

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7; Luke 6

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

Story Point:

Jesus taught how people in God's kingdom live.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - Get to Know You Puzzle Pieces
- ☐ Welcome - LEFC Kids Expectations
- ☐ Starter Activity - Roll the Dice Game



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Beanbag Toss
- ☐ Group Activity - Wacky Ways
- ☐ Group Activity - Seek First His Kingdom

SHEPHERD GUIDE

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most well-known and recognizable sermons in all of history. The truth it contains, however, is quite polarizing, calling people into a new way of life that runs counterintuitive to our sin nature.

When Jesus taught His followers the ways of His Father's kingdom, He shared truths meant to guide them in repentance, obedience, and love for God and one another. Much of what Jesus shared in the Sermon on the Mount reinforced the reality that God's ways are not like those of the world (Isaiah 55:8-9). Life in God's kingdom runs opposed to the world's wisdom, but the God who created us knows how we can flourish in the world He made— by seeking the Lord as our greatest treasure and submitting to His authority.

Jesus declared that those who seek God's kingdom first will experience His loving provision, both in this lifetime and for all eternity. The way of the kingdom is not by means of earthly power but by Christlikeness; it's not by ruling over others but by submitting to God's rule over our lives. Jesus declared that our faith is meant to impact every detail of our lives—from surrendering our will to His (Matthew 6:10), taking our worries to Him (Matthew 6:25), and building our lives on the foundations of His Word (Matthew 7:24-27).

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke to people who knew what it was like to be hungry, dismissed, and oppressed. While the scribes and Pharisees hoped to achieve righteousness by rigorously obeying the law, Jesus explained that He came to earth to fulfill the law—to make the way for His followers to be counted as righteous by faith in Him alone. Through faith, we receive new hearts that help us obey our Father.

This week, lead the boys and girls in your class to see that the ways of the kingdom become our ways when we surrender our plans to God's will. Pray that they will desire to live as He lived through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God's kingdom is different than the worlds.
- *LET the Holy Spirit work in changing their hearts.
- *BUILD their lives on the foundation of His Word.

As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

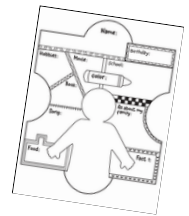
Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc. When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



**9/13 - SPECIAL INTRO ACTIVITY

As kids arrive! - have the children color/decorate a puzzle piece. Have everyone share their puzzle piece and tape them together on the wall. Talk about how we are all unique children who are made and loved by God.... and we are also a part of God's family and this church family! Let them know you are glad they are here and that they are an important part of our church family and class!



PREPARE HEARTS

Introduce yourself to the class and have them introduce themselves to you. Take some time to get to know one another.

WELCOME

LEFC Kids Expectations

Expectations Poster

Work together as a class to talk about and come up with examples of each of these areas. Write them down on the big poster to display in the room.

We are kind

- Use kind words -Welcome others - take turns

We are safe

- Keep hands to yourself - Stay in classroom/with your class - Use toys properly -Keep shoes on -Walk. - Sit on chairs or on the floor

We are good listeners

- Follow directions the first time - Raise your hand when you'd like to talk - One person talking at a time

We make good choices

- Clean up toys/snacks - Participate with your group - Use bathroom at appropriate times



STARTER

Roll the Dice Game

Big Dice

Have the class make a large circle. Go around the circle, having each child roll the dice and answer the question that goes with the corresponding number.

- 1.What's your favorite food?
2. Do you have a pet?
3. Tell us about your family
4. Where do you go to school?
5. What's your favorite ice-cream flavor?
6. Share one exciting thing you did this summer



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

What did Jesus teach when He was here on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him.

Open your Bible to Matthew 5-6.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Picture it: Show the picture of the Mount of Beatitudes in Israel, (on the powerpoint) where Jesus likely stood as He addressed the crowd of people in today's story.

One day, as large crowds followed Jesus, He went up on a mountain and sat down. He began to teach, saying:

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Then Jesus spoke about how people in His kingdom can point others to God. He told the people to shine like light, so others would see their good works and give glory to God.

Jesus said: “I didn’t come to get rid of the law. I came to fulfill it. Unless your righteousness is greater than the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.”

Then Jesus taught the people to do for others what they would want done to them. He said that we shouldn’t just show love to those who love us. Instead, Jesus told the people to love their enemies and do good, expecting nothing in return. He said to be like God, who is gracious to sinners.

Jesus also taught the people how to pray, reminding them to pray for God’s will to be done. Jesus said to pray for their daily needs and for forgiveness.

Then Jesus said, “Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or what you will wear. Look at the birds—they don’t worry about who is going to feed them. And look at the flowers—they don’t worry about their clothes. But your heavenly Father takes care of them. And you’re worth much more than flowers and birds!”

