

Teachings of Jesus

Lesson 6a — The Good Shepherd

Lesson 6b — Sower and the Seed

Lesson 6c — The Good Samaritan

Lesson 6d — The Ten Virgins

OVERVIEW

In this unit we will consider four of the parables given by Jesus during His ministry on earth. While Christ did not invent the parable, it is significant that He is the only One who used them in the New Testament. It was one of the main ways He used in speaking to the masses, for He found it an effective method of revealing truth to the spiritual and ready mind while at the same time concealing it from others. Matthew 13:10

These lessons will be taught during the Valentine season, making it appropriate to weave the stories around a heart theme. Possibly classroom bulletin boards and

departmental displays could also tie the theme of the lessons into the framework of the holiday.

The first lesson provides an opportunity for the teacher to bring out that we need Jesus in our hearts before we can be His sheep. The second lesson stresses the importance of having the Word of God deep in our hearts to continue to grow as a strong Christian. The third lesson emphasizes the need for love in our heart if we are to show others that we are a Christian. The last lesson shows us the vital necessity of keeping our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Cut nine large pink and red hearts from construction paper and arrange as for Tic-Tac-Toe game. On the back of each heart draw or have a picture of an item that should trigger an idea from the lessons.

Examples:

Christ the Good Shepherd

1. picture of sheep 2. picture of children crossing rickety bridge and an angel watching over them

The Sower

1. picture of plant 2. package of seeds 3. a Bible

Good Samaritan

1. helping hands 2. child having fun playing

Ten Virgins

1. oil lamp 2. sky with clouds 3. watch or clock

There can be many adaptations to this game. Student or team member chooses a heart. If he can name the lesson, idea, or memory verse he gets an "X" or "O." As in Tic-Tac-Toe, try to get three in a row.

CONTEST IDEAS

Love and Heart Quiz (see Support Material)

Set a goal of how many new children can be brought in

during the month (10, 20?). Make a board with chosen number of sheep, moving a sheep into corral (enclosure, barnyard, etc.) for each one brought. If all sheep get moved, the whole department gets a treat. The missionaries would get whatever they would normally receive as well.

Place on your bulletin board a large red heart with a clear pocket over the lower half (or higher if needed). Have enough smaller white hearts, each with a child's name on it so it can be placed in the pocket (name showing) for each time a student memorizes a Bible verse, memory verse, books of the Bible, learns the story, etc. The child with the most hearts in the pocket wins the contest.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Place a large heart containing a picture of Jesus in the center of your board. Place a smaller heart in each corner with a ribbon extending toward the large heart. They should have an appropriate picture for each lesson. Print at the top center, "Jesus Wants Me To . . ." Under the appropriate pictures print "Be His Sheep," "Love My Neighbor," "Hide His Word in My Heart," and

"Be Ready When He Comes." The smaller hearts could be double thickness with a door in the outer thickness so that a child could open that week's heart at the right time (like an Advent calendar). One could add the lettering under the smaller heart week by week also.

Place a crossword puzzle on the board. Fill in the answers to create interest or leave blank and have students help fill in during the weeks of this unit (see Patterns).

Across Clues:

4. Jesus is the Good _____.
5. Who must be in our heart?
6. What must we read to become stronger Christians?
7. Where must we hide God's Word?

Down Clues:

1. How many virgins stayed ready for Heaven?
2. How do we show love?
3. Whom does the Bible tell us to love?

Make a valentine (see Patterns). Trace pattern on red construction paper. Follow folding directions in numerical order. Heart should pop up when card is opened. Put a picture or sticker on front of card in space marked for it. Print underneath, "To _____" (my Parents, Grandma, Sister, Brother, etc.). On inside print, "LOVE ONE ANOTHER." Make a decorative border around the heart.

CHART IDEAS

Garden of Love. Make four heart-shaped flowers of construction paper or calico cloth (see Patterns). Under each flower print appropriate "love" statements.

Make Heart Books, each page being a heart cut from construction paper. Have children draw what they think would be in a Christian's heart. Bind with yarn. Examples: smiling faces, praying, attending church, sharing, helping, reading the Bible.

Cut hearts from white construction paper and cut out center of each. Glue to red construction paper. Print in the center of the chart — JESUS TEACHES ME (see Patterns). Each Sunday the child adds a sticker to the center of each heart — sheep, Bible, heart "Love" sticker, cross, crown, Jesus' face, or praying hands. A piece of white yarn or rickrack may be added as a bor-

der and hanger at the top. Then the child can hang his chart in his room at home on a nail or doorknob.

Make a wheel chart of two wheels with a brad in the center to keep them together and $\frac{1}{4}$ section or notch removed from top wheel. Label outside wheel, "Teachings of Jesus." On the bottom wheel, draw a picture of each lesson for the child to color (see Patterns).

Make a little book with the title, "Teachings of Jesus" on the outer cover. Have one page for each lesson. For lesson 6A glue cotton on the sheep. For lesson 6B glue on seeds. For lesson 6C put a Band-Aid on the man's sore leg. For lesson 6D draw a flame on the lamp with orange or yellow felt tip pen (see Patterns.)

Make a puzzle with Jesus in the center (see Patterns). Puzzle pieces around the outside should be pictures of each of the four lessons in our unit. These would be added each Sunday.

Reproduce the large 4-section heart with illustrations for each lesson (see Patterns) for each of your students. On each Sunday help them mount the puzzle piece for that week onto a background on which you have traced the outline of the complete heart.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

"Love and Heart Quiz" — Page 58, 110 Helps for Teachers, by Carolyn Lehman, Standard Publishing
"Parables of Jesus" — Pict-o-graph, Standard Publishing

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" — Illustrated Song, Nazarene Publishing

"Harry's Heart Song" — Visualized story, portrays the concept of Christ's dwelling in our hearts. Nine large illustrations with a corresponding story, Gospel Publishing House

"Getting to Know Jesus" — by Angela Carl and June Lang, Children's church programs. Activities, crafts and games, emphasis on Bible memorization, correlated music, Standard Publishing

"Object Talks on the Parables of Jesus" — Standard Publishing

"Jesus Our Savior" — Bible Pictures for Children, Set 2, 16 full color pictures include: birth, childhood, parables, and disciples, G/L Publications

"Parables of Christ" — Flannelgraph by Helen S. Kratavie, Child Evangelism Fellowship Press