

Introduction

The **Jesus Film** for children is a very useful tool for evangelism. And together with **Encounters with my friend Jesus** it will become a great resource for discipleship and following up the children who have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

Advice for the teacher:

It is important for the teacher to develop with vocation, asking for God's guidance. However, there are some basic concepts that will help you improve the development of the task. We work for the Lord, so we should try to give the best of ourselves.

- Always be very specific. If you just say that they should behave well in church, it may not be clear to them. Be specific, for example, telling them that making noise or walking around the sanctuary during the message is not behaving well in church.
- NEVER leave the children on their own.
- A good advice is to try to have everyone participate, to value all the opinions, and not to exceed the exposition time limits. A good measure to respect the attention level of children is to speak one minute for each year of life. That is, if you are teaching seven-year-old students, do not speak for more than seven minutes.
- Using the video is simply an icebreaker to call the attention of the child and tell the Bible story in a short and concrete way through a visual resource. At this age it is indispensable to use materials that allow the children to experience the lesson in a concrete way.
- You should use the complete support guide that we give you in each lesson for the development of the class.
- Never forget the values that you transmit with your life; we cannot teach something that we do not respect, nor live in a way that is opposite to what we say. A teacher is an example for his students at all times.

Spiritual guidance:

- Always seek God's direction to plan your classes.
- Pray for your class and your students.
- Read the Bible passages and spend time preparing your class.
- Look for trustworthy study material to know more about the topic.
- If you have any doubts, try to ask someone who can guide you. When we teach children, we need to be able to answer their questions.
- Children do not forget what one teaches them and they trust fully in the word of the teacher, that is why we have to teach with responsibility and certainty of what we say.

Organization of the class:

The teacher must check the workplace before class:

- Check the amount of chairs, and set them in a suitable way to develop the class.
- Make sure the place is clean, ventilated, and lighted well.
- Verify that you have all the resources you need to use.
- Make sure there are no risky elements (things with which a child can get hurt).

If you have everything well organized, you will achieve good behavior and respect from the children, and you will not have to go out of the class to look for things and leave the children on their own, which always implies a risk.

Habits:

- Teach the children that they always have to be with you and that if a child leaves the group for whatever reason and you do not notice it, the others should let you know immediately. Choose a meeting point in the church – each class could have an assigned pew in the sanctuary, for example.
- The classes should be led preferably by two teachers, so that the children never stay on their own. If a child has to go to the restroom, or he gets hurt and needs assistance, there will be a teacher to take care of him and the other teacher will carry on with the class.
- Another option is to have a secretary or assistant available to help all the classes, and when a teacher needs help, he can count on that assistant.

Relationships:

- Get to know your students; try to establish an affective bond with them.
- If a family or personal problem comes up in class, take time to pray for it as a group.
- Do not judge any situation, listen and be compassionate.

Ideas:

- You can ask the children to prepare a presentation of Mary's story (lesson 1) for the following class. It can be a poster, a collage or a model. Encourage them to invite members of their family to help them make it.
- This will help the child retell what he learned to others and spend quality time with his family.
- Next time you meet, encourage those who couldn't do it to still do it for the following class. This can be a good way to talk about their experience preparing the presentation at home, and to review the lesson in class and tell it to other students that maybe were absent that day.
- Praise the children for their work, show it to everyone, encourage the children to show it to their friends, and express that you are proud of their work.

The Birth of the Savior

Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Objectives:

- For the children to understand that Mary was chosen by God and that they are also chosen by God.
- For the student to recognize, in the story of Mary, that obedience should be unconditional, and to value the change that was produced in the world because of her decision to follow God's will.
- For them to see that baby Jesus was born because of God's grace to forgive humanity's sin.

Introduction:

- Ask the children if they have any younger siblings or cousins.
- Encourage them to talk about what they remember of the pregnancy time and the births of their siblings or cousins.
- Mention some examples of couples they all know that had babies in the community you belong to. Highlight in your explanation that those women that had babies are all married.

