

Jesus, Lord of My Life

TEACHER

UNIT

1

LESSON
FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, teach me your ways. Guide me to be a true reflection of your love so that I will be happy and proud of myself. Amen.

MY WORLD

List five things that make you happy:

We think that being rich or having a lot of things or being a “star” will make us happy. Most of us will never be rich or have *everything* we ever dreamed of having. And very few of us become famous athletes or music stars or movie stars.

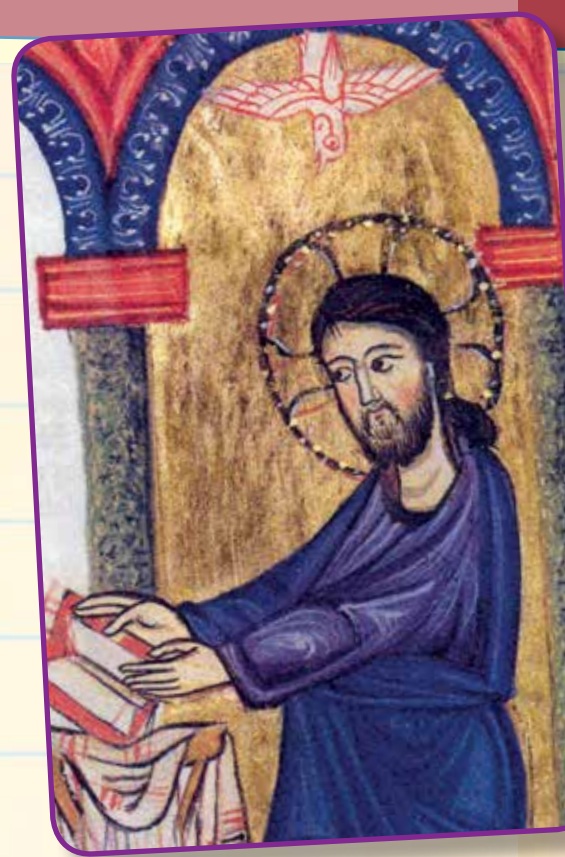
God *does* want us to be happy. Jesus taught us how to be truly happy. He was and is a great teacher. Many times he spoke directly to people as a teacher. They called him *Rabbi* which means teacher.





Taking a Closer Look

Jesus spent as much time as he could teaching the people. He wanted them to know God and to love him. He often taught with stories. These were called "parables" and were simple stories about everyday life. And yet they always ended with important questions for us to think about. For example, Jesus taught a famous parable about mercy that we now call "The Parable of the Good Samaritan." It can be found in Luke 10: 25-37. Read the story and decide: what was the question we each have to answer? Write it here:



Getting Closer to God

God gave the Israelites rules to live by called the Ten Commandments. One day Jesus was asked, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

Jesus answered, "To love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And the second is to love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Mark 12:28-31)

Jesus did not give a bunch of DON'Ts. He gave us two big DOs. The Ten Commandments are important and we should follow them. What Jesus said summarized them in two statements.

The first is how we should feel about _____.

The second is how we should feel about _____.

Who does Jesus say is our neighbor? Circle the people you would consider your "neighbors."



GODS GUIDING WORDS

The Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:3-10*)



One special time Jesus taught has come to be called the Sermon on the Mount. People had gathered to hear him speak. One of the things he told them about is called The Beatitudes, a set of principles that teach us what we need to be happy: love, peace, justice, mercy, and generosity.

Jesus wants us to depend on him and said that when we live in his way, we are truly

happy. We are already with God in our hearts and already sharing in his Kingdom! This is the first lesson.

***“God blesses those people who depend only on him.
They belong to the kingdom of heaven.”***

You know that many people in your school, in this country, in this world do not live according to God’s plan and there is meanness and hurtfulness. There is war, hunger, poverty and many other awful things. It makes you sad that these sinful things happen. Jesus said if you are saddened by sin, evil, and suffering in the world or if you are sad to have lost someone you love, you can depend on God to comfort you. God will give you ways to help and feel better. This is the second lesson.

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!”

Children who only think of themselves don’t have time to think of others. They don’t want to think of others. But all God’s children, including you, should think of others as your sisters and brothers and care for them. A person who puts the needs of others first is called *HUMBLE*. Humble people show gentleness and patience towards others. Another word for this kind of person is *MEEK*. Jesus said God loves this kind of person and will reward them. This is the third lesson.

