

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Mark 2:15-17; Luke 19:1-10

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that building friendship is a great way to share salvation.

Materials: Poster board and marker

Memory Verse: "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house" (Lu. 19:5).

Lesson Summary

[Note: read the story of Zacchaeus to the students in Luke 19:1-10.] Life is always better when you share it with a friend. Friends like to share gifts, stories, hugs, toys, secrets and many other things. But of all the wonderful things that we could share with others, the best thing that we could share is Jesus. Jesus taught us by his example how to be the best friend that we could ever be. He spent time eating and visiting with those who needed salvation – people like Zacchaeus (Lu. 19:1-10; Mk. 2:15-17). Zacchaeus was a tax collector and considered a bad sinner, but Jesus picked him out of the crowd and wanted to be his friend. He went home with Zacchaeus and spent time talking with him. On that day, Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house" (Lu. 19:9). Friendship is a great way to reach others with salvation. If we truly care about others, then we should take time to visit with them and share Jesus with them. We need to build strong friendships with one another in the Lord. The more we share Jesus with each other, the closer we will become to the Lord and the closer we will become to each other. As we encourage one another in the Lord, we will then have help along the way – someone to stand beside us and support us in our faith. Friendships in Christ have a strong and lasting bond. So remember, when we share Jesus, we share the most wonderful gift. Good friends like to share many things with each other. Best friends share Jesus!

Bible Point:

Be a friend and
share Jesus!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. At the top of a poster board write "Be a Friend." Have the students to make a list of all the ways we can be a friend to others, and write them on the poster board. Help them to think of creative, yet practical ways to be a friend. Hang the poster in the classroom. 2. Act out a modern story of Zacchaeus like it is happening on a school playground. Zach is a new student, an outsider, and nobody likes him. You – a Christian – see him hanging out on the playground. Being a Christian, how can you reach out to Zach and be his friend?

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. In today's story, Jesus stopped and talked with whom?
2. What did the people of Jericho think of Zacchaeus? And why?
3. What did Jesus think of Zacchaeus?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 1:9; Psalms 56:3-4; Isaiah 44:8; Ezekiel 2:7; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:27; Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:7-8

Lesson Objective: We should not be afraid to talk about Jesus to our friends and to people we meet.

Materials: None

Memory Verse: "But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter . . ." (Mark 1:45).

Lesson Summary

[Note: Begin class by reading the story in Mark 1:40-45.] In our story, a leper – a man with a terrible skin disease – came to Jesus for healing. Lepers were unclean and outcasts – nobody wanted to go near them. But Jesus touched this man and cleansed him from leprosy. He was instantly healed. What did this man do after he was healed? He went out and told everyone about all Jesus had done for him. That's what we all should do! We need to be God's workers on Earth and help bring people to the truth. We should not be shy. Sometimes God tells us to talk to a friend, classmate, or even a stranger about Jesus, but we become afraid. We should not fear because God will help us. The hardest part is getting the first word out, but once we do, it will be easier. Even though Jesus expects us to share our faith, many Christians today find it difficult...even scary. Maybe we don't want people to view us as odd or different, but we are actually called to be different. Because we have the Holy Ghost as our constant companion, we should not be afraid. We should never be ashamed to talk about Jesus and about what he has done for us. We all have friends and family who don't know Jesus. We live beside them, go to school with them, and may even go to church with them. Often we just don't know how to bring up the subject. It may feel awkward or too personal. But it doesn't have to be that way. The gospel is already simple. Think about it. Christ died on the cross for our sins. He was buried but then he rose again. We need to believe in him, accept what he did for us on the cross, and turn from all that is wrong. We just need to ask for his forgiveness and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It is just that simple. We do not have to be a preacher or a Sunday school teacher to talk to others about Jesus. We don't even have to be a grown up. Kids can tell others about Jesus. We can tell anyone about Jesus, not just other kids. Wouldn't it be great to lead someone to the Lord? Jesus was not ashamed to die on the cross for our sins, so we should not be ashamed to talk to others about him.

Bible Point:
Talk about
Jesus



Ideas to Illuminate:

Pair up the students. Let them take turns telling each other about Jesus. As their teacher, walk around the room, coach them, and help them learn about being a witness by suggesting things they can say about Jesus. You could give each pair of students a specific scenario to act out, like witnessing to a best friend or to a teammate, or talking to a total stranger. To make it fun, come up with some creative scenarios, like talking to someone about Jesus while riding a rollercoaster or while fishing.

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 10:27–37; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:17

Lesson Objective: Helping people in need is a great way to share the love of Jesus.

Materials: index cards or slips of paper, and a marker

Memory Verse: “And [he] went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him” (Lu. 10:34).