Development:

- Tell the children that you brought the video of a very special birth to show them.
- Invite them to see the whole video.
- Ask the children to retell in their own words what they saw. Do not correct them as they speak, so that they are all encouraged to participate. Remember the mistakes they say so that when they are done, you can retell the story correcting any misinterpretation.
- Tell the children that it would be a good idea to go over some parts of the story again and that is why you would like to see the video again. Show a lot of enthusiasm and ask them if they agree.
- Start the video again and pause it right when angel Gabriel is done speaking with Mary.
- Highlight that in this part of the video there is a very important difference between the women we talked about in the beginning of the class and Mary. Explain that the difference is that Mary was a woman that was engaged, but was not yet married to Joseph.
You should also try to point out that that is why she is called VIRGIN in this segment of the video. The term should be clear to avoid confusions, so try to explain it in a very simple way because you should not go too deeply into the subject, considering the age of the children.
It is important to emphasize that Mary was CHOSEN by God and she did NOT QUESTION that God was sending a child in such a special way, through her.
Another key term to highlight is GRACE. Explain that Mary receives the son of God in her womb as a gift of God, and even though she was very young, she didn't understand, and she was rather scared, she still accepts without questioning, and she obeys the plan of God.
- Fast-forward the video close to the ending, to the part where the child narrates the purpose of Jesus in the earth.
- Try for them to discover on their own and be able to tell you that baby Jesus would grow up to forgive everything bad that people do, think, and say; and that God calls all those bad things sin.

Conclusion:

- Mention where this story is found in the Bible. If you consider that they are not tired and you have time in class, you can read the passage from Matthew or Luke (stated at the beginning of the lesson), each child reading one verse. Try to have all the children participate.
- Then tell them that the most important thing we learned¹ in this lesson is that:
 - We are all chosen like Mary for a special plan.
 - It is good to obey God's plan, just as Mary did, without questioning.
 - Jesus was sent by God's grace to forgive the sins of people.
- Memorize the following verse:
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled..." (Luke 1:38).
You can add gestures to the text, practice it together as a choir, etc. The idea is for them to have fun as they learn, so you can add rhythm, have the girls say it first and then the boys, and so on.

¹ Include yourself when you mention learning something.

Activity:

- This lesson is very important to work on the value of obedience to parents and to reflect on the subject of sin.
- Give each child a piece of paper and a marker, and have them write down everything they think that Jesus does not like (sins). Emphasize the need of being obedient and repenting for Jesus to forgive us. You can help them by mentioning some themes such as: obedience to parents, teachers or other authorities, tolerance, bad reactions, bad words or bad behavior in general, or anything you consider the children need to work on. Finish the activity with a prayer asking Jesus for forgiveness for the sins we have done and committing to be obedient to Him.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17

Mark 1:9-11

Luke 3:21-22

Objectives:

- For the students to learn that Jesus received the anointing of the Holy Spirit when John the Baptist baptized Him.
- For them to know that Jesus began His ministry after His baptism.
- For them to know that Jesus calls us to be baptized in order to show our alliance with Christ.

Introduction:

- If it is possible, ask the children to bring pictures of the baptism of their family members or people they know. If they cannot bring them, you should bring some.
- Ask the children to describe what they see. If they are known images, ask them what they remember of that day. Then tell them to mention people they know who have been baptized. Talk about a baptism in your community of a person that is well known by the children. You can also ask them if they were baptized, at what age, if they made the decision on their own, and so on. If there are differences, explain them without discouraging any of the children or underestimating any of their experiences.

Development:

- Remind the children that they already learned about how Jesus was born. We know who He is and what He came for. Challenge them to retell what they have learned so far to review the contents of the previous class.
- Invite the children to watch a video about Jesus' baptism.
- Tell them that you will make some questions and then show the video again for them to see some differences between Jesus' baptism and the ones we talked about in the beginning of the class.
- If possible, give each student a copy of the questions. You can also write them down on the board or read them (this is the last option). If possible, have each child read a question out loud so that they can all participate.
- Show the video again and give them time to answer.
 - 1- ¿What is the name of the person who baptizes Jesus?
 - 2- ¿What family relationship do Jesus and the one who baptizes Him have?
 - 3- ¿What happens in heaven right after Jesus is baptized?
 - 4- ¿Where does the baptism take place? ¿How does it happen?
 - 5- ¿What does Jesus explain to the people of His town at the end of the video?

If the children cannot answer the questions, show them the video again until they can answer the questions on their own. It will be gratifying for them to do that. Always congratulate them when they participate.

