2026-03-22b Jesus Teaches Sinners

Introduction

In this lesson, children will learn that Jesus is the greatest teacher of all. He didn't use big, complicated words that only scholars could understand. Instead, He used simple stories called parables, along with everyday pictures and actions, to teach people about God. Through the Parable of the Sower, children will discover that not everyone responds to Jesus' teaching the same way. Jesus' true friends are those who listen, believe, and obey His words.

Main Ideas:

- **Teacher:** Jesus reveals the truth about God through words, pictures, and actions that everyone can understand.
- **Understanding:** Jesus gives understanding to simple sinners, not just smart or important people.
- **Response:** Jesus' true friends (disciples) are those who respond in faith demonstrated through obedience.

Praise and Worship (15 mins)

> **Parents:** The parent and child scheduled for this week will lead us in singing on Sunday. Please take time to practice the songs together at home, helping your child feel confident and joyful as they prepare to lead.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/qTx6gwc5sWo

https://www.youtube.com/embed/cJWp1cGmWxk

Prayer and Offering (5 mins)

> **Parents:** Please encourage your children to bring an offering to church. You may help your child prepare by setting aside a coin for them to bring on Sunday. This is a great opportunity to teach them about giving to God with a thankful heart and trusting Him to provide.

> “ What is Offering?

> Offering is when we **give something to God** to show our love and thankfulness. In church, we often give money as an offering, but we can also give our time, talents, and kindness to God and others.
>
> ### Why Do We Make an Offering?
>
> **To Thank God** – Everything we have comes from God! Giving back is a way to say, “Thank You, God!”
> **To Trust God** – When we give, we show that we trust God to take care of us.
> **To Help Others** – Offerings help the church teach about Jesus, help people in need, and share God’s love.
>
> The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:7,
> *"God loves a cheerful giver!" That means God is happy when we give with a joyful heart!*

Prayer for Offering

> “ Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need. We want to give back to You with joyful hearts. Please use our offering to help others and share Your love. Help us to always trust You. In Jesus’ name, Amen!

Review Verse from Last Week

Luke 4:18a

"[Jesus said,] 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.'"

Bible Story (10 min)

Introduction (2 min)

Props Needed:

- A small clay or plastic pot with potting soil
- A handful of bean seeds
- A few rocks
- Sticks or twigs (to represent thorns/weeds)
- A small artificial or real plant in a pot (the "happy plant")

> “
>
> *(Keep all the items hidden in a bag. Don't show them yet.)*
>
> **Teacher:** "I brought a mystery bag today! But first, I need to teach you something. Listen carefully..."

> **Teacher:** *(speaking in a silly, overly fancy voice)* "Today I shall demonstrate the depositing of organic medium into an earthen receptacle!"
>
> *(Make a funny confused face. Wait for kids to giggle.)*
>
> **Teacher:** "Whaaaat? Did that make ANY sense?"
>
> *(Let children respond, they'll say no!)*
>
> **Teacher:** "OK, let me try again!"
>
> *(Pull out the pot, soil, and seeds.)*
>
> **Teacher:** "I'm going to... put dirt in a pot and plant seeds! Much better, right?"
>
> **Interaction:** "Thumbs up if simple words are easier! ?"
>
> **Teacher:** "You know what? Jesus is the BEST teacher ever. He didn't use big, confusing words. He told simple stories so that everyone, even kids like you, could learn about God!"

Story Telling: The Parable of the Sower (8 min)

Props / Visuals Suggested:

- Pot with soil, seeds, rocks, sticks/twigs, healthy plant

> “
>
> ### Part 1: Jesus Tells a Story (2 mins)
>
> **Teacher:** "Last week we learned that Jesus told everyone: 'I am the one God sent to save you!' Then Jesus started going from town to town, teaching people about God."
>
> **Teacher:** "One day, a BIG crowd came to listen to Jesus. And Jesus told them a story about... a farmer!"
>
> *(Hold up some seeds.)*
>
> **Teacher:** "The farmer went out to throw seeds on the ground. But the seeds landed in FOUR different places. Let's find out what happened!"
>
> **Interaction:** "Can everyone hold out your hand like you're throwing seeds? Toss, toss, toss! ?"
>
> ### Part 2: Four Places the Seeds Fell (4 mins)

Teacher: "? **Place 1: The Hard Path.**"

(Pack down some soil in the pot to make it hard, drop a seed on top.)

