

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Dare to Be a Daniel

YE3C · Teacher Edition

Juniors · Year 1: Life of Christ

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

Salt and Light

MEMORY VERSE

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can’t be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will praise your Father who is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14 -16

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain what light and salt have to do with being a Christian.
2. Give ways they can flavor the world and bring light to it.
3. Describe how they can apply being light and salt in their own lives.

TOPICS & THEMES

Attitude

Golden Rule

Helping Others

Holy Conduct

Holy Spirit

Jesus, His Ministry

Light

Jesus, Our Friend

Jesus Sets Example

Kindness

Light

Salt

Sharing the Gospel

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students’ and teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette tape or CD and music player, empty yogurt cups, wax, wicks, ice hot pot or something to melt the wax, prism, blindfold

PREPARATION

Begin this new book by setting challenging and realistic student goals – goals that will help them Dare To Be Different. Realistic goals for Juniors can be such things as reading a chapter in the Bible daily (in addition to their daily devotional), sending at least one card each week to encourage someone (help them find addresses) or help a younger Sabbath School class once a month – be a Sabbath buddy for a younger child in church. Allow students as much input as possible and build on their talents.

Assign 1 Corinthians 13 for the students to memorize and recite at the end of this book.

Before you come to class make enough mashed potatoes for each child to have a taste (Do not add any seasoning.). Collect empty yogurt cups, or other small disposable cups. Melt a small amount of paraffin wax in the bottom of the cups and insert a wick. Allow the wax to melt while teaching the lesson.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Total Darkness - Explain that in the deep recesses of caves light cannot penetrate. Without the use of lanterns, candles or electricity it would be impossible to see even your hand in front of your face. Without a light source, early cave explorers, spelunkers, would have been lost or even injured or killed because they couldn't see the dangers that lie along the pathway. Ask: What are some things that might be dangerous inside a cave? (Rocks, holes, water, stalactites, animals, etc.)

Demonstrate the necessity of light by blindfolding one of the students and asking him to walk from one side of the room to the other without bumping into anything. (Make sure there are some obstacles in their pathway, but don't allow them to stumble or get hurt.)

Our Light Source - Have someone read Proverbs 4:19. Those who don't know Jesus as their Savior are missing a different kind of light. Read John 1:9. Ask: What is the light referred to in this passage? Peter says that "He brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9 NIV). So, being without Christ in your lives is like walking through life with a blindfold on – bumping into things and not being aware of the dangers. But, when Christ comes in, you no longer walk in darkness. You have a Friend who lights your pathway. He will be with you and help you through the dangers and difficulties.

Our Power Source - A lamp or light bulb must be plugged into a power source – electricity. It will not shine if there is no power. Explain the purpose of God's Holy Spirit (John 1:4-8). The Holy Spirit is the power source for Christians. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit carries the responsibility to be a witness and light. It enables us to shine as a witness for God. Be sure you are plugged in!

People are Watching - Everything you do has an impact on others. Ask: What will people think if they hear you using bad language – will they think you are a Christian? What if someone sees you steal something – will they think you love God? But, if they see your attitude is kind, forgiving and loving what will your example be? The first place to begin to let your light shine is to clean up your act! Ask, “What would Jesus do?”

Are You Salty? - Salt adds flavor to food. It also preserves it. Long ago, salt was very expensive. It was sometimes used in place of money to buy things. It was precious. Allow each student to taste the mashed potatoes to which no seasoning has been added. Ask for their reactions. (Not much taste! Yuck! No thanks!) Jesus wants you to be like salt – to add flavor and preserve the world around you. Your kind actions will be like salt in the mashed potatoes. Ask: What else can you do to add flavor to this world?

How To Be Salt and Light - How can you be an example or a witness? You don’t need to push your way into a situation. Your kind and loving actions will lead people to ask questions. When you keep the Feast people will want to know why. You will have the opportunity to tell them you are obeying God’s commands. When you invite someone to Sabbath School you are being a witness. Ask: What other things can you do to be a witness?

Prism - Hold a prism up to a window and let the light shine through, creating a rainbow on the wall. The light coming into the prism is refracted, or bent at different angles. As it exits the prism shows up in the colors of a rainbow. As the light of Jesus shines through our lives, it will reflect in different ways, too. Being kind may come easier to some than to others. Talking to friends about Jesus may be hard for you, but you may be able to send an encouraging card to someone who is sick. Jesus’ light will have different results in others’ lives, too.

God has given you a very important job to do! “Let your light shine before men.” Flavor the world with your kindness and light it up with your good deeds. Plug into the Power Source!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Questions are scattered throughout the lesson. If you desire, these can be asked again as a review.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a cup in which a wick has been inserted in a small amount of wax. Allow them to put ice into the cup. (Different sized cubes will have different results.) Caution: Carefully pour hot wax into each cup. The ice will melt as the wax cools and hardens, forming a candle that resembles Swiss cheese. Pour off the water. The candle will be a reminder that they are to be a light to those around them.

SONG

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead in prayer, thanking God for sending His Son and giving us the Light of the world. Ask for God’s guidance in being light and salt in our everyday lives.

Jesus and the Law

MEMORY VERSE

“What I’m about to tell you is true. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest stroke of a pen will disappear from the Law until everything is completed.” - Matthew 5:18 (NirV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law.
2. Give examples of how Jesus expects His people to conduct themselves on a daily basis.
3. State that keeping God’s law is for our good, but it is Jesus’ sacrifice that saves us from our sins.

