused on what matters most—God's purposes. When you pray, don't just list your needs. Pray for His will to guide your decisions, aligning your heart with His mission to save people and bring honor to His name. Try this: Begin your prayer with, "God, use me today to show others who You are."
2. Pray for Protection and Spiritual Growth: 17: 6-19 Jesus asks God to protect His disciples from evil and to make them holy through His truth. Pray for protection over yourself, your loved ones, and your church. Try this: "Lord, keep ..... safe from harm and help them grow in Your truth."
3. Pray for Unity That Stands Out: 17:20-23 Jesus prays that all believers would be one, just as He is with the Father. In a divided world, a church that loves each other grabs attention. Try this: Pray for family, friends or your church, saying, "God, make us one so the world sees You through us."
4. Pray to Reach the World: 17:21 & 23 Jesus says our unity will help the world believe in Him. Pray for opportunities to share your faith, whether it's inviting someone to church, helping a neighbor, or speaking up about Jesus.
5. Pray with Eternity in Focus: In 17:24-26, Jesus looks to the future, when we'll be with Him in glory. He reminds us that this world isn't our final home.
6. Pray to a God Who Loves You: Jesus' prayer in verses 25-26 is personal, full of love for the Father and for us. Prayer isn't just a duty; it's a conversation with a God who cares deeply. Approach Him with gratitude for His love and ask to know Him better. Let your prayers be real, like talking to a close friend.
7. Keep Praying for Others: Jesus prays for others—His disciples, future believers, and the world. He's showing us how to put others first.

Memory Verse: 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Lesson 15 [Chapters 18 & 19]"The Crucifixion"

Remember:

Last lesson, we studied chapters 15,16 and 17. In chapter 15, Jesus teaches that He is like a grapevine and His followers are the branches. Just as a branch must stay connected to the vine to get food and grow grapes, we need to stay connected to Jesus. In chapter 16, Jesus prepares His disciples for His upcoming departure by warning them of His persecution and promising the arrival of the Holy Spirit. In chapter 17, Jesus shifts from teaching His disciples to praying aloud for them in a profound final petition before His arrest.

Lesson Goal:

Jesus Christ willingly paid the complete penalty for our sins to secure eternal life.

Lesson opener:

Born to Be King :



What do you want to be when you grow up? A teacher, a policeman, a lawyer, a doctor, or a nurse? There are so many jobs from which to choose. How do we decide? Some might choose a job where they think they can make a lot of money. Some might choose to follow their parents in their chosen profession. Quite often a person starts out in one job and then decides it isn't the right one for them and they choose another type of work. When we are children, we may say, "I want to do this or that when I grow up." It doesn't always work out that way.

Do you think Jesus ever thought about what He was going to be when He grew up? He could have become a carpenter like Joseph. Perhaps Jesus might have chosen to be a doctor. He certainly had a gift for healing people. Those would have all been good choices for Jesus, but that was not what He was born to do. Here is something that will give you a hint. (Hold up the crown.) Who would wear a crown? That's right! A king. Now, a person doesn't just wake up one day and say, "I know what I want to be...I want to be a king." No, a person has to be born to be **a king**.

18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

Lesson Body:

Chapter 18:

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane 18:1-11

The time of His arrest, trials, and death, was at hand. Jesus and His disciples crossed the Kidron Valley to reach the Mount of Olives, at the garden. This was a place where Jesus and His disciples had often met, and Judas knew about it.

Having agreed to betray Jesus, Judas came with a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees who would arrest Jesus. Judas identified Jesus using the agreed-upon signal of a kiss.

Jesus did not surrender to the mob because they had weapons, but it was His will. The crowd had no authority over Him. If Jesus had not wanted to be seized, He would not have been.

"Whom are you seeking?" Why did they fall to the ground when Jesus said, "I am He"? The mob fell backwards because Jesus' Divine identity was revealed to them and for a moment, they were aware of His power and authority. Jesus did not allow this to last long, however, because He knew He must be arrested and taken to the cross.

In one of Jesus' last acts before going to the cross, He interceded for His disciples that none of them would be lost. His intercession was so powerful that Peter was not arrested even though He cut off the high priest's servant's (Malchus) ear (John 18:10). Jesus did not permit Peter to defend Him because Jesus knew it was appointed for Him to drink the cup of God's wrath.

Jesus submitted to the will of the Father to bring about the redemption of God's people.