***“God blesses those people who are humble.
The earth will belong to them.”***

“That’s not fair!” is a phrase you have probably used when you think someone has been unjust towards you. It is a phrase God wants everyone to use if people are not being treated fairly. God wants you to stand up for your rights and the rights of others. When you get justice for yourself and others you will be happy. God wants

things to be right. When you work for righteousness for all you are doing God's will. This is the fourth lesson.

“God blesses those people who want to help him make the world right even more than they want to eat or drink. They will be given what they want.”

God wants you to be concerned about the feelings of others and show them the same loving kindness that you want for yourself. Jesus taught us this fifth lesson.

“God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy.”

Jesus said that what you say and do should always be what is right with God. This is called being pure in heart. When you are pure in heart you see God guiding you. This is lesson six.

“God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him!”

God knows you can only be happy when you are at peace with yourself and others. Jesus was a peacemaker and he wants you to be peacemaker like him. This is the seventh lesson.

“God blesses those who make peace. They will be called his children.”

Sometimes doing the right thing is very hard. You may lose a friend or an opportunity because you did what is right and good. You may feel hurt because others laugh at you when you do what you know is God's will. Jesus said to come to him in his kingdom and all things will be better there and you will be happy. This is lesson eight.

“God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.”





Our Armenian Way

A MIRACLE IN ARMENIA

Up until very recently, Armenians who came from the same town or village considered themselves part of the same family. If they came from the town of Marash, they were all “Marash-tzees.” People from Palu were all Palu-tzees. The “tzee” ending in Armenian is just like some of the ways we refer in English to people from the same place. Someone from New York is a New York-er. Someone from Wisconsin is a Wisconsin-ite.

But for Armenians, coming from the same town made for a strong bond. *Everyone* from that town was a true neighbor and friend. This was a great example of taking Jesus’ command seriously by caring for *all* the people who occupy your world.



RESPONDING IN FAITH

One of the best things Jesus taught us is how to pray. He taught us what we call the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-14).

Here is a simple way to think about what the prayer says:

Father of all of us, you who are in heaven,
you are more special than anyone.

I pray I always follow your ways.

Give me what I need today to live the kind of life that pleases you.

Forgive my wrongs as I forgive the wrongs done to me by others.

Lead me away from sinful thoughts, words, and actions.

Rescue me from evil things.

I pray this for myself and for everyone for I want your blessings
for me and for all.



Time to Celebrate

Share with the class a teaching of Jesus, using your DO/DON'T masks.



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about Jesus as our greatest teacher. We explored some of the many beautiful lessons Jesus taught the people of his time and all time, such as the Beatitudes, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the Two Great Commandments. Jesus taught us about how to live a happy life. We learned that Jesus taught us how to pray and gave us the Lord's Prayer to say.

Living Our Faith

Many of Jesus' lessons were in the form of stories called parables. Read some of the Parables of Jesus this week as a family. Each night this week read one of Jesus' parable stories listed below and talk about what he is teaching. How do we incorporate these lessons into our daily life?

Parables of Jesus Christ

This is a list of some of the parables of Jesus Christ. A parable is an earthly story with a spiritual truth.

Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Budding fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-32	21:29-33
Great physician	9:10-13	2:15-17	5:29-32
Hidden treasure	13:44		
Humbled guest			14:7-11
Laborers in vineyard	20:1-16		
Lost coin			15:8-10
Rich fool			12:16-21
Salt without taste	5:13	9:50	14:34-35
Sheep and goats	25:31-46		
Ten talents	25:14-30		
Unmerciful servant	18:21-35		

story of King Apkar. Conclude: “Isn’t it amazing that Jesus cared for our Armenian King?” 10 min.

8. **Time to Celebrate.** Distribute paper and markers and have students create their own mini-poster of the miracle story they read. They may work in pairs or alone. Post their work around the room. Direct them to have the Bible verses and the title appear somewhere on the paper.

9. Conclude with the prayer in **Responding in Faith**; have students read the prayer silently. 25 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

How responsive have the children been? Have they been able to answer questions and give responses in class or have they been shy, bored, or unresponsive? Shy children may feel more at ease if you spend a little time each week talking to them before or after class. A bored child may respond more if given tasks (pass out the Bibles; be the secretary and write your classmates’ responses in my notebook; can I depend on you to bring in some magazines next Sunday so we can do our project?).