TOPICS & THEMES

Anger

Attitude

God’s Law

Jesus Sets Example

Jesus - Without Sin

Holy Conduct

Loving Others

Obedience

Prayer

Purity

Sermon on the Mount

Sin

Wisdom

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students’ and teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, music cassette or CD and music player, marker pens, butcher’s paper

PREPARATION

Preteens struggle with submitting their will to others. They're moving out of the self-absorbed stage of younger children. Pleasing parents and friends becomes a significant motivator. They learn to share because they want to be part of a group. They refrain from calling their friends names because they want to keep their friends. They start to learn self-control in playing sports and games and in interactions with others. Nevertheless, their self-control is often juxtaposed with their insistence on fairness. "That's not fair!" is a common phrase among this age group. If someone hits them, they want to retaliate. If someone mistreats them, they have a long memory. Therefore this lesson will be difficult for them to accept. It doesn't hurt to let juniors know that many adults struggle to keep the spirit of God's law too. This should not excuse them. Encourage them to talk with their parents or other adults when they have these struggles.

Before the class arrives, place a ten foot strip of butcher's paper on the wall. With a marker, divide the strip into ten one foot sections.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin by role-playing the situations in the student book Activity. Students may have differing solutions – allow them to use their own.

Attitudes and Actions - Ask the students to name the Ten Commandments, and write one at the top of each section of the paper strip. Point out that each one deals with the actions of people. These are referred to as the letter of the law. They tell us what is right and wrong. There is no question about what they mean. But, there are other things that are not spelled out as plainly for us. These commands deal with our attitudes. For example: The law says - do not kill! But, Jesus said that if you hate your brother, you are guilty of murder. Jesus enlarged the law to include our attitude. When you obey God's commands with the right heart attitude, we call that the spirit of the law.

Where does anger lead? Discuss how anger can lead to name calling, getting even, hurting others and hatred. It is easy to let anger get out of control. (Have someone read Ephesians 4:26.) Ask the students to give examples of how to win over anger.

Put your eye out? (Ask someone to read Matthew 5:29.) Ask: Does this mean that you should really put out your own eye? Explain that Jesus was making the point that you should do everything you can to get away from situations that could cause you to sin. Looking at dirty magazines and pictures could cause you have wrong desires or thoughts. So you should stay away from them. Example: When Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph, he left his coat behind and ran away – away from the temptation.

Actions speak louder than words - Swearing is often done by children to try to prove they are grown up, or to impress their friends. Bad language has been accepted by much of our society. But, Jesus tells us not to swear. Simply say yes or no, and mean it. You don't need bad language

to get your point across. If you follow through on what you say, people will learn to trust you. Your actions will speak for you.

Don't Take Revenge - Ask: When someone is mean to you, what is your first reaction? Do you want to retaliate? (Have someone read Matthew 5:39.) What does Christ tell us to do? (Turn the other cheek.) That doesn't mean you can't defend yourself. It does mean that you shouldn't seek revenge.

Love and Pray For Your Enemies - This may sound strange or even crazy! **Ask:** Why should you pray for someone who has been mean to you? When God becomes involved in someone's life, He changes them. That person will no longer be mean and hateful if God is working in his life and he becomes a Christian. When you pray for your enemies, you will both be winners!

Me, Be Perfect? - You may say, "I thought Christ was the only one who lived a perfect life." That is true! But, He laid down a pattern for you to follow. He expects you to do your best to try to live like He lived. The only way you can do that is with His help. If you ask, God will give you wisdom and strength to keep the spirit of His law.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who is the only door into God's Kingdom?
2. What is the key that will open the door to God's Kingdom?
3. How do we show our faith in Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus say that it was hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom?
5. What does your memory verse say?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a marker and let them choose one or two of the commandments. Tell them to write in that section something they can do to not only obey the commandment, but to keep the spirit of the commandment. Example: Thou shalt not kill - Do not hate someone who is mean to me. Thou shalt not steal - Don't even borrow something without asking permission.

SONG

"Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart" is on page 75 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in prayer, asking for God's guidance in keeping the spirit of His law.

Talent on Loan

MEMORY VERSE

“ Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. Work because you know that you will finally receive as a reward what the Lord wants you to have.” - Colossians 3:23-24 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Relate the parable of the talents to their own lives.
2. Explain that God expects us to use what He has given us.
3. Give examples of how they can use their talents to serve God.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible Study

God's Gifts

God's Plan

God's Promises

God's Will

Parables

Ten Minas

Prayer

Reward

Talents

Trusting God

Work

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette tape or CD and music player, ant farm, example of your talent, kid's translation of the Bible, newsprint pad or chalkboard, marker

PREPARATION

This age group is very open to suggestions for outreach and community service. They have an idealistic mind set, untempered by the realism of adults. Their faith in God is simple and pure. When told that God will direct their paths, they believe that wholeheartedly (unlike many adults, who doubt). Therefore, this is the time to teach them to serve in whatever way possible, wherever their talents and interests lie. Once convinced of its merit and rightness, Juniors will embrace food drives, pamphlet distribution, etc.

To that end, before class, consult with your minister, local church group, community service groups, etc. to determine some possible projects. (Although Juniors are very willing, they often lack the knowledge of just what can be done.) Come to class prepared with several ideas, including visits to nursing homes, Thanksgiving baskets for needy families, bouquets for the elderly, ill and/or injured, get-well or encouragement cards for church members, or projects in your local church, like collecting songbooks after services, helping set up chairs and tables for potluck dinners, etc. The benefits are two-fold: The Juniors will feel like a valuable part of the congregation, and the congregation will benefit from willing workers.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin this lesson by bringing something that demonstrates one of your talents (craft, painting, tape of you singing or playing instrument, sewing, poem, etc.). Ask the students to think of ways that your talent could be used to bring glory to God. The students should have completed the Activity in their student's book. Ask for volunteers to discuss their talents and how they could be used for God.

