

Sunday School Year 1 *Teaching Helps* audio files and study sheets

This CD contains the *Teaching Helps* audio files for the 39 lessons in the Christ-Light Year 1 Sunday School curriculum.

For each lesson there is an audio file for the lower grades (approximately 1-4) and one for the upper grades (5,6). Choose the one for the grade level you teach.

Each audio file begins with a study presentation of the Bible lesson itself as well as pertinent background information. This presentation will help you prepare to teach the lesson. The second part of the audio file includes an interview with a teacher who provides tips for teaching the lesson and for teaching Sunday school in general.

A PDF file provides two pages of notes for each lesson, which will help you follow along as you listen to the audio file. One page corresponds to the presentation of the lesson, and the other is a checklist of points made by the teachers in the interview section. (A separate PDF file is provided for each of the upper level and lower level audio files.)

The audio files are in MP3 format so you can upload and listen to them on an MP3 player or on a computer.

The files are found in three main folders, one for each set.

01 Yr1 Fall

02 Yr1 Winter

03 Yr1 Spring

Each main folder contains two subfolders, one with the lower-grades files and one with the upper-grades files.

The MP3 file labels indicate the Sunday school year, **1_1_01**; the set, 1_**1**_01 (Fall, Winter, Spring); and the lesson number, 1_1_**01**.

01 Yr1 Fall

Yr1FallLower

1_1_01CreationLower.mp3

1_1_02FirstSinLower.mp3

1_1_03FloodLower.mp3

1_1_14TeacherNotesLower.pdf

Yr1FallUpper

1_1_01CreationUpper.mp3

1_1_02FirstSinUpper.mp3

1_1_03FloodUpper.mp3

1_1_14TeacherNotesUpper.pdf

02 Yr1 Winter

Yr1WinterLower

1_2_01JosephRulerLower.mp3

1_2_02BrothersComeLower.mp3

Yr1WinterUpper

1_2_01JosephRulerUpper.mp3

1_2_02BrothersComeUpper.mp3

Use of Teaching Helps Audio Files

If a congregation has purchased the Teaching Helps CD, the Sunday school superintendent may use or distribute the files in a variety of ways. The Sunday school superintendent may make a copy of this CD for each teacher. The Sunday school superintendent may e-mail files to the Sunday school teachers. The files can also be posted on a congregation Web site, but **only if it is a secure Web site** (password protected). See the copyright information below. Or, if the pastor wishes, the Sunday school teaching staff may listen to the segments as part of the Sunday school teachers' meetings.

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Sunday School Teaching Helps

Listening Notes

Year 1 — Spring
Upper Grades



Northwestern
Publishing House
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)



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Northwestern Publishing House
1250 N. 113th St., Milwaukee, WI 53226-3284
www.nph.net
© 2012 by Northwestern Publishing House
Published 2012
ISBN 978-0-8100-2350-5

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Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	vi
Lesson 1 Jesus and Nicodemus	1
Lesson 2 Jesus Preaches in Nazareth	3
Lesson 3 The Huge Catch of Fish	5
Lesson 4 The Parable of the Farmer and the Seed	7
Lesson 5 Jesus Calms the Storm	9
Lesson 6 Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter	11
Lesson 7 The Gentile Woman's Faith	13
Lesson 8 The Lost Son	15
Lesson 9 The Parable of the Vineyard Workers	17
Lesson 10 The Lord's Supper	19
Lesson 11 Jesus Is Crucified	21
Lesson 12 Jesus' Burial and Resurrection	23
Lesson 13 Jesus Ascends Into Heaven	25

These lesson titles are taken from Grades 1-2 of the Christ-Light Sunday school religion curriculum.

Introduction

Teaching Helps Audio Files

We have prepared an audio file for each lesson. The file begins with a presentation of the Bible lesson followed by an interview with a teacher who provides tips for teaching Sunday school.

Teaching Helps Printable Notes

Included is a PDF document containing two pages of notes for each lesson. The first page corresponds to the presentation of the lesson. The second sheet lists the topics discussed in the interview.

Tips on sharing these files within your congregation:

The files on this disk are meant to be shared with your entire Sunday school staff. This can be done in a variety of ways.

You may wish to burn a CD for each teacher, including substitute teachers.

Small, inexpensive flash drives also work well. They could be provided by the teachers or the church. The files could be copied from a public computer located in the church.

If only the regular teachers have the files, when they use a substitute, they could attach the appropriate audio file and the PDF notes to an e-mail in time for the substitute to use it in preparation to teach the lesson.

The files can also be stored on your server and be made available through your Web site. However, you are permitted to do this only if the area on your Web site where the files are accessed is password protected.

We hope you will make these files readily available to everyone who will be teaching in your Sunday school. We also ask that you observe the limitations to sharing as described in the Permissions Statement.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 1

Jesus and Nicodemus—John 3:1-21

Review

After Jesus changed the water into wine at Capernaum, he traveled south to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. As soon as he got there, he drove the sellers and money changers from the temple. He also had a number of confrontations with the Jewish teachers and leaders.

Introduction

Rarely did the Jewish teachers acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God. For the most part, they dismissed him as a demon-possessed man. But one of their group, a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council (called the Sanhedrin), was honest enough and interested enough to approach Jesus. He wanted to know more about Jesus, so he came to him at night, possibly because he did not want his fellow Jews to see him with Jesus.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. Make sure the children know what a Pharisee was or they will miss some of the important points in the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus. Pharisees formed a very strict religious order. Their main purpose was to teach God's law. That was a good goal, but, sad to say, they became so intent on teaching the law that they were blind to the gospel. They destroyed people's faith in God's promise of a Savior, his kingdom of grace, and his free gift of salvation. They were looking forward to the coming kingdom of God, but they thought of it as a political kingdom where those who followed God's law would rule.

In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, you will see how Jesus addresses Nicodemus' law-based religion and his basic ignorance on such things as faith and how to enter the kingdom of God.

God's Plan of Salvation

This account teaches truths that are at the center of God's plan of salvation. Some of the passages you will teach are well-known gospel passages. As you teach this lesson, try to focus on all the themes Jesus speaks of: being born again through faith, through Baptism, and through the Spirit's power; salvation on the basis of Jesus' work, not on the basis of the law; lives of good works done through God's power.

