

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Matthew

LESSON 44

**THE WISE AND
FOOLISH SERVANTS**

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Life of Christ

The Wise & Foolish Servants

Matthew 25:14-30

Younger Verse

Obey Jesus your Lord.

Colossians 3:17

Older Verse

Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord.

Colossians 3:17

Lesson Goals

Learn that God has a job for us to do until He comes back for us
Understand that God gives every person certain gifts He wants them to use
Recognize that we should use our gifts to please God and build His kingdom

Welcome Time

Do you like it when someone tells you, “Good job,” or “Well done?” The people who are following and obeying God will hear Him say this to them one day. If we help others know about God, God will be pleased with us.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last time, we learned that we need to be ready for Jesus to return—He could come back at any time! What do you want to be doing when Jesus comes back? Do you want Him to catch you doing something bad or something good?

Jesus often told stories, called parables, that taught a lesson. Last week’s lesson was about the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Five of them were prepared for the coming of the groom; the other five were not. Jesus wants us to be ready for His return.

In today’s lesson, we will learn what Jesus wants us to be **DOING** until He comes back. He has work for us to do!

Jesus told a story about a master who had three servants. He was going on a trip, so he called the servants to him. He gave each of them some money. To one servant, he gave five bags of gold, to another he gave two bags of gold, and to another he gave one bag of gold. He wanted his servants to make good use of his money. He wanted them to multiply what they had into even more.

After a long time, the master returned home. He called his servants to him to see what they had done with the money. The first servant whom had been given five bags of gold had doubled it—he now had ten bags of gold! The master was so pleased. He said, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” The man who had started with two bags of gold now had four! He also received praise from his master.

But the man who had been given one bag of gold had hidden his money. He told his master that he was afraid of what might happen, so he dug a hole and buried the money in the ground! The master was not at all pleased with this servant. He told the servant that he had been unwise and lazy. He punished the servant.

Jesus wants us to understand that He has given each of us certain talents and abilities. He expects each of us to use the things He gives us to help His kingdom grow. If we sing, we can worship God with our voices. If we are good at sports, we can have a good atti-

tude when we play and help others learn about God.

The main thing is to help others know that God loves them. When we do this, we are multiplying God's kingdom, like the servants in the story. If God finds us faithful, when He returns we will hear Him say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

The first step to being a servant of Christ is to become His follower. We do that by admitting we need forgiveness from our sins. We ask Jesus to come into our heart and life. Then we live for Him and try to become more like Him.

Review Questions

1. How many servants did the master give money to? (three)
2. How much money did the master give each servant? (5 bags of gold to one, two bags, and one bag)
3. What did the master say to the two servants who doubled their amount of money? ("Well done, good and faithful servant!")
4. What did the master say to the servant who had hidden the money? (He said he was unwise and lazy and punished him.)

Prayer Time

Thank God for being a good Master. Pray that He will find us faithful servants.

Life Application

Can you think of a way that we can multiply the things God has given us? In the story Jesus told, the men were given money. But Jesus wasn't just talking about money. The Bible talks about many different gifts that people have that God wants them to use.

In Romans 12:6-8, Paul tells us that some people have the gift of kindness, some are good at encouraging others, some are good teachers, while others serve well. He also says that whatever gift or gifts we have, we should use them to serve God! He has given us those abilities for a reason. We should not use our talents to make ourselves look good. We are to build God's kingdom and glorify Him with our talents.

Back in today's lesson, Jesus said that those who use wisely what they have been given will receive even more. But those who are unfaithful with what they have will lose it. So let's do our best with the gifts God has given us!

Planning for Next Lesson
The Sheep and Goats
Matthew 25:31-45

Preschool Lesson for The Wise & Foolish Servants

(Bring 15 coins to help illustrate the story. We are using pennies for talents so they can visualize the story. Remember that kids this young do not have a concept of money and how much things cost. They can see which is more and which is less.)

Once upon a time there was a rich man who owned a large house. He had many workers who helped take care of everything he had.

One day he told three of his workers that he was going on a long trip. He picked these three to be in charge of his money.

He gave the first worker five coins. (Count to 5) He gave the second worker 2 coins. (Count to 2) He gave the third worker one coin. (Hold up your index finger.)

The man left on his trip and told the workers to help him get more money.

The first worker worked hard and made five more coins. Now he had 10 coins. (Count to 10)

The second worker worked hard and made two more coins. Now he had four coins. (Count to 4)

The third worker was afraid he would lose the money, so he buried it in the ground.

When the man returned from his trip, he quickly went to find the three workers. The first worker showed him the 10 coins. The man was so proud!

The 2nd worker showed him the 4 pennies. He was glad about what he had done!

Then the 3rd worker brought back the 1 penny. The master was very sad because the servant didn't obey him. He wanted him to help make more money, and the servant just buried the money.

Jesus shared this story so that we would remember to always do our best and help others. He also wants us to remember to obey Him and do what He says.

**Hands-on Activities
for
The Wise and Foolish Servants**

What are you good at? Have a fun talent show and let the kids share their talents. Be sure everyone is positive and uplifting.

Bring different activities to encourage the kids to use their abilities—paint, play dough, puzzles, books, songs to sing, etc.