Lesson Summary

In Luke 10:27-37, we read the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus taught about being a neighbor and loving one's neighbor. A Jewish man traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho, but he was robbed and beaten by thieves, and left half dead. Both a priest and a Levite (i.e. Jewish ministers) saw him as they passed by, but neither helped him. Finally, a Samaritan man passed by, had compassion on him, and helped him. He treated his wounds, and cared for him. The Jews and the Samaritans were enemies. But the Samaritan man was a better friend and helped him when his own people refused to lend a helping hand. Clearly, the Samaritan was a true neighbor and showed God's love by caring for his enemy in need. Have you ever needed help with something? Have you ever helped someone else? Everyone at one time or another needs some kind of help. There are so many different ways that we can give our help to others. Did you know that when we help others that we are sharing the love of Jesus? You may think that a kid like yourself could not possibly help someone. Being so young, sometimes you need help yourself. But each of us has something to offer. Even if we don't have a job or our own money, we can always do something to help others. Maybe we can rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Maybe we can help a classmate who is having problems with his schoolwork. We can make a card for a sick person. We can also write a letter to a soldier who is away from home. We can make crafts or bake cookies to raise money for church missions. We can be a friend to someone who doesn't have very many friends. There are so many ways to help someone and to share the love of Jesus at the same time. Jesus always helped those in need. In fact, he commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. This means that if we see someone who needs help and we are able to help, that we should want to do just that. Even if we think that we are unable to help, we can always pray for others. To be a Christian means to be like Christ. He spent his entire life helping and giving to others. He was the greatest example that we could ever have. Jesus rewards us when we help others. He will surely help us if we help others in need. Plus helping others gives us a wonderful feeling. So be ready and willing to help others without expecting anything in return.

Bible Point:

Help
Others



Ideas to Illuminate:

Write various scenarios of someone in need on index cards or on slips of paper; have a student come forward, pick a card, and read it to the class. Then ask the students to explain how they could be a good neighbor and help the person in need. [Note: When we teach children about helping people in need, we also need to caution them about stranger danger.]

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When have you needed someone to give you special help?
2. Have you ever felt like helping someone, but you did not know how to help or did not feel like you could do anything about it?
3. Are you willing to help anyone, even an enemy?
4. What could you do this week to be neighborly and to help someone?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 14:16-23

Lesson Objective: We introduce people to Christ by bringing them to church.

Materials: paper and pencils

Memory Verse: "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Lu. 14:23).

Lesson Summary

In Luke 14:16-23, Jesus told a story about having a great supper; but the people who were invited did not come. They all made excuses and did not show up for the supper. Of course, the man who prepared the supper was so disappointed. What would he do? He sent his servant out into the streets to invite the poor, the lame, and the blind. But there was still room for more guests. So he sent his servant out again to invite anyone and everyone he could find. He wanted his house to be filled. Like this man who made a great supper, God also wants his house to be filled with people. We can help to fill up God's house by inviting people to church. Have you ever been invited to a party? Getting an invitation is exciting! It makes you feel happy that someone wanted to invite you to a special event. People invite other people to programs, movies, games, barbecues, dinner, activities, and birthday parties all the time. It is a very special feeling when you receive an invitation. Perhaps the best invitation that you could ever offer someone is to invite him to join you in Sunday School or church. It's easy to give out invitations to a party. You may not find it as easy to invite someone to church, but it is much more important than any party. We can ask God to give us boldness and the courage to ask others to come to church. If you are a Christian, then you have already received the greatest invitation. You were invited to follow Jesus. Thank God that you accepted that invitation! As a result of what God has done for you through Christ, you should want to share that message of God's love with others. We should want to invite others to church and hope that they will someday accept this great invitation to follow Jesus. Ask yourself, "Who do I know – a friend, neighbor, classmate, family member, or acquaintance?" Ask yourself, "Who is God is putting on my heart to invite to church?" Then just do it! Some people need to be asked more than once. Don't get frustrated or discouraged if they do not accept your invitation at first. Don't give up! Just keep on reaching out and inviting people to church – it's a great way to introduce people to Jesus.

Bible Point:

Invite
people
to church



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have each student to brainstorm and make a personal list of all the people he/she could invite to church. Then have them to circle than names of the people they believe are most likely to come. Encourage them to begin by first inviting the circled names to a specific event at church (e.g. revival, gospel singing, children's event, Christmas play). Encourage them to keep the list and to continue inviting the remaining names as they have opportunity.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did you begin attending church? Did someone invite you or bring you to church?
2. Have you ever invited anyone to church? Was it easy to invite them, or did you find it difficult? Did they accept your invitation and come to church with you?