Before Annas and Caiaphas, the high priest and Peter's denial 18:12-27

Imaginary dialogue:

The soldiers took Jesus to the house of a man named Annas. Annas used to be the High Priest. Annas was still a very powerful man. He wanted to ask Jesus some questions.

John was known to the guards. So, when the soldiers brought Jesus to the house, they let John sneak through the door too. But Peter was stuck outside.

When John realized Peter wasn't with him, he went and talked to the servant girl who was watching the gate.

- "Hi there!" said John. "My friend is stuck outside. He's a really good guy. Could you let him in please?"
- "Okay," she said, and she waved at Peter to come in. But when Peter came close, the girl got suspicious.
- "Are you one of Jesus' disciples?" she asked. "I'm not supposed to let any of Jesus' disciples in."
- "Nope!" Peter lied. "Not me!"

And he made his way through the gate, into the courtyard of Annas' house.

Jesus and the High Priest

Peter and John could see and hear what happened. They watched as Jesus was set before Annas. Jesus was surrounded by soldiers and guards. His hands were tied.

You might think Jesus would have looked kind of helpless, but not at all, He stood straight and tall, with His big brown eyes, all full of love.

- "I've been wanting to meet you, Jesus of Nazareth," said Annas. "Tell me about the things you have been teaching. I hear you are leading the people. astray."
- Jesus said to Annas, "You know, I never did anything in secret. I taught publicly in the synagogues. I taught publicly in the Temple. Ask anyone who was there. They'll tell you what I taught."
- That made one of the guards really angry. He hit Jesus, right across the face!
- The guard said, "Show some respect! Is that how you talk to the High Priest?"
- Jesus turned to the guard, His back still straight and tall, His big brown eyes still all full of love. He said, "If I said something that wasn't true, tell me what it was. But if what I said was true, why did you hit me?"

Jesus spoke gently and courteously but also courageously. He did not insult the high priest, for His words were convincing. The Lord suffered blows and abuse but did not threaten.

In the Courtyard

Peter was getting kind of chilly out there in the courtyard. He saw that some guys had made a little fire to keep warm. So, he went over to warm up.

- “Nice fire,” said Peter, stepping into a spot where he could still see Jesus. “Mind if I join you?”
- “Sure” said one of the guys. “Oh, hey, aren’t you one of this guy’s disciples? What’s Jesus really like?”
- “Nope, not me,” Peter said, warming his hands over the coals.
- “Yes, you are!” the man said. “I was there in the Garden of Gethsemane when we came to arrest Jesus: I saw you for sure!”
- “Sorry,” Peter said, shaking his head. “Must have been someone who looked like me. I — I’ve never met Jesus.”

Then Peter turned around. It looked like he just wanted to warm his backside by the fire, but really, he didn’t want anybody else to recognize him.

And then, up on the roof of the house, a rooster sang out “Cock-a-doodle-doo!”

Peter heard it. Jesus heard it too.

Wondering.

I wonder how Peter felt when he heard the rooster sing “Cock-a-doodle-doo!”? I wonder how Jesus felt when He heard it. Jesus must have felt sorry for Peter’s denial.

Oh, Peter, what do you say? Did you not affirm that even if you had to die for Christ’s sake you would die? What happened that you could not bear even a question by a servant girl? Did a soldier question you? No that was only a simple servant girl who asked humbly.

The Judgment of Jesus continues:

Jesus was tried six times:

1. Annas or Ananias [the previous high priest]
2. Caiaphas [the current high priest and his son in law]
3. Annas again
4. Pilate
5. Herod
6. Pilate again

Annas found no reason for postponing the judgment to kill Jesus. He sent Him immediately to his son-in-law, Caiaphas, the high priest, who called the members of the Sanhedrim, so that they might pronounce the sentence without delay.

The judgment of Caiaphas was proposed to appear as for the good of the people. He suggested that one man- justly or unjustly, innocent or guilty- must die because public welfare required it.

Before Pilate at the Praetorium 18:28-40

Why did they take Him to Pilate to judge Him?

They wanted to give Him the worst punishment, the cross, only done through the Romans.

After facing the high priest, Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the region, with the accusation that He is claiming to be a king.

This would be treason against the Roman government, punishable by death. Jesus does not answer His accusers directly but instead answers that the kingdom He reigns over is different. It is not from this world. He is here to proclaim the truth that comes from God alone.