The Account—John 3:1-21

3:1-8 **"I tell you the truth"**—Jesus immediately cut to the chase. He didn't even acknowledge Nicodemus' confession. He wanted to immediately begin talking about what Nicodemus needed to know. Nicodemus needed to learn about faith, being born again into God's family, and that God's kingdom of grace is entered through the power of the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus. **"So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**—Nicodemus had to realize that God's kingdom was not an earthy kingdom and that membership in his kingdom did not come in some earthly way.

3:9-13 **"How can this be?"**—Nicodemus showed his ignorance of spiritual things. Even Old Testament believers understood the miraculous nature of faith and how they could come to faith only through the power of the Spirit. **"You are Israel's teacher . . . and do you not understand these things?"**—How could Nicodemus teach others about faith when he did not understand it himself? At this point, Nicodemus was an unbeliever. **"No one has ever gone into heaven except**

the one who came from heaven"—Nicodemus had confessed that Jesus came from God. But did he really believe it? At this point Jesus gives Nicodemus a rebuke. Jesus was saying, "So Nicodemus, you believe that I came from God in heaven. Then why do you refuse to listen to me when I speak about heavenly things?"

3:14-18 **"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world"**—The Pharisees were good at condemning others. Jesus told Nicodemus that he did not come to condemn people but to save the entire world from the guilt of their sin.

"whoever does not believe stands condemned already"—Faith in Jesus Christ, not legalistic observance of the laws, is the key to eternal life. Unbelief is what condemns a person to hell.

3:19-21 **"But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light"**—Whoever lives by the truth of Christ and his suffering and death on the cross is not afraid to stand under the light of God's judgment. He is cleansed by faith, which he shows by his life of faith.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 1

1_3_01—Jesus and Nicodemus

Upper

Use a bingo card (only nine spaces with the one in the middle filled in), and as you tell the story, ask the students to draw pictures in the squares about elements of the lesson. Then after you have had a chance to look at the cards (either during the class as the children are drawing or after the class), take each part of the lesson, retell it, and ask the children who have that element illustrated on their bingo card to mark it, and the first to get three in a row wins. This can be used as a review activity at the end of the day or the next week.

Fifth and sixth graders love to talk. Give them an opportunity to discuss the lesson. Having them explain their little pictures from the above activity is a good way to do this.

Have a discussion on Baptism, which is a theme in this lesson.

Talk about the “born again” teaching held by some evangelical churches. Use the Third Article to do this.

The idea of drawing a stick man on the board and then adding sticky notes at the right times and in the right locations on the stick man. This will keep the children thinking and help them follow along with the lesson.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 2

Jesus Preaches in Nazareth—Matthew 13:53-58; Luke 4:16-30

Review

Jesus spent most of his time in Galilee, staying in Capernaum. One time he went to Nazareth, where he had lived for some 30 years.

Introduction

This is one of those sad accounts of Jewish rejection and unbelief. You will want to focus on what Jesus' former neighbors said about him and how they tried to kill him. But this account stands out for another reason. In this account Jesus helps us understand the entire Old Testament. On one occasion Jesus had said that the Old Testament Scriptures testified about him (John 5:29). In the lesson for this week, Jesus teaches from the Old Testament and applies various passages from Isaiah 61 to himself.

God's Plan of Salvation

Jesus told the people in his hometown that he was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. It would be good to spend some time on the Isaiah 61:1,2 passage, even with the younger children. Adults often do not understand the relation of the Old Testament to the New. They don't realize that Old Testament people were saved in the same way New Testament Christians are saved, namely, through faith in Jesus' work for them. If you can help your children see that the entire Old Testament testifies to salvation through faith in God's Savior, you will be helping your children understand how God's plan of salvation spans both testaments and therefore the whole history of the world.

Tell them how Jesus came to

- preach good news to the poor. (Those who had no righteousness would be made rich in Jesus' forgiveness.)
- proclaim freedom for the prisoners. (Those who were bound up in sin and guilt would be set free to enjoy God's gift of eternal life.)
- recover sight for the blind. (Those who could not see the true road to God because of their sinful blindness would find that road in Jesus.)
- release the oppressed. (Those who were oppressed by Satan due to the guilt of their sins would be free to serve God in his kingdom.)
- proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Jesus would establish peace between God and all people.)

The Account—Matthew 13:53-58; Luke 4:16-30

We will use Luke 4:16-30 for the notes.

4:14-21 **"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**—Jesus' act of teaching in the synagogue of Nazareth fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy.

4:22 **"All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips."**—Jesus spoke well, but it seems as if the people quickly started putting two and two together. **"Isn't this Joseph's son?"**—You might lead into the discussion of what follows by asking the class how they imagine the people asked that question. In other words, did they ask it in kindly tone or did they sneer as they said it? From what Jesus says, it seems as if they were expressing their

doubt and hostility toward him.

4:23-30 **"no prophet is accepted in his hometown."**—When people are familiar with a person and have seen nothing special in him before, it is hard to accept him as a teacher, not to mention the Son of God. **"I assure you . . ."**—In the past, the Jews had rejected God's prophets and so God had sent them to non-Jewish people, or even had to import people whom he could bless, as in the case of Naaman. **"All the people . . . were furious."**—The people got the point. Jesus could see into their hearts, and he knew they had rejected him as their forefathers had rejected the prophets. When he told them this, they tried to kill him.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 2

1_3_02—Jesus Preaches in Nazareth

Upper

Let the children know that their work is to share the Word and that they should then let the Lord bring people to faith using the power of his Word.

“S” words.

Consider acting out the story.

Use visuals as much as possible.

Match prophecies with fulfillments.

Show how amazing it is that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies that were made about him.

Make the best possible use of your time, especially when you are doing activities designed to be enjoyable for the students.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 3

The Huge Catch of Fish—Luke 5:1-11

Review

In the gospel of John, we hear that Jesus called Peter and several other disciples while he was at the Jordan River with John the Baptist (John 1:42-44). Jesus then left for Galilee. That is where we find him now. Peter had continued to work as a fisherman. It does not seem as if Jesus had told Peter and the others to join him in full-time service. But for Peter, now was the decisive moment. Now he would leave everything and follow Jesus. James and John were also called to follow Jesus at this time (see Matthew 4:18-22).