Teacher: "Some seeds fell on the hard road. The ground was so hard the seeds just sat on top. Then the birds came and... ATE them up!"

Interaction: "Flap your arms like birds! Chomp chomp chomp! ?"

Teacher: "Jesus said this is like a person who hears about God but says: 'Nope! I don't want to listen!' God's words just bounce right off."

Interaction: "Cover your ears and shake your head! That's what this person does."

Teacher: "? **Place 2: The Rocky Ground.**"

(Put rocks in the pot, drop a seed among them.)

Teacher: "Some seeds fell on rocky ground. A tiny plant started to grow, but when the hot sun came out... the plant dried up! The rocks were in the way. The plant couldn't grow big roots."

Interaction: "Stand up tall like a little plant... now melt down to the ground like you're drying up in the hot sun! ??"

Teacher: "Jesus said this is like a person who says 'Yay, Jesus!' at first, but when things get hard, they give up. They stop trusting Jesus."

Teacher: "? **Place 3: The Thorny Weeds.**"

(Stick the twigs into the soil, drop a seed nearby.)

Teacher: "Some seeds fell near weeds and thorns. The plant tried to grow, but the weeds squeezed it and stole all the water! The poor plant couldn't make it."

Interaction: "Squeeze your arms together tight like weeds! Squeeeeeze! The plant can't breathe!"

Teacher: "Jesus said this is like a person who likes Jesus but gets too busy with other things. They care more about toys and games than about God."

Teacher: "? **Place 4: The Good Soil!**"

(Place a seed in fresh, loose soil. Then bring out the healthy plant!)

Teacher: "But SOME seeds fell on good, soft soil. And guess what happened? The seed grew big roots, grew tall, and became a strong, healthy plant with lots of fruit!"

Interaction: "Crouch down small like a seed... now GROW! Stand up tall, stretch your arms out wide like branches! ?"

Teacher: "Jesus said this is like a person who hears about God, believes it in their heart, and obeys. Their love for Jesus grows and grows and grows!"

Part 3: Which One Do You Want to Be? (2 mins)

Teacher: "So the seeds are God's words about Jesus. And the four places? Those are four kinds of people!"

Teacher: "Let's remember them together. I'll say it, and you do the action!"

- **Teacher:** "Hard path?" *(Kids cover ears and shake heads.)* "Doesn't listen!"
- **Teacher:** "Rocky ground?" *(Kids stand up then melt down.)* "Gives up!"
- **Teacher:** "Thorny weeds?" *(Kids squeeze arms.)* "Too busy for God!"
- **Teacher:** "Good soil?" *(Kids crouch then stand tall.)* "Listens, believes, and obeys!"

Teacher: "Which one does Jesus want us to be?"

(Wait for kids to answer: Good soil!)

Teacher: "Yes! Jesus wants us to listen to Him, believe Him, and obey Him. That's how we become Jesus' true friends!"

Interaction: "Can you say it with me? 'Listen! Believe! Obey!' One more time, louder! 'LISTEN! BELIEVE! OBEY!'"

Wrap-up & Discussion (4 min)

“

(Gather children close for reflection.)

Discussion Questions:

Teacher: "Let's think about what we learned today."

Question: "Why did Jesus use simple stories to teach people instead of big, complicated words?" (Because He wanted everyone to understand, not just really smart people. Jesus came to save ALL sinners.)

Question: "In the story of the Sower, what does the seed represent?" (God's Word, the truth about Jesus.)

Question: "What kind of soil does Jesus want us to be?" (The good soil! People who listen, believe, and obey.)