Conclusion:

- Explain what the Bible says in Mark 1:4 about how John preached the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. Then clarify that the most important difference between Jesus' baptism and others is that when He asks John to baptize Him, it is not because of repentance of sin. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and never sinned, but He asked to be baptized because in that moment the Holy Spirit anointed Him for His mission. From that moment on, He announces himself as Messiah and tells the people that He is the fulfillment of what is announced in Scripture. That is when Jesus starts His ministry.
- Highlight the that water baptisms in the pictures you saw at the beginning of the class are the public recognition of our alliance with Christ and that is why Jesus calls us to be baptized.
- It is important to point out that Jesus did not start His ministry until the Holy Spirit descended upon Him.
- Consider that they are children, so have the story well studied and the objectives clear, but when you talk to them, take into consideration their social environment and religious formation. You may have to simplify some concepts. Try to give them space to ask questions and clear up all their doubts.
- Suggest them to memorize the following verse:
“Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove” (Mark 1:10).

Activity:

- You can make a collage of all the pictures the children brought and hang it on the wall. Choose a spot in the classroom where you can go back and use it as a review tool.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

The Miraculous Catch

Matthew 4:18-22

Mark 1:16-20

Luke 5:1-11

Objectives:

- For the children to know the story of Simon Peter.
- For them to see in Simon the attitude of surrender and faith in Jesus.
- For them to recognize that because of these attitudes, Jesus rewarded Him doubly.

Introduction:

- Ask the children what is the material possession they own that is most precious to them.
- Then ask them if they would be able to let go of that object y lend it to another child that is asking for it right when they are using it, without knowing how much time they will borrow it and even if they'll ever return it back.

Development:

- Tell the children that a man called Simon was in a similar situation and that we will watch a video of his story.
- Start the video and pause it when it shows Jesus sitting on the boat, speaking to the crowd (you will have seen the full image of Simon starting to gather the nets and calling his two mates).
- Tell the children you want to tell them something you read in the Bible before you continue with the video.
- Point out on the screen that Jesus was sitting on a boat that belonged to Simon and that Jesus had asked him if he could borrow it. Explain that Jesus needed it so that he could speak to the crowd, because there were a lot of people and He needed to take some distance so that they could all hear Him. Jesus needed to boat and Simon let Him use it without any problems. Also mention that Simon was a fisherman, and that the most important thing he owned was that boat, for it was his resource to work and sustain himself.
- Invite the children to watch the video from the beginning.
- After watching it, ask the children to describe Simon's attitude when Jesus told him to let down the nets into the water. Give them some time to answer and give their opinions, and then show that part on the video again.
- Remind them that Simon had been fishing all night and explain that that is the best time to catch fish. That is the reason why it is hard for Simon to trust, but since Jesus, the Messiah, was the one telling him, Simon believes and obeys.
- The idea is to orient the children for them to get to the conclusion that Simon's attitude was to believe fully in what Jesus was telling him.

Conclusion:

- Finally, conclude expressing that we can learn from this sotry that Simon helped cover the need that Jesus had to be able to fulfill His ministry. At the same time, Jesus covered two needs the fishermen had: (1) He provided food for their families with the great catch, and (2) He showed them that He was the Messiah because of the way He worked.
- Emphasize that Simon was a good example because he gave Jesus the best thing he had and had faith to believe that He was the Messiah and could work. That is why He did not doubt and let down the nets in the water when Jesus told him to.
- Memorize the following verse:

“Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” (Luke 5:5).

Activity:

- Ask the children to bring that favorite toy or object that they mentioned at the beginning of the class next time, to lend it to one of their classmates for a week. This will help them learn to share even what they love most. Highlight that we should not forget that Jesus rewarded Simon doubly for sharing.
- Suggest them to pray during the week, asking God to make us have giving heart, knowing that He will always take care of all of our needs if we have faith in His word.

Debating Time:

- If you consider that the children can continue paying attention a little bit more, read Luke 5:10 and try to have them all give an opinion about why they think Jesus tells those workers that from now on they will be fishers of men.
- This verse will help them get to the conclusion that the fishermen would become disciples of Jesus because they could see his works and testify about them. Being fishers of men is to be witnesses of the work of Jesus so that others may believe in Him.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

The Daughter of Jairus

Matthew 9:18-26

Mark 5:21-43

Luke 8:49-56

Objectives:

- For the children to know the story of Jairus' daughter.
- For them to learn how to pray with complete faith and persevering in faith.
- For them to know that the work that God does is not a reward for our human effort, but of having the attitude of not giving up in believing in spite of the adversities that surround us.

