

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Mission Possible

YE3B · Teacher Edition

Juniors · Year 1: Life of Christ

Christian Educational Ministries — a faithful digital edition of the printed program

Closer Than a Brother

MEMORY VERSE

“A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain that Jesus is all powerful, easily accessible, and ready to help in time of need.
2. Tell that Jesus is a Friend who sticks closer than a brother.
3. Demonstrate through the activity how helpless we are without God’s help when we get in trouble.

TOPICS & THEMES

Creator

Faith

God’s Love

God’s Omnipotence

God’s Protection

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, His Miracles

Calming the Storm

Jesus, Our Friend

Prayer

Sea of Galilee

Storms

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, CD, CD player, songbook, kid’s pool or large tub, water, small plastic boats, string

PREPARATION

Since this is the first lesson in the second Junior’s book, build on what was taught in the first book. Remember that your students are accustomed to a very visual world. Posters, pictures, and

other visual things can increase the effectiveness of each lesson.

Start with new charts that you prepare before class for keeping track of the students' attendance and memory work. See Preparation in lesson one of Junior book one if you don't know how to make these charts.

Read all lesson Scriptures, the Students' lesson, and the lesson in the Parent/Teacher's guide. Also work the activity in the Students' book for this lesson. This activity is a good Bible study for students to discover from their own Bibles how reliable God is in helping His friends. The way kids view God is critical to the way they respond to Him. Our children need a clear understanding of the fundamentals of God's nature and character. Teach this lesson in a way that each student has a clear picture of God being all powerful, easily accessible, and their best Friend.

Assign the books of the Bible to be learned by the end of this book (ten weeks from now). There should be an award for those who show enough love for God to put forth the effort to learn all the books of the Bible.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Open the class with prayer and then follow the lesson plan below.

Storms and Earthquakes - Let students discuss storms or earthquakes they have experienced. Ask: Were you scared? What did you do? (Juniors may be reluctant to admit to being scared. Let them know that even adults are afraid at times.) Encourage them to think about and acknowledge how God protected them at this time. The children's faith could be strengthened by telling about a time when God protected you and/or your family.

Disciples Afraid - Review the story of Jesus and the disciples in the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Ask: Why do you think the disciples were afraid, even though Jesus was in the boat with them? Lead them to discuss the dangers of the storm, and how the disciples' fear of those dangers was only natural. Ask: How do you think the disciples must have felt when Jesus said, "O you men of little faith!"? Jesus was scolding them because they didn't trust Him. Ask: How would you feel if Jesus had said that to you?

We know that Jesus was there, physically, in the boat with the disciples. But, He is no longer here on earth. Ask: How do we know He can help us when we are in trouble? Have one of the students read Psalm 46:1 aloud.

Take Shelter! - When the warning siren sounds and the newscaster tells us to take shelter because a tornado is approaching, does God expect us to have faith and do nothing? Ask one of the students to read James 2:17,18. Ask: How do you show that you have faith? Explain that God would expect us to take shelter when there is an approaching hurricane or tornado. Explain how

Satan tried to get Jesus to do a foolish thing in Matthew 4:5-7. Jesus told Satan, “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” We can’t expect God to protect us if we do foolish things.

Friends of Jesus - Ask: What did Jesus call His disciples in John 15:15? Friendships carry a certain responsibility. What responsibility do you have toward Jesus since He is your Friend? Does it make you feel secure to know that Jesus has power to calm the storm, and He wants to be your Friend?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Use the questions from the Activity in the Students’ book to review this lesson. Invite students to do the review for you by asking for volunteers to pick one of the questions to ask the class. As each question is asked, have the student who answers the question also read the applicable Scripture.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Place a sheet of plastic on the floor under the kid’s pool or tub, and put enough water in it for the boats to float and to make good waves. Give each student a small plastic boat and a string if they want it. Invite each child to put his boat in the water at the edge of the tub. Each is to get his boat to the other side of the pool any way he can without directly touching it. Creative methods can be used, including blowing on it or even tying the string to it. The boats must remain in the water at all times and they must not touch them. Give them a set time (maybe two minutes) to accomplish this. As they maneuver their boats across the pool, make waves by stirring the water with your hands. The whirlpool effect will make their task even harder.

Then, ask: How did you feel when the waves got much higher than the boats? How many boats turned over? Do you think the disciples worried about their boat turning over? What did you trust in to get your boat to the other side? Did you put your trust in something that worked?

Do you think the disciples would have been in a lot of trouble trying to cross the Sea of Galilee in a storm if Jesus hadn’t calmed the sea? What does this activity teach you about how helpless we are without Jesus’ help?

SONG

“Everybody Ought to Know” is on page 8 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite one of the students to lead in prayer, thanking God that He is all powerful and the best Friend they can have.

