

4 Learning to Please Jesus

Scripture

John 6:5-13 (NIrV); Proverbs 17:17 9NIrV); John 15:14 (NIV)

Memory Verse

“You are my friends if you do what I command” John 15:14 (NIV).

Bible Truth

Jesus is our Friend, and wants us to be like Him.

Important Words

Friend—Someone you enjoy being with and know well.

Disciple—Someone who follows the teachings of Jesus.

Teacher Bible Study

God loves all people, and He wants to have a loving friendship with each of us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to tell everyone about His love and to be our Friend. Jesus showed people how to love God and each other. He always showed love to children.

Jesus did many kind things to show God’s love for people. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and taught about God’s love. People followed Jesus everywhere. They wanted to listen to Him and talk to Him. They needed His help, and He always took time to help them.

Jesus depends on us to help Him share God's love. He wants us to be a friend to others. Jesus will tell us what He wants us to do. We must listen to Him. Jesus is pleased when we listen to Him and follow what He says.

Teacher Help. Don't teach in a hurry. You may take more than one class time to teach the lesson.

Begin the Lesson

Choose the activities you need to begin the lesson. Use as many as you need. You do not have to use them all.

Trust Walk

YOU NEED something to cover the eyes (1 blindfold for each pair of children); a large play area.

Have each child choose a partner. Have one partner in each pair blindfold the other partner. Then have the children who can see, carefully lead their partners. They must tell them where to walk, when to turn, and when to stop. They must protect them from tripping or falling. Let the children take turns leading.

Ask, **How did it feel when you could not see?** (Let children answer.) Say, **You had to trust your partner to lead you and keep you safe. Today, we are going to learn about a special friend we can always trust. His name is Jesus. Even though we cannot see Jesus, we can trust Him. He loves us and wants to help us. Jesus wants us to learn how to be His friend and a friend to others.**

Friendship Stones

YOU NEED a small stone for each child.

Divide the class into small groups with an adult or older youth in each group. Take a walk to let each child find a small stone (or provide a small stone for each child). Tell the children to find a small stone they can hold in one hand. Tell the children to keep the stones in their hands. Return within a given time to prepare for the next activity.

Friendship Circle

YOU NEED stones found during the walk; student sheet, page 1.

Have children sit in a circle. Have them close their hands around the stones, and close their eyes. Tell the children to think about someone they call a friend. Ask them to think about why that person is their friend. Tell the children to open their hands and eyes.

Say, **The stone you hold in your hand stands for the friend you are thinking about. Tell what makes that person a special friend.** (Kind, cares, shares, forgives, helps, keeps promises, likes the same things, likes me, trusts me, thoughtful, protects, makes me smile, respects, wants good things to happen to me, tells the truth, wants to spend time together, understands.)

Say, **God gives us friends. Our best Friend is Jesus. Keep the stone. It will remind you to thank God for your friends, and for your best Friend, Jesus.**

If you have student sheet, page 1, have children place their stones on the word “Start.” Say, **Follow the path to the center of the circle. Do not cross any lines. You will find your best Friend, Jesus. Jesus tells us in the Bible what to do to be His friend. It pleases**

Jesus when we do what He says. The Bible says, “You are my friends if you do what I command” John 15:14 (NIV).

If the stones are too large, have the children trace the path with their fingers.

The Bible Lesson

Choose the activities you need to teach the Bible Lesson. You do not have to use them all. But be sure to tell the Bible story.

A Boy Helps Jesus

YOU NEED a pencil or crayon and student sheet, page 4. Say, **Jesus is our best Friend.**

He wants us to do what pleases Him. One thing He wants us to do is love others.

Read Proverbs 17:17 to the children. Ask them to repeat each phrase after you.

“Friends love at all times. (Let children repeat.)

They are there to help when trouble comes” (Let children repeat.)

Proverbs 17:17 (Let children repeat.) (NIrV).

Have all children stand. Say the verse together several times. Have the boys stand, and say the verse. Then have the girls stand, and say the verse. Ask, **Does anyone want to say the verse from memory?**

If you have student sheet, page 4, have children look at the puzzle while you read the directions.

The Bible Story

Say, **All four Gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell this story. Jesus and His disciples were tired from helping many people. They went in a boat to a quiet place. But crowds followed Jesus. He spent the day helping them.**

When it was late in the evening, Jesus became concerned. There was no place for them to get food. The Gospel of John tells how a young boy helped Jesus in this time of trouble. The boy showed friendship by helping Jesus. Listen carefully to the story. Hear how the young boy was a part of something special, because he helped Jesus.

