



7

Jesus Teaches

Key Theme

- Jesus teaches His disciples.

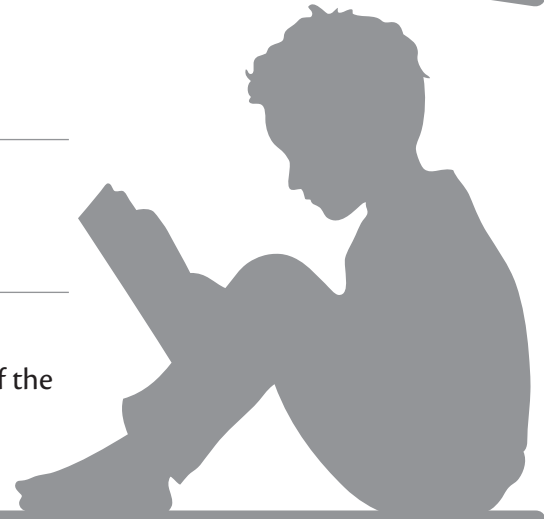
Key Passages

- Matthew 5:21–22, 5:38–39, 5:43–44, 5:48; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how Jesus's teaching was different from the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees.
- Explain what Jesus's teaching was showing the people.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by using a decoder to fill in the correct letters on the Memory Verse Review Sheet.



Activity 1: Jesus Teaches Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus Teaches Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

When Jesus preached, He wanted to correct what the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching. These teachers were more concerned with outward appearances. But Jesus seeks a heart that longs to love Him and obey Him. Jesus showed that it is impossible to obey God's Law perfectly. Because we cannot obey, we would be lost without the Savior.



Activity 2: Jesus Said Card Match

Students will review the lesson by playing a "Concentration" game in teams. They will work together to match up the pictures from the lesson.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
- ☐ Pencils



JESUS TEACHES CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one Jesus Teaches Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Quarter 1, Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster



JESUS SAID CARD MATCH

- ☐ Print and cut out one set of the six Jesus Said Cards—12 cards per set—from the Resource DVD-ROM for each team or table in your class.
- ☐ To make the game more challenging, print an extra set for twice as many cards to choose from.

- ☐ One or two sets of Jesus Said Cards depending on class size
- ☐ Optional: tape



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM, preferably onto cardstock.
- ☐ Save the cards for use in future lessons.
- ☐ This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- ☐ Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



Memory Verse

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) along with this background.

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7 is no doubt one of the most famous passages in the New Testament. Both those inside the church and those outside have heard of it. Most people in the Western world have heard of “The Beatitudes” or “The Golden Rule,” which are both parts of this sermon, the longest recorded sermon of Jesus. But what is the essence of this sermon? Is this sermon of Christ a set of rules that must be followed to earn favor with God? Is this a description of how Christians ought to live? Is this the “manifesto” of God’s future kingdom?

There are many views on the meaning and purpose of the Sermon on the Mount, and dozens of books have been written on the matter. We will not try to fully address the topic in this short background. However, we do believe that one purpose and application of the Sermon on the Mount is clear: the hopeless condition of man in sin and his need for God’s grace through Jesus.

Before Jesus was born, the religious leaders of Israel had already decided what it meant to live righteously. Starting with the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament, they had developed a system of rules contrary to Scripture—a self-righteousness based on doing good works and following certain very specific laws. When Jesus entered the world, He gave the people an authoritative interpretation of the Law. Jesus stated that He had come not to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus distinguished between how the teachers had redefined the Law as a means to achieve righteousness based on works—the “You have heard that it was said” statements—from the full meaning of the Law—the “But I say to you” statements. You see, God’s laws had always demanded both inward and outward holiness, but many of the Jews perceived God’s Law as a call to the outward appearance of holiness only. For example, in the case of adultery, the Jews recognized the need to avoid it. But they did not address the issue of the heart that would lead to the desire to commit that particular sin (Matthew 5:27–30).

They were also misguided about murder (Matthew 5:21–26). The Jews agreed that murder was a serious offense worthy of judgment and punishment. But again, the intentions of the heart were not addressed. Murder is provoked by unholy thoughts of anger, unforgiveness, hatred, and contempt toward someone. Jesus made it

clear that the feeling of hatred toward another person is sinful against God, as is the murder that follows.