Introduction:

- Ask the children if they pray everyday, and to explain how they do it, if they do it alone or with their parents, etc.
- Ask them why they pray and if they do it to ask God for something or to thank Him. Let them express themselves. You can take some notes on the board of what they say, so they see that it is important and they are encouraged to participate.

Development:

- Tell the children that you will see a video about a man who asked Jesus for something with a lot of faith.
- Start the video and have them watch the whole thing.
- Encourage the children to retell the story they have just seen in their own words.
- Give them a sheet of paper with the following questions and ask different children to read each question out loud.
 - 1 - ¿What did people think about Jairus' daughter?
 - 2 - ¿Who asks Jesus to heal the girl?
 - 3 - ¿What do the people respond when this request is made?
 - 4 - ¿What happens finally?
 - 5 - ¿What do you think was the most important thing of the story?
- Allow all the children to participate and answer the questions.

Conclusion:

- Try to have all the children participate and get to the conclusion that the most important thing of the story is that Jairus trusted completely in that if he asked Jesus to heal his daughter, He would respond to his request. The story of Jairus teaches us to have faith, to ask Jesus for what we need with faith and to be perseverant in our request. Highlight that Jairus followed Jesus with difficulty in the midst of the crowd and he was persistent until he could finally reach Him.
- Another point to highlight is that Jairus didn't care if all the people thought that there was no way of saving his daughter. Jairus had faith in the Messiah and he persisted in his faith, asking for the salvation of his daughter without taking into consideration all the adversities that arose.
- You can show the video again to end the class, pointing out the crowd that was stopping Jairus, what Jesus says, what the people say, etc. If you repeat the most important points of the lesson, and add images to them, this will help the children remember what they learned.
- Memorize the following verse:

Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." (Mark 5:36).

Activity:

- Encourage the children to make a traveling folder of testimonies. Bring a folder to class or make it with cardboard, and write "**The Traveling Folder of Testimonies**" on the cover.
- Tell them that each one of them will have the chance to take the folder home and, together with their families, they will write down their testimony so that then they can read it all together in class.
- When all the children have had the chance to take the folder home, you can tell them that they can take it again any time they have another testimony to write. In that way they will also witness to their own families, showing them all the testimonies in the folder.
- Every once in a while review the folder together with the children and mark down all the prayers that have been answered. Make questions to remind them what they learned when the folder was first created and why. This will help them review the lesson.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

Choosing the Twelve Disciples

Matthew 10:1-4

Mark 3:13-19

Luke 6:12-16

Objectives:

- For the children to learn the meaning of the term “disciple.”
- For the to be able to observe and take as an example how the teaches researches and studies to know a new term, and for this to serve as a model for them to study the Bible.
- For them to understand the mission of the twelve disciples.

Introduction:

- Ask the children if they know what the word disciple means.
- Invite them to look up in the Bible the following verses:
Matthew 10:24, **“The disciple is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.”**
Luke 6:40, **“The disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher”**.
- Try for the children to get to the conclusion that the word disciple means student.
- Tell them that you have also checked the dictionary and that the word disciple is defined as: **“Person who learns a doctrine, science, or art, under the direction of a teacher.”**
- Explain the definition in simple terms and then ask them to define disciple in their own words.
- Mention that you found the verses that talk about the meaning of the word disciple in the last pages of the Bible, in the concordance. Teach them to use this resource, explain it with some examples, and give them some ideas of when they can use it. Let them know that you looked up the word in the dictionary to have more information to teach them. All of these examples are showing the child how to study the Bible.

Development:

- Tell the children that they will watch a video that shows us that Jesus chose twelve disciples.
- Invite them to see the whole video with you.
- Ask the children to explain what they saw in their own words. Listen to them attentively and allow them to participate.
- Mention that in a part of the video we are told the reason why Jesus chose twelve disciples. Tell them you will show them the video again so that they can spot this.
- Start the video again and pause it when the child says that the disciples are the ones who help Jesus teach the people.
- Explain that Jesus teaches His disciples for them to teach other people. Tell them that Jesus instructed them about what their mission was (you can remind them of the first class when we talked about sin and the mission of Jesus); and He also showed them what this look like in practice (remind them of the video of Simon the fisherman).
- Tell the children that Jesus chose His twelve disciples to transfer
 - ✓ What they learned with Him
 - ✓ His teachings
 - ✓ His way of teaching
 - ✓ And most importantly, the mission of Jesus (the One who came to forgive our sins).Also tell them that these twelve disciples would teach many more people about everything they lived by Jesus’ side, and that each one of those people would then teach others. This would become a chain of which the twelve would be the first links in the church.
- Highlight that they are students and that they are learning in the church the teachings and the mission of Jesus. These men that lived by Jesus wrote down everything about Him that today we can read in the Bible.