Bread and Fish

MEMORY VERSE

“I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever go hungry. And no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty” (John 6:35 NIV Kids’ Devotional Bible).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Retell the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000.
2. Explain that God cares about our physical needs.
3. State that there is a difference between needs and wants.
4. Tell why Jesus wants us to seek God’s Kingdom first.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bread/loaves
Bread of Life
Disciples
Andrew
Philip
Eternity
Fasting
Fish
God’s Gifts
God’s Love
God’s Provision
God’s Will
Jesus, His Ministry
Jesus, His Miracles
Feeding of 5000
Hungry
Seeking God
Stewardship
Treasure

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD, CD player

PREPARATION

Prior to class, familiarize yourself with the four parallel accounts of the feeding of the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13). Because this miracle is in all four Gospel accounts, we have a clue to its significance in our lives as Christians. There are some interesting aspects. First, Matthew and Mark relate that Jesus and His disciples tried to find a solitary place, but that Jesus felt compassion for the crowds who followed them. It is only John who tells where the bread and the fish came from: a little boy. Another interesting fact is that John includes the detail that the loaves were made of barley.

Before class, read Matthew 7:7-11, 6:19-21, 25-34. These Scriptures show what Christ considered to be human needs and what is really important. A companion Scripture to these thoughts is Matthew 16:26: "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

Temporary Things - Students in this age group are very much into new clothes, computer games, shoes, jeans, hairstyles, cell phones, etc. This lesson, then, may meet with some resistance. Peer pressure is very much a force. Being accepted by their peers can be a strong motivator for Juniors. Therefore, lead students through the lesson carefully. Help them to buy into the concepts by encouraging them to read the Scriptures aloud, and to retell the events in their own words. Encourage them to put themselves in the place of the disciples and of the people who were fed. Let them draw their own conclusions about the miracle's significance—especially when coupled with Jesus' teaching on the temporary nature of earthly things (Matthew 6-7). Try not to be preachy; rather, let the students know that all people have to eventually make the choice to follow God, to seek His Kingdom first. It can be very powerful for the teacher to relate a personal incident in which the choice to follow God was made, no matter what the consequences might have been.

He Knows What's Best - Emphasize that our Heavenly Father is a loving God who does not want to deprive us of what we need; rather, He is working from eternity for eternity. He wants us all to be in His Kingdom and knows what we need to get there. We must believe, and act as though we believe, that He knows what is best for each of us.

Seek First - Spend some time discussing what it means to “seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.” Help students plan some concrete activities they can do at home during the week that will draw them closer to God, such as: daily Bible reading, reading their daily devotionals, praying for others, confession of sins, making wise choices. They can also log on to our website at www.borntowin.net and download FREE activities— just click on YEA! Let’s R.E.A.C.H.

The activity below is designed to foster a discussion about “needs” and “wants” not necessarily being black and white terms. Therefore, do the Activity before asking the review questions.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus feed 5000 men (and who knows how many women and children) with five loaves and two fish?
2. Why were they so far away from where food could be purchased?
3. What did Christ tell His disciples to do when everyone had enough?
4. What was the point of picking up the leftovers? Why do you think Christ told them to do that?
5. What does Christ say about God the Father giving us food, drink, clothing, shelter—the necessities?
6. What should we seek first? Why?
7. What’s the difference between a “need” and a “want”?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Divide your room in half, either visually or merely verbally. One side represents the “wants” and the other side the “needs.” Instruct students to move to the appropriate side of the room as you read off the items listed in the Student book Activity. Try to remain neutral and allow students to discuss why they chose a particular side. Then give the option of changing sides if anyone has changed his mind. Spend some time on each item because the status of many of the items is contingent upon the situation. Let students discover that. Let them discuss various situations and how they can change an item from a “want” to a “need,” or vice versa.

SONG

“His Banner Over Me Is Love” is on page 36 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Have one of the students lead in prayer thanking God for providing for all of our needs.

The Power to Heal

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people” (Matthew 4:23).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Give examples of the miracles Jesus performed in healing people.
2. State that a person must have faith to be healed, but it doesn't always ensure healing in this life.
3. Tell why spiritual healing is so important.
4. Explain that our loving Heavenly Father doesn't want us to suffer, but He does want us in His Kingdom.

TOPICS & THEMES

Crippled

Blindness

Eternity

Faith

Forgiveness

God's Love

God's Promises

God's Will

Healing

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, His Miracles

Healing

Resurrection

Jesus, Savior

Lazarus

Pain

Physical Infirmities -

Blindness

Physical Infirmities -
Crippled
Resurrection
Sin
Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, CD, CD player, songbook, chair, blindfold, dry erase board and marker

PREPARATION

Before class, read the various accounts of Jesus' healing to refresh your memory about the kinds of diseases He healed, and His attitude toward the various people. It would also be good to do some research into leprosy, asthma, and leukemia.

God is working from eternity for eternity in each of us. He wants us in His Kingdom. Our illnesses can be very hard to bear, and the illnesses of our loved ones tear us apart. But we have to learn to trust God. God is not going to give us more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

There is a reason why people who love God and follow His ways suffer. God may use an illness to make us stronger. If physical illness is something that will build character in us, if we are strong enough to strive and overcome the disability, we are stronger for having fought against the illness. We just don't understand everything about God and His plan. But we do know that He loves us so much that He sent His own Son to suffer and die for each of us.