Jesus continued in this vein throughout much of the sermon—pointing out that adherence to the letter of the Law is not enough. To merely acknowledge that any sinful act is wrong without addressing the issue of the heart cannot bring true righteousness. And in this, Jesus taught clearly that the Law was humanly impossible to keep. What a shock for the “keepers of the Law,” who considered their “righteousness” to be perfectly acceptable to the God they claimed to worship and serve (Romans 10:3).

And how much more shocking to everyone who listened when Jesus stated in Matthew 5:20, “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” This was shocking because the scribes and Pharisees were considered to be the most righteous of people. They went to the Temple regularly, paid tithes, fasted, and prayed constantly. How could Jesus say that someone must exceed them in righteousness? Clearly, Christ wasn’t impressed with their religious performance, because their obedience was merely an outward performance—and their hearts were not aligned with God’s will.

As stated earlier, Jesus moved from the letter of the Law to the indwelling condition of the heart that leads to the temptation to sin. This teaching from Jesus is not a list of do’s and don’ts but a study of what is our real motivation. And again, as stated, Jesus made it clear that obeying the Law as He put forth could not be done, except by Jesus Himself.

What was Jesus’s purpose in expounding on these laws? Well, in order for Christ to do His saving work, the people He intended to save had to realize how desperately they needed Him. The Jewish religious leaders’ interpretation of the Law as a specific list of outward acts to be followed or avoided had made the Law easier to fulfill. Because they kept this list, they considered themselves righteous before God. For the sake of His saving work, Jesus had to preach the Law in its full rigor so that it would “bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). Christ expounded on the Law so that the people would know that no hope existed for them since no one could possibly keep it.

God’s standard of righteousness is such that no one can attain it. Jesus was revealing the absolute necessity of the new birth. Man must not only do right, he must be right in thought, word, and deed—an impossibility for us, whose hearts are “deceitful above all things, and

desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). It is only when we come to Christ in repentance and faith that we are given a new heart, that we are made new creations in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). The gospel of Christ reminds us of the promise in Ezekiel 36:25–26, which speaks of God sprinkling sinners with clean water, cleansing them, putting His Spirit within them, and giving them new hearts of flesh in place of their hearts of stone. The Apostle Paul confirms this when he teaches that it is the Spirit dwelling in us that brings forth His fruit, which could not be produced by the Law (Galatians 5:16–25).

Pastor Tullian Tchividjian, grandson of Billy Graham, summarizes it well:

We naturally treat the Sermon on the Mount like we typically treat the rest of the Bible—like it’s a divine self-help manual, a blueprint for having your best life now. But actually the Sermon on the Mount is intended to show that the Christian life is a glorious impossibility.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus wants to set us free by showing us our need for a righteousness we can never attain on our own—an impossible righteousness that’s always out of our reach. The purpose of the Sermon on the Mount is to demolish all notions that we can reach the righteousness required by God—it’s about exterminating all attempts at self-sufficient moral endeavor.

So, in the deepest sense, the Sermon on the Mount is not a goal, but a wall we crash into so that we finally cry out “I can’t do it!”¹

1. <http://www.pastortullian.com/2012/07/01/the-sermon-on-the-mountain-for-those-who-have-crashed-and-burned/>

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

It has been rightly said that the Sermon on the Mount is the most famous sermon ever preached. And it is the longest recorded sermon ever preached by Jesus, the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity. It is the most quoted portion of the New Testament, both by the early church fathers and in secular literature. People often refer to the Sermon on the Mount for its moral code. But, as with most secular takes on the Bible, snippets and sections are taken out of context and misapplied.

So what’s the proper use of the Sermon on the Mount? First of all, as stated above, it shows us that we are all sinners and fall far short of God’s righteous standard. It shows us our need for a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus Christ—the only one who ever completely fulfilled the Law of God and who offers His righteousness to us.