Conclusion:

- Now that the children know well what a disciple is, they should not forget that we are also disciples of Jesus and that at some point we will be teachers who show others what we learned about Jesus.
- Memorize the following verse:
“He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach”
(Mark 3:14).

Activity:

- Give the children sheets of paper and pencils. Ask them each to write down the name of a friend that does not come to church.
- Then, have them write down a teaching they have received in church.
- Ask them to read it out loud to the class.
- Tell them that what they have learned in church is what they can teach the friend whose name they wrote down on the paper. In this way, they can be like one of the twelve, a disciple who teaches other disciples.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

	don't have deep roots; they believe for a time, but when the trial comes, they fail.
The seed among thorns	It represents those who hear the message, but the worries, riches, and pleasures come in and choke the word, so it doesn't bear fruit.
The seed on good soil	It represents the people that hear the message with a good heart and obey it, abiding firmly and bearing fruit.

- Here you have a complete transcription of the message in the video. It is not necessary for the children to write down every detail, they can use a key word or phrase.
- You can conclude the lesson reviewing the elements of the parables and how Jesus used it to explain difficult things in simple ways.
- Review the Parable of the Sower with simple terms. Focus on the good seed that falls on good soil and bears fruit.
- Have in mind that a parable is full of symbols, and depending on what the person is experiencing, the parable can represent different things. Allow the students to express in class what it means for them to be a seed that falls on good soil and bears fruit. Allow them all to participate. Then pray, asking for the Spirit's guidance, and give your personal interpretation that you consider adequate for the class that you are leading.

Conclusion:

- Memorize the following verse:
“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce fruit” (Luke 8:15).

Activity:

- Ask the children to bring literature books that talk about parables for next class. They will be able to see that the Bible is a book of high importance not only for the life of a Christian, but also for the whole world, for it is recognized as a book of history and literature. They will be encouraged to study the Bible more profoundly and in both a spiritual sense and a cultural and formative one.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27

Mark 4:35-41

Luke 8:22-25

Objectives:

- For the children to be able to distinguish between fear and faith.
- For them to know that we may have fear because we lack faith.
- For them to learn that faith, in this passage, means to trust in the power of God, which is active and present in Jesus.

Introduction:

- Ask the children to name people they trust in, that if they promise them something they will follow through.
- Then ask them to talk about times in which they felt fear and about who they went to for help.
- Ask them if they were ever in the middle of a strong storm, and if so, to share what they felt in that moment with the whole class.

Development:

- Tell your class that you have a video of some men who were afraid during a strong storm.
- Invite the children to watch the whole video with you.
- Then, ask them to retell what they saw, and allow them to express themselves freely.
- Fast forward the video to the part where they all scream desperately and Jesus is sleeping on a side of the boat.
- Tell the children that the men were screaming like that because they were really afraid of the storm and they were facing many adversities: the rain, the precarious boat, the strength of the waves on the little boat, etc. Invite the children to name the adversities they think the men were facing.
- Then, point out that Jesus, in spite of the wind, was so calm that He could sleep in the boat!
- Make them realize that this kind of calmness can only be in a person who fully trusts in the power of God. That power is active and present in Jesus.
- Highlight that if we learn to trust in God, to have the certainty that God will do something, then we will not feel afraid in difficult situations and we will learn to ask God for help with faith.

Conclusion:

- Mention where this story is found in the Bible, and if you consider that they are not tired and there is still time, you can read the passage in Mark that is mentioned at the beginning, having each child read one verse.
- Assure the children that if we have faith in God we will be able to be calm like Jesus and not be afraid in difficult times. If we do not have faith, we will live through the difficult moments with fear, like the men in the boat.
- Memorize the following verse:

He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (Mark 4:40, TLA).