While Pilate is confused by Jesus' answers, he ascertains that Jesus is not a threat to the Roman authorities. Yet to maintain the peace, he offers to set one of two criminals free. Due to their own concerns about power, the Jewish leaders select a bandit named Barabbas instead of Jesus.



Chapter 19:

Pilate's Judgment 19:1-16

Pilate allowed his soldiers to scourge Him so that he might prove to the people that Christ was helpless and therefore they should forgive Him. Clearly, Pilate felt that Jesus did nothing to deserve crucifixion.

The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him with a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." So, Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns

and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” When the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

Pilate exaggerated in showing his power because he thought that he was in control of the situation. Christ wanted Pilate to know that every power a man possesses on earth has been divinely given to him by heaven, not by Rome. Pilate feared their protest against him. So, he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

The King on a Cross 19:17-30

Jesus is forced to carry His own cross to a hill called Golgotha. Two others were crucified with Him, one on either side. Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross.

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Distribution of His Garments:

The four soldiers who carried out the verdict distributed His garments among themselves. The seamless tunic remained. It was woven from the top in one piece. They cast lots for it so that they may not tear it. All this was fulfilling the prophecies.

Even through this terrible pain, Jesus showed care by making sure His mother, Mary, was taken care of by His friend, John. Even on the cross, Jesus wasn’t just thinking about Himself. He was always thinking about others.

The Lord Jesus Christ refused to drink wine offered by the soldiers. That was the wine that would have relieved His pain.

Jesus said, “It is finished!” this wasn't a cry of defeat, but a shout of victory!

The Debt was Paid: In those days, when a bill was paid in full, the receipt would be stamped with a word that means "It is finished." The Rescue Mission was Complete: Jesus completed exactly what God the Father sent Him to do. He took the punishment for every wrong thing we have done, so we can be close to God forever.

He surrendered to death of His own will, not as an obligation. No one broke His legs, just like the Passover lamb was not broken.



Jesus's Side Is Pierced 19:31-37

The incident of piercing the side of Christ is recorded in this Gospel only. Now, the prophecy is fulfilled, "*and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced*" (Zech 12: 10).

The early Church Fathers consider this (blood and water that came from Christ's side) the first indication of the sacraments. Water is a symbol of baptism and blood is the Eucharist.

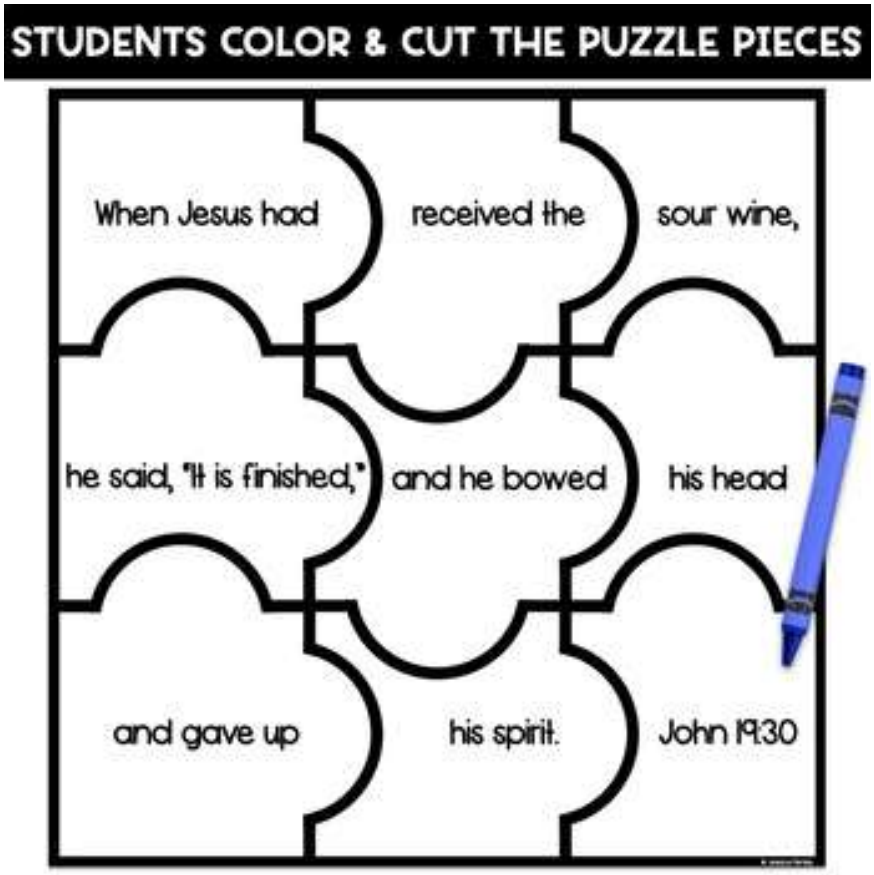
Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb 19:38-42