Second, the Sermon on the Mount gives the characteristics of the members of God’s kingdom—those who have submitted themselves to God’s rule and have been born again through Christ. We can examine ourselves, our actions, our motivations, and our desires according to the high standards of God’s righteousness. We will fall short, but we can press on toward the goal, leaning on Christ for strength and asking God to work these qualities in us through His Holy Spirit.

A third consideration would be the cultural impact of this sermon of Jesus. Sayings and expressions from the Sermon on the Mount have become part of our everyday language; quotes such as “do unto others,” “judge not lest you be judged,” “love your enemies,” “turn the other cheek,” “go the extra mile,” and “a wolf in sheep’s clothing.” And many have heard of the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Lord’s Prayer. By familiarizing ourselves with these common sayings, we can incorporate the Sermon on the Mount into our evangelism. When we hear people use one of these biblical phrases passed down from this sermon, we can stop them and ask if they know where that saying comes from. This can begin a conversation about what Jesus really taught about good deeds and righteousness and could lead to a candid gospel discussion of God’s perfect standard and our need for a Savior.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Perfect, holy God, Savior, and Teacher, thank you for providing a way for me to be righteous. Jesus’s words in the Sermon on the Mount remind us of our own inability to be perfect. Thank you, Lord, that Jesus redeemed me, and I am righteous in Him. My deepest desire is to be conformed to your image. Give me a heart that will desire to love my enemies and to please you in all that I do. I pray that this lesson will challenge my students to change their attitudes to be more humble, kind, loving, and Christ-like, and to see their need for a Savior.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus Teaches Class Notes

MATERIALS

- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll do it together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that what Jesus taught was very different from what the Pharisees and scribes taught.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to previous Lesson Theme Posters. Jesus's life was not like anyone else's. He came to do His Father's will (Lesson 1). He performed many miracles. He showed His power over nature (Lesson 2), over disease (Lesson 3), and even over death (Lesson 4).

Jesus's ministry only lasted about three years. He accomplished a lot in that short time. He was a great teacher, but the lessons He taught were not what the people were expecting. The religious teachers—the scribes and Pharisees—had changed God's Law. They taught the people that the

➤ The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Matthew 5:21–22

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

Bible was a rule book, and the rules had to be obeyed all the time. They taught that it was their obedience and works that would make them holy and right with God.

These teachers believed and taught others that they could earn God's love and forgiveness themselves because of what THEY did. But this was not right because they could never keep all the laws perfectly! No one could. Jesus was the only one who could do that. He is the only man who never sinned.

Today we are going to read part of a sermon Jesus preached to many people. He wanted to set them straight about what the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching about God's Law. There was something different about Jesus's message. The people had heard one thing, but Jesus was going to tell them something else. Let's take a look.

I'm going to read from Matthew 5:21–22. This is part of a long sermon Jesus preached. Let's see what He has to say. Listen carefully! *Read Matthew 5:21–22 with enthusiasm.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Remember, in these verses, Jesus was showing the people what the Law really meant.

Observe the Text

? What rule or law did Jesus bring up here? Listen to it again. *Re-read Matthew 5:21 emphasizing the answer. You shall not murder.*

? Yes. Where have you heard that law before? The one that says, "You shall not murder"? *Allow discussion.*

This is one of the Ten Commandments, right? It is the Sixth Commandment: you shall not murder. And the people Jesus was talking to worked hard to obey that commandment.

Jesus said they would be judged or punished if they committed murder.

But then Jesus said something in Matthew 5:22. Listen to this, "But I say to you." *Matthew 5:22.*

Jesus was going to change something up a bit. They had heard one thing, but He was about to tell them something else. Listen again. Jesus says something about being angry. *Re-read Matthew 5:22.*

? What did He say to them about being angry? *Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.*

Wow! Jesus was saying if you are even angry with someone you are in trouble.

? What else did Jesus mention here in verse 22? It has to do with calling someone a name. What is that name? I'll read it again. *Matthew 5:22. "Raca!"*

Jesus said whoever calls his brother *Raca*—a bad name that means “empty-headed”—is in trouble. Just calling someone a bad name would get you into trouble! Jesus said if you are angry or if you call someone a name because you are angry, you are in danger of being judged. It is just as bad as murder in God’s eyes!