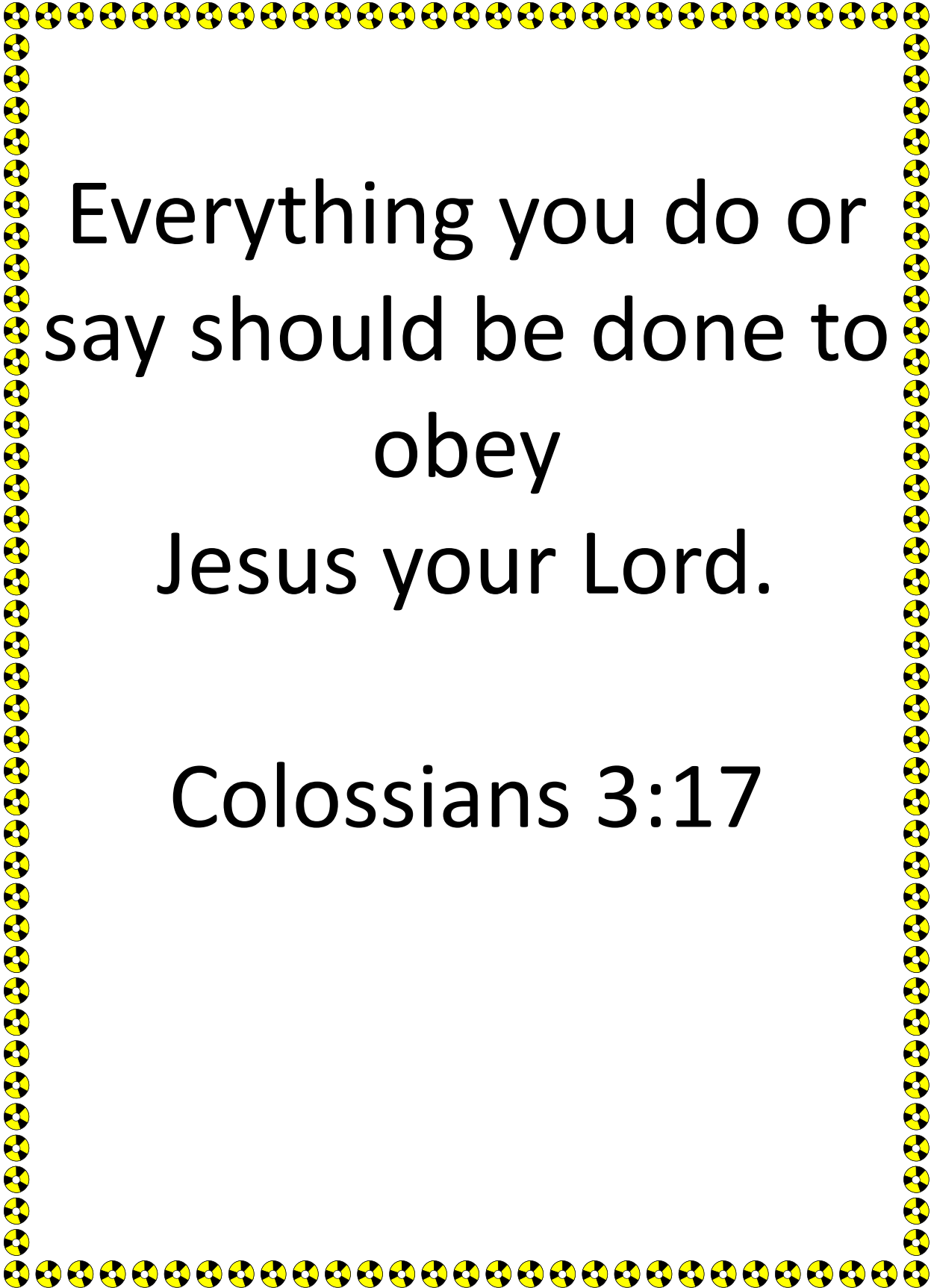
Bring Chocolate Coins to eat as a snack!

God wants us to multiply what He has given us into more. For older kids, practice their multiplication facts. Discuss that God may give us two talents. If we use them well, He may give us two more. How many would we have then?
(four)



**Obey Jesus
your Lord.**

**Colossians
3:17**



Everything you do or
say should be done to
obey
Jesus your Lord.

Colossians 3:17

Y Y D E R R P E R P E B
R O A N M U V K I Y L E
O B U S H O U L D O S C
T E V E R Y T H I N G A
D D L D O O N A R R E U
E O L L N U T Y E G G S
H N U O T D O A C O O E
J E S U S O T T A D T L
N T U M C L O R D O L O
E U O Y U S N B A N D W
P R S O Y N D R E O O E
D N N E M D N A M Y O W

everything

should

Jesus

you do

be done

your

or say

to obey

Lord

Y Y D E R R P E R P E B
 R O A N M U V K I Y L E
 O B U S H O U L D O S C
 T E V E R Y T H I N G A
 D D L D O O N A R R E U
 E O L L N U T Y E G G S
 H N U O T D O A C O O E
 J E S U S O T T A D T L
 N T U M C L O R D O L O
 E U O Y U S N B A N D W
 P R S O Y N D R E O O E
 D N N E M D N A M Y O W

Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord.

everything

you do

or say

should

be done

to obey

Jesus

your

Lord