Two men who were secret followers of Jesus because they were afraid of the leaders—Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus—bravely asked the governor for Jesus' body.

Nicodemus brought 100 pounds of expensive spices (Myrrh and aloes). They wrapped Jesus' body in clean linen cloths with the spices, treating Him like a king.

They placed Jesus in a brand-new tomb carved out of rock inside a nearby garden, where no one had ever been buried before.

Memory Verse: 18:37 For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.




I CHOOSE TO OBEY GOD
START
FINISH
MATCH THE ANSWERS
___Who should we obey?
___Why should we obey God?
___Is obeying God always easy?
___What happens when we obey
___Can we ask God to help us
___Did Jesus obey God?
___What is one way to obey God?
___Can kids obey God too?
___Should we obey God even when no one is watching?
___What book helps us learn to obey God?
God?
God
Obey Him?
INSTANT DOWNLOAD
A) NO, BUT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. B) HE BLESSES US.
C)YES, HE WILL HELP US. D) BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM.
E) YES, EVERY DAY! F) YES, ALWAYS. G) BY BEING KIND TO OTHERS..
H) YES! I) THE BIBLE. J)GOD.
WORD SCRAMBLE
OEYB
VELO
IBLBE
APYR
RHTAEF
How many did you color?
How many did you count?
WORD SEARCH
G O D U K I N J E S U S A P R A Y O
S T A T U E S N C H E S T L O A R B
P D S H O E T I N G O A I A L H D E
E E C L B V K I N G H V R O D T A D
B L E S E I N G S T E E W R I M V I
T R U S Y N E A B I B L E G O U I E
E N G O L D S C A P T M S M A R S N
F I S E M E S H A C H Y O R R R A C
I A N G K I N D I L I R R E E T A E
R B A T T L E N F A T H E R A H C T
L O V E I V E D S Y A H O A H T T R
. OBEY . BIBLE . OBEDIENCE
. GOD . JESUS . FATHER
. LOVE . PRAY . KIND


I CHOOSE TO OBEY GOD
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J Who should we obey?
D Why should we obey God?
A Is obeying God always easy?
B What happens when we obey Go
C Can we ask God to help us obey
F Did Jesus obey God?
G What is one way to obey God?
E Can kids obey God too?
H Should we obey God even when no one is watching?
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WORD SCRAMBLE
OEYB OBEY
VELO LOVE
IBLBE BIBLE
APYR PRAY
RHTAEF FATHER
How many did you color? 5
How many did you count? 6
WORD SEARCH
. OBEY . BIBLE . OBEDIENCE
. GOD . JESUS . FATHER
. LOVE . PRAY . KIND

Lesson 16 [Chapters 20&21]"The Resurrection"

Remember:

John 18 tells the story of Jesus being arrested in the garden and Judas' betrayal. He was also denied three times by Peter and put on trial before the Jews and then before Pilate who sentenced Him to be crucified. In chapter 19, we covered the events of the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Goal:

St. John mentions the goal of his book in verses 20:30-31, The goal is to provide evidence so that you may believe Jesus is the Son of God, and that by believing, you will find eternal life in His name.

Lesson opener:

The Unbelievable

Divide students into two teams. You'll read a list of statements, and they have to vote as a team whether they believe each of your statements or not. The team with the most correct answers wins.

1. Yogurt is made with bacteria.
2. Your ears help keep you balanced
3. Some animals can get sunburned.
4. No cat likes water.
5. Frogs have to drink lots of water.
6. Elephants eat with their noses.
7. Camels can walk 100 miles in the desert without water.
8. Chimpanzees are nocturnal.
9. The hummingbird egg is the world's smallest bird egg.
10. Jesus was dead for three days but came back to life.

Answer key: T- T -T- F- F-T -T-F-T-T

Explain that today's story is about one of the disciples who didn't believe that Jesus came back from the dead.