Knowing God's Will - Ask: In the parable in Luke 19, how were the servants to know what their master wanted them to do with the money he gave them? (Have someone read Luke 19:13 from a kid's translation.) What happened when the servants did the will of their master? What happened to the one who didn't do what his master told him?

What if I don't use my talent for God? Think about the famous athletes of our time. They all make contributions to the sports world. If Michael Jordan hadn't been interested in basketball, the world might have looked up to someone else as their superstar. But, Michael would have missed out on the adoration of his fans. If Alexander Graham Bell hadn't used his knowledge to invent the telephone, someone else might have his name associated with it. The one who fails to use his talent often loses both the talent and the blessing.

How does the ant know what to do? (If possible, bring in an ant farm for the students to observe.) Watching ants on their continuous march to dig tunnels and carrying food may raise the question: "How do they know how to do that?" God has placed within their tiny brain the knowledge and instinct to do what they should. Our Master, Jesus, has told us in His Word, through our parents and our ministers, what He wants us to do. What are some specific things

that you know God wants you to do? (Make a list on a newsprint pad or chalkboard.) It is not always easy to do what God wants. Sometimes people might make fun of you. Sometimes you may have to give up something you really enjoy. (Have students read John 13:17 and Matthew 5:16.) What is the result if you do what God tells you?

How can I know how to use my talent? King David started out as a shepherd boy. He probably took very good care of his father's sheep to be given such a big responsibility. Ask: How would being a shepherd help him later be a king? (Encourage the students to compare and discuss taking care of sheep to taking care of a nation.) Now ask: What lessons can you learn from playing sports that can help you in your adult life? How can you be a good example while playing sports? If you are artistic – you like to draw, paint or make crafty things – how can this talent be used to bring glory to God or to help others? No matter who you are, where you are from or what your talent is, it can be used for God.

“Put this . . . to work until I come back” (Luke 19:13). When God gives you a talent, it's as though He has lent you a very special gift to see what you will do with it. Do not be caught like the servant who hid what his master gave him. Use what He has given you for God's glory. Ask for His wisdom. Read your Bible to learn how to please God. And, “Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. Work because you know that you will finally receive as a reward what the Lord wants you to have” (Colossians 3:23-24 NIV). The greatest thing we could hear from God is what He told the servant who gained ten minas: “Well done, my good servant!”

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did the master tell his servants to do with the money he gave them?
2. What is a mina?
3. What did the master do for the servant who gained ten more minas? The one who earned five? The one who hid the money his master gave him?
4. How can you know what God wants you to do with your talents?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Brainstorm with the students about possible service projects where their talents can be used in a variety of areas: home, church, school, community, etc. After several have been suggested, ask them how they can accomplish these projects. Encourage them to ask for God's guidance in the project. Select one and help them implement their plan to complete the project.

SONG

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in asking for God's guidance, wisdom and protection as they earnestly strive to serve Him and to bring Him glory.

Family Matters

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus pointed to his disciples. He said, ‘Here is my mother! Here are my brothers! Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.’” - “Matthew 12:49-50 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain who Jesus was referring to as His brothers, sisters and mother.
2. Relate why Jesus made the statement in Matthew 12:46-50.
3. Tell about two or more promises that God has given to His children.
4. State that Jesus was not being disrespectful to His physical family.

TOPICS & THEMES

Disciples

Eternal Life

Family

Fruit of the Spirit

God the Father

God’s Kingdom

God’s Love

God’s Will

Holy Spirit

Jesus, God the Son

Jesus, Older Brother

Jesus, Return of

Loving God

Obedience

Relationship with God

Ten Commandments

Honor Your Father/Mother

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette tape or CD and music player, masking tape, newsprint pad or chalkboard, marker

PREPARATION

Juniors are on the threshold of a new phase where parents are becoming less important than their peers. They need to be reminded that honoring their parents is so important that God included it in the Ten Commandments. It is obvious that God intended that the fifth commandment be adhered to. Yet, some might try to use this to say that Matthew 12:46-50 shows that Jesus was disrespectful to his parents. It is imperative that the students do not mistake Jesus' comment as an excuse to be disrespectful to parents.

With masking tape, make an outline of three houses on the floor in different parts of the classroom. Number the houses from 1 - 3.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin with the Activity - All families are different. Some are large and some are small. In some families people look alike, in others everyone looks different. God was the One who created the very first family. He wants our families to function well and for us to be happy. God gives specific instructions as to how the members in a family should behave, especially the children.

Honor Your Father and Mother - Have one student read Exodus 20:12 and another read Matthew 15:4 aloud. Both the Old and New Testaments stress the importance of showing honor to parents. Ask: Can you think of some ways that you can honor your parents? (List these on a chalkboard or newsprint pad.)

Brothers and Sisters - Ask someone to read Romans 12:10 aloud. Ask: According to this verse, how do you think you should treat your brothers or sisters? Even though brothers and sisters sometimes disagree or get on one another's nerves, we are to honor and love one another.

Jesus, our Brother - Ask: How do you become a part of God's Family and have Jesus become your Brother? (Matthew 12:50.) You are born or adopted into your earthly family. You take on the family name. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, they are born into God's family – Jesus becomes your Brother. And, you take on the family name – Christian!