It's important to remind children that this life is a preparation for life with Christ in His Kingdom for eternity. That's the goal. Here's where Scriptures such as Romans 5:2-4, Hebrews 13, and the following passage provide encouragement: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

God's Power To Heal - Let students discuss illnesses they or their friends may have had. Ask: Did you ever ask for God's healing? Encourage them to relate instances when they know they were healed by God through prayer, and perhaps anointing. Then lead into discussing the kinds of healings Jesus performed and why. In many cases, the Gospel writers relate that Jesus had compassion on those He healed. In almost every case, faith is also mentioned. Discuss faith and

its role in healing. In Matthew 9:29 Christ told the two blind men, “According to your faith will it be done to you.”

Faith - Children have been told that Jesus loves them, that our loving Heavenly Father cares about their every need, that if we believe, our prayers will be answered. But it’s more complicated than that. And children this age realize there’s something else in the equation. Many children believe that God will heal them because Mom and Dad said He would. Their prayers are touching in their candor and faith. Yet some of those children aren’t healed. We have to explain why this is—before they lose their childlike faith in their parents and in God.

God’s Bigger Purpose - Juniors are too old to be told that God has always healed people. They’ve heard of Christians dying. Emphasize that God keeps His promises, but sometimes He says “wait.” Abraham and many great people of God had to wait to receive their promises. But they will receive them in the life to come. There is tremendous power in prayer and faith. Sometimes persistence is rewarded with healing. We need to encourage our children to realize that God has a bigger purpose—not because He wants us to suffer, but because He loves us so much.

Discuss why God may not heal someone in this life. Qualify the discussion with Isaiah 55:8-9. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” We don’t always know why God delays answering our prayers, but we have to trust Him.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were some of the illnesses that Jesus healed?
2. Jesus often told people that they would be healed according to what? (Their faith.)
3. Does having faith that God will heal you always mean that God will heal you? (Yes, but maybe not now.)
4. Why is it so important to be healed spiritually?
5. Why do we experience so many painful things in this life? (Very open-ended question!)

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

The discussion of faith is a good place to do an activity demonstrating the difference between knowledge, faith, and disbelief. For example, ask the students to tell you one thing they know, something they can prove. (There is a chair in the room. They can see it.) Then blindfold a student and ask if she knows there is a chair in the room. If she says yes, ask why she believes it. If she’s not allowed to move around, can she prove there is a chair there? Then have another student, as silently as possible, take the chair out of the room. Then ask the still blindfolded

student if she believes there is a chair in the room. Discuss what happened. Turn to Hebrews 11:1 and read, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

On the board, compile three lists: Things I Don’t Believe In, Things I Believe In (faith), and Things I Know For Sure (can prove). Ask students to make entries from the lists in their Students’ books. Discuss what has been placed in each column. Ask what could cause an item to move from one column to another.

SONG

“Oh, How I love Jesus” is on page 66 in the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead students in asking God for spiritual healing, that all of us may be in God’s Kingdom with Him forever.

Prepare the Way

MEMORY VERSE

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience . . .”
(1 Peter 3:15-16a).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Give three facts of the life of John the Baptist.
2. Relate how John the Baptist died.
3. State that actions sometimes speak louder than words—use that cliché to explain 1 Peter 2:12.
4. Tell that they also have the job of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

TOPICS & THEMES

Angel
Attitude
Baptism
Forgiveness
God’s Laws
God’s Promises
Great Commission
Holy Conduct
Jesus, Return of
John the Baptist
Jordan River
Jesus, God the Son
Obedience
Repentance
Share the Gospel
Truth

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, songbook, CD, CD player, stars, construction paper, color markers, concordances (one per student, if possible)

PREPARATION

Children this age have the wonderful opportunity to witness to a group of people who have not yet become cynical about this world's religions. They are constantly with classmates, friends, other children in the neighborhood, and relatives. Children are very open, both about their curiosities and their beliefs. It's important that we give them the tools that may plant seeds in these fertile minds.

Make sure to do the Activity in the Students' book for yourself before class. Find Scriptures to support your beliefs. Here are a few references. You may wish to find others:

God's Holy Days - John 7:8-10; Acts 2:1, 12:3, 20:6,16, 27:9; 1 Corinthians 5:8, 16:8; Leviticus 23; Zechariah 14:16.

Sabbath - Exodus 16, 20:8-11, 31:12-17; Genesis 2:2-3; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 4:16

Salvation - John 3:16-17; Hebrews 6:1-2; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 16:27

Keeping God's Laws - Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5; Matthew 5:17-19; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Romans 7:12, 13:10; Revelation 12:17, 10:10; 1 John 5:2-3; John 14:15, 21

Christmas - Jeremiah 10:1-5

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

Possible Persecution - John the Baptist was given an extraordinary job. We, too, have been given a job—to be a light and to preach the Gospel to the world. Those who preach God's truth may encounter opposition and some will be persecuted. We don't want to scare our children by making them think that all of God's people will be persecuted. We don't want our children to think that Christians will be arrested, put into prison, tortured and/or killed for their beliefs. Help them realize that some of God's people have felt so strongly about God's truth that they were willing to die.

Encourage to share faith - Some Juniors aren't mature enough to do full-blown personal evangelism, but should be learning how it is done so they will be ready when the opportunity presents itself. However, there are things they can do now. They are perfectly capable of being an example and a light to others. Also, encourage your students to invite friends to attend Sabbath School with them.