OR another game: *Trust Fall :*

Have students pair up. One student stands behind the other. The student in front closes their eyes and falls back, trusting the one behind them to catch them. Then the partners switch roles.

Let each pair try the activity a couple of times, getting more and more comfortable. Then, ask, Was it difficult to have faith that your partner would catch you?

Could you see them behind you when you closed your eyes and let yourself fall back?

That's how much faith God wants us to have in Him. Even though we've never seen Jesus, we need to have faith in Him.

Lesson Body:

Many religions today try to tell us that Jesus was just a good man, a teacher, or just a prophet. But Jesus is much more than that. He is the Messiah, the only Son of God. He is God come in the flesh. Today we will learn that Jesus not only has power over life but also over death. Even the grave could not hold Him.

Chapter 20:

The Empty Tomb 20:1-10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to complete the burial process. She saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. Jesus conquered death. What do you think was going through Mary's mind? She loved Jesus very much, but now His body was gone.

She ran to Peter and John to tell them that the grave was open and that Jesus' body was gone. She thought that someone had stolen the body. Peter and John ran to the tomb, but John outran Peter and arrived at the tomb first. He looked inside but did not go inside. Peter arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen that had been wrapped around Jesus' body lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Anyone who intended to steal the Body would not have stripped the linen clothes from it.

Was Jesus' body stolen or could it really be possible that Jesus did rise again, like He said He would? Jesus conquered death. What a wonderful realization it must have been for Peter and John to understand that their Lord and Savior had risen from the dead!

They went home to tell the other disciples what they had seen.

Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord and He commissions His disciples 20:11-31

Have kids follow the motions to help tell what happened.

Although the angels had already told her and her companions (Luke 24) that Jesus was alive she didn't believe it and was still searching for where Jesus might be [*Pretend to*

search]. Whereas the two disciples hurried back to their fellow disciples, Mary stayed behind, weeping. (*Pretend to cry*.)

As she knelt down and looked inside the tomb, she saw two angels dressed in white. (*Kneel*.) They asked her why she was crying. She told them she didn't know where they had taken Jesus. (*Hold arms up like "I don't know.")* Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought He was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard His voice, she recognized Him. (*Show a surprised face*.) After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!" (*Jump up and down in excitement*.)

The Lord asked her not to touch Him with her hands for He wanted her to reach out to Him with her heart. The Lord wanted her to preach His resurrection and ascension into heaven. He did not arise to establish an earthly kingdom.



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'

The disciples were in the house together with the door locked. How did Jesus come in? He didn't knock the door for them to open.

Jesus can come to be with us wherever we are. He doesn't need to go through doors or windows.

Why would Jesus show them His hands and side?

He was showing them the nail holes in His hands and the hole in His side where the soldier stabbed Him with a spear, so that they would know it was really Him.

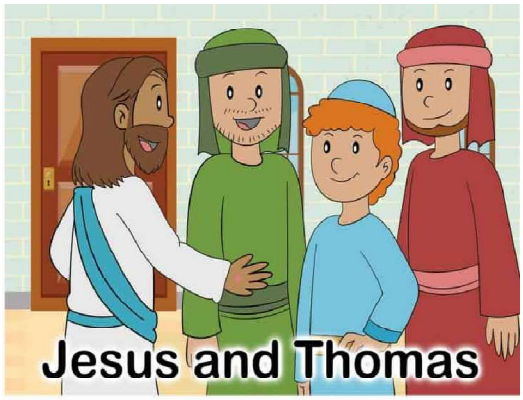
Jesus said, “As the Father sent Me, so I send you.” What did God the Father send Jesus to do? (*God sent Jesus to tell other people about God and to die on the cross so that we could be saved*.)

What is Jesus sending us to do? (*To tell other people about God and Jesus so that they can be saved too.*)

What happened when Jesus breathed on the disciples? (*The Holy Spirit came to live inside them.*)

Jesus Christ gave them authority regarding the forgiveness and retention of sins (John 20:23), which the Church understands as the beginning of the apostolic priestly ministry.

Our Coptic Church is established upon evangelical principles; and her priests are ordained in the Lord Jesus Christ and authorized to baptize and grant absolution for our sins.



After Jesus died, his disciples hid in a locked room because they were scared.

On the day Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to them.

They were so happy to see Jesus alive.