Refer to Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus was serious. This law against murder wasn’t only about murder. You see, it also has to do with our hearts. Jesus told them the law wasn’t just about murder; it was about being angry with someone and calling them names and hating them.

? I’d like to review a bit here. Will someone read #1 on your class notes?
What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Law. Have students complete #1.*

? And what about #2? What did Jesus say about anger? *Assign a reader. Angry. Have students complete #2.*

? And #3? Who will read it? *Assign a reader. Names. Have students complete #3.*

This sermon Jesus gave was about showing the people that what they had learned was not right. It isn’t right to murder. But Jesus isn’t interested in just how we look on the outside. He wants our hearts to be changed as well. He wants us to love people and Him. And that includes not getting angry with them!

I am going to read something else Jesus said in this sermon. Listen while I read Matthew 5:38–39. *Read the verses.*

Matthew 5:38–39

? What did Jesus say at the beginning of Matthew 5:38? *You have heard that it was said.*

Again, Jesus reminded the people what they had heard from the scribes and Pharisees who were the teachers of the time. They had heard that it was OK to give an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth!

? What does that mean—an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? *Allow discussion.*

The people thought this law meant it was OK to get even with anyone who did anything wrong to you. If someone did something to you, you could do the same thing back to them. If I tripped you, you could trip me. If I hit you, you could hit me right back. If I poked you in the eye, you could poke me in the eye. But that wasn’t the purpose of the law. And Jesus made that very clear.

Listen and tell me what Jesus said about this law in Matthew 5:39. *Re-read Matthew 5:39.*

? Jesus said do not resist an evil person. What did Jesus say we should do if someone slaps us on the cheek? *Matthew 5:39. Turn your head so they can slap you on the other side!*

What? That seems crazy! Jesus was saying that when someone takes something of yours, or hits you, or is mean to you, you don't fight back, and you don't get angry.

You see, God wants us to love other people. He wants our hearts to be obedient to Him, and not obey the law just because it is a law. The teachers of Jesus's time thought that if they looked good on the outside they were good with God. But Jesus was saying their hearts had to change. They had to change their attitudes and learn to love other people, and not think about getting even—but think about forgiving them instead.

? Take a look at your class notes. Who will read #4 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Hearts. Have students complete #4.*

Matthew 5:43–44

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

Jesus gave another example! I want to read it to you. Listen as I read Matthew 5:43–44. Again, we will hear what the people thought was right and what Jesus really wanted them to do. *Read Matthew 5:43–44 emphasizing answers to the questions below.*

? Jesus started this verse the same way as the others. What did He say to the people? *Re-read Matthew 5:43. You have heard that it was said.*

This was what they had been taught. This is what they had heard. Jesus was going to help them understand what the law really meant.

? What had they heard about their neighbors? How should they treat them? *Matthew 5:43. You should love your neighbor.*

? And what had they heard about their enemy? How should they feel about their enemy? *Matthew 5:43. Hate your enemy.*

Hmmm. That seems reasonable. It is easy to love your neighbor—people who love you. And we shouldn't have to love our enemies—people who hate us, right? Well, that is not what Jesus wants us to do! That is not what Jesus wanted the people to learn. Listen again to Matthew 5:44. There are four things Jesus wanted us to learn. I will write them on the board as we talk about them.

? What is the first thing? *Matthew 5:43. Love your enemies.*

? And what is the next thing Jesus said in that verse? *Matthew 5:43. Bless those who curse you.*

? And the third thing? *Matthew 5:43. Do good to those who hate you.*

? And the last thing? *Matthew 5:43. Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*

Jesus is saying we should love, bless, do good to, and pray for the people who don't like us! Now, most people don't have trouble loving people who love them back. But it must have seemed like a very hard command when Jesus said they should love their enemies. They should love the people who didn't like them and were mean to them! Wow!

► Continue to re-read the verse until you get all four of the requirements. You may want to list them on the board as the students are answering. Love, bless, do good to, pray.