Christ-like traits - Involve the class in a discussion about being a light to the people they see each day. Read Matthew 5:15-16, and ask what happens when a light is put under a bushel. Talk

about Christ-like traits they should have. Get them to tell you what traits they like in their friends. Encourage them to include such things as honesty, courage, kindness, fairness, caring, friendliness, patience, and dependability. Help them to understand these are traits they should have to reflect Christ in their lives. When they reflect these godly traits, they are being a light to the world. This is what it means to put your light or candle on a candlestick. To be a light to the world, they should pray that God will help them to be kind, friendly, honest, and caring. Having these traits will make it much harder for other kids to give them a hard time about their religious beliefs.

Have an answer - As you work through the lesson, make students aware that God expects them to be prepared to give an answer to people who ask them questions. That can be intimidating, so teach them how to use a concordance. Encourage them to take notes or to keep a notebook of their favorite Scriptures. If they don't already have a Bible of their own, plan with them how to earn one in Sabbath School. (These can be purchased inexpensively at a Christian bookstore or some dollar stores.) Show them how to mark key Scriptures in their Bible. It's important that we each be able to support what we say we believe.

God is with us - Reassure students that God will never leave nor forsake us. Mark 13:11 tells us that the Holy Spirit will speak through us when we need the appropriate words. Share whatever personal experiences you may have had—those in which you know that the Holy Spirit helped you with the words to say.

Work through the review questions before and after you do the Activity; the repetition is good for the students.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was the job of John the Baptist?
2. What kinds of things did he tell people they should and shouldn't do?
3. How did John the Baptist die?
4. How is the job that God has given us similar to the job that John the Baptist had?
5. What should our attitude be when sharing truth that God has given to us?
6. How can you find Scriptures to support what you believe?
7. How can we be a light to those around us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Tell students to fold an 8½" x 11" sheet of construction paper into three sections to make a "Prepare the Way" pamphlet. Have them design words and pictures for the cover that depict something they believe in (from the Student's book). Inside, they should write one or more of the

Scriptures they looked up. They can share this pamphlet with anyone who might ask about their beliefs.

SONG

“Dare to Be A Daniel” is on page 9 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead students in prayer asking for God’s assistance as they witness about Jesus Christ to those around them.

The Sinful Woman

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little” (Luke 7:47).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Tell the events at Simon’s house and Jesus’ response.
2. Explain why Jesus forgave the woman and why God forgives us.
3. State that repentance, humbleness, and the willingness to change are significant to God.
4. Relate the stories of the students, the brothers, and Luke 7 to their own lives.
5. Demonstrate the right and wrong attitudes, and parental or godly reactions, in a role-playing activity.

TOPICS & THEMES

Attitude

Footwashing

Forgiveness

God’s Love

God’s Will

Humility

Jesus, His Ministry

Loving God

Obedience

Parable

Pharisee/Tax Collector

Pharisees

Repentance

Sin

Tax Collector

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD, CD player, newspaper clippings of crime stories, dry erase board and markers

PREPARATION

Be familiar with all accounts of Christ's anointing with perfume found in Luke 7:36-50, Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, and John 12:1-8. Scholars do not agree whether this was the same event or if they were separate events. Students may read these accounts and be confused with the variance in details. Preteens will accept the explanation that we don't know whether this was one or two events. Also be familiar with the parable in Luke 18:9-14. The students will be enacting this parable as a springboard into their own situations.

Cut out several newspaper stories about people convicted of crimes relevant to the students. The students may have strong feelings about the guilt or innocence of these people. Use these articles to produce an interesting discussion.

List the following people's transgressions on the board (keep in mind students' maturity): Saul (disobeyed Samuel's instructions), Adam and Eve (ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil), Abram (did not tell the whole truth about Sarai), Peter (denied he knew Christ—lied), and add others if you wish. Use these people in the role-playing activity to show their attitudes about their transgressions of God's Law.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

On Trial - Start discussing people in the news or famous people who have recently been on trial. Talk about their attitudes. Expect students to have strong feelings about the guilt or innocence of a particular person. Let them state these feelings, but caution them to be careful of passing judgment based on TV or their like or dislike of the person.

Discuss daily occurrences with siblings. If they feel a little brother or sister gets away with too much, don't be critical. Ask: Do your parents ever show leniency towards you when you don't deserve it? You might ask questions to see whether the sibling really is "getting away with murder." If the student seem very convinced, suggest that he/ she calmly discusses it with his/her parents.

Forgiveness vs. Consequences - Talk about the two students and the project discussed in the Student's book. Ensure that your students understand the difference between forgiveness and consequences. Just because the teacher forgave them doesn't mean they won't have to make up the project. They may do badly on the next test because they don't understand the material. Even worse, they might get an "F" for their grade.

Bring the discussion back to forgiveness of big things and little things. Discuss Luke 7. Ask them if they ever see their friends shunning other students at school. Discuss why Jesus didn't reject the sinful woman. Talk about attitudes, including David's, Saul's, and the one portrayed in Luke 18.

Talk about how the forgive-ness of sins shows God's love for us. Tie this in with their parents showing love and forgiveness—even when they deserve to be grounded. Ask: How does that love make you want to behave differently?