Jesus showed them the wounds in His hands and side so that they would know it was really Him.

1



However, Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them.

The disciples told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead and had seen Him.

But Thomas didn't believe them.

2



Thomas said, "I won't believe unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers in them, and place my hand in the wound in His side."

Eight days later, Jesus appeared to the disciples again.

This time, Thomas was with them.

Jesus told Thomas to touch His wounds and see for himself.

3



Thomas was amazed and declared, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe because you have seen me.

Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

This means that even if we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we can still believe in Him.

4

Chapter 21:

The Lord's appearance by Lake Tiberias 21:1-14

Peter had gone back to being a fisherman, and he was out in his sailboat with a few other disciples. They had fished all night and not had a single fish swim into their nets, and they were tired and hungry.

Jesus came by and told them to try putting their nets on the right side of the boat. When they did, they caught more fish than they could even hold! Peter realized that it was Jesus who was there on the shore, and he jumped out of the boat and swam as fast as he could to Him. Once there, Jesus built a campfire and cooked some fish for breakfast.

For whatever reason, the disciples didn't recognize Jesus right away. Once they understood who was with them, they were thrilled! Not only did Jesus help them catch a bunch of fish, but He also cooked them up to eat. But that isn't the most important part of the story…after breakfast, Jesus had a conversation with Peter➔

Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-25

Peter was getting another chance. He had denied Christ three times, but now he got to affirm his love three times. The Lord wished to console Peter and show him that His repentance had been fully accepted, and that what he had done would not affect the relationship between him and the Lord. The Lord did not ask him about his repentance for having denied Him three times. He was satisfied to ask about Peter's love for Him. Repentance is essentially the practice of loving God.

When He asked Peter to "take care of sheep", He was calling on him to spread the Gospel to others. Peter became a very influential person in early church. He was no longer just a fisherman, but a true fisher of men. God used him in remarkable ways. He shared his faith and proclaimed Christ, even when it later cost him his life.

God can always turn our stories around. Even if we think that we have fallen too far to recover, or we sin and don't think we can ever be forgiven, God wants to use us. He wants to turn our mess into success, and He will, if we let Him!

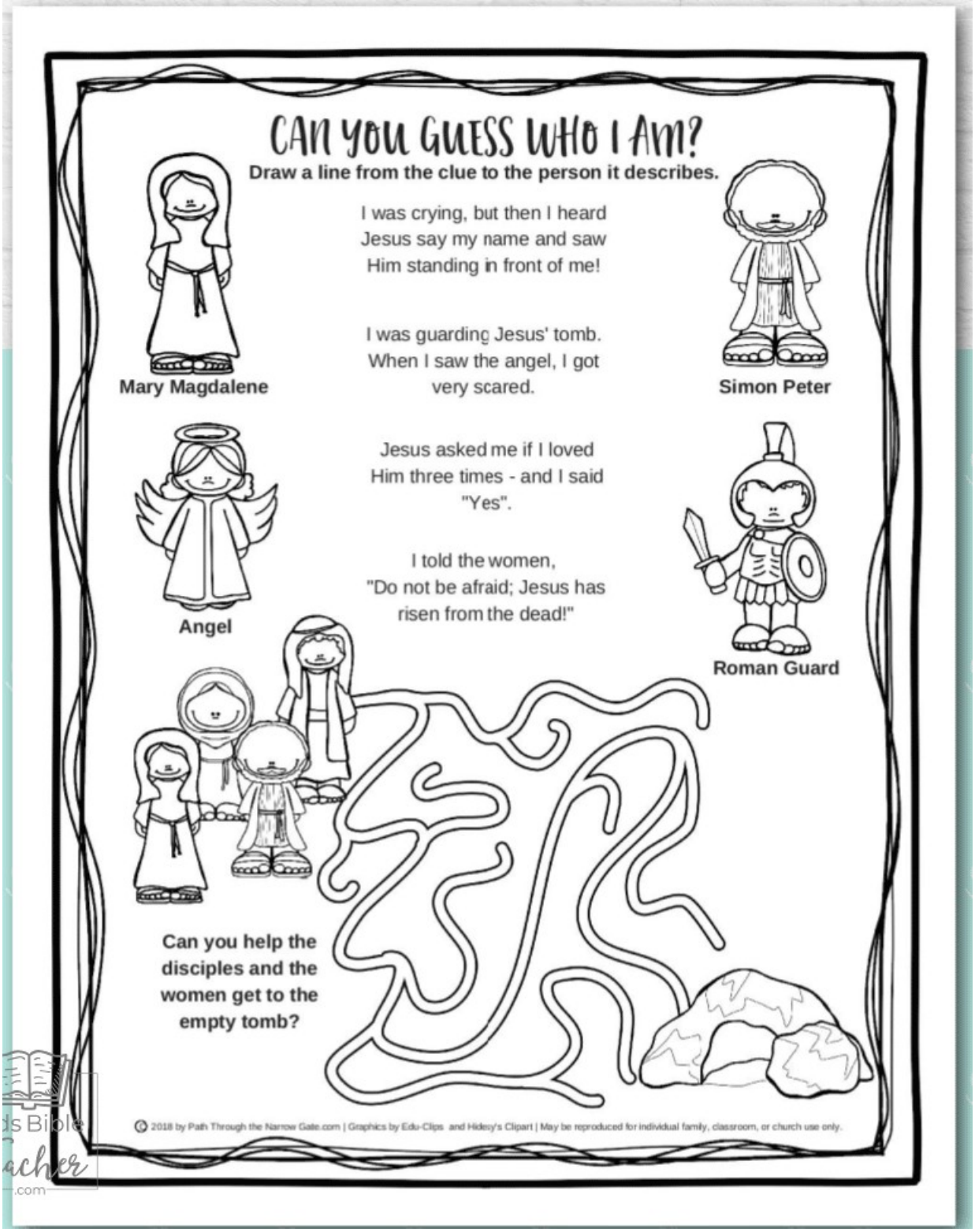
Having restored Peter to his status as an apostle, the Lord went on to inform him concerning his martyrdom. In his youth, he was free to gird himself whenever he wanted, now he submitted himself into the hands of his Savior so that He would gird him and carry him according to His divine will.