A Boy Helps Jesus

Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?”

Philip answered him, “It would take a lot of money to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

Another of Jesus’ disciples, Andrew, said, “Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread. He also has two small fish. But how many will that feed in such a large crowd?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. There were about 5,000 men and women and children.

Then Jesus took the loaves and prayed. He gave thanks to God. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus said to his disciples, “Gather the leftover pieces.” He said, “Don’t waste anything.”

So they gathered what was left over from the five loaves of bread. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

Story Review

1. When Jesus looked up, whom did He see coming toward Him? (a crowd of people)
2. What did the young boy give to Jesus? (5 small loaves of bread and two small fish)
3. How many people did Jesus feed that day? (5,000 men, women, and children)
4. How many baskets of food were left when everyone finished eating? (12 baskets)

Say, **The boy wanted to share what he had with Jesus. He helped Jesus feed the crowd. Jesus used the boy's lunch to meet the needs of the hungry crowd. We please Jesus when we help others.**

Name ways we can help others. (Tell about our Friend, Jesus. Pray. Listen. Help with work. Give a smile. Share a meal.)

Say, **You are a friend when you help others. You help Jesus share God's love.**

A Boy and His Lunch

YOU NEED paper, crayons, student sheet, pages 2 and 3, *A Boy and His Lunch*.

Say, **Friends care about each other. Friends want to share what they have with others. When we share, we please Jesus.**

Have children draw a picture of the young boy sharing his five loaves of bread and two fish with Jesus. Then let children draw a picture of themselves sharing something with a friend.

If you have student sheet, pages 2 and 3, let the children color the picture.

A Fish Drawing

YOU NEED a washable marker or crayon.

Say, **In the early days, people had a special way of telling others about their love for Jesus. They drew a picture of a fish. This meant they were followers of Jesus.**

Draw a small fish on each child's hand. Tell them the fish will remind them about Jesus and His love for us. Tell children to thank God for Jesus and His love and friendship.

A Friendly Discussion

It is important for friends to spend time together. This helps them learn more about each other. They can discover what each other likes and does not like. Friends who spend time together become better friends.

Ask, **What are some ways we can learn more about our friends?** (Play games, go somewhere together, talk, write to each other, share good news, share ideas, eat together, and ask questions.) **When we learn more about our friends, we can do what pleases them.**

Say, **Jesus is our Friend. What can we do to learn more about Jesus?** (Study the Bible, pray, listen, memorize Scripture, go to church, sing songs about Jesus, read good books.)

Say, **Jesus wants us to spend time with Him. The more we know about Him, the more we can become like Him. This pleases Jesus.**

Friends Love at All Times

YOU NEED a chair for each child or something to mark each child's place.

Have children sit in a circle with one child standing in the center of the circle. Let each child choose a word that tells what makes a friend special. (Choices include: Kind, caring, forgiving, helpful, honest, trusting, giving, thoughtful, understanding.) Have the children tell only you the word they have chosen.

Explain that each time you complete the statement, “A friend is (fill in the blank),” children with the words you have used are to change places when you say “go.” While they are changing places, remove one place. The child in the center of the circle will try to get a seat. The one without a seat takes the place in the center of the circle. **Everyone** must change places when you say the phrase “Friends love at all times. Go.” Make sure every child has a chance to change places.

What Would Jesus Do Today

Discuss with the children what you think Jesus would do in the following situations.

1. Boy Jesus is in the market. He sees a toy He would like to have, but He has no money. What would Jesus do?
2. One of Jesus’ friends said something mean to Him. What would Jesus do?
3. One of Jesus’ friends was sad. What would Jesus do?

Add other situations similar to what children experience. Say, **Jesus is pleased when His friends do what He asks them to do.**

End the Lesson

Choose the activities you need to end the lesson. Use as many as you need. You do not have to use them all.

Clap for Jesus

Tell children to repeat the following phrase after you. Tell children they should clap two times after each phrase.

“I love Jesus.” *Clap. Clap.* (Let children repeat.)

“Yes, I do.” *Clap. Clap.* (Let children repeat.)

“He is my Friend.” *Clap. Clap.* (Let children repeat.)

“And so are you.” *Clap. Clap.* (Let children repeat.)

Have children repeat this several times until they know the phrases. Then have children repeat the phrases and clap together with you.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Friend. We want to be His friend, too. We want to do what pleases Him. Help us to be friends to others. We want to learn to be more like Jesus, so we can share God’s love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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