Introduction

The account itself is of a remarkable miracle that Jesus performed. But as we see from the lesson, the miracle was performed for a specific reason. Jesus wanted to reveal something about himself to Peter and the other disciples that would have a direct bearing on their discipleship. In addition to this, the lesson has a direct bearing on our discipleship. What Peter and the others saw and heard that day moved them to follow Jesus. Help your children learn the same lesson from this story for their lives.

God's Plan of Salvation

The miracle of the great catch of fish shows Jesus' power over all things. That miracle had an effect on Peter and moved him to want to follow Jesus and help the kingdom grow. From that standpoint, the miracles of Jesus play an important role in helping God's kingdom grow. They let us see what a powerful and loving Savior we have and what a privilege it is to serve him.

The Account—Luke 5:1-11

5:1-5 **"Lake of Gennesaret"**—Another name for the Sea of Galilee. **"deep water"**—This was not the best place in which to catch fish. **"But because you say so, I will let down the nets."**—Peter obediently followed Jesus' orders. **"we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything."**—Peter's statement set up the miracle. It also set up the lesson Jesus wanted to teach Peter about work in the kingdom. Jesus' ability to bring fish into the net pictured how Jesus would bring "fish" into their "nets" when they became fishers of men. This is the real significance of the miracle and why Jesus chose to do this particular miracle shortly before he called his first disciples. Be sure to point this out to your class. It will give them a good insight into what this account is all about.

5:6-11 **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"**—We don't always react this way when we read about one of the miracles Jesus performed. Yet this is a

good way to act. It shows we recognize the divine nature of Jesus, his power, and his perfection. By contrast, we realize how sinful we are. Peter realized that he, a sinner, had no right to be in the presence of the living God. A proper attitude, indeed! **"Don't be afraid"**—This is always Jesus' reaction to our fear. He tells us not to be afraid. He did not come to judge us but to save us. **"You will catch men."**—Over the next few years, Jesus would teach the disciples to be fishers of men. His methods might seem unorthodox at first (casting nets into the deep part of the lake), but as God willed and as he poured out his blessings, the disciples would enjoy great success. **"left everything and followed him"**—They had Jesus' assurance that they need not fear, and they also had his promise that he would bless their efforts. That powerful assurance and that promise moved the disciples to follow Jesus, which in itself was a great miracle.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 3

1_3_03—The Huge Catch of Fish

Upper

Time spent before the class getting to know your students better is time well spent.

Use visuals whenever you can.

Consider inviting the congregation's youth leader or some members of the youth group to help you teach or do some activity with the class.

Give the children ideas on how they can be fishers of people in their everyday lives.

Suggest ways the children can use the pastor's sermon as something to give away.

Point the children to the WELS or their church's Web site.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 4

The Parable of the Farmer and the Seed—Matthew 13:1-9;18-23; Mark 4:3-9, 14-20; Luke 8:22-25

Review

In the last lesson, Jesus had called Peter, James, and John to be his disciples and follow him on a full-time basis. He had promised them that he would make them fishers of men. Part of Jesus' training program was to let them listen as he taught the people. They would learn how to teach others by watching Jesus. Jesus' parables were an especially important part of his training program. His parables taught the disciples what they should expect as they fished for people to become members of the kingdom of heaven.

Introduction

This parable can be tricky. This parable is often taught as a series of little pictures to help us learn what *we* should do in our lives, that is, how we should treat God's Word that has been sown in our hearts. The parable will certainly have that effect. We will not want to be like the soil that was unproductive. We will want to be like the soil that produced a good crop, especially like the soil that produced one hundred times what was sown. As a teacher, you will certainly want to bring out those points.

But be aware that the parable is not only, perhaps not even mainly, to help the children know how they should live. Rather, it was told to teach the disciples some things about God's kingdom, in which they would soon be working. It taught them what to expect when they sowed the Word. It also teaches us about what will happen when we spread the Word of God. Jesus tells us this lest we become discouraged over what some people do with the Word. He also tells us this to encourage us, since there will be many who accept the Word with joy and produce the fruit of faith. There are many applications for this truth in the lives of your children. Your children will have opportunities to talk to their friends about their faith. They need to hear what will happen with the Word they share and not become discouraged if they are not always successful.

God's Plan of Salvation

God's plan of salvation for people depends on the spread of his Word. He never forces people into his kingdom, but he invites them. The church has no right to force people into the kingdom either. People do have the power to "opt out" for one reason or another. That is a sad power that we have. But the Word will do its work in the hearts of those whom God has predestined to live under him in his kingdom.

The Account—Matthew 13:1-9;18-23; Mark 4:3-9, 14-20; Luke 8:22-25

We will use Matthew's account in our notes below.

13:1-9 "**A farmer went out to sow his seed.**"—Most of the children envision large plowed fields, free of rocks and weeds, with roads going around the outside of them. You will want to carefully explain to the children how seed was sown back in Jesus' day. This will explain why the seed could fall on so many different kinds of soil.

13:10-17 "**Why do you speak to the people in parables?**"—This is not part of the lesson, yet your children may be asking that question also. We often call a parable "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning" and state that its purpose was to explain God's truths in terms the average person could understand. This is true, but there is more. First, the parables were about life in the kingdom of God and were not just general truths about spiritual things. They were designed to teach the disciples, and us, how to view the kingdom in which we are serving as God's disciples. Second, and this is the

main point Jesus was making in these verses, Jesus told parables to actually hide the truth from those whose time of grace on earth God had put to an end—those who had committed the sin against the Holy Spirit. Clearly, this is not something you will want to broach with the younger children in great detail. Yet we mention it here because teachers often overlook it and teach an oversimplified view of parables.

13:18-23 "**Listen then to what the parable of the sower means**"—Be sure to spend time telling the children the meanings of the various types of soil. This will help them understand why not everyone goes to church or why some people fall away. People have the power to reject the Word and often use that power. May the Lord keep us from using that power ourselves. "**yielding . . .**"—This contains a practical application for you as a teacher. Not every child will be on the same level spiritually. Be patient with all, even with those who are not producing as much fruit as you would like.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 4

1_3_04—The Parable of the Farmer and the Seed

Upper

The importance of student participation.