Your Inheritance - An inheritance is some- thing that is passed on from one generation to the next, i.e. houses, land, and money. You even inherit hair color, eye color, and height. Ask: What are some things that you will inherit as part of God's family? (List on the chalkboard or newsprint pad.) Have someone read Romans 8:14-17 aloud. It is almost too incredible to comprehend all we will inherit because we are God's children!

Why Did Christ Do This For Us? - Jesus was not being disrespectful when He made the statement in Matthew 12:46-50. He loved His mother and half-brothers and sisters. He even took care of them as He was dying on the stake. He told John to take care of Mary as His own mother. Jesus has that same love for every one of us. Read John 14:21 aloud. Nothing will ever be able to separate us from that love (Romans 8:35, 38). Ask: How can we honor Jesus and show that we love Him?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How do you become a part of God's family and have Jesus as your Older Brother?
2. What is your inheritance as part of God's family?
3. What can separate you from being part of God's family?
4. Does Jesus love you more than He did His earthly family?
5. How can you honor Jesus, your Older Brother?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

As you make the following statements have the students stand in the house indicated.

1. If your family has 3 or less people in it stand in house #1.
2. If your family has 4 or 5 people stand in house #2.
3. If your family has 6 or more people stand in house #3.
4. If you have an older brother or sister stand in house #1.
5. If you have a younger brother or sister stand in house #2.
6. If you are an only child stand in house #3.
7. If you look like your dad stand in house #1.
8. If you look like your mom stand in house #2.
9. If you don't look like either one stand in house #3.

If time permits, at the end of the lesson this game can be continued by stating: If you have blue eyes stand in house # ____, if you are wearing jeans stand in house # ____, etc.

SONG

"Every Promise In The Book Is Mine" is on page 15 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in asking for God's guidance in following His commandments and learning His will for their lives.

Growing God's Way

MEMORY VERSE

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart. They hear the message. They keep it in their hearts. They remain faithful and produce a good crop.” - Luke 8:15 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Retell the parable of the sower.
2. Explain the analogy used in each scenario.
3. Discuss the importance of persevering in gardening and in the Christian life.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bible Study

Faith

God's Love

Jesus, His Ministry

Parables

Seeds

Perseverance

Relationship With God

Seeking God

Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette tape or CD and music player, Styrofoam cups, gravel, potting soil, bean seeds, plastic wrap, rubber bands

PREPARATION

Juniors typically love gardening. They enjoy taking a tiny seed, planting it and watching it grow. Build on their exuberance of seeing the miracle of germination take place with this lesson. Take the time prior to this lesson to germinate a seed so that the class can dissect it and see how roots

start to grow (Bean seeds work very well for this.). In the middle of the week put a seed on a damp paper towel. Place the towel into a sealable Ziploc bag and set it in a sunny window. Within a few days the bean will start to sprout.

Before you come to class, place gravel in the bottom of small Styrofoam cups (one for each student) and fill 3/4 full of potting soil.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Capture the attention of the class and make the lesson extremely relevant by starting with the Activity.

Necessary Ingredients - Once the seeds are planted, talk about what is necessary to help them germinate and grow. List the necessary ingredients on a chalkboard or newsprint pad. Try to arrange their suggestions so that you can easily show the four different categories that Jesus talked about in the parable. (If the students have read the lesson in their student book, this should go quickly.)

Gardening Tips? The disciples realized that Jesus was not just giving them tips to help their gardens grow. A parable is a story that teaches a specific moral lesson. Jesus always began His parables by talking about something with which the people were familiar – like gardening. There were no grocery stores, so people grew their own food. Everyone knew how to plant and tend a garden. This parable had a much deeper meaning.

The Seed - Have one of the students read Luke 8:11 aloud. This parable is an analogy – a comparison of similar qualities. Here the seed is compared to the Word of God. It is God's Word that teaches us that God is Supreme (above all). In God's Word we are shown the way of salvation and to the Kingdom. God's Word shows us how to live a life pleasing to God and full of joy. It is God's Word that must germinate and grow within us.

Seeds On Hard Ground - The seeds that fell on the hard path were easy picking for the birds. They didn't have a chance! Similarly, when God's Word is heard by someone with a hard heart, it is easy picking for Satan. Proverbs 28:14 states people with hard, stubborn hearts will get into trouble. God's Word doesn't have a chance to take root! Satan is just waiting for a chance to snatch the seed away and destroy that life (1 Peter 5:8).

Rocky Ground - The seeds that fell on the rocky ground were warmed by the sun and sprouted quickly (Show the germinated seed. Discuss how this seed is not in soil. So, when the nutrients inside the seed are gone the plant will die.) Because the soil is shallow, the roots cannot develop like they should. There is no protection from the drying heat of the sun. Compare this to people who don't have a faith strong in the Lord. They do not trust God when bad things happen in their lives.

Choking Weeds - Discuss how weeds in a garden are stronger than the young plants. They take in the moisture vital to the plants. Their roots intertwine around the roots of the tiny plant, literally choking it. The leaves of the weed block the sun and the poor plant can't grow. Compare this to the relationship that we have with God. If we are so concerned about having a good time, making money, or worrying about our daily lives, then our relationship with God can't grow – it is choked out!

Good Soil - Ask: What is essential to make soil good for planting seeds? Discuss how the soil must be prepared to receive the seed: softened (plowed), rocks removed, weeds pulled, watered, fed. When God's Word enters a heart that has been prepared: softened and tender toward God, the cares of the world have been removed, and that heart daily feeds on God's Word, it will take root and grow!