Question (Age 7-10): "Is it easy for sinners to obey Jesus? Why not? Who can help us want to obey?" (No, it's not easy because we are sinners. But God can help us through His Holy Spirit.)

Teacher: "Remember: you don't have to be super smart or know big words to understand Jesus. He wants to teach YOU. The question is: will you listen, believe, and obey? Will you be the good soil?"

Closing Thought & Prayer

> “
>
> **Teacher:** "Jesus is the best teacher who ever lived. He uses stories, pictures, and actions to help us know God. And He is so patient with us! Even when we don't understand right away, He keeps teaching us. What a wonderful Savior we have!"
>
> *(Fold hands and bow heads.)*
>
> **Prayer:** "Dear Jesus, thank You for being such a good and patient teacher. Thank You for using simple words and stories so that even children can understand Your truth. Help us to be like the good soil. Help us to listen to You, believe You, and obey You. Make our faith grow deep and strong. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Memorizing Verse: John 8:31b

> “
>
> **John 8:31b**
>
> "[Jesus said,] 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,'"

> **Hand Gestures:**
>
> - **"If you abide..."**: Hug yourself (staying close, abiding).
> - **"...in my word..."**: Hold hands open like a book (the Bible).
> - **"...you are truly..."**: Give a big thumbs up (truly, for real!).
> - **"...my disciples."**: Point to yourself and then to friends around you (we are His disciples/friends).

Craft & Game (10 mins)

Game: "Looking for Good Soil" Treasure Hunt

Children hunt for hidden seed cards and identify which type of soil each one represents.

? **Time:** 5 minutes

? **Age Group:** 4-8 years

? **Lesson Connection:** Reinforces the four types of soil and helps children identify the "good soil" response.

? Setup & Materials Needed:

- 4 small plastic cups with potting soil inside
- 4 seed cards (each showing one type of soil: path, rocky, thorny, good), taped to craft sticks and inserted into the cups
- Hide the cups around the classroom before the game

? How to Play:

Step 1: Tell the children: "I've hidden four seed cups around the room. Each one shows a different type of soil from our story. Your job is to find them!"

Step 2: When a child finds a cup, they bring it to the front and the group identifies which soil it represents.

Step 3: Ask: "Is this one the good soil?" If yes, everyone says the memory verse together!

Step 4: Have children close their eyes, hide the cups again, and repeat.

Craft: Seed and Soil Picture

Children create a picture showing the four types of soil to take home.

Materials: Paper divided into 4 sections (labeled: Path, Rocks, Thorns, Good Soil), real seeds or grain (e.g., oats, wheat), glue, markers or crayons.

The Activity:

- **Section 1 (Path):** Color the ground brown/grey and draw a bird eating the seed. Glue a few seeds on top.
- **Section 2 (Rocks):** Draw rocks and a small wilted plant. Glue seeds among drawn rocks.
- **Section 3 (Thorns):** Draw thorny weeds and a small choked plant. Glue seeds among the weeds.
- **Section 4 (Good Soil):** Draw rich brown soil and a big, healthy plant with fruit. Glue seeds in the soil. Write the memory verse below: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples." (John 8:31b)
- **Take Home:** Children can show their family the four soils and explain what each one means, teaching their parents the parable!

Response Song

https://www.youtube.com/embed/gtxIiaufnFA

Closing Prayer & Snack Time (10 mins)

> "Dear Jesus, thank You for teaching us through stories we can understand. Thank You for being patient with us when we don't get it right away. Help us to be like the good soil, to let Your words grow deep in our hearts. We love You! Amen."
>
> Now, let us thank You for the snack we're about to enjoy.
> We fold our hands.
> We bow our heads.
> We thank You, God,
> for this daily bread.
> Amen.

Free Time & Children Pickup (15 mins)

Revision #2
Created 2026-03-22 05:12:23 UTC by Thian-Peng Ter
Updated 2026-03-22 05:12:32 UTC by Thian-Peng Ter