You might talk to a child who hardly ever responds in class *before* class and elicit what they might know about the lesson. In this case, ask if he knows anything about the miracles of Jesus. If the student shares something (for example, he knows Jesus fed lots of people with some fish and bread), then ask the student if you can call on him to tell the story to the class.

You might want to keep a list of your students on your desk during class and each time a child responds, make a check mark (or have your assistant or co-teacher do this). After a month review the list and see who might be monopolizing the discussion or who is not participating at all and needs to be encouraged more.

Extending the Lesson

Look up and read about some of the other miracles Jesus performed:

Lepers Healed (Mark 1:40-45) (Luke 17:11-19)

The Paralyzed Healed (Matthew 9:1-8) (Matthew 12:9-13)

The Blind See (Matthew 9:27-31) (Mark 10:46-52)

The Mute Talk (Matthew 9:32-34)

The Sick Cured (Matthew 8:5-13)

Lazarus is Raised from the Dead (John 11:1-44)

Curing a Demon-possessed Mute (Matthew 9:32-34)

Jesus, Lord of My Life

Teacher



Key Concepts

1. Jesus is God teaching us directly what he wants us to know.
2. He taught through stories such as parables.
3. He fulfilled and transformed Old Testament teachings.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Complete a review worksheet on the miracles.
2. Review the concept of Jesus as teacher.
3. Read and discuss the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
4. Explore the meaning of the Beatitudes.
5. Learn the two greatest commandments.
6. Create Do/Don't masks to review Jesus' basic teachings.
7. Recite the Lord's Prayer.

Materials Needed

Scissors

Glue

Worksheet on Miracles of Jesus

Prayer cards for children to write requests or prayers (an index card)

Bibles (Contemporary English Version is the one used in the Beatitudes text)

The Lord's Prayer from the back of this manual

Paper plates and tongue depressors (one for each child) for the DO/DON'T activity (see Procedure #8)

Markers, tape

Procedure

1. As a review of last week's lesson, ask students to describe a miracle Jesus performed that they remember from last session. Discuss. Then distribute the worksheet for students to complete.
2. Ask the students to read the prayer in **From Our Hearts to God** together. Read prayer requests of children from last week if any were submitted. Ask the students if they wish to offer a prayer of their own. Tell children they may fill out a prayer card for next week if they have a prayer they want the class to say. 15 min.

3. Turn to **My World** and ask students what makes them happy. After listening to a few verbal responses, have them write their “top five” things on the lines provided in the text. Ask, “Does God want us to be happy?” Let the students answer freely. Read the brief text. Then write the words love, peace, justice, mercy, and generosity on the board and ask them how these might make them happy. Let the students give their ideas. If they don’t have responses, tell them to think about it as they will be reading more on the topic. 5 min.

4. Teach **Taking a Closer Look**. Read the parable. The question, of course, is “who is my neighbor?” Then read **God’s Guiding Words**. This section of the text sets up each of the Beatitudes with an example and explanation. You might cover the text as follows: Read the introductory paragraph of each to the students then have the students take turns reading the Beatitude that follows. When you are done with all, read each Beatitude in bold print again out loud together. 15 min.

5. Read **Getting Closer to God**. Here is another example of Jesus teaching directly in answer to a question. Read through the text with the students and have them fill in the missing blanks (first – God, second – neighbor or others).

6. Next the students are asked to circle their “neighbors” in a group of pictures. Of course, all the people pictured are our neighbors by Jesus’ standard. Since God is our Father, all people are brothers and sisters. Students may question how we should think about those who would do us hurt or harm, about our enemies. Are they our neighbors? The simple answer is yes but that doesn’t mean we should not guard against hurt or harm from our enemies. Treating others as our brothers and sisters doesn’t mean being foolish. It means working for justice and fairness as the Beatitude says. 5 min.

7. Teach **Our Armenian Way**. Here we reinforce the concept of loving your neighbor through the Armenian custom of considering all people from the same town as “kin.” Read the text and discuss some of the other ways we refer to people from the same place in English (Chicagoan; Virginian; Manhattanite, etc.) Then mention other famous Armenian cities, historical or current, and how we

refer to the people who are from there (Bolsetzee; Hayastantzee, Kharpert-tzee, etc.) Stress that for Armenians, it meant more than just coming from the same place, it meant being a true neighbor.