Persevere - A gardener cannot plant seeds one day and go out the next expecting to reap a harvest. He must have patience – he must persevere! If you are faithful in following God and His Word, you will be like a strong plant in God's Kingdom as His child.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does the seed in this parable represent?
2. What happened to the seed that was sown along the hard path?
3. What happens when God's Word falls on a hard heart?
4. What happened to the seed that fell on the rocky soil? Why?
5. When God's Word is not allowed to take root in your life what will happen?
6. Name some thorny weeds that can choke out God's Word from your life.
7. What kind of heart should you have for God's Word to grow in you?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Do the Activity at the beginning of the lesson.

Give each student a Styrofoam cup that has been prepared and two or three seeds to plant. Instruct them in the proper depth for planting (see seed packet). Show them how to sprinkle a little water in the cup with their fingers. Explain that the soil should be damp, do not over-water and drown the seed. Cover the cup with plastic wrap and secure with a rubber band to speed the germination process. Place the seeds in a warm spot. After the seed breaks through the ground, the plastic wrap can stay for a few days to provide a greenhouse effect.

SONG

"Let The Sunshine In" is on page 70 of the Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students to ask that God make their hearts like the good soil and produce a bountiful harvest for Him. Encourage them to thank Him for His daily guidance.

Weeds in the Garden

MEMORY VERSE

“Put everything to the test. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell the two different kinds of people God put in this world and explain which one represents heat and which one represents weeds.
2. Retell the parable in their own words.
3. Explain that Satan puts evil people in the world to divert us from following Christ.
4. Give examples of what kinds of fruits Jesus will be looking for in their lives.

TOPICS & THEMES

Angels

Fruit of the Spirit

God's Kingdom

God's Will

Harvest

Helping Others

Holy Conduct

Jesus, His Ministry

Loving God

Obedience

Parables

Weeds

Relationship With God

Seeking God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette tape or CD and music player, poster of person, pieces of armor of God, dry-erase markers,

eraser, double stick tape, pictures of the following things: garden, wheat, reaper, weeds, enemy, picture of a man

PREPARATION

We spend a great deal of time talking with our children about how they can be safe from evil people who are in the world. It's important to let them know that the Bible also addresses this. Be very sensitive to the students' reactions.

We don't want to alarm them, but we do want to make them cautious. We also want them to learn to trust Jesus Christ, even when they have taken all reasonable precautions.

Before you come to class, find a photo of a man standing, to wear the pieces of the armor (from a catalog or magazine). Have the picture laminated or cover with clear contact paper. Cut out the individual pieces of armor.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

What Does all of this Mean? - Begin the discussion by showing what each part in the parable represents. Pass around a picture representing one of the parts in this parable and let the students look at it. As you do this, ask the students to give the Bible definition for each part. The garden in this story is the world. The wheat seeds represent Christians or people in the Kingdom. Weeds are people who belong to Satan. The harvest is the end of the world when Christ returns. Reapers are angels. The enemy who sowed the weeds in the garden is Satan.

Leave Them Alone - When the workers found weeds growing in the farmer's field, they wanted to pull them up. But, the farmer told them to leave them alone. Ask: Why did he leave them to grow alongside the wheat? (In the process of pulling up a weed, a little wheat plant might be pulled up too.) God isn't going to get rid of all of the evil people who live in our world either. Explain to them that God is merciful. He allows everyone an opportunity to turn from evil and seek Him. That's one of the reasons He leaves evil people in our world.

Talk about appearances – it isn't always possible to tell by looking at a person whether they are a Christian or not. It's not always easy to tell if Satan has planted them in the world just like it was hard at first to tell the difference between the weeds and the wheat

Real or Fake Christians - What makes the difference in a person who is a Christian and one who is not? Have the students give one fruit Christ is looking for in a Christian life along with an example of how it would show in a Christian's life. (Love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self- control).

Our Protection - It is important that you always be alert and careful. Lead students to understand that Jesus Christ is our ultimate protection from Satan and evil. Have them open

their Bibles to Ephesians 6:10-18. As you come to each piece of the armor, have the students tape the pieces on the picture of the man that you cut out of a magazine. Discuss each piece. Ask: Why do you need the helmet of salvation? Tell that each piece of the armor is used for defense except one. Ask: With which piece of equipment would you use to fight? (Sword of the Spirit, God's Word) As you read your Bible each day, you will be equipped to fight against Satan's temptations.

Power in Prayer - Especially focus on verse 18 that tells them to pray. Help them understand that having faith in Jesus Christ is very important. Our security is in Him. Help them understand that they have no need to be fearful of Satan as long as they stay close to the Protector, Jesus Christ. When the angels reap the harvest at the end of this world, Jesus wants you to be in His Kingdom. He will do every- thing He can to ensure that you are. But you must live the Christian life and do your part.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus give this parable to His disciples?
2. Why does Satan put evil people into the world?
3. What are the fruits that Jesus will be looking for in His harvest?
4. Why did the farmer tell the workmen to leave the weeds alone?
5. Name the parts of the armor of God.
6. What should every Christian do every day?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

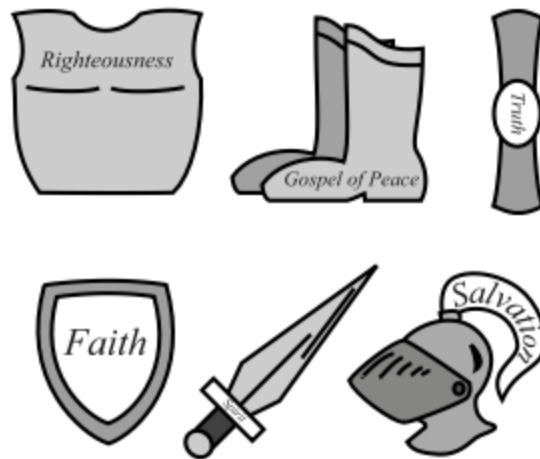
Ask for volunteers to share their solutions to the stories in the student's books. Discuss the solutions and come up with the best one for each story.

SONG

"I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N" is on page 52 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in thanking God for providing safety from Satan and his temptations. Encourage them to ask God to help them bear the kinds of fruit in the life to show Him they are a Christian.



Find the Key

MEMORY VERSE

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If this were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. . . ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” - John 14:2, 6 (NirV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain that the only way (door) into God’s Kingdom is Jesus Christ.
2. State that faith in Jesus is the key to the door to the Kingdom.
3. Tell that we show our faith by loving and obeying Jesus.
4. State that no one gets into the Kingdom by what he has or what he does.

TOPICS & THEMES

Disciples

Eternal Life

Faith

God’s Kingdom

God’s Law

Holy Conduct

Jesus, His Ministry

Jesus, Savior

Jesus, The Way

Obedience

Ten Commandments

Treasure

Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students’ and teacher’s books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette or CD and music player, assorted keys, padlock or small trunk with lock, snack treats, card stock, hole punch, yarn, scissors, pencils, newsprint pad and marker or chalkboard and chalk

PREPARATION

Spend some time thinking about salvation by works versus salvation by grace. There is a definite distinction between earning your way to God's Kingdom (which is impossible) and keeping God's law because you want to please Him. God tells us that we keep His commandments if we love Him – in keeping God's commandments, we don't chalk up points with Him, but we keep ourselves out of a lot of trouble. We need to avoid giving our children either the legalistic mind set or the belief-only mind set. Even the demons believe in God. We show our belief by what we do (James 2:14-19). Make sure you are clear in your own mind.

Find a padlock and a bunch of keys to bring to class. If you have a small trunk with a lock, fill it with snack treats. Label the trunk "Kingdom of Heaven."

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Object Lesson - Begin by setting the trunk in front of your class. Show the students all of the keys. Tell them that there is a treasure inside the trunk. But, first they must open the trunk with one of the keys. But which one? By trying each key, they will eventually find the right one.

When looking for the key to the Kingdom of Heaven, we don't get to try each key. Ask: How can you intelligently go about finding the one key that works? Read Matthew 19:17-20 aloud. Discuss the things that Jesus told the rich man to do to have eternal life. Write these on a chalkboard or newsprint pad.

Look at the lock on the trunk before trying a key. Perhaps looking at the lock will help students figure out which key to use. They can eliminate keys that are too large or too small.

Jesus is the Door - The Kingdom of God has a gate or door. John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is the Way, and John 10:9 states that He is the Door. Even if we have the right key, it is Jesus who must open the door. Matthew 19:26 states, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." To enter into eternal life in God's Kingdom, we must come through Jesus Christ.

The Rich Man - Ask: Why did Jesus say it was hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God? Does that mean if you have money you can't have eternal life? It wasn't the riches that kept the rich man out of the Kingdom. He wasn't putting Christ first in his life. His money meant more to him than following Jesus.

Choosing The Right Key - Discuss the following: Is keeping the commandments in order to get into the Kingdom the right key? Why or why not? Why do we keep the commandments? Is giving all of your money to the poor the right key? Why or why not? Is following Jesus wholeheartedly, because you love Him and have faith in Him the right key? Explain.

The Reward - Have someone read Matthew 21:29. You will be rewarded for the things you give up here. Ask: Can you name some things you have given up to follow Christ? Close by reading 1

Corinthians 2:9.

You Need Help - Help the kids find the right key. Point out that just as you are helping them find the right key to the trunk, Jesus shows the way He wants us to live through Bible reading, prayer, meditation, and service. Jesus is the way to open the treasure chest that He's preparing. The treasure in this chest (the snack) won't last, but God's Kingdom will last forever.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Explain the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law.
2. List three things that Jesus expects you to avoid in your daily life if you are going to follow Him.
3. What should you do when you find yourself, like Joseph did, in a situation that is likely to cause you to sin?
4. What does Christ tell us to do when someone is mean to us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Enlarge and photocopy onto card stock one of the keys for each student. Have the students cut out the keys and punch a hole where indicated. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole and tie the ends together. Have each student write today's memory verse on his or her key. This can be hung on the door of their room at home.

SONG

"Come and Go With Me" is on page 83 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in thanking God for preparing His Kingdom for us, and asking Him to guide us in seeking His will for our lives.

Activity

Circle the key to the Kingdom of God. Be ready to share your reasons for the one you circled.



The reason I chose this key is because. . .

The Golden Rule

MEMORY VERSE

“But love your enemies. Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then you will receive a lot in return. And you will be sons of the Most High God. He is kind to people who are evil and are not thankful.” - Luke 6:35 (NIRV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recite The Golden Rule.
2. List some characteristics that they would like to find in a friend.
3. Explain that God the Father, shows mercy, kindness and love even to the ungrateful and wicked.
4. State that as children of God we must learn to be like Him.

TOPICS & THEMES

God's Love

God's Provision

God's Will

Golden Rule

Holy Conduct

Jesus Sets Example

Kindness

Loving Others

Mercy

Obedience

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette or CD and music player, newsprint pad, marker, paper and pencils

PREPARATION

Preteens quickly notice people who aren't living according to The Golden Rule, but they have trouble seeing it in themselves. The story in the student's book about Anne is true, but for many

years she didn't see that kicking her little brother certainly wasn't living The Golden Rule. That's typical of Juniors. Once they see their own sin, they are usually very chagrined about their hypocrisy.

Loving your enemies may not mean as much to preteens as loving your brothers and sisters. It's harder to get along with people who live in the same house than with someone you see occasionally at school. This age stays away from the kids who are mean to them. They will respond positively to the idea of being nice to them because it's finite. After a short time, they can get away from them. It's much more difficult to convince them to be nice to siblings who have built a history of injustices against them.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin by reading some ads from the classified section of the newspaper (want ads). Now do the Activity.

Do Unto Me - Ask: How many of the characteristics of your friend are related to how you want them to treat you? (Look at the list on the newsprint pad and discuss.) We all want people to treat us kindly and to do nice things for us. But do we deserve to be treated kindly?

Do Unto Others - Ask: In the story in the student book, how was Anne's little brother treating the geese? Do you think this was a good thing to do? Anne decided to teach him a lesson about The Golden Rule. How was she going to teach him? Was Anne following the Golden Rule? Being mean to her little brother wouldn't teach him to be kind to animals.

The Golden Rule - Have someone read Luke 6:31. Ask: Think about the story of Anne – how could she teach her little brother how to treat the geese and still follow the Golden Rule? (Allow the students time to come up with their own solutions.)

Our Example - Read Micah 6:8. God has shown us how He wants us to live. He gives us instructions in His Word on how we should treat others. He sent Jesus to show us by His life (John 3:16, 15:12-13). Our Father doesn't want anyone to perish. His love is so great that His Son paid the penalty for our sins. If He feels that way about all people, maybe we should stop and think before we treat anyone badly!

Do You Measure Up? - Discuss how children inherit certain characteristics from their parents – eye color, hair color, height, etc. Relate this to the fact that God's children are like God. God always treats us with mercy, kindness, patience, goodness, gentleness and love. Think about it – do you measure up to His example? Vengeance - There is a difference between taking vengeance and defending yourself. Ask: When someone picks on you or bullies you, how do you react? (Discuss) Address the scripture about turning the other cheek. Differentiate between turning the other cheek and self-defense. Distinguish between abuse and revenge. There is a balance

between righting a wrong, taking your own vengeance and having mercy because of circumstances. The cycle of retaliation leads a person farther from Christian actions and the Golden Rule. Lead the students to understand that God will settle the accounts.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How do we want other people to treat us?
2. Name some ways that Jesus expects us to treat our enemies (even brothers and sisters).
3. How does God treat the entire world – regardless of wickedness or ingratitude?
4. In what way did Jesus set an example for us to follow?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each group a sheet of paper and tell them to brainstorm and write out a want ad for a best friend. Ask them to include qualities in their ad that make a good friend. Give them about five minutes in the groups then ask each group to read their want ad. List the qualities on a newsprint pad.

SONG

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in thanking God that He is merciful and kind to us, despite what we deserve. Then ask Him for strength and guidance in learning to be kind and loving to others.

Pay up, or Else!

MEMORY VERSE

A kind man benefits himself. But a mean person brings trouble on himself.” - Proverbs 11:17
“(NIrV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. State that God is merciful and compassionate with us (as sinners).
2. Explain what mercy and compassion are.
3. Tell how the king held the servant responsible for his debt when he wouldn't forgive his fellow-servant.
4. Explain that God expects us to forgive and show mercy to others.

TOPICS & THEMES

Forgiveness

Jesus Sets Example

Mercy

Obedience

Parables

Unforgiving Servant

Punishment

Repentance

Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette or CD and music player, pencils, compass or circle pattern, heavy cardstock, crayons, scissors, string

PREPARATION

This age group doesn't see shades of gray! To them, everything is black or white, right or wrong. They are very concerned about fairness. What happens to one must happen to the other,

otherwise the situation is intolerable. Therefore, they will take this parable very much to heart – in some cases, maybe too much so.

Explain that there are consequences for actions. Acts of forgiveness and mercy don't necessarily wipe out the consequences for sins and mistakes. Be careful to never give a child the idea that if someone hurts them (sexual or physical abuse) that he or she is to turn the other cheek. They must see the necessity of telling an adult who can help. Then they can be taught to forgive that person for their own well-being.

Some students may be very concerned that someone might be thrown into prison for owing money. Explain that this was a common way of getting money from someone who was unable to pay their debt in Bible times.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Punishment - Begin with a discussion about different forms of punishment by parents for misbehavior. Ask: Has there ever been a time when your parents didn't punish you as much as you thought they would? Why are parents more lenient in their punishment sometimes? (Discuss.)

Leniency - a relaxation of the rules. Some parents are naturally more lenient than others. They may allow their kids to go to any type of movie. They may allow the kids to make their own decisions about what is right and wrong. Oftentimes this is because the parents don't want to be bothered or are just too busy to supervise. Other times it is because they are afraid that their kids will not like them. It may not be good for the child if the parents are too lenient.

Mercy - not punishing as deserved. The child may deserve to be grounded for his misbehavior, but the parent has compassion and shows mercy because of his remorse or the circumstances. God chooses to save us by His mercy and not because of any good thing we have done (Titus 3:5).