Jesus told the people to be like a wise man who built his house on a rock. Even when the rain fell and the wind blew, the house remained standing. Those who hear Jesus’ words and obey them will be like the wise man.

Jesus taught the people many more truths. When He finished teaching, the crowds were amazed, because He taught with authority.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus taught how people in His kingdom have hearts that love God and love others. But because of sin, no one always does what is right and good. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and changes our hearts so we can live in ways that glorify Him.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

**

Allow time to have the children think and process – however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

**

Blank paper, Bible
Story coloring
page, colored
pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

As Jesus taught, He called the people to reflect on God's righteousness and yearn for it in their own lives. We are not perfect, but when we seek to live according to God's standards, we reflect His glory for others to see. **What kind of heart did Jesus say we must have to see God?** [Allow responses.] The scribes and Pharisees tried to look good on the outside before others. On the inside, however, they still had evil hearts. Jesus emphasized that a pure heart wants to obey God out of love and gratitude for Him. Our hearts are corrupted by sin, but Jesus came to forgive our sin and make our hearts clean before God.

Did Jesus come to get rid of the law? [Allow responses.] Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament law that God's people broke. The Pharisees tried to become pure through their actions, but Jesus explained that our good works cannot save us. Only through repenting of sins and trusting in Jesus are believers made righteous before God. This new righteousness changes both hearts and actions!

How did Jesus say to treat our enemies? [Allow responses.] Christians should show other people— even their enemies—the same mercy and grace that God has given them. Jesus also reminded them to pray for God's will to be done. We don't need to worry because God is in control of all things, including our lives. No matter what we face, Jesus shared that if we listen to His words, we will not be shaken.

Jesus taught how people in His kingdom have hearts that love God and love others. But because of sin, no one always does what is right and good. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and changes our hearts so we can live in ways that glorify Him.



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That *Jesus cares about our hearts, not just our actions. He teaches us to love even our enemies, to trust God instead of worrying, and to live in a way that points others to Him. He knows how we were created to live and wants to change us from the inside out.*

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That I need Jesus' help to change my heart. That I am not perfect, but I can still work to listen, obey and follow God and His ways.

Pray together: *Jesus, thank You for teaching us how to live in Your kingdom. Help us to trust You, love others—even when it's hard—and obey Your words with joyful hearts. Change us so we shine Your light everywhere we go. Amen.*



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 23, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- I accepted Jesus as my Savior, so why do I still worry?
- How does Jesus help us have peace?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Matthew 5:16

Key Passage Activity:

Beanbag Toss

- Key Passage Poster
- Beanbags

SAY: Our key passage is found in the Scriptures that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. This was one of the many lessons He taught to the crowds on how to live in God's kingdom. If we live with a dim light or even hide our light, no one will see it. God calls believers to shine light into the world and show people who He is through their words and actions.

Lead kids to find a partner.

Give each pair of kids a beanbag. Tell the kids they will be tossing the beanbag back and forth to each other while saying the verse, one word per toss.

*Say the verse together as a whole group, having each set of kids tossing their beanbag back and forth while saying it.

For an added challenge, have them take one step backward from each other after each word, making the distance farther and farther away.



Wacky Ways

- Bowl
- Cereal
- Straws
- Banana
- Salad Tongs
- Jelly
- Slice of bread
- Pencil
- Paper plate

Set up a table with the following three stations:

Station One: A bowl, cereal, and straws

Station Two: A banana and salad tongs

Station Three: A jar of jelly, a slice of bread, and a pencil.

Divide the kids between the three stations. The team at Station One must work together to move each piece of cereal out of the bowl using the straw. The team at Station Two must try to peel the banana using only salad tongs. And the team at Station Three must try to spread jelly on the bread using a pencil.

SAY: These tasks had you doing something differently than you would normally do it. In a similar way, Jesus told His followers to live differently than the world does. Those who have trusted in Jesus are a part of God's kingdom and should have hearts that love God and others. This will look different from how the world lives, and people may not always understand it, but God's way is always best.



Seek First His Kingdom

- Sticky Notes

Before the session, draw a circle labeled God's Kingdom in the center of the white board.

Ask for 4 volunteers. Give the first kid in line a sticky note and ask her to write her name on it.

Place a blindfold over her eyes and spin her around three times. Then direct her to try to place the sticky note somewhere on the circle.

Do the same for the next 3 volunteers. Have them sit down.

Then, ask for 4 more volunteers. Give them a sticky note and have them write their name on it, but this time do not blindfold them, just spin them around. Have them place their sticky note on the circle. Have them sit down.

SAY: God invites all people to join His kingdom through faith in Jesus. Without Jesus, when we are "blind" and trying to do things our own way, it's a lot harder, actually impossible. When we follow Jesus and He opens our eyes to His kingdom, He gives us the desire to want to obey His teachings and live like people in His kingdom. The people in God's kingdom live to honor Him. Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.