Once students show a good grasp of what is being said, have them act out these situations: students at school, siblings at home, Pharisees and tax collectors, the list of people on the board, and Luke 7. Taking the role of someone with an unrepentant attitude emphasizes how repulsive it is to those who care. It's good for students to see how repentant attitudes make a world of difference to God. To be put in a position of authority where punishment is deserved and mercy is shown, is also good for them.

Make sure the kids don't conclude that all sins are the same. Emphasize that the consequences are usually equal to the sin.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What happened at Simon's house? What was Jesus' response? Why?
2. Why did Jesus forgive the woman? Why does God forgive us?
3. What kind of attitude is very important to God when you've behaved inappropriately?
4. Have you learned anything in this lesson that you've seen in your own life? Are you willing to share it with us?
5. Why does God's forgiveness help us to behave better the next time?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Have the children role-play as many of the following situations as time allows:

1. The two students and teacher at school (from story in Students' book).
2. The two brothers and parents (from the Students' book).
3. Luke 18.
4. Abram's half-truth about Sarai being his sister.
5. Have students design their own situation (possibly from their Students' book Activity).

SONG

“O Be Careful Little Eyes” is on page 39 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask for a volunteer to lead in prayer asking God to help us see our mistakes so we can ask for His forgiveness.

Just Do It!

MEMORY VERSE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to: 1

1. Retell the parable of the Good Samaritan.
2. Tell why Jesus used a Samaritan as the hero of the story instead of the priest or Levite.
3. Explain what it means to be a good neighbor.
4. Explain the difference between helping physically and spiritually.
5. State that they understand they are not to put themselves in danger.

TOPICS & THEMES

Eternal Life
God's Protection
Good Samaritan
Helping Others
Holy Conduct
Holy Spirit
Loving God
Loving Others
Parables
Good Samaritan
Prayer
Samaritans
Sharing the Gospel

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD, CD player, paper, pencils

PREPARATION

Before class, read through the entire account (Luke 10:25-37). Then spend some time listing concrete ways children this age can truly be neighbors to those around them. Our children are very precious to us; we would never want to put them in any danger. But, children tend to be trusting and compassionate at this age. They are old enough to have grown out of the self-absorption stage and into the crusader stage where everything has to be fair and right.

Knowing this, prior thought and planning can provide some practical ways for the students to do good to those around them. Your community and the maturity of your preteens will be major factors in deciding what is practical for them at this point.

Jericho is 17 miles from Jerusalem. The elevation difference makes it a treacherous trip. Jerusalem sits 2,500 feet above sea level. Jericho sits about 800 feet below sea level. Additionally, the road runs through rocky, desert country.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

Who is your neighbor? - Begin the lesson by asking students: Who is your neighbor? (Being very literal, they'll probably tell you it's the person who lives next door. Be prepared for them to be familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan. They could say anything.)

Expand upon the neighbor theme by asking: Are the people in the house across the road from you your neighbors? Keep expanding the boundaries. Point out that our neighbors are not always people we like or enjoy being around.

The Parable - Read Luke 10:25. Tell students that Jesus gave an expert in the law a parable about his neighbor. Tell the story, pointing out that the ones you would expect to help—the priest and Levite—ignored the man in need.

Discuss how the story relates to students and what their responsibility is in loving their neighbor as themselves. Make sure to discuss the physical and spiritual aspects of being a good neighbor. This may take some time, depending upon the maturity of the students. Some of them may have never considered that spreading the truth about God is a helpful thing to the person who receives it and accepts it.

CAUTION! - There are many people and things in our world today that can harm children. Many unscrupulous perpetrators will play on the tender emotions of children to lure them into dangerous situations. Remember to caution students about doing anything that would endanger themselves when they are helping others. Discuss Jesus' warning to the disciples in Matthew 10:16.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did the expert in the law want to know?
2. What did Christ tell him he should do to inherit eternal life?
3. Why do you think Jesus used a Samaritan as the good guy in this parable?
4. How do you think this parable relates to your life?
5. How can you be a good neighbor?
6. What does your memory verse say?
7. Can you think of other ways to help people?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Divide your class into groups of three or four (smaller classes can work individually). One at a time, read the following scenarios. Allow them time to brainstorm, chose one or two ways they could help the people, and write their answers on a sheet of paper. Discuss their answers in class and have the class decide which might be the best and wisest solution.

1. As you're walking home from school, you see someone driving a car recklessly. You're afraid they will hurt themselves or someone else. What do you do?
2. You're playing basketball with your friends when you see a little girl on roller blades wipe out. Her knees are bleeding and she is crying. What do you do?
3. A homeless man is hunting through trash cans in the alley. He's very thin and dirty. You feel sorry for him. What do you do?
4. A friend invites you to spend the night. That evening your friend's parents ask you why you don't celebrate Christmas. What do you tell them?
5. Think of a situation where you could be a good neighbor to someone. Write it on another sheet of paper and be ready to share it with the class.

SONG

"Jesus Bids Us Shine" is on page 37 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in praying for God's guidance as they become good neighbors. Pray for God's wisdom in making decisions and for His protection every day.