Activity:

- Bring wrapping paper to the class and small cardboard pieces or flashcards.
- Tell the children to write down something that generally they are afraid of.
- Once they have written it down, tell them to wrap the cards.
- Close the wrapping paper in such a way that it covers the whole card. Tell the children that the wrapping paper is like our faith, it can cover fears and not allow them to bother us. That is why we will leave all our fears inside the wrapping paper, which is faith, because we are sure that they will never appear again if we trust in God.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People

Luke 9:10-17

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 6:30-44

Suggestion for the teacher: Read John 6:22-71 where we find the sermon Jesus gives right after the miracle. This will give you a better comprehension of the meaning of Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fish, and of the real meaning of "the bread of life."

Also, bear in mind that the resurrection of Jesus and the feeding of the five thousand are the only miracles that appear in the four gospels.

Objectives:

- For the children to know that if we give Jesus what we have, no matter how little it is, He can use it to perform great miracles.
- For the children to see, through the story of the miracle as told in Luke, that God asks us to be orderly and to gather the leftovers.

Introduction:

- Take a candy bar that you know the children like to class.
- Show it to the class and ask them if they know what we can do to share it since we are so many and the candy bar is so small, and not enough for everyone.
- Ask them if they agree, since they are so many, that you give the candy bar to one of them to enjoy it.
- After the children share their opinion, tell them that they will watch a video where something similar happens, where there are many people who want to eat, and the food they have is not enough.

Development:

- Show the whole video to the children.
- Then, ask them to retell the story they have just seen. Once they have all participated, fast forward the video to the part in which the child gives the basket with the loaves and fish to Jesus, and Jesus blesses it.
- Highlight that Jesus asked the people for what they had and they trusted in Him by giving it to Him.
- Jesus received what the child gave Him, He blessed it, and it multiplied to supply all the needs of the people.
- Invite each student to read one verse of Luke 9:10-17.
- Explain that the images in the video represent the biblical story and that there are some important verses to consider that do not appear in the video.
- Reread verse 14 and tell the children that Jesus, after performing the miracle and providing enough food for everyone, asks them to sit down in small groups, to manage and hand out the food carefully. Then in verse 17 is says that He asks them to gather the leftovers.
- Highlight that God gives us what we need and we must know how to take care of it, managing it well, not wasting it.

Conclusion:

- Tell the children that the most important things they learned in this lesson are:
 - That the people trusted in Jesus and gave Him what they had.
 - That Jesus multiplied the little they had and provided everything they needed.
 - That we must care for and not waste the blessings that God gives us.

Give each child a candy bar with the passage of Luke 9:16 attached to it. It should be the same candy bar you showed at the beginning. This will be very representative of the lesson for the child.

- Memorize the following verse:
"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people" (Luke 9:16).

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

[Note: the interpreter of the law that is mentioned in the video surely knew Deuteronomy 6:5 y Leviticus 19:18.]

Objectives:

- For the children to understand that in order to love, we don't need to discuss theories and meaning, we simply need to act.
- For the children to understand that prejudice separates us from those who might be able to help us.
- For them to know that Jesus came to break these differences between human beings.

Introduction:

- Ask the students if there is a child whom they would not spend time or play with.
- Then ask them if there is anyone they don't like for some reason.
- Ask them to think if they could dedicate time to help that child if he is in need.

Development:

- Tell the children that you will watch a video of a biblical story that talks about this particular topic.
- Allow them to watch the whole video and then to participate retelling the story they have just seen.
- Explain that, through this parable, Jesus wanted to teach that a man needed help, for he was on the side of the road and very hurt. Some important people in society passed by him, like a priest and a Levite, but they didn't do anything. They had no love or compassion to help that man in need. But, a simple man, without the skills to theorize about love (like a priest could), could put love into action for his neighbor.
- Maybe the man that was one the floor, in other circumstances, wouldn't have even greeted that Samaritan. And surprisingly, this good Samaritan, who wasn't well accepted by the Jews, had the capacity to act with love and compassion.
- Jesus shows us two important things in this passage: That we should love other and that we should value and accept all people.

Conclusion:

- Spend time explaining that when we do not consider another person we are not considering ourselves either. If I ignore someone, I lose that person and that person losses me. Nothing positive happens and there is no love. The Samaritan helped his neighbor without considering who that person was. The Priest ignored him and in that way he limited himself from the ability of loving another person.

Activity:

- Encourage the children to talk about what they learned, what they thought about the story, and what experiences they can share about their families or people in the church, where someone had compassion for another person and help him with love.

- **Memorize the following verse:**

“He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him” (Luke 10:34).

