

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 6 – Here Comes the Judge (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening questions for yourself first. This could potentially be a delicate matter for some, so participation should be voluntary.

Study Notes:

Genesis 6:11-21

Who is the main character? Noah

God planned to destroy the whole earth due to the excessive sin of man. But because of His grace, He permitted Noah and his family to survive, as well as the animals.

Genesis 18:16-33

Who is God talking about in this passage? Abraham

In this passage, Abraham asks God for mercy towards Sodom y Gomorrah. The reason he did this was because his nephew, Lot, lived there with his family. Notice how God shows His mercy even in His righteousness even though the necessary number of just persons lowers from 50 to 45, to 40, to 30, to 20, and finally to 10. And even this wasn't enough to save Sodom y Gomorrah. But God rescued Lot warning him and helping him to escape the city before it was destroyed. He also showed His mercy simply by communicating His plans to Abraham before doing it, something that wasn't necessary to do.

Amos 5:21-24

God was disgusted with the unjust practices of His people. They cheated and deceived their neighbors and fellow citizens, mistreated the poor for their own benefit, and even their religious activities were stained by their immoral lives. (Amos 2:6-8). God was disgusted with their religion because the way in which they lived their lives was contrary to the religion they proclaimed with their mouths.

Lamentations 1:18-22

What happened to the Israelites? They were defeated and taken captive to another land

Why did they have these problems? Because they rebelled against God

This passage describes Jeremiah's reaction to God's justice. God had promised to bless, protect, and defend Israel if they obeyed (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). He had also promised judgment if they disobeyed (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). Israel had disobeyed God and after many years, God finally brought judgment on the nation and they were conquered. Jeremiah acknowledges the justice of God in this, and prays for the future judgment of all wrongdoing.

Summary: God is the ultimate authority of good and bad. He is perfectly just and He administers His justice according to His principles. But His justice is always tempered by His mercy and love.

Romans 14:1-13

God is the only judge. We are His servants and we don't know everything, so we should let Him judge it all. Notice how this passage talks about how we should not judge others for ourselves. If anyone is surprised in sin, we should help him to be restored.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Who is the foundation of the Christian's life? Christ

This passage is specifically speaking about ministers, but it can be applied to all Christians. Our actions will be judged, and the good things done with the right motivation (gold, silver, and precious stones) will last and the others (wood, hay, and straw) will not last. Along with what will last is our reward and our gift to the Father. In His grace, even those who don't have anything to give to God will still be saved. Salvation is a free gift.

Revelation 20:11-15

What will each person be judged on? According to what they have done.

On what basis will people escape the lake of fire? If their name is written in the Book of Life.

In this passage the future judgment of all humanity is described. The Bible says it is necessary for everyone to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). Two types of books are mentioned here. The first book that is opened is an account of the life of each person – the sum of their actions, good and bad. The second that is the “Book of Life” is for believers – those that God has redeemed through Christ. Teach them that the “Lake of Fire” was not originally prepared for people, only for the devil and all of his angels (see Matthew 25:41).

***Special – The Judgement against Vengeful ***

The idea that many people have of God is a judge that is severe, cruel, and vengeful who wants to surprise us while we are doing something bad in order to punish us. Generally, people have reacted negatively to this and have gone to the other extreme and ignore God's judgment. We should help our people understand that God's justice is based on His love for all people, and His love of justice. God knows how to make a clear distinction between good and bad, exactly as a good father does for his children. That is to say there are consequences for bad actions, but they always come with love. God's judgment should be a deterrent, so that we do not sin and to draw us to Him.

Application: Help your students to learn to abstain from anything that does not please God. Teach them that only the Holy Spirit can bring them success – they should pray daily. Encourage them to find support in each other during the week.

Lesson 6 – Here Comes the Judge

I can explain everything...

Who is the most powerful authority figure to whom you answer? The police? FBI?
Your mom?

God's Justice

God's justice is part of His character. He is perfect and holy. He is also the One who makes the rules of good and evil, and His decisions are always correct. Below are some examples from the Scripture of how God has applied His justice in the past.

Genesis 6:11-21

Who is the main character?

What was God planning to do?

Genesis 18:16-33

Who is God speaking to in the passage?

How did God show His justice and mercy?

Amos 5:21-24

Lamentations 1:18-22

What happened to the Israelites?

Why did they have these problems?

God is perfectly just, but even in these stories, we can see that His justice is just another expression of His mercy. He will always do what is just.

The Judgement Seat of Christ

Possibly one of the most unpopular and misunderstood words of the Bible is “judgment.” God gave us the command to not judge others (Matthew 7:1), even though the Bible says very clearly that God judges (Psalm 75:7). What does all of this mean? Read the following passages, answer the questions, and note in the space below any insights you have about the judgement of God.

1. *Romans 14:1-13*

What things would the people argue about?

What is the difference between judging and distinguishing between good and bad?

2. *1 Corinthians 3:10-15*

Who is the foundation of the life of a Christian?

What does it mean when you say “wood, hay and straw”?

What does it mean when you say “gold, silver, and precious stones”?

3. *Revelation 20:11-15*

What will each person be judged on?

On what basis will people escape the lake of fire?

During the following week, choose a habit that you consider “wood, hay, and straw.” Commit to pray to the Lord that you can abstain (refrain) from it. Write it in the space below.

Scripture to Memorize:

Therefore, judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5