



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 39: **A Lesson in Humility and Forgiveness**

Scripture

Matthew 18:1-35
 Mark 9:33-50
 Luke 9:46-50

Memory Verse

Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done. Ephesians 4:32 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that God desires for us to be humble.

Understand that God expects us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

We find Jesus and His disciples in Capernaum again. As they arrived in the city, Jesus asked the disciples what they had been arguing about on the way. “Jesus knew what they were thinking,” but He wanted them to admit it. (Luke 9:47a NirV) No one wanted to say anything because “they had argued about which one of them was the most important person.” (Mark 9:34 NirV)

Jesus sat down and asked His disciples to come sit with Him. Then He said, “If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone.” (Mark 9:35 NirV) Then, Jesus’ disciples “asked Him, ‘Who is the most important person in the kingdom of heaven?’” (Matthew 18:1 NirV)

Jesus brought a little child over to them. He told the disciples that it was necessary for them, and everyone else, to change and become like little children. That doesn’t mean we have to be childish and not act our age. It means that we should be innocent and humble like little children. Jesus explained that being humble is “anyone who becomes as free of pride as this child.” (Matthew 18:4 NirV) Someone that free of pride is most important in the kingdom of heaven.

Not only are we to be humble like a little child, we are to welcome little children in His name. Welcoming them is the same as welcoming God.

As for those who are like little children in their humility before God, we are to be careful about what we teach them and how we treat them. Jesus used some pretty strong language here. He said, “It will be terrible for people who cause even one of my little followers to sin. Those people would be better off thrown into the deepest part of the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their necks!” (Matthew 18:6 CEV) There are bad things in the world and people sin, but it will be terrible for those who cause those things.

Then Jesus talked about personal responsibility. If something in your life is causing you to sin, get rid of it! It is better to do without something here on earth and to be able to enter heaven than to have everything we think we deserve and lose it all in the end bound for hell. These are harsh words, but pride is a terrible thing. Pride causes us to think of ourselves first. God should be first in our lives. We are important enough to Him that when one is missing, he is like a shepherd who has 100 sheep, but goes looking for the one who has wandered away. Jesus added, “What I’m about to tell you is true. If he finds that sheep, he is happier about the

Application

Our memory verse says, “Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.” (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)

How has God forgiven you? He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die in your place, to pay the price of your sin.

The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and that we all deserve to die. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)

And even though we all deserve to die, God offers eternal life! Isn't that good news? You have done nothing to deserve eternal life, but God offers it anyway!

Have you taken Him up on that offer?

If not, let's talk.

If so, are you offering others the forgiveness that God has offered you?

one than about the 99 who didn't wander off.” (Matthew 18:13 NIV) God doesn't want to lose a single humble follower.

Jesus also explained that He understood that sin affects our relationships with others. He told His disciples what to do when someone sinned against them. Jesus explained that the first thing we should do is go to that person and talk to him. If he doesn't listen, then we should take one or two other believers with us. If he still refuses to listen then the matter should be taken before the church. When someone's pride keeps them from admitting wrong, even to the entire church, you are to have nothing to do with him unless he finally admits his wrong and asks for forgiveness.

Then, Peter came to Jesus with a question. “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21 NIV) Peter wasn't just asking about forgiving his brother, Andrew. When Peter used the word “brother,” he was asking about all of his fellow believers, his brothers and sisters in Christ. Peter thought that surely seven times was a lot to forgive someone. Jesus answer must have shocked him, then, because “Jesus replied, ‘Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.’” (Matthew 18:22 MSG)

And then, Jesus told the story of a servant whose master had forgiven him of a debt of millions of dollars. There is no way this servant could have paid back his master. “His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go.” (Matthew 18:27 NIV) The servant, on the other hand, went out and found a man that owed him money. This man only owed him a few dollars, though. He begged for more time. The thing is, this servant refused. He threw the man in prison. When the servant's master heard this, he threw the servant into prison for not showing others the same mercy he had been shown.

Jesus told this story to explain more about forgiveness. We are not to put a limit on how many times we will forgive. In fact, God expects us to forgive others the way He has forgiven us.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

The Story of the Good Samaritan



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring play money.

Has someone ever borrowed something from you and not returned it? How did you treat that person? Jesus told a story about something just like that!

There was a king who had servants. One of his servants owed him millions of dollars. The king wanted to collect his money. There was a problem, though. The servant couldn't pay the money back. He and his family and all that they owned would be sold to pay back what he owed.

The servant fell on his knees and begged his master for more time. The master felt sorry for him and instead of giving him more time, he forgave his debt. The man didn't owe anything anymore! Isn't that good news?

There was a problem, though. The servant went out and found people who owed him money. One man only owed him a few dollars. The servant grabbed this man and choked him. He said, "Pay me back!"

The man who only owed a few dollars begged for more time, but the servant refused. He had him thrown into prison.

When the servant's master heard about this, he was angry. He called the servant in. He told the servant, "I forgave all the millions of dollars you owed me because you begged me to give you more time. You should have done the same to the man you owed you only a few dollars!" The servant was thrown into prison until he could pay everything back!

God is like the master in our story. We owe Him a debt because of all the bad things we do (sin). By sending Jesus, God offered to forgive the debt we owe him. He expects us to treat others the way He has treated us. Our memory verse says, "Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done. (Ephesians 4:32 NIRV)

Distribute the money to several of your students and have them act out the lesson.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a cross out of a large sheet of colored construction paper. Print the memory verse on a 1/2 sheet of white paper. Attach the memory verse to the cross. Talk about how God has forgiven us and how we should forgive others.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring chocolate coins for a snack today.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Find Capernaum on a map of Israel.
- Play Hide and Seek with a stuffed lamb. Talk about the 99 sheep and the one that was lost.
- Sing “Amazing Love,” “The Mission,” “Create in Me,” “Humble Thyself,” “Mighty to Save,” “You Are So Kind” or another song related to the lesson.
- Talk about the connection between humility and offering forgiveness. Is it easy to forgive someone when you are being prideful?
- Dig Deeper: Read Matthew 18:21-35. Discuss this story. Talk about its application to our lives.

Be kind and tender
to one another.
Forgive each other,
just as
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because of what
Christ has done.
Ephesians 4:32

Trace the letters.

FREE

OF

PRIDE

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

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

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“Be kind and tender to one another.
Forgive each other, just as God forgave you
because of what Christ has done.”

Ephesians 4:32



Word Search

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

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Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

STORY

SERVANT

MASTER

FORGIVE

OTHERS



Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

STORY

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MASTER

FORGIVE

OTHERS