- ? Let's review those four things Jesus wants us to do. Take a look at your class notes. Will someone read #5 for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Love. Have students complete #5.*
- ? How about #6? Will someone read it for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Bless. Have students complete #6.*
- ? And #7? Someone read that for us. *Assign a reader. Good. Have students complete #7.*
- ? And #8. What should we do for the people who are mean to us? *Assign a reader. Pray. Have students complete #8.*

Discover the Truth

Wow! This was quite a change. When Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said," He was talking about what the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching about God's Law. And then Jesus said, "But I say to you!" Jesus told the people that they weren't obeying the laws in the way God meant them to. They had forgotten that God wants obedience on the outside AND on the inside. God looks at the heart. God doesn't want us to just look good and obey the rules outwardly. God wants us to obey Him because we love Him with our heart.

Jesus knew many of the Pharisees and scribes were proud of themselves. They felt like they did everything right. But they didn't love others or God the way they should. They thought God would love them because they kept the Law. Jesus showed them that He wanted them to be holy and to love others from their hearts. Jesus wanted them to have the right heart attitude when they obeyed. But how could they do that? How can WE do that? How many of us can obey like Jesus said—by loving our enemies and by not getting angry at anyone—ever?

- ? Can we do that? Can we really love our enemies? *Allow discussion.*

I know that I can't do that. I don't like to get angry, but I do. And I don't like it if someone takes my stuff, or is mean to me. I want to get even when that happens!



READ THE WORD

But Jesus has a different way. And it is the only way we could ever do what Jesus is asking us to do. We can read it in one simple verse. Listen to this.
Read Matthew 5:48.

Matthew 5:48

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Wow! What did Jesus say we need to do? *Matthew 5:48. Be perfect.*
- ? Be perfect like whom? *Re-read Matthew 5:48. Like your Father in heaven.*
- ? Who is the Father in heaven? *God.*

Jesus's teachings just kept getting harder. Here Jesus said that we must be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.

- ? How is this possible? How can we be perfect like God? *Allow discussion.*
- ? Who is the ONLY man who ever lived a perfect life—a life without sin? *Jesus.*
That's right. Jesus alone is perfect. But Jesus said WE must be perfect.
- ? How do we do that? *Allow discussion.*

Well, it's impossible for us to be perfect while we are on earth, because we are born sinners. The Bible says we all sin and fall short of God's glory. Our sin separates us from God. But, Jesus was perfect and righteous before God. He obeyed God perfectly and never sinned. Jesus is far different from us!

2 Corinthians 5:21

So how can we be perfect or righteous in God's eyes? This seems impossible! Or is it? Guess what! There is an answer in the Bible. I'm going to read it to you from 2 Corinthians 5:21. Listen for the answer. This verse is talking about Jesus. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.*

- ? What did Jesus become for us? *He became sin for us.*
Yes! God sent Jesus, who had NO sin, to earth to become sin for us.
- ? Why did God do that? When Jesus became sin for us, what did we get? *Re-read 2 Corinthians 5:21. The righteousness of God in Jesus.*

Refer to Quarter 1, Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. This is known as the "great exchange."

- ? Do you remember what I mean by that? *Allow discussion.*
The great exchange is what Jesus did for us when He died on the Cross. Jesus took the punishment for sin on the Cross so that those who believe could gain the righteousness of Christ. Jesus made a way that we could be forgiven and made right with God. He took the punishment for our sins.
- ? So, back to the class notes to review what we just talked about. Who can read #9 for us? What word is missing? *Assign a reader. Perfect. Have students complete #9.*

Jesus said we must be perfect as the Father is perfect, but that is not possible because we are sinners!

- ? And what about #10? Who is the only one who ever lived a perfect life? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #10.*
- ? And finally, what about #11? Someone read that and give the answers. *Assign a reader. Sins. Have students complete #11.*

Discover the Truth

We cannot obey the Law perfectly! We are sinners. We will never be able to work our way to heaven because we are not perfect!

That is why we need Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, the Savior. He came to earth, lived a perfect life, took the punishment for sinners on the Cross, and rose again.

God's Word tells us that whoever calls on the name of the Lord, repents, and turns to Jesus for salvation, will have everlasting and glorious life with God in heaven.



