

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 9:14-15, Mk. 2:19, Luke 5:34-35

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus was the Messiah sent to save the world and bring joy to the hearts of those who believe.

Materials: Party Supplies (balloons, paper streamers, anything used to celebrate), invitations

Memory Verse: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” John 6:47

Lesson Summary

When the Pharisees and the scribes came to Jesus, they were always trying to trick Him with words from the Law. They were very angry with Christ and His disciples. On this occasion, they came to Him asking why His disciples did not fast as the Pharisees did or as John’s disciples did. To “fast” means to go without food or water for a period of time. Jesus knew the Pharisees and scribes were trying to trick him and He told them a parable. Remember a parable is a story with a meaning. Jesus knew the Jews would understand a story involving a wedding. The Jewish people celebrated a wedding for a long time. This was a time of great joy and celebration with lots of food much like the parties we have around Thanksgiving or Christmas with our families. Jesus wanted the

Pharisees and scribes to see how foolish it was to consider fasting while He was with his disciples because he was the “Bridegroom”. Therefore, it was a time of celebration and joy greater than any party because the Messiah had come. This parable tried to point the Pharisees and scribes to the true identity of Christ, but they refused to believe. However, for the one who believes, we can find great joy in the fact that Christ was the promised Messiah sent to save the world!

Bible Point:



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Decorate the room with some party supplies and give each student a written or verbal invitation to come to the party. Tell them all about what is going to be at the party, including the food. Pick one student to be the bridegroom. Tell the others that they can only celebrate if the bridegroom is with them. If he/she is gone no one can eat or play. You can have the bridegroom leave the room for children to experience what it is like without the bridegroom.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the Pharisees question Jesus about fasting?
2. Did the scribes know who Jesus was? How do you know?
3. Why did Jesus tell the story of the bridegroom?
4. Why should Jesus’ coming bring joy to those who believe?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mt. 9:16, Mk. 2:21, Lk. 5:36, 2 Cor. 5:17

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that with a true confession of faith, Christ makes us a new creature.

Materials: 2 shirts (one nice & one with lots of holes), scissors, needle & thread, glue, markers, paper

Memory Verse: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson Summary

Jesus has performed many miracles prior to His discussion with the Pharisees and scribes. However, they continue to try to find fault with what He does and even question why He is with the sinners and Publicans. Jesus always responds by reminding them of who He is and what He was sent to do. He tells them He was sent to save the lost and heal the sick. This only makes them angrier and they continue to close their eyes to the truth of the Messiah that was foretold so long ago. The scribes and Pharisees continue to follow the old customs and laws of the Jewish faith. Jesus tries to help them see with the parable in today’s lesson. He describes the foolishness of trying to sew pieces of a new garment onto an old torn used garment. He says you then have destroyed two garments. He is trying to help the scribes and Pharisees to see that they are in need of salvation that only comes through Christ. We can never repair our old garment of sin with new works and traditions. Sacrifices, fasting, and even prayers are no good unless we have come to know Christ. When we accept Him and ask Him into our hearts, only then is our old garment of sin thrown away and replaced with the new garment of righteousness. This comes not from works or deeds, but through the saving blood of Christ.

Bible Point:



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Sit or stand in front of the class and show them the two shirts you have with you. Explain that you need to repair the old shirt because you can’t wear it like it is. Show them the holes and torn places in the shirt. Then hold up the new one and explain that you are going to cut pieces of the new shirt and sew it on the old.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Do you think it is a good idea to cut up the new shirt to sew on the old? Why or why not?
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees hate Jesus?
3. Why do you think they would not listen?
4. What does it mean when the Bible says we are made new in Christ?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 5:25, Luke 12:58, Luke 6:27, Matthew 5

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will judge us harshly if we do not forgive even our enemy.

Materials: paper, pencil

Memory Verse: “But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,”
Luke 6:27

Lesson Summary

Jesus began to teach some really radical ideas in the beginning of Matthew 5! He told the people that it was not only a sin to commit murder, but also if you just thought about it in your heart and mind. This was not what the Pharisees and scribes wanted to hear. They tried to appear holy before men, but this new teaching forced them to look at the sin in their hearts that no one could see. Jesus knew this because He knew what was in their hearts. As He began to teach, it became clear that we must guard our hearts from sin that no one can see. One of the teachings of Jesus came in the form of a parable about a man and his enemy or adversary. Jesus tells us in this parable that we must forgive our enemy quickly to avoid being brought before a judge (God) and sentenced to prison. Jesus was trying to help the people see that God would judge those who did not forgive—even their enemies.

This is not easy to hear and it made the Pharisees even angrier with Jesus. Only those who truly wanted to know the Messiah would listen to this kind of teaching. Jesus knew this was the only way for us to truly be free from the one true enemy of mankind, Satan. Satan wants us to hold grudges, to hate, and to do bad things that will cause us to die in sin. However, Christ came to lead us into truth and give everlasting life.

Bible Point:



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Tell your students you want them to think of someone who has done something wrong or bad to them. Discuss some of things that could be included. Ask the student to choose one of those people and write a letter telling them that they forgive them. (Younger students can draw a picture and you can write for them.)

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Is it easy to forgive people who do bad things to us?
2. Why did Jesus say we must forgive others when they do wrong to us?
3. How can we ask God to help us forgive others?
4. What happens if we don't forgive others?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 18:23-35, Matthew 5, Matthew 6:15

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will not forgive those who will not forgive others.

Materials: poster board, markers, note cards or index cards

Memory Verse: “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:15

Lesson Summary

Peter came to Jesus with a question. He asked Jesus how many times do we have to forgive our brother? Jesus' response was “seventy times seven” or as many times as he asks. Jesus then began to teach using another parable or story about king and his servants. Jesus tells them that a servant came to the king and was to be sold with his family because he could not pay the debt he owed the king. The servant begged for mercy and the king actually forgave the whole debt. He did not have to pay the king back and his family was saved! Some time later, this same servant went out and found a fellowservant that owed him only a small debt. The fellowservant could not pay, and the servant became very angry took him and had him cast into prison. He did not forgive the servant as the king had forgiven him. The king soon found out and became very angry. He told the servant since he did not forgive, he would not be forgiven until he paid back all the debt. Jesus used this parable to teach us that in God's Kingdom we have been forgiven a great debt when we are forgiven our sins. You see we cannot pay the debt owed and God was moved with compassion to forgive us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. That is our payment for sin. However, if we don't forgive our fellowservant (our brothers in Christ), God will not forgive us.

Bible Point:



Ideas to Illuminate:

Illustration: Divide a poster into 2 halves and draw a line down the middle. On one side write the word “Punishment” and on the other side “Mercy”. Come up with several scenarios that illustrate someone doing something wrong to us. Have to students respond with what we think should be their punishment and then on the other side what would illustrate God's mercy.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Is it hard to forgive and show mercy to others? Why?
2. What does the parable teach us about forgiving others?
3. Why does Jesus use this illustration to answer Peter's question?
4. What was the debt he forgave for each of us who have accepted Him?