

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 22:34-40; Ephesians 2:8-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to serve God like an obedient servant.

Materials: Pipe Cleaners (chenille wire)

Memory Verse: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Lesson Summary

Jesus begins this parable by asking his disciples a question. He said, "Would a master ask his servant to sit down and eat when he comes in from working in the field, or would the master require the servant to prepare and serve his meal first?" In Bible times, a servant was actually more like a slave. The master owned the servants and they were bound by the law to do whatever the master commanded them to do. This included planting crops, working in the field, looking after sheep, as well as, preparing and serving meals. In return, the master took care of providing for the servant's needs, such as food and shelter. The servant did not expect to be thanked for performing his tasks. Those duties were simply his job which he was required to do. A master did not wait on his servant. Instead, the servant was required to wait on his master and complete every task to the best of his ability. This parable suggests that even the very best we can do for God is nothing more than our duty. We do not serve God expecting to be thanked. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. Instead, we owe our lives to God because He has redeemed us by the blood of His own Son. As obedient servants, we must serve and love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37).

Bible Point:
Obey God's
Commandments



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. After discussing the questions, give each child three pipe cleaners (chenille wire). Allow the children to bend the wires into different shapes to represent ways we serve and obey God.
2. Play a game of "Simon Says." A leader gives the class commands and the students must complete the required actions. You may desire to rename the game, "The Master Says."

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What were servants required to do for their masters?
2. What are Christians required to do for God?
3. What could the servant expect from the master in return for completing his duties?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Colossians 3:23-25; 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will reward every man according to his work.

Materials: Candy, small treats, etc.

Memory Verse: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells a parable about a man who set out to hire men to work in his vineyard. He hired some of them early in the morning, some in the middle of the day, and some he hired just before quitting time. When it was time to pay the workers, he paid them all the same amount. The workers who were hired early in the morning began to complain because they didn't think that it was fair that they worked all day and were paid the same amount as those who only worked a small part of the day. The owner of the vineyard told the men that they received exactly what had been promised to them. The lesson of this parable is that there are some people who trust in Jesus and serve him almost all of their life. The reward for their faithfulness is a home in heaven. Then there are other people who are sinners for most of their lives. But just before their life ends, they ask the Lord for forgiveness. Their reward is the same as one who has served the Lord all of their life. Jesus says that any "laborer" who accepts the call to work in his vineyard (the Kingdom of God), no matter how late in the day, will receive an equal reward. Jesus is coming soon. Will He find you working for Him? What will be your reward?

Bible Point:
Work for
Jesus



Ideas to Illuminate:

Give out candy or small treats to the class. Be sure to give a larger amount to a few of the children. Hopefully, the children who received less will complain that they did not get as much as the others. Use this opportunity to reflect on how the workers who were hired first may have felt. Be sure, however, that each child ends up with the same amount.

Note: Ask each student to prepare to share a special talent for next week's class. The talent may be drawing a picture, bringing homemade cookies, singing a song, reciting a poem, or playing an instrument.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Which workers were paid the most for their labor?
2. What does the vineyard in the parable represent?
3. Why were the workers complaining who were hired first?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 15:16; Hebrews 13:21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn to be faithful with what he has been given.

Materials: Ribbons or Certificates

Memory Verse: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10a).

Lesson Summary

In this parable, Jesus tells of a rich man who went on a long trip. He left his three servants in charge of his wealth. He gave one servant five talents, another servant two talents, and the last servant only one talent. A talent was an amount of money. When the man returned, he was pleased to find that the first two servants had used the talents to earn twice as many talents as they had been given. However, the third servant did not use the money, but rather buried it in the ground. The master was angry because the servant had been lazy and had not used the talent that was given to him. He took that talent from the lazy servant and gave it to the first servant. What can we learn from this story? We need to use whatever "talent" God has given us. It might be money or a special ability. If we use it wisely, God will increase it so that our lives will glorify Him. This lesson is not about money as much as it is about using our gifts that God has given us. The master gave a large amount of money to each of his servants according to their abilities. Like the talents in this Bible story, the gifts and abilities which God gives to us are very valuable. If we are lazy or afraid to use our gifts, God will take them away and give them to someone else. Let's glorify God by giving Him our very best!

Bible Point:
Give God
your best



Ideas to Illuminate:

Sunday School Talent Show

Allow adequate time for each student to share his unique talent or ability with the class. Reward each student with a ribbon or certificate with the words "Well done" printed on it.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How many talents did the master give to each of his servants?
2. What did the servant who was given only one talent do with his talent?
3. What will happen if we do not use the talents or gifts that God has given to us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrew 11:6

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Christians should never stop praying.

Materials: Small treats, candy, etc.

Memory Verse: "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

Lesson Summary

Jesus told a parable of a widow woman who went before a judge to ask him for protection from her enemies. This judge was not a godly man, and he did not have much compassion for people. At first he would not hear her petition, but she was persistent and kept pleading with the judge. He finally granted the woman her request, but only because he was tired of her asking over and over again. In this parable, Jesus explained that if an unjust, evil judge will help a widow because she is persistent, how much more will our loving God bring about justice for those who continually come to him in prayer? We must be persistent in praying. The Bible says to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Continuous prayer is a sign of our faith in God and His Word. We must believe that God will hear and answer our prayers. We tend to stop praying when we stop believing that a prayer will be answered. So we must not give up hope. We must pray in faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please" God (Hebrews 11:6).

Bible Point:
Ask
Seek
Knock



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Memory Verse Practice

Have the children practice saying the memory verse until they can recite it by memory. Discuss the importance of being persistent and never giving up. When they can recite the verse by memory, reward them with a treat.

2. Role Play

Allow the students to take turns acting out the Bible story. Let the class decide which student was the most persistent in his asking.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What did the widow do when the judge did not grant her petition?
2. Why did the judge finally grant the widow's petition?
3. What does it mean to be persistent?