Fairness - treating each person equally. Fairness is difficult to achieve. Ask: Is it fair for a five-year-old and a 15 year-old to have the same bed time? Is it unfair to make the five-year-old go to bed earlier than the 15 year-old? Circumstances must be taken into account in the matter of fairness. Equally doesn't always mean the same.

Strictness - the degree to which a parent cuts back on the activities of their child. Strictness is on one end and leniency is on the opposite end. Extremes either way are just as bad and can have catastrophic results.

Natural Consequences - the natural result of an action. If you put your finger on a hot stove, it's going to be burned. Your parents may forgive you for disobeying them, but they can't undo the natural consequence. Your burn will just have to heal.

God, Our King - Ask: How does God interact with us? He very strictly wants us to obey His commands, but there is a lot of freedom in living a Christian life. God allows us the freedom to make choices. He is just and fair! Even though there are natural consequences for our sins, God is merciful and forgiving.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When we ask God to forgive us, what does He do?
2. What does it mean to show mercy? Compassion?
3. What lesson should we learn from the parable of the unforgiving servant?
4. Why does God expect us to forgive people who sin against us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Create a color wheel. Using a compass or circle pattern, have each student draw a 6 inch circle on heavy card stock. Cut out the circle. Divide the circle into thirds (starting at the center). Color one-third blue, one-third red, and the last third yellow. Write the word “Repentance” on one third, “God’s forgiveness” on another third, and “Our forgiveness to others” on the last third. Close to the center, poke two holes large enough to run an 8 inch piece of string through. Bring the string through both holes. Holding the ends of the string on both sides of the circle, twist the string back and forth between your fingers. This will spin the wheel causing the colors to blur into one another. Explain that this shows how repentance and our forgiveness toward others is closely connected to the forgiveness we receive from God our Father.

SONG

“I Will Sing Of The Mercies Of The Lord Forever” is on page 17 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the students in thanking God for His mercy and compassion. Encourage them to ask for His help in forgiving others, in showing compassion and mercy to them.

Lost and Found

MEMORY VERSE

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” - Luke 15:7 (NIV)

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Tell why Jesus taught these two parables.
2. State that God rejoices over sinners who repent.
3. Use the parables to tell how important each one of us is to God.

TOPICS & THEMES

God's Law

Jesus, His Ministry

Mercy

Parables

Lost Sheep

Prodigal Son

Pharisees

Repentance

Shepherd

Sin

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stickers, cassette or CD and music player, awards, refreshments (optional), paper bags, toy sheep and pig, confetti, ring, party hats, play money

PREPARATION

Since this is the last lesson in this book, the students should recite 1 Corinthians 13 today. Depending on time and facilities, you may want to have a small party and give awards to those students able to recite the chapter.

Juniors are moving into the age where they tend to be very possessive. When they lose something, it can be devastating to them. Less mature students may have trouble keeping track of their belongings. This can cause some conflicts between the students in class. By understanding the maturity level of your students when starting this lesson you will be able to gauge how relevant the idea of Lost and Found will be to them.

You will need two paper bags. In one place a small stuffed lamb and some confetti, in the other place a toy pig, party hat, a ring and some play money.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin with the Activity - Divide the class into two groups. Give each group one of the paper bags. Tell them to take the items out of their bags and see how they relate to one of the parables in today's lesson. Have the groups act out each parable using the items in their bag as props.

Lost and Found - Ask the children if they have ever lost anything. (You will find out who is very concerned about keeping track of their belongings.) Ask them how long they searched and if they eventually found the object. What kind of feelings did they have if they didn't find the object? If the lost object showed up a couple of days later, ask them what their reaction was.

Our Relationship to God - When we decide to follow God with our whole heart, we begin walking on the path towards God's Kingdom. Sometimes God's people make wrong decisions which are detours off the path towards God. Some people never come back. But, some people realize they've taken a wrong turn – that they have been doing wrong things – and they repent. Explain that to repent means to feel so sorry for your actions that you change your mind and actions. When God's children repent, He is like the father in the parable – waiting to welcome us home.

The Lost Son - Discuss the wrong actions of the younger son. Ask: What was his first mistake? How did he feel when he realized what a mess his life was in? Sometimes when we make a mistake, we feel like it would be better to keep going in the direction we're going. It takes a lot of courage to go back to God and admit that you have done something wrong. The younger son was ashamed and fearful that his father wouldn't accept him back and forgive him. Ask: How did the father react? In the same way, God will forgive us when we repent and return to Him.

The Older Brother - Ask: Was the older brother happy that his brother had come home? Why or why not? Explain that we should not be angry or jealous over someone who has been forgiven. God is the Judge – it is up to Him to punish or forgive sin.

The Shepherd and the Father - Depending on the maturity of the students, you may also want to explore the differences between the shepherd and the father. The shepherd went looking for his lost sheep. The father stayed at home. There may be times in our Christian walk when God will come after us and lead us home again. Then again, there may be times when He waits for us to

realize that we have made a mistake and return to Him. There's a difference between going astray and rejecting God. It's not safe to assume that if we reject God He will show us our errors and put us back on the right track.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus use the parables of the lost sheep and the lost son to teach the Pharisees?
2. Why do you think the younger son didn't want to wait to receive his inheritance?
3. What did he do when he realized he had made a mistake?
4. How did his father treat him when he came home?
5. How does God treat us when we acknowledge our sins, and ask for His forgiveness?
6. Why is God so merciful to us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

This lesson's activity is completed in How to Teach This Lesson.

SONG

"Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" is on page 75 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Encourage the students to thank God for giving us these parables so we might know just how very special each person is to Him. Thank Him, also, for His mercy and forgiving us when we ask.