► If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



Jesus Said Card Match

MATERIALS

- ☐ One or two sets of Jesus Said Cards
- ☐ Optional: tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out two copies of the six Jesus Said Cards—12 cards per set. Or to make it more challenging print 4 copies of each and play the game with twice as many cards to choose from. Teams will turn the cards over, trying to match the cards. Divide the class into teams. Lay the cards out on the floor or tape them to the wall. The teams will take turns choosing two cards, turning them over to see if they match. If they do not match, flip the cards back over. The teammates can help each other decide which cards to choose.

When a match is made, ask the team questions about the pictures such as: What is this person doing? What did Jesus teach about this? Is this person doing the right thing? Etc. Use the explanation guide below as you discuss each card.

1. This card shows someone praying. Jesus said we should pray for those who hate us or are mean to us.
2. This boy is being a bully. Jesus wants us to love even our enemies.
3. These kids are not sharing very well, are they? We should love each other by sharing with them.
4. Uh, oh! These two are angry with each other. Jesus does not want us to be angry with others.

5. This card shows one boy being kind to another. We should always bless people—even those who are not kind to us.
6. And this card has a big heart with a picture of Jesus. It reminds us that we should love God with all our heart.

We're going to play a card matching game today. Let's get into two teams. *Or divide class appropriately.* Each card has a matching one. You and your team will have to flip two cards to see if they match. If they don't match, turn them back over, and the other team will take a turn. When you do find a match, your team will help explain what the picture on the card has to do with what we learned in our lesson today. Whichever team gets the most matches wins the game. Let's play!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Each of these cards reminds us of the things Jesus taught in the Gospels. It's easy to become angry with our friends or our brothers and sisters. And it's very hard to love those who are mean to us. But when we love and obey God from our heart, Jesus will help us love others as we should.





Memory Verse Review (Optional)

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. You can use these cards for Lessons 7–12.

We’re going to practice our memory verse. Let’s say the verse together as I place these cards onto the board. *Show each card as you read it, post it on the board, and have the students repeat.*

Good job! But wait! I’m going to ask one of you to come up and take one of the cards

down. Then we’ll say the verse without that card! Are you ready? *Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse between each one.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? Who is our memory verse talking about?
Jesus.
- ? Jesus said He is three things. What are those three things? *The way, the truth, and the life.*
- ? Who must we believe in to have eternal life?
Jesus.
- ? Who do we have to believe in to come to God the Father? *Jesus.*

Good job! Jesus is the only way to the Father. He promises eternal life to those who believe in Him and know Him as their Savior. Jesus is the truth; we can trust everything He says—we can believe Him! Jesus is the life; He was raised from the dead and offers eternal life.



Applying God’s Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster. For many years, the Pharisees and the scribes had been telling the people that following certain rules would make them righteous, or good, before God. These religious leaders wanted to look good on the outside. They wanted others to think they were good people.

But when Jesus came, He changed that. His teaching was different. He taught that obedience must come from the heart. It was far more than looking good on the outside.

Jesus explained that we can't keep the rules perfectly—no one can. Because of that we could never be right with God on our own. That is why Jesus came. We need a Savior. We need to turn to Him and trust Him for forgiveness of our sins. Only Jesus lived a perfect life. And only His perfect life, His death, and His Resurrection could gain eternal life for sinners. We cannot get to heaven by any works WE do—ONLY by what Jesus Christ did for sinners on the Cross.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

This lesson is important for all of us. Many people in the world today still believe the same things the Pharisees and scribes taught. They believe that if they are good enough, and do enough good things for people or for God, they will be able to earn their way into heaven. But Jesus showed that none of us can get to heaven on our own no matter how hard we try to be righteous.

Salvation is given to us as a free gift of God's grace through faith to those who repent, believe, and receive Jesus as their Savior. No one is saved by their own good works. Jesus Christ is the only way, the only truth, and the only life. No one comes to the Father except through Him!



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is a good God who has made it possible for us to receive the righteousness of Jesus.
- Thank God for the free gift of salvation that is available to all people.
- Ask God for the faith to believe and receive salvation through Jesus.

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