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

The Blind Man Bartimaeus Receives Sight

Matthew 20:29-34

Mark 10:46-52

Luke 18:35-43

Objectives:

- For your students to know the story of the blind man called Bartimaeus.
- For them to notice Bartimaeus' faith because of his attitude of decisively clamoring to the "Son OF David."
- For them to understand that this man's faith is what gave him healing.

Introduction:

- Ask the children if they know a blind person and for them to imagine the difficulties they would have if they would be walking in the midst of a crowd and could not see anything.

Development:

- Tell the children that a man called Bartimaeus was in a similar situation and that we can see his story in a video.
- Show the whole video.
- Ask your students to tell the story they have seen in their own words.
- Invite them to see the video again and pause it where you think most appropriate to show the difficulties this blind man had to suffer in his way to get close to Jesus.
- Then show the scene again and pause it after this man is on the side of the road and begs for Jesus.
- Tell the children that with this story we can realize that Bartimaeus believed in the Word of God because he calls Jesus **Son of David** (depending on the age of the children, you can go deeper into this subject).
- In the way Bartimaeus was desperate to go out of the side of the road and reach Jesus, we can see his faith. He believes that following Jesus, his serious situation would change.
- Highlight that it is important that a man that was on the side of the road, when he sees Jesus, he decides to follow Him and not go away.
- His faith allows his situation to change and for him to be healed from his blindness.
- Bartimaeus lives an experience that marks a turning point in his life. He tells everyone with enthusiasm what he has experienced. Now his faith impacts other people.

Conclusion:

- According to the needs of your group, you can emphasize and reflect on different things along the story:
 - ✓ Sometimes we are blind like Bartimaeus, we are on the side of the road, without enjoying nor seeing the blessings of following Jesus.
 - ✓ If we try to remain on Jesus' way we can receive the blessing of God and impact other people, transmitting our faith to them.
 - ✓ If we receive the blessing of God, it encourages us to continue in the way, as it happened to Bartimaeus.
 - ✓ If we have faith like Bartimaeus, God will bless us.
 - ✓ Try to use all the figurative images this passage has and compare them with the experiences of life in your group. Some images are really rich, like that of being on the side of the road, having difficulty to go on the road, reaching Jesus, begging desperately, having faith, not seeing, having a new sight, etc. You can use the method of parables just as Jesus did and transform these images in simple examples for the children. You can do it through questions: What does it mean to be on the side of the road? What things do we sometimes not see with clarity? In what moments is it hard for us to enter into Jesus' way? And so on.
- **Memorize the following verse:**

"Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you" (Luke 18:42).

Advice for the teacher: In this lesson we make clear the main points of the passage for you to consider them and design debates or activities according to the needs of your group. You have seen several examples in other lessons in order to do it effectively. In this case, the passage is very rich and you can use it accordingly with your group.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

Jesus in Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

Mark 11:1-11

Luke 19:28-40

John 12:12-19

[**Note for the teacher:** Jesus dramatizes the prophecy that is found in Zechariah 9:9 through His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. This has two purposes: teaching the people in a clear way and the fulfillment of the prophecy the Sunday before the crucifixion].

The culture of that time:

- Bear in mind that the word “hosanna” was a term that mean “save”. This is the clamor to the savior of a people that was oppressed, a clamor to the long expected Messiah.
- In Mark 11:8 we read that the people spread their cloaks on the way where Jesus was passing. This is the way in which they would render homage to a king in that time.

Objectives:

- For the children to understand the purpose of the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.
- For them to review the purpose of Jesus as the Messiah.

Introduction:

- Ask the children if there is an important or famous person whom they admire.
- Ask them some questions to figure out how they would react if they could come near this person.
- Ask them what influence that important or famous person has in their lives.

Development:

- Tell the children that they will watch a video where the hero of a town comes and is acclaimed by everyone.
- Show the whole video to the children.
- Ask them who the hero of the video is.
- When the children answer “Jesus,” tell them that the Lord makes His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to show the people that He had come to save them. In this act, the people recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- Review lesson 1, about Jesus’ birth, where we talked about Jesus’ purpose coming to this world.
- Highlight that the people worshipped Him like a king, with branches and cloaks, and that they were really excited because of the arrival of the Savior to Jerusalem.