Treasures in Heaven

MEMORY VERSE

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:20-21).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between treasures on earth and treasures in heaven.
2. State that God has things in store for us that are much more wonderful than we can imagine.
3. State that God has our best interests at heart.
4. Tell that God requires us to tithe on our increase.

TOPICS & THEMES

God's Will

Greed

Loving God

Obedience

Parables

Rich Fool

Relationship With God

Seeking God

Tithes

Treasure

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD, CD player, dry erase board and marker

PREPARATION

Before class, do the teacher-directed activity. Make your own list of things you want. Next to each item, list the things God has promised to those who love Him. Look up the Scriptures that contain these promises and keep them for class. (Here are several to get you started: Psalm 32:8;

Psalm 91:1-16; John 14:27; Romans 8:28-29; 1 Corinthians 2:9; John 14:2-3; Acts 2:38-39; Ephesians 1:3; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Revelation 21:4, 6-7) You will want to be very familiar with these Scriptures. The things of this world are very enticing to our children. This age group is making the transition from wanting to please parents, teachers, and adults, to wanting to fit in with their peers. It's important to strongly make the case for choosing God's way. Preteens need to know that the Bible contains these promises from God. They can read them and understand that the promises are for them; the promises are not limited to their parents and other baptized members of God's church. Our children are holy! (1 Corinthians 7:14). And they need to be told they are holy. They need to know and fully comprehend that they are extremely important to God and this carries a responsibility!

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Temporary Possessions - After opening the class with prayer, begin by listing on the board things the students want. Spend a little time talking about why they want each thing. Then talk about the parable of the rich man who stored great wealth, but died that very night (Luke 12:13). Discuss the temporariness of possessions. Talk about how our possessions can sometimes be harmful to us—both physically and spiritually; i.e., a new boat may keep a family from attending church.

Read Matthew 6:19-24 from a modern translation of the Bible. Ask: What is the difference between treasures on earth and treasures in heaven? Then read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and discuss some of the wonderful things that God may have in store, and the things He has promised us.

God Knows the Heart - Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Make sure students realize that God knows the heart. If they are not sincere in their love for God, He will know. We may be able to fool people, but we can't fool God. We demonstrate our love for God through our willingness to submit to His will, to choose His way, and to follow His commands (1 John 5:3). Emphasize that we are not keeping God's Laws to gain salvation—God's greatest gift. There's no way we can earn salvation. Keeping God's Law is for our own good. If we love God, we will keep His commands.

God's Promises - Emphasize that God's promises are not temporary treasures; they will endure!

Make a Choice - Ask each student to take some time this week to think about the treasures most people work for. Ask them to compare earthly treasures with the promises of God. Then they need to make a choice. Let them know that the choice isn't always easy. Sometimes it is difficult. Remind them of Paul's statement in Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Encourage students to ask God for guidance in helping them choose the right treasure!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between earthly treasures and heavenly treasures?
2. Why does Jesus tell us not to store up earthly treasures? (Give at least two reasons.)
3. Does God really not want us to have any earthly treasures? Explain.
4. Why do we want to store up heavenly treasures?
5. How do we store up heavenly treasures?
6. What kinds of promises has God made to us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Ask students to list the things they want— write these on the board. Next to this list of “wants,” guide them in listing the promises of God, reading the Scriptures where these promises can be found. When they have finished with both lists label the two lists “Clumps of Dirt” and “Diamonds,” explaining that dirt is plentiful and is easily blown away by the wind; diamonds, on the other hand, are very valuable and will endure.

SONG

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” is on page 23 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask for a volunteer to give the prayer. Encourage students to pray for God’s guidance and wisdom in their daily choices.

Not Yet Perfect

MEMORY VERSE

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain what Jesus meant when He said the widow had given more than anyone.
2. Tell why Jesus was not pleased with the Pharisee, despite his actions when compared to the tax collector.
3. State that God created each person to be different and special and deals with us individually.
4. State that judging people is reserved for God.
5. Explain the difference between judging people and judging actions.

TOPICS & THEMES

Attitude

Judging Others

Parable

Pharisee/Tax Collector

Temple

Widow's Mite

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD, CD player, large craft sticks, glue, yarn, alphabet noodles, ziplock bags, tablespoon measure, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, paper towels, various sports balls

PREPARATION

Before class, read the Students' lesson and the Scriptures. Keep in mind this age group sees things in black and white. They feel that what's okay for one should be okay for someone else, so this lesson may be a little tricky. Your students are constantly being compared to other children. Grades are a poor reflection of intelligence and ability, but they leave a lasting impression with

our children. Spelling bees, karate lessons, piano lessons, Little League, soccer and hockey teams, and scouts all tend to emphasize competition rather than cooperation. We compare them with- out even being aware of it.

Road rage has received a lot of attention. It happens partially from judging other drivers' actions without having all the facts. Children need to learn they will be judged by the same standards with which they judge others. We are all God's children and He alone has the authority to judge us. Thankfully, He judges with mercy and love. He knows our beginning, our heart and attitude, and our willingness to submit to His will. It's imperative that our preteens understand these concepts. At the same time, He wants us to make the right choices to avoid wrong actions. Emphasize that Jesus allows us to judge actions.

As the children talk about God's judgment, reinforce the reality of God's love to them. Help students realize that, although we all try to do God's will, we all fail. Our attitude of repentance and willingness to submit to His will allows Christ's sacrifice to pay for our sins. Help them to see that, just as their parents love them, our Heavenly Father loves them and will forgive.

Each child will need six large craft sticks for the activity. Two of the sticks will need a hole drilled in one end. Place two tablespoons of rubbing alcohol into a plastic ziplock bag along with several drops of food coloring. Put in the alphabet noodles and shake until all the noodles are colored. Spread out on paper towels and allow to dry thoroughly.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

Different Purposes - Bring various sports balls to class: basketball, football, tennis ball, soccer ball, softball, etc. Lead students in comparing the balls. Then make a very judgmental statement about one of the balls; i.e., "This football is worthless; it won't bounce straight." Students will quickly understand the point and tell you that the balls were made for different purposes. You can't compare and judge them equally because they were not made the same. Use this analysis to lead into a discussion on comparing oneself to others— and looking down on them. It is the most human thing to want to appear in the best light. We want to stand out, to shine. The students may surprise you. Once you begin the discussion, they may be able to give you examples of people they know who are shining.

Comparing Is Not Wise - 2 Corinthians 10:12 warns about people who compare themselves to others. They commend themselves for their good works and look down their noses at others. Paul tells us these people are not wise. Each of us is different. We were created for different purposes. It is like comparing apples to oranges—they are not the same!

Know the Facts - Talk about the widow's offering, and about comparing without having all of the facts. Then talk about the Pharisee and the tax collector. Emphasize the importance of the attitude of each. Pride is listed in Proverbs 6:16-17 as one of the things that the Lord hates. (Remind them of lesson five, The Sinful Woman.)

Judging Actions vs. Judging People - Stress the difference between judging actions and judging people. God loves people—all people—but He doesn't always love their actions. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for the sinful actions of people. He is the only one qualified to judge what is in the hearts of people. He is the only one who knows why we do the things we do. He has all the facts!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus say the widow had given more than anyone?
2. What was the Pharisee doing wrong? What was the tax collector doing right?
3. Why shouldn't we compare ourselves to others?
4. Why shouldn't we judge other people?
5. Who is our Judge and why do you think it's that way?
6. Should we judge actions? How is judging actions different from judging people?
7. How can we remember not to judge others or compare ourselves to others?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child six large craft sticks (two with holes in one end). Glue four sticks horizontally to two vertical sticks with the holes at the top. Carefully glue on alphabet noodles to spell out Luke 6:37: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged." Thread yarn through holes and tie to form a hanger.

SONG

"Jesus Loves Me" is on page 6 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask a student to lead in prayer thanking God for making each person special and different.



The Narrow Way

MEMORY VERSE

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain how to get eternal life and salvation.
2. Tell that eternal life is a free gift from God— there’s no way to earn it.
3. Explain why we need to follow God’s commandments if salvation is a free gift.
4. State that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should be saved.

TOPICS & THEMES

Eternal Life
 God’s Gift
 God's Kingdom
 God’s Law
 God’s Will
 Jesus, God the Son
 Jesus, Savior
 Loving God
 Obedience
 Repentance
 Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students’ and Teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, CD, CD player, blindfold, masking tape

PREPARATION

Find a picture of a formal garden, one laid out like a maze (see picture). The Hever Castle in England has a maze garden. Hever Castle was the home of Anne Boleyn, one of King Henry

VIII's wives. A visual will help students understand a life-size maze.

This lesson talks about the gift of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Preteens may not be ready to make the commitment to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. They are approaching the age when they are mature enough to make that decision, but they shouldn't feel pressured into it. Explain that they should try to live according to God's will, despite the fact they aren't baptized yet.

Before the class arrives, lay out a maze on your classroom floor with masking tape. Make as many turns as you have room for. Allow early arrivals to work their way through the maze. This will generate interest when you begin the lesson.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

Trial and Error - Begin your lesson by talking about mazes and how people figure them out. Discuss the typical methodology of trial and error. Compare this method to how people tend to live their lives. Discuss how God gave us the Bible, containing His commandments, so that we wouldn't have to live our lives by trial and error. We can make it through this maze called life much more easily if we choose God's way. Talk about people who want to do things their own way. They probably know someone who will not accept advice or help from anyone else. More than likely, they've seen that being too independent isn't always good. It can make life more difficult.

A Better Plan - Remind students that this life is not all there is. God has something planned that is much better than we know. Ask students to tell what they think it will be like to live with Christ in His Kingdom. Talk about how much better His Kingdom will be than living here on earth now.

The Way to Enter - Entrance into God's Kingdom is not something you can earn. Make sure they are absolutely clear that keeping God's commandments does not earn salvation and eternal life. Have someone read John 10:9 aloud. To enter the Kingdom of God, a person must come through the gate—Jesus Christ. Explain that salvation is a gift from God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Why So Few? - Matthew 7:13-14 says the way to eternal life is a narrow way and only a few find it. The reason for this is, we want to do our own will. We become so independent that we think we don't need to follow God's narrow way. Proverbs 16:25 tells us that the ways of man lead to death.

"If You Love Me. . ." - Discuss the reason for keeping God's commandments. Explain that we do not keep them to earn salvation, but because we love God. God's commandments teach us what

is right and wrong. When we keep them we're happier and our lives work better. We love what God has done and is doing for us. And we show God we love Him by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). God promises blessings for those who love Him in James 1:12.

For Your Own Good - Explain that keeping the commandments is for our own good. God wants us to keep them so we won't get hurt. When we break God's Law there are consequences to be paid. Encourage students to follow God's way— because it's the way to make life work.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why is being independent not always a good thing?
2. Can you earn salvation?
3. How does anyone get eternal life?
4. Since salvation is a free gift from God, why do we need to do such things as keeping His commandments?
5. How does God feel about giving salvation to people?
6. Does God want only a few people in His Kingdom? How do we know?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Blindfold one student at a time and stand him at the start of the floor maze. Have him try to walk the maze alone (that is next to impossible). Then have the others call out directions, such as, “three steps forward, turn left, four steps,” etc. Finally have one student lead a blindfolded student through the maze. Ask which way was easier. Explain that God would like to lead each of them through the maze of life, but they must be willing to follow Him.

SONG

“Come and Go With Me” is on page 83 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead students in prayer to ask for God's guidance in their daily lives. Encourage them to actively choose Jesus Christ as their model for life, and to tell God of this intent.



The Paralytic Walks

MEMORY VERSE

“Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven’” (Matthew 9:2).

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Retell the events in Mark 2:1-12.
2. Explain why Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven.
3. Compare the power of God with the illusions of man.

TOPICS & THEMES

Blasphemy

Eternal Life

Faith

Forgiveness

God's Omnipotence

Jesus, God the Son

Jesus, His Miracles

Healing

Jesus, Messiah

Perseverance

Pharisees

Repentance

Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA Students' and Teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, CD, CD player, nature pictures, dry erase board and marker, equipment for magic tricks, butcher's paper, crayons or colored markers, awards

PREPARATION

Before teaching this lesson, learn a couple of easy magic tricks. For example, if you put a half cup of salt on a table under a tablecloth and place an egg on top of it, the egg will appear to stand on end. Start the lesson with a couple of these tricks. Don't leave students in suspense, however. Tell them how each trick was done.

Also, collect several pictures which display God's majesty in nature. It was no magic trick that created our universe. Calendar pictures of nature may be a good source.

If possible, locate a story of a paralytic. Reader's Digest may have some short stories that can give the students an idea of what it means to be paralyzed—if that is completely outside their realm of experience.

This is the final lesson in this book. Present a small award to each student who can successfully recite all the books of the Bible assigned in lesson one.

Place a strip of butcher's paper on the wall of the classroom to make a timeline. Divide it into time frames and number each (for as many scenes as you can think of for students draw). Before class, write brief descriptions of the scenes on strips of paper (numbered corresponding to the frames). Fold the paper strips and place them in a basket.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

After opening with prayer, follow the lesson plan.

More Than Magic - Perform a couple magic tricks for the students. Let them propose solutions as to how you did each trick. Then state that God does not do tricks, He really has power over everything. Ask students to help you make a list of amazing things God can do. Display some pictures that show God's hand in creation. Then be sure to state that God's power exceeds all of their suggestions.

Paralyzed - Discuss what it means to be paralyzed. You may read or refer to a true story about someone who is paralyzed. Point out that in Mark 2:1-12, it was the kindness and help of friends that enabled the paralyzed man to get to Jesus. It was their faith and belief that Jesus could and would heal him that made that healing possible.

The Pharisees - Tell how the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were outraged over Jesus' words to the paralytic man. Ask: Can anyone remember what Jesus said? ("The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.") Explain that "authority" means power. Ask students to give reasons why this statement upset the Pharisees and teachers of the Law.

Injuries and Sicknesses - Discuss how and why we give extra care and attention to a broken wrist, a skinned knee, or an illness. Let students tell about times when they were hurt and how their mothers or fathers took care of them. Why is it easier to ignore our sins than to ignore a broken wrist or a skinned knee? Which do you think God is more interested in, a broken wrist or

our sins? What are some sins that we might want to ignore? (Lying, bad language, disrespect for our parents, doing things on the Sabbath that we shouldn't do, etc.) When we break God's commandments who do we harm? Discuss how our sins are serious business, and to be as free from our sins as the paralytic was free to walk, we must repent and ask God's forgiveness.

God's Purpose - God always has our good in mind. We should never doubt that He loves us. When, for some reason, God doesn't heal a person, we must believe He has a reason. You may have to spend some time discussing why God doesn't always heal people in this life. We do not always understand the ways of God. Isaiah 55:8 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." God sees the end from the beginning, and He knows what is best for us.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Let each child choose a numbered strip of paper, go to the corresponding numbered frame on the timeline, and draw the scene described on the paper. Be sure to have them label and caption the frame to tell what is happening. If you have a large class, have two or three students work together on a scene.

SONG

"Oh, How I Love Jesus" is on page 66 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask a student to lead in prayer thanking God for giving them glimpses of His greatness and His power. Lead them to request healing for those they know who are sick.