8. For a **Time to Celebrate**, distribute DO/DON’T mask materials. Instruct students to draw a happy face with DO on the forehead area on one side and on the other a sad face with the DON’T written on the forehead. Students may make one each and decorate, color, etc. if you have time. A tongue depressor is then taped to the bottom center of the plate. Have the students take turns holding the mask to their face first showing the DON’T side, then the DO side and tell a teaching of Jesus in a negative and positive way. Example: Show the DON’T side and say DON’T lie. Now turn it around to the DO side and say DO tell the truth. If a student can’t think of a DON’T, just hold the DO side up and tell what Jesus wants you to DO. Accept all reasonable responses. 10 min.

9. Finally we look at the Lord’s Prayer in **Responding in Faith**. Read the introduction to the students and have students take turns reading the individual simplified verses. Distribute copies of the Lord’s Prayer (keep one posted in the classroom as well); you may want to compare the simple version with the actual as you read. Say: “The Lord’s Prayer is very important in the lives of Armenians. This is the prayer we all know. We say it quietly to ourselves when we enter church. We sing it during Badarak. We say it at home by ourselves. We say it with our families. We say it when our relatives gather for a big family dinner or holiday or when we gather as a church family.” Conclude class by reciting the traditional version together in English, Armenian or both. 5 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

Think about the teaching skills of Jesus. What did *he* do that you can incorporate more into *your* teaching?

Extending the Lesson

1. Make a chart of the Beatitudes.
2. Dissect the Lord’s Prayer. What is the point of each section?

The first part acknowledges God.

The second part is our ultimate request – that we live according to God’s will; this would make earth just like heaven.

The next is asking for our needs.
Then we ask for forgiveness.
Finally, we ask to be helped through future difficult times.
Try writing a prayer following the same format.

3. Read some of Jesus' parables, describe what Jesus is teaching, then act them out.

Alert Servants (Mark 13:33-37) Always live a God-centered life. We don't know when God will call us home so watch that you are always ready for God.

Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9) Jesus is like the servant who wants to try again to save us, to give us another chance to be what God wants us to be.

Christian Light (Matthew 5:14-16) Don't hide that you are a Christian. Let your Christian ways be a guide for others.

Dinner Guests (Luke 14:16-24) God is inviting you to his Kingdom. Don't be so involved with what happens in the world that you ignore his invitation. If you forget your allegiance to God he will give his blessings to others.

Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-13) Jesus is teaching that we will be given what we need when we ask for it, just as parents give their children what they need because they love them as God loves us.

Good Shepherd (John 10:11-15) Jesus is taking care of us and leading us to God's Kingdom.

Jesus, Lord of My Life Savior



Key Concept

Jesus is our Savior and through him we can have eternal life.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Complete a review of the Beatitudes.
2. Define the term "Savior."
3. Discuss the story of Adam and Eve and draw the parallel to Jesus.
4. Consider Christian responses to dilemmas.

Materials Needed

Review sheet on the Beatitudes from the back of this manual
Paper, pencils, colored pencils

Procedure

1. Pray together **From Our Hearts to God**. Let students offer their own prayers. If any children have submitted prayer requests, pray accordingly.
2. Distribute review sheet on the Beatitudes. Answers for review with alphabet code: A,C, E, D, B, F, H, A
10 min.
3. Have a student read **My World** aloud. Then discuss the questions. Jesus talked about this kind of love in the Gospel of John. Read the Bible passage noted: John 15:13. (Your class may want to read more than just that verse as the whole passage is about loving each other.)
4. Have the students read **God's Guiding Words** silently and then ask one to read it aloud. Ask the class to memorize the verse and where it is from (John 3:16). Give them a few moments and then ask if anyone can recite the verse without looking. Can anyone give the book, chapter and verse without looking? (During the course of the session, repeat these requests a few times. This will help them memorize it.)
10 min.
5. Have the students take turns reading **Taking a Closer Look**. Then tell the children that we call Jesus the New Adam because he re-established the relationship God had with Adam in the Old Testament. Ask the students to recall what Adam's sin was and the term we have for it (original sin). Remind students that the consequence of disobeying was death. Adam and Eve would no longer live endlessly and without effort in the Garden with God. They were sent out to a life of many challenges that would end, as all our lives do, with death.

Remind the students that all of us, adults and children, are sinners because there are always times when we make the wrong choice and do not do as God would want us to do. We all slip up from time to time and say something hurtful, do something wrong, think bad thoughts, or don't do something good when we should have. But God always loves us and is willing to listen and grant us forgiveness if