Conclusion:

- Compare this story with the stories that the children shared at the beginning, and mark a clear difference of what it means to have Jesus as the hero of our lives.
- You must arrive to the conclusion that no famous person in the world can be our savior.
- Memorize the following verse:
 **“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
 “Hosanna to the Son of David!”
 “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
 “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”** (Matthew 21:9).

Activity:

Design a chart to help you debate with the children. It can be on the board or on a cardboard on one of the walls of the class. Write down what the children mention:

Characteristics of my favorite famous person:	Characteristics of Jesus:
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Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

Jesus is Crucified
Matthew 27:32-56
Mark 15:21-41
Luke 23:26-49
John 19:17-30

[Suggested reading for the teacher: Isaiah 53:4-6].

Objectives:

- For the children to know the purpose of Jesus’ death.
- For them to reflect upon the attitudes of the people towards Jesus.
- For them to recognize Jesus’ attitude towards humanity.

Introduction:

- Ask the children if they were ever accused of something they hadn’t done in school or in their group of friends.
- Invite them to share their experience and express what they felt in that moment.
- Listen to all the children that want to participate and encourage the ones who don’t share their own experience to give their opinion on what others share.

Development:

- Tell the children that they will watch a story about someone who suffered a similar situation.
- Invite the children to watch the whole video with you.
- Then ask them to retell the story they have just seen in their own words.
- Start the video again and pause it in the part where the people are accusing Jesus before the Emperor and highlight the lies, the distortion of facts, and the exaggeration of the people regarding Jesus’ acts.
- Fast-forward the video till the part where they punish Jesus by beating Him. Reflect about the unfair treatment the Son of God was receiving.
- Then fast-forward the video to the part of the crucifixion and highlight the words of Jesus when He prays for humanity and asks His Father to forgive them for their wrongdoings.
- Freeze the image on the part of the crucifixion and describe how Jesus, being completely innocent, goes through all of this because of obedience to the Father and to save everyone who believes in Him.

Conclusion:

As a final reflection, tell the children that we should follow Jesus’ example. He was faithful and obedient at all times, until the end.

Make a visual aid with a list of what we learned in this lesson:

- Jesus was obedient to His Father, fulfilling all of the prophecies of the Old Testament. We should be obedient to our parents and take Jesus’ example of life. Emphasize also that because Jesus was obedient until the end, now we can repent from our sins, believe in Him and be saved.
- Read John 19:25-27 and talk about how Jesus loved and always put as a priority, even in His last moments of life, human relationships like His family (Jesus asks John to take care of His mother).
- In spite of all the punishment and suffering that men made Jesus go through, He prayed until the end for these people. We should pray for those people that we think are acting wrongly.

- Memorize the following verse:
“Jesus said, –Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing...” (Luke 23:34).

Activity:

- Make a double chart for the each child to fill in:

<p><u>What does Jesus receive from these people...?</u> Calumnies and lies before the Emperor. Punishment and accusations, being innocent. Mocking when He is on the cross.</p>	<p><u>How does Jesus react towards these actions...?</u></p>
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- Show the images on the video that represent each one of the items on the chart and allow for each child to fill in their chart and express what they think before the class. Conclude the activity highlighting that Jesus always responds with love, tolerance, and prayer; and that we should follow His example.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.

The Resurrection of Jesus and His Command

Matthew 28:1-10 y 28:16-20

Mark 16:1-18.

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:1-10

Objectives:

- For the children to understand the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus.
- For them to know what it means to be part of the Great Commission.
- For them to know what a servant is.

Introduction:

- Ask the children to talk about their best friend. Ask questions like, “What kind of relationship do they have?”; “How often do they see each other?”; “What do they do when they get together?”; and so on.

Development:

- Tell the children that they will see the ending of a story in which we will find a friend that will be with us our whole lives.
- Show the whole video.
- Ask the children to retell the story they have seen in their own words.
- Teach the children that the resurrection distinguishes us Christians from other religions and that we have the custom to gather together the first day of the week, on Sunday, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Read Mark 16:14-16 and put the video again on the part that shows Jesus talking to His disciples.
- Explain that Jesus tells us to believe because in that way we receive Christ in our heart, for Him to remain always with us; to be baptized in order to be witnesses to others that we are Christian; and to preach the gospel, following the example of service, obedience, and witness that He showed us.
- Highlight the commentary at the end of the video, when the child is speaking. Repeat this last part and tell the children that now that they know about Jesus’ life, it would be good for them to make the decