LEARNING FROM JESUS

I CAN MAKE CHOICES
LEADER BIBLE STUDY

One popular professional football player is currently being hailed by Christians as a positive role model for kids. Any sports figure’s standing as a moral example is commendable. We pray that more athletes, coaches, and sports fans will speak up for Christ. Nonetheless, the greatest role model of all, of course, was Jesus. This unit will examine Jesus’ example when He faced life’s various situations.

We start early in Jesus’ ministry. Matthew tells how Jesus went to a hilltop to teach His disciples about the kingdom of God. We call this section of the book of Matthew (chapters 5–7) the Sermon on the Mount. The first portion, Matthew 5:3-12, is known traditionally as the Beatitudes. (The word beatitude simply means “blessedness.”) In this section, Jesus outlined nine important personal characteristics of His followers and the blessings promised by each one. Key qualities Jesus spotlighted include humility, caring for other people, courage in the face of opposition, and total dependence on God in all things.

How do the promises in verses 3 and 10 resemble each other? Do they differ from the others? ____________________

What is meant by the kingdom of heaven? ____________________

Soon after Jesus delivered this sermon, He selected and commissioned twelve men to be His closest disciples (Matthew 10:1-4). Jesus charged the men to carry His message, and He equipped them to minister in His name. In what ways does God call us, star athletes or not, to be role models in the world today? __________

CONNECT TO FAMILY

This week families using the Bible Studies for Life curriculum will learn about attitudes. Just as you are teaching 1s and 2s that Jesus loved and helped people, students and adults are learning that life is not going to always be easy. In the good times and bad times we can all have joyful attitudes of trust and surrender.
BIBLE STORY

JESUS TAUGHT THE PEOPLE
Matthew 5–7

BIBLE STORY FOR 1s
• Jesus and His helpers walked up a mountain and sat down. Other people were nearby.
• Jesus began to teach His helpers. He told them how people should treat one another. Jesus told the helpers what they should do.
• The people who followed Jesus listened to His words. They knew Jesus was special.

BIBLE STORY FOR 2s
Jesus and His helpers had traveled to many places. One day they walked up a mountain and sat down. As they looked down from the mountainside, they saw many people around them. The people followed Jesus to the mountain.

Jesus began to teach His helpers. First Jesus told His helpers how people should treat one another. He said that sometimes people who don’t love Jesus will be unkind to the people who do love Him. Jesus said to be happy anyway.

Jesus told His helpers many more things such as: let people see you do good things, do what God says to do, love people, give to others, talk to God, do not worry, and ask God to help you.

Jesus said, “Everyone who does what I have said is wise.”

The people who heard Jesus teach that day were amazed. They knew Jesus was someone special and they should listen to Him.

GETTING READY TO TEACH
• Gather resources and materials needed for Bible-learning activities. Provide two or more Bibles in the room for preschoolers to use.
• Prepare pack items 1, 14, 15, 18. (See instructions in 1s & 2s Leader Pack.)
• Make “sticky blocks” by covering several small boxes with contact plastic. Attach a strip of self-adhesive Velcro® tape to each block.
• Every week help children think about Jesus. Say His name often and talk about Him.

This week’s Christ Focus is Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.

Notes

LEARNING ACTIVITIES
Children learn as they play, move, and do. Select activities each week that are best suited for the age group you teach.

SONGS
Songs are recorded on Babies, 1s, & 2s Enhanced CD. See lyrics inside CD cover.
Track 3. “Follow the Leader”
Track 4. “Jesus Is Special”
Track 6. “Jesus Taught the People”
WORK PUZZLES

► Christ Focus: Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.
► Bible Focus: Jesus taught people about God and how to live.
  • Place each of the puzzles on the floor or on a carpet tile or towel. Invite a child to work a puzzle.
  • Talk to the child about what she sees in a puzzle and relate it to learning at church.
  • Say a brief prayer thanking God that we can learn about Jesus at church.

EXAMINE AND ARRANGE NATURE ITEMS

► Christ Focus: Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.
► Bible Focus: Jesus taught the people sitting outside on a mountain.
  • Use the marker to trace each nature item on the poster board. Arrange the items next to the poster board on the floor or a low table.
  • Encourage a child to match each item to its outline. Talk about finding the items outside. Relate this to Jesus teaching the people outside on the mountain. Comment that preschoolers can learn about Jesus in many places.
  • Open a Bible to Matthew 14:14 and say the Life Phrase.

USE A TOY MICROPHONE

► Christ Focus: Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.
► Bible Focus: Jesus talked to the people and taught them.
  • Use the microphone to sing the song “Jesus Taught the People.”
  • Give the microphone to a child. Encourage him to say the name Jesus. Say the Life Phrase and lead a child to say it with you.
  • Offer to read the book to a child waiting for a turn to use the microphone.

STACK BLOCKS

► Christ Focus: Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.
► Bible Focus: Jesus taught people about God.
  • As children stack cardboard blocks and play with the “sticky blocks,” tell the Bible story.
  • Sing the song “Jesus Is Special” as children stack and knock over blocks. Say the Life Phrase “Jesus loved people and helped them.”
MAKE A STICKER COLLAGE

**Christ Focus:** Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.

**Bible Focus:** Jesus taught people about God.

- Invite a child to place stickers on a green piece of paper. Talk about the green grass and flowers on the mountainside where Jesus taught the people.
- Point to Jesus on the Bible story picture. Say a thank-you prayer to God for Jesus.

PACK A PRETEND PICNIC

**Christ Focus:** Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.

**Bible Focus:** Jesus taught the people sitting outdoors on a mountain.

- Invite a child to place the items in the basket. Tell him these are things he could use for a picnic.
- Show the child the pictures on the Activity Page. Help the preschooler point to the places he can learn about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY PLUS for 2s

Place the Jesus figure in the Bible at Matthew 5. Sit in a circle with 2s and sing the song “Jesus Taught the People.” Use the microphone as you sing. Play the song (track 7) on the CD. Encourage 2s to clap with you to the music.

Open the Bible and show the Jesus figure to the children. Remark that the Bible story is about Jesus.

Tell the Bible story in your own words. Show children the Bible story picture. Help the children point to Jesus. Comment: “Jesus taught people because He loved them. Jesus loves you, too.”

While the Bible is open, say the Life Phrase “Jesus loved people and helped them.” Say the phrase again, leaving out the word them. Hold the microphone toward a child, and encourage her to say the word to complete the phrase. Give every child a turn to speak into the microphone.

Sing the song “Follow the Leader” (track 3). Close with a brief prayer.

BONUS IDEAS!

- draw with chalk
- walk outdoors
- create with play dough

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**Notes**

- paper, crayons, tempera paint, smock

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**YOU WILL NEED:**

- several nonbreakable mirrors, water-based markers, paper towels
- paper, crayons, tempera paint, smock
- cardboard blocks, dollhouse, plastic people figures, a few toy cars
- picture “Jesus Said Do Not Worry” (Pack Item 2), paper, magazine picture cutouts of children, glue sticks
- 1s & 2s Kids Activity Page, plastic baby doll, baby wipes

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**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE 1s & 2s**
UNIT 1 • SESSION 1

Room ____________
Your teaching partner(s)
_________________ ________________

Thank you for serving!

Teacher Jesus

BIBLE STORY
Jesus Taught the People
Matthew 5–7

LIFE POINT
Jesus helped people learn.

LIFE PHRASE
Jesus loved people and helped them.
Matthew 14:14

CHRIST FOCUS
Jesus’ life and ministry show us how to live.

DON’T FORGET!

Put take-home items in children’s bags.
Make a final diaper check.
Release children to authorized adults.
Leave the room neat and clean.

EVERY SUNDAY 1s & 2s LEARN WHEN THEY . . .

Listen to music
Play with toys
Explore nature items
Look at pictures
Read books
Hear the Bible story
Enjoy a light snack
Relate to teachers and other kids
BIBLE STORY

JESUS TAUGHT THE PEOPLE
Matthew 5–7

🛡 Jesus and His helpers walked up a mountain and sat down. Other people were nearby.

🛡 Jesus began to teach His helpers. He told them how people should treat one another. Jesus told the helpers what they should do.

🛡 The people listened to Jesus’ words. They knew Jesus was special.

LIFE PHRASE

Jesus loved people and helped them.
— Matthew 14:14

SING

Use the tune “Are You Sleeping?” to sing these words:

Jesus teaches, Jesus teaches, about God, about God. The Bible says to love God, the Bible says to love God. I love Him, I love Him.

BIBLE FUN ACTIVITIES

FIND THE BIBLE

• Place a Bible under a small box or towel.
• Invite a child to look under the box or towel. Comment that the Bible tells about God and Jesus. Turn in the Bible to Matthew 14:14 and say the Life Phrase.
• Encourage the child to hide the Bible under the box or towel for someone else to find.

PLAY FILL AND DUMP

• Fill a plastic bucket with several small toys from the room. Preschoolers may enjoy carrying the bucket around the room or dumping the toys and refilling the bucket.
• Encourage a child to let another child help her refill the bucket. Comment that getting along with friends is something that Jesus taught.
• Sing the song about Jesus. (See left.)

DRAW WITH CRAYONS

• Place white or manila paper and large crayons on a low table.
• Invite boys and girls to draw with the crayons. Play the Babies, 1s, and 2s CD softly in the background. Sing along with songs about Jesus.
• Tell the Bible story in your own words. Show preschoolers the picture “Jesus Taught the People” (Pack Item 1).
• Repeat the Life Phrase as children draw.

ROLL CARS

• Place several large toy cars on the floor near cardboard blocks.
• Invite boys and girls to roll the cars across the floor. Thank them for taking turns and playing together.
• Comment that Jesus and His friends traveled everywhere by walking. People today usually travel in a car. Jesus traveled to a mountain to teach the people.

TALK ON TELEPHONES

• Put a couple of toy telephones or old cell phones (batteries removed) around the room for the children to find.
• Pick up a telephone and pretend to call a child. Talk about coming to church to learn about Jesus. Remark that people walked up a mountain to listen to Jesus teach.
• Help a child do the activity on the 1s & 2s Kids Activity Page.