Thirty-four years later, Peter was crucified. He had considered himself unworthy to die in the manner of his Master and therefore requested to be hung with his head downwards.

Memory Verse: 20:29 Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Activities:


CAN YOU GUESS WHO I AM?
Draw a line from the clue to the person it describes.
I was crying, but then I heard Jesus say my name and saw Him standing in front of me!
I was guarding Jesus' tomb. When I saw the angel, I got very scared.
Jesus asked me if I loved Him three times - and I said "Yes".
I told the women, "Do not be afraid; Jesus has risen from the dead!"
Mary Magdalene
Simon Peter
Angel
Roman Guard
Can you help the disciples and the women get to the empty tomb?
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Spinning Fish Prayers

The fish symbol is recognised around the world as a symbol for Christians. Because it is an international symbol, we can use the fish symbol to help us pray for different world situations.



Cut some strips of paper - the width of A4 paper is a good length and 1.5 – 2cm wide.

Cut a slit in opposite sides about 2cm in from the end.

This is joined to form a fish shape by interlocking the two slits.

Write your prayers on the strips of paper, thinking about situations where there is fighting or unrest, where people are hungry and there is a need for rain to grow food. It is challenging to see situations around the world and not know what we can do to help, but the one thing we can definitely do is to pray.

Once you have written your prayers, fold over the strips of paper and join them to form a fish shape.

Take the fish shape and hold it as high as you can above your head and then let go. Watch as it spins to the ground. This is a sign of you giving your prayers to God. As the fish reaches the ground, say Amen.



THE END

BOOK SUMMARY

The Gospel of St. John has been brilliantly designed with a clear purpose that he states near the end. He says he wrote the book, "so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and that by believing, you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). John believes that the Jesus you read about in this book is alive and real and can change your life forever.

The book of John opens with an introductory poem about the Logos and a short story (ch. 1) that is followed by a big block of stories about Jesus performing miraculous signs that generate increasing controversy (chs. 2-10). It all culminates in Jesus' greatest sign, the raising of Lazarus, which also creates the greatest controversy. Israel's leaders decide to kill Jesus (chs. 11-12), which launches us into the book's second half in chapters (13-17).

These chapters focus on Jesus' final night and last words to His disciples, followed by His arrest, trial, death, and resurrection (chs. 18-20).

The book concludes with an epilogue in chapter 21.

The Big Idea

John believes that Jesus is alive and real, and that His message can change individual lives and the entire cosmos forever.

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