Use the “ball toss” idea.

Note the cell phone option in Christ-Light.

Mr. Potato Head.

Note activity 7, “Sticking to the Bible.”

Soil samples to match those in the parable might help the students visualize the lesson better.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 5

Jesus Calms the Storm—Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Review

Jesus had been teaching on the east shore of the Sea of Galilee. That's where he told the parable of the sower and the seed, which was last week's lesson. That evening Jesus and his disciples crossed over to the other side of the lake.

Introduction

This account will give you a wonderful opportunity to help the children deal with difficult times in their lives. In this account we see a number of things going on:

- Jesus is the one who told the disciples that he wanted to cross over to the other side.
Comment: Jesus is the one who got the disciples into the trouble they were in. We ask Jesus to guide our lives, and sometimes he guides us into difficult, even dangerous, situations.
- The storm came up unexpectedly.
Comment: Often the difficult situations in which we sometimes find ourselves come on us suddenly and unexpectedly. The Christian should expect the unexpected.
- Jesus was asleep.
Comment: Jesus was inactive. You can interpret this in two ways: Either he did not care about the disciples or he knew exactly what was happening, loved the disciples so much that he would not let them drown, still had work for them to do, and had complete power over all things. So why not sleep? Jesus' attitude can be our attitude. Why not sleep in peace, even when things are difficult, because Jesus, who loves us, is in complete control?
- The disciples didn't think Jesus cared about them.
Comment: This is the way our sinful nature leads us to think. That's why this account is so important. It clearly shows us that we can interpret our problems in the second way described above.
- The disciples were in great danger (Luke 8:23). Luke helps us see the problem. He does not soft-peddle the seriousness of the situation. Humanly speaking, the disciples were indeed in great danger.
Comment: We may be in great danger too. But we can face great danger because Jesus is with us.
- Jesus calmed the sea.
Comment: Jesus has complete control over all things.
- Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith and their fear that stemmed from their lack of faith.
Comment: Sometimes we need a similar rebuke. Jesus rebukes us not because he wants to cast us away but because he wants us to trust in him completely.

God's Plan of Salvation

Jesus has control over all things. Because he has suffered for our sins and defeated Satan, he has the power to rule over all things for the good of his church. He even rules over the forces of nature.

The Account—Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

We will use Mark 4:35-41 for the notes below.

4:35-41 **“other boats”**—We don't know how many. But more people than just Jesus' disciples were in great danger. **“it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping”**—What a tremendous contrast. You can almost feel the frustration as they watched Jesus sleep when their lives were in great danger! We feel that same frustration today when Jesus seems to be sleeping right

through the dangers we are in. **“completely calm”**—Not a ripple. Jesus has the ability to completely solve any problem. **“afraid? . . . no faith?”**—The two go together. When we have little or no faith in Jesus, we are afraid of problems in life. We are afraid of what suffering our problems may cause us, and worse, we are afraid that God does not love us or care for us. Problems may cause us suffering, but God's love and care are certain.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 5

1_3_05—Jesus Calms the Storm

Upper

A way to encourage the children to answer questions.

Suggestion for using the Athanasian Creed on page 132 of *Christian Worship*.

Consider using a symbol of the Trinity to focus on Jesus' divine nature.

A suggestion for teaching prayer using the letters *P.R.A.Y.*

A suggestion for getting children to express themselves regarding a personal problem or feeling.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 6

Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter—Matthew 9:18,19; 23-26; Mark 5:21-24;35-43; Luke 8:40-42;49-56

Review

The stories you have been covering in this series of lessons focus on Jesus' words and deeds. You might want to review some of the stories you have covered so far. Jesus' power extends over all things. Last week we saw Jesus calm a storm on a lake. This showed his power over nature. Today we will see Jesus' power over the greatest problem of all—death. No matter how much scientists talk about controlling nature, they have not been able to make any strides in that direction. No matter how many medical advances there may be, no one is able to overcome death, except Jesus, that is.

Introduction

In this account we move from Jesus' power over nature to his power over human life. In one way this account bears a striking similarity to the account of Jesus calming the storm. You may want to touch on the opening events of the account, pointing out how Jairus was nearly beside himself with grief over his daughter's sickness. He fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded earnestly with him to come and heal his daughter. He knew she didn't have much time.

After you have introduced this part of the account, note the account that follows. It is sandwiched in between the two parts of the Jairus account. You don't have to tell the whole story, but try to picture for the children how frantic Jairus was to have Jesus come and heal his daughter and then the long interruption that took place when the sick woman touched Jesus, Jesus had a discussion with her, and the other events happened in this story. This account is a story all by itself, but it serves to set up what follows. Once again it seems like Jesus is "asleep in the boat." He deals with another woman's lifelong illness and puts off helping a young girl who is about to die. The question is, "Jesus, don't you care?"

Jesus often lets matters get as bad as they can get before he steps in and provides the solution. In this case, Jesus put off overcoming the young girl's sickness so that he could raise her from the dead.

God's Plan of Salvation

We may or may not suffer from the other problems that Jesus has taken care of, like hunger or illness, but we will all suffer from death. Jesus came to destroy death. His raising Jairus' daughter shows that power. Jairus' daughter would someday die again, but she would experience a permanent victory over death when she began an eternity in heaven.

The Account—Matthew 9:18,19; 23-26; Mark 5:21-24;35-43; Luke 8:40-42;49-56

We will use the Mark account for our notes below.

5:21-24 **"one of the synagogue rulers"**—A synagogue ruler oversaw the affairs of a synagogue. He oversaw its upkeep and provided for services there on the Sabbath. Synagogues were not part of Moses' Law. God intended the Israelites to worship three times a year at the tabernacle in Jerusalem, keep the Sabbath by not working, and receive instruction from the Levites who lived in the villages of the land. But when the Israelites were taken into captivity in Babylon and separated from the temple, they built little churches where they could assemble on the Sabbath to worship God. This custom remained after they returned from Babylon, and it continued up to Jesus' day.

5:35-43 **"Why bother the teacher"**—This demonstrates why Jesus waited for Jairus' daughter to die. He wanted to perform a greater miracle. **"Don't be afraid; just believe."**—This is the antidote for all our

problems. **"not dead but asleep"**—This is how Jesus views death. **"They laughed at him."**—They were mocking Jesus for what he just said, but soon he would be mocking death and raising Jairus' daughter. **"Immediately the girl stood up"**—This was another indication of Jesus' power. Compare this with what happened in the last lesson. When Jesus told the storm to be quiet, immediately the sea became as still as glass. **"not to let anyone know about this"**—Jesus often told the people not to report a miracle he had just performed. This almost seems to go against Jesus' desire that people tell others about him. But the people wanted a king who could do the kind of miracles Jesus could do. After he died and rose again, everything fell into place. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church, then people understood how Jesus' miracles were to be understood in the context of repentance, faith, and the true nature of the kingdom of God.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 6

1_3_06—Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter

Upper

Talking about death.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 7

The Gentile Woman's Faith—Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Review

The last two lessons have had something in common. In both we saw Jesus act in a rather unusual way. He fell asleep in a boat that was about to sink. He delayed arriving at Jairus' home until Jairus' daughter was dead. The lesson for this week bears a similarity to those lessons. In this lesson we see Jesus act in a way that on the surface is out of character with his love.

Introduction

In this account Jesus seems to be unwilling to help the woman. He puts her off. In the process, as in the last two lessons, Jesus creates an opportunity to display his glory, and in this account, he gives the woman a marvelous opportunity to express her faith.

God's Plan of Salvation

This account teaches some wonderful truths about God's plan of salvation. The woman in the story was a Gentile, a non-Jew. Yet when she approached Jesus, she spoke in some very Jewish terms. She addressed him as the "Son of David." She understood that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the One God had promised to the Jewish nation, who would save his people, the Israelites, and be a light for the Gentiles. She understood that the Savior was going to establish a kingdom to replace the kingdom of Israel's great King David.

Not only did the woman understand who Jesus was but she understood the nature of the Savior's work. God had sent his Son first and foremost to the Jewish nation, the descendants of Abraham, whom God had chosen as his own people. God's people had rejected him for a long time, so God, in one last ditch effort, sent his Son to save them and call them to repentance. When Jesus explained this to the woman, she indicated that she understood it and did not feel slighted that she was not part of the chosen nation of Israel.

However, the woman was not to be denied what she knew was hers. She knew that Jesus had come also to save non-Jews.

The Account—Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

We will use the Matthew account for our notes below. 15:21-23 **"to the region of Tyre and Sidon."**—This was Phoenicia, an area to the north of Israel. Gentiles lived there. The people there worshiped idols. Interestingly enough, the previous account in Matthew was on the matter of what makes a person clean and unclean. Jesus made it clear that uncleanness comes from the heart and does not have to do with external things like washing one's hands. In line with this, Jesus was not afraid to go into Canaanite territory where there would be a great chance that he would become "unclean" through contact with the Gentiles. Jesus knew they would soon become the largest part of God's New Testament people. And even then, God's elect were to be found there. **"demon-possession"**—The demons seemed to have been particularly active as Jesus did his ministry. Perhaps they were in a frenzy and seeking to

hold on to the bodies and souls of people even as Jesus was trying to free the people. **"did not answer a word."**—Jesus was giving the woman a chance to express her faith, even though he seemed cold and detached. **"Send her away"**—The disciples completely misunderstood Jesus' silence. They considered this woman to be part of the unclean rabble and didn't want anything to do with her.

15:24-28 **"knelt before him"**—The woman refused to be rebuffed. **"children . . . dogs"**—We shouldn't take this to mean more than it does. Jesus was simply telling a story that expressed his priorities and a difference between Jews and Gentiles. **"Yes, Lord . . ."**—The woman was not put off, even by a story that could be considered quite insulting. **"great faith"**—She possessed both deep insight as well as unyielding perseverance, all fostered by what her Lord had led her to know and believe.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 7

1_3_07—The Gentile Woman’s Faith

Upper

A suggestion for an activity to help children get to know their Bibles better.

A general discussion about demon-possession and an encouragement to help the children deal with what they are exposed to on TV and in the movies.

The Christ-Light activity called Knot Tying.

Note the activity called Lord, Help Me.

Note the lesson activity called Linking It Together.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 8

The Lost Son—Luke 15:11-32

Review

For the last three weeks we have focused on Jesus' deeds. In the lesson for this Sunday, we return to Jesus' words. We hear Jesus teaching another parable.

Introduction

The parable of the lost son is one of the most memorable and comforting of all Jesus' parables. A good way to introduce this parable is to look closely at the opening words of the chapter and then skim the two parables Jesus tells before the parable of the lost son. Luke tells us, "Now the tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them'" (15:1,2).

Jesus then tells three parables to show the joy God feels over sinners who repent. What a contrast to the Pharisees and teachers of the law who begrudged these people their joy in Jesus' presence and who believed that God loved the "righteous" people like them. In the parable we see both sides represented. Note that the younger grades do not learn the last part of the parable. But it is good for teachers to understand the entire parable so that you can see the big picture.

God's Plan of Salvation

God's plan of salvation comes through loud and clear in this account. The world thinks that God came to bless the righteous and curse the sinners. The world doesn't realize that God came to save all people—those who have lived relatively pious lives and those who have wallowed terribly in the gutter of sin. All need his forgiveness, and without repentance and faith in Christ, the world's Savior, all would die in sin.

We also see the intense love the Lord has for us. He rejoices when a sinner repents. You may ask the children if they know someone who has strayed from the faith. Let them know that God yearns for such people to return to him. You may also say something like this to your children: "I pray that none of you ever strays from the faith. But if one of you does, I want you to know that God yearns to have you back, and when you think of returning to him, know that he is not waiting to criticize you but to throw his arms around you and give you his love."

The Account—Luke 15:11-32

15:11-19 **"the pigs"**—Pigs were unclean to the Jews. To have to care for pigs, and then to be open to eating what the pigs were eating, would be repulsive to any Jewish person. It shows you the depth to which this man had fallen. When you teach the story, however, don't focus on the physical depths to which the younger son had fallen but the spiritual depths that he, and we, can fall into. **"Father, I have sinned"**—Here we get to the heart of the son's repentance. The terrible circumstances into which he had fallen impressed on him how terribly he had sinned.

15:20-24 **"while he was still a long way off"**—The father must have been watching for him to return, which shows his love for his son. **"Quick!"**—Another term that shows God's love and how quickly God wants to begin blessing those who have repented of their sin.

"was dead and is alive again"—Here we see a perfect example of self-righteousness and unbelief vs. faith in Christ and trusting in his righteousness. The first person is dead; the second is alive. **"they began to**

celebrate"—There was a crowd of people here who were rejoicing. See verse 10, where we hear about the angels in heaven rejoicing when someone repents.

15:25-31 **"The older brother became angry"**—The older brother represents the Pharisees and teachers of the law who were angry at the idea of God loving a tax collector and other sinners. What caused him to be angry? He felt he had worked hard and deserved to have his father's favor. But his brother did not deserve it. The older son's relation to his father was based on works, not on faith. **"All these years . . . slaving for you . . . never disobeyed."**—Clear examples of a work-righteous attitude. **"Never gave me"**—Work-righteous people focus on what they deserve but seldom on the blessings they have by God's grace. **"we had to celebrate and be glad"**—It is almost like God is forced to be happy when people repent. But he is forced to be happy not because he is compelled to do something he doesn't want to do but because his love will let him do nothing else.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 8

1_3_08—The Lost Son

Upper

Consider playing music CDs in the background when you are doing activities or projects. Our synod worker training schools have good CDs the children would enjoy. The CDs from the WELS group Koine is also a good option.

Note on God's Word Today, number 3.

Note on the option entitled Robed in Jesus' Righteousness.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 9

The Parable of the Vineyard Workers—Matthew 19:27–20:16

Review

The last several lessons have presented Jesus' deeds and words, including two parables. In this week's lesson, we hear Jesus teach another parable.

Introduction

The remaining lessons in this quarter deal with the last hours of Jesus' life and his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Jesus taught this parable not long before he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Jesus' disciples had been with him for nearly three years. Although their understanding was still incomplete and their zeal was still sometimes misdirected, they had worked at Jesus' side for a long time.

Not all the Christ-Light grade levels include the last verses of Matthew 19, but these verses explain why Jesus told the parable. Peter asked Jesus, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" Jesus responded that when he returned in glory, the disciples would sit with him on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. He went on to say that everyone who gave up everything to follow him would be richly rewarded.

But Jesus' promise of reward always elicits a bad reaction from our sinful nature. We are tempted to think that we have earned God's reward and that we deserve what we get. So in Matthew 19:30, after Jesus had spoken of our reward, he puts that reward in the context of our attitudes. Many who are first, that is, who think they deserve more because they have worked the longest and hardest, will come up last—they will lose their reward. But those who are last, who know they deserve nothing and appreciate God's reward as a gift of grace, will end up first in God's eyes, and they will indeed be blessed.

The parable that follows is an illustration of Matthew 19:30. Note how the parable ends with the same idea (20:16). This, accordingly, is the main point of the parable and gives you, as a teacher, the direction you need in teaching the parable.

God's Plan of Salvation

This parable teaches us about the heart of God's plan of salvation, namely, that we are saved by faith through God's grace in Christ alone. We rejoice in the rewards of grace that God will give us, and we find encouragement in knowing that God will bless us as we remain faithful to him. But we always remain humble recipients of the undeserved love God has given us.

The Account—Matthew 19:27–20:16

19:27-30 **"twelve tribes of Israel"**—This is symbolic of the believers of all time, namely, the church of the Old and New Testaments. **"a hundred times as much . . . eternal life"**—One hundred is the number of completeness. We will receive God's complete blessings in heaven, and we will receive an unending life in which to enjoy those blessings.

20:1-7 **"the kingdom of heaven"**—Most of Jesus' parables explain how things work in God's kingdom. God's kingdom is God's rule over all things, in time and in eternity. This parable focuses on the time when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. It also focuses on how God will judge us not on the basis of our works but on the basis of Jesus' work for us. **"to hire men to work"**—This is the equivalent of our temporary employment agencies. The owner would go into the

marketplace and find men willing to work for the day. **"denarius"**—A denarius was considered fair pay for a day's work.

20:8-16 **"they began to grumble"**—Here is the key: in God's kingdom, that is, in the visible church where God's Word is being preached, some will reject the gospel of salvation alone through Christ's sacrifice. They will think they earn God's rewards and eternal life. **"Take your pay and go."**—In most parables, there are certain elements that are just part of the story. Jesus was not telling the grumblers to take God's blessings and eternal life and depart with them in their possession. Because of their attitude, they had forfeited these blessings. They are the "first" who, because of their work-righteous attitude, will end up last. "Last" refers to eternal death in hell.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 9

1_3_09—The Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Upper

An extended discussion on an introductory activity.

Using the story of the people of Israel to get the children thinking about the concept of fairness.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 10
The Lord's Supper—Various

Review

Between last week's lesson and this week's lesson, a number of things happened. Jesus came to Jerusalem, where he stayed in the town of Bethany with Mary and Martha. On Sunday, he entered Jerusalem as Israel's King. Each day he taught in the temple courts. He celebrated the Passover Feast on Thursday evening along with his disciples. The lesson for today focuses on the things that happened at the Passover meal.

Introduction

This lesson deals with various things that happened at the Passover meal. Each of the grade levels handles this event a little differently, so you will want to pay careful attention to the Christ-Light material for your age group. The notes below are of a general nature.

Everything that happened at the Last Supper could be described as an act of service—Jesus serving us. Jesus' disciples, and us, learned from Jesus how to serve, and from his example, we are motivated to serve others.

God's Plan of Salvation

At the Last Supper, God's plan of salvation was in the process of being completed. The first Passover ceremony in the Old Testament pictured what Jesus was about to do. The lamb that was killed for the meal pictured Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us. The bitter herbs symbolized the bitterness of Israel's captivity in Egypt and our captivity in sin. The unleavened bread symbolized the purity of life to which God has called us. At the Last Supper, Jesus wrapped a towel around himself, and, like a servant, he walked around washing the feet of the disciples. During the meal, he continued to teach them. He even reached out to wicked Judas, not wanting his eternal destruction.

The Account—Various

<p>Luke 22:1-30 contains all the major themes. Be sure to read the verses on which your grade level is based.</p> <p>22:1-16 “eagerly desired to eat this Passover”—As noted above, the Passover pointed to Jesus' death for the sins of the world. His blood has been painted on our hearts (our “doorposts”), just as the blood of the Passover lamb was put on the doorposts of the Israelites' homes. The sight of this blood made the angel of death “pass over” the houses of the Israelites so their firstborn would not die. The blood of Christ on us, through faith, enables us to be spared from eternal death. “until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God . . . until the kingdom of God comes”—God has already begun to rule in our hearts and lives. He has become our king of love, who rules all things for our good and to whom we submit because we love him in return. In another sense, the kingdom of God has not come. God's heavenly kingdom will start when God is united with his people in heaven. This is the time Jesus is talking about here. The Passover finds its ultimate fulfillment in eternity, where the blood of the Lamb enables us to eat and drink with our God in an eternal, heavenly feast.</p>	<p>22:17-20 “This is my body given for you”—Jesus says that the bread “is” his body, which is given into death for us. “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”—The wine “is” Jesus' blood. Because it is Jesus' blood, it is also the new covenant (the forgiveness of sins). This is a good time to teach the children that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us his true body and blood in the bread and wine.</p> <p>22:21-23 “but woe to that man who betrays him”—Jesus is clearly trying to get Judas to see his sins and to call him to repent. This is all Luke tells us about Judas. Matthew 26:21-25 contains more information on how Jesus tried to reach out to Judas. Also note how Jesus tried to keep Peter from denying him (verse 34).</p> <p>22:24-30 “the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves”—Jesus put into practice what he told his disciples to do. The other gospel writers tell us that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, symbolizing how he had served them and would continue to serve them even to the point of death. This was to be a pattern for them and for us.</p>
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Year 1 Spring Lesson 10

1_3_10—The Lord's Supper

Upper

Explore the idea of “humiliation.”

Explore the idea of doing a humble task in our present world. Apply that to Jesus’ washing the feet of his disciples.

Some thoughts on illustrating how much Jesus cares for us.

If appropriate, discuss the teachings and practices of other churches regarding the Lord’s Supper.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 11

Jesus Is Crucified—Matthew 27:39-56; Mark 15:33-39; Luke 23:34-49; John 19:25-30

Review

This account follows quickly on the previous account. Pilate, under pressure from the Jews, condemned Jesus to be crucified. Jesus carried his cross to the place of crucifixion and was crucified.

Introduction

Jesus was now in mortal combat with Satan. The battle between the King of the Jews and the king of darkness had been joined. As peaceful as it was beneath the cross—with only the groans of the prisoners and the scattered shouts of mockers breaking the silence—the kingdom of Satan was in an uproar. All possible means of tempting Jesus were being used to lead him to give up the battle. His disciples had forsaken him; his mother sat helpless and vulnerable at the foot of the cross; he was crucified along with and therefore identified with criminals; the religious rulers were mocking him; people from all over the world, come to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem, passed by and saw the sign of mockery over his head; he was in the hands of Romans who cared little for his safety; worst of all, his heavenly Father had forsaken him. All he had to do was denounce his work, come down from the cross, and it would all be over.

God's Plan of Salvation

Here we are at the center of God's plan of salvation. Everything that had come before—the promises of God about a coming Savior, God's work with the nation of Israel, the prophecies about Jesus' life and work—now had been completed. All that would happen—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the expansion of God's church, the growth of his kingdom, the final judgment day, and the advent of the new heaven and new earth—would now happen because Jesus' victory over Satan had been won.

The Account—Matthew 27:39-56; Mark 15:33-39; Luke 23:34-49; John 19:25-30

Instead of focusing on a single gospel account, we will focus on the seven words Jesus spoke from the cross. These seven words teach us about Jesus' crucifixion.

Luke 23:34 **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”**—Jesus' first act while on the cross was to ask God to forgive the sins of those who were nailing him to the cross. He loved them also and wanted them to be with him in heaven. He wanted God to show them mercy, not to break out in vengeance against them. This is Jesus' attitude toward everyone in the world. He wants all people to come to a knowledge of the truth and be with him in heaven. This set the pace for all that would follow.

John 19:26 **“Dear woman, here is your son.”**—Jesus cared for his mother. At a time when most criminals would be only thinking about themselves and hurling curses at everyone else, Jesus saw to it that his mother was taken care of.

Luke 23:43 **“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”**—The thief on the cross next to Jesus asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. Jesus responded with the promise that the same day, the man would be with him in paradise. This illustrates what Jesus was doing on the cross. The man had come to faith not long before he died. He had no chance to undo his evil life. But Jesus' promise of

heaven is not based on what a thief or anyone else can do for himself, but what Jesus did on the cross when he paid the penalty that we deserve for our sins. Heaven is now a free gift that we receive through faith.

Matthew 27:46 **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**—We take these words at face value. God forsook God. The Father forsook his Son because all of our detestable sins were on him. God forsook Jesus so he would not have to forsake us.

John 19:28 **“I am thirsty.”**—Jesus had refused the drink earlier. He did not want a pain killer, because he wanted to bear the full suffering necessary for our sins. But now it was only moments before the end of his life. He requested something to drink not because he was thirsty but because he wanted to let everyone know that his sufferings were over.

John 19:30 **“It is finished.”**—Immediately after he drank, he announced that his work of winning our salvation was finished.

Luke 23:46 **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”**—Luke tells us that he cried out in a loud voice. He still had air in his lungs and the strength to take a deep breath. This shows that no one took Jesus' life from him but he gave it up willingly—when and where he pleased. He placed himself into the loving hands of his heavenly Father, whose will he had completed.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 11

1_3_11—Jesus Is Crucified

Upper

Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ* helps us see again the pain Jesus suffered on the cross.

The heart of Jesus' sufferings was the pain God inflicted on him because he was carrying the sins of the world.

Note the reactions of the people who witnessed the crucifixion. What were they thinking?

A neat picture of Jesus describing how much he loves us.

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 12

Jesus' Burial and Resurrection—Matthew 27:57–28:8; Mark 15:42–16:8; Luke 24:47–25:10; John 19:31–42

Review

In last week's lesson, you taught the children about Jesus' death. This week's lesson comes immediately after that.

Introduction

This lesson is found in all the gospels. Depending on the grade level, the Christ-Light lesson material focuses on various sections of the gospel writers' accounts.

Jesus' burial is quite straightforward. It is not difficult to piece together the events from the time Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body to the point at which Jesus was placed into a tomb. The first steps in preparing his body for burial were hastily carried out. That work was to be finished as early as possible on Sunday morning.

Starting with early Sunday morning, however, it is not as easy to track the events in order. We have various people going to the tomb, various appearances of angels, and various bits of communication happening at various times. If you become confused trying to figure it all out, especially if you read all the sections of Scripture and try to piece them together, don't feel bad. There are special studies available that attempt to piece it all together. It is best to save such study for your own personal growth in faith and stick with the events in the Christ-Light material offered for your grade level.

The most important events, of course, are Jesus' burial and resurrection. The people who witnessed Jesus' resurrection were important because they could tell others that Jesus was not dead but alive.

God's Plan of Salvation

These events are at the heart of God's plan of salvation. Jesus' resurrection tells us that the sins of the entire world have been paid for and that those who repent and believe in the Savior have eternal life. Let these truths dominate your approach to the lesson.

The Account—Matthew 27:57–28:8; Mark 15:42–16:8; Luke 24:47–25:10; John 19:31–42

We will focus on the events recorded in Matthew 27:57–28:8.

27:57-61 **“a rich man from Arimathea”**—Joseph was an example of a person who believed in Jesus but did so secretly because he feared the Jews. Now he makes his faith public (John 19:38). Joseph was a prominent member of the Jewish Council (Mark 15:43), which is why Pilate was quick to honor his request.

27:62-65 **“give the order for the tomb to be made secure”**—This is one of those miracles that is not very apparent unless we look closely at it. You might help your class understand it by saying something like this: “What is the best thing the religious leaders could have done if they were afraid that Jesus' disciples might rob the grave and take away the body?” The answer is: “They should have done nothing.” If it was ever discovered that Jesus' body was not in the tomb, the religious leaders could simply have said that the disciples stole the body. No one could have proven them wrong. But by guarding and sealing the tomb, the leaders actually helped our faith by taking away any

possibility of grave tampering. The tomb was secure. Only Jesus himself could have emptied it by rising from the dead, which is what happened.

28:1-8 **“rolled back the stone”**—The angel rolled back the stone, not so that Jesus could get out but to show that he was no longer there. He had risen from the dead. This becomes clear in verses 5-7.

Note: The Apostles' Creed gives a sequence of events starting with Jesus' crucifixion. He died, was buried, descended into hell, and rose again on the third day. Your children might have some questions about Jesus' descent into hell, and sometimes they get the sequence of events confused. If you wish, here would be a good place to discuss this with your children. First, Jesus died. His body and soul separated, and his soul went back to his heavenly Father. His body was in the grave. Early on Sunday, Jesus rose. His body and soul were reunited. Then he descended into hell, not to suffer for sin but to proclaim his victory over sin. (We can piece this together from several Scripture references.) After that he began appearing to his followers.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 12

1_3_12—Jesus' Burial and Resurrection

Upper

Note the memory treasure from Romans 4:25.

Note the “You are there” suggestion in Christ-Light. Interview class members, and have them describe in their own words what was happening.

Focus on the witnesses who saw Jesus after he rose.

Thoughts on the greeting “He is risen” and the answer “He is risen indeed.”

Year 1, Spring, Lesson 13

Jesus Ascends Into Heaven—Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Review

Last week you taught about Jesus' burial and resurrection. Forty days passed between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension into heaven. Be sure the children do not think these events happened back to back. Jesus spent time revealing himself to his disciples and teaching them about the kingdom of God. This was an important time for the disciples. Those whom Jesus had designated as *apostles* (chosen from the larger group of disciples), who were going to testify to Jesus' resurrection, needed this time to be confirmed in their knowledge that Jesus had risen from the dead, to grow in their understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection, and to understand better how their witness to Jesus' resurrection would extend the kingdom of God.

Introduction

Paul encouraged the Philippian Christians to be humble and willing to serve others. He used Jesus as his example. He described Jesus' work:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place* and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:6-11)

In the account for this week, we see God exalting Jesus to the highest place. We see Jesus ascending from the earth in full view of his disciples, returning to the right hand of his heavenly Father.

God's Plan of Salvation

Jesus ascended into heaven for several very important reasons, all related to God's plan of salvation. Be sure to tell the children the reasons why this took place. All of those reasons are important to your children's salvation and are key to God's plan of salvation.

- When Jesus' disciples were troubled about his leaving them and returning to the Father, he said that it was good for him to go. Unless he left them and returned to his Father, he could not send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was the key to empowering the disciples for their ministry and for the growth of the church.
- If Jesus had not ascended into heaven, he could not sit at God's right hand and rule over all things for the good of his church.
- If Jesus had not ascended, he could not have prepared a place for us in heaven, nor could he return in power to judge all people.

The Account—Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:1-11 **“wait for the gift . . . in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit”**—Jesus returned to his heavenly Father so he could pour out the Holy Spirit. **“you will be my witnesses”**—The Holy Spirit would give the disciples power to be witnesses to Jesus' resurrection and to make disciples of all nations. **“a cloud hid him from their sight.”**—Jesus left his disciples by rising into the air, where a cloud hid him from their sight. Don't imagine Jesus continuing to rise higher and higher into the sky. When the cloud hid him,

he was in heaven. The angels spoke of Jesus' entry into heaven in the past tense. He “has been” taken into heaven. **“same Jesus . . . come back in the same way”**—Notice how the angels comforted the disciples. The very same Jesus whom they had known for three years would someday return. And he would return in the same way he had left them. Someday he would come in the clouds of heaven and reappear, not just to the disciples but to all people.

Year 1 Spring Lesson 13

1_3_13—Jesus Ascends Into Heaven

Upper

Note the worksheet activity. It is not easy, and you as a teacher may have to do some preparation before you use it.

Use helium balloons to share the message.

Encourage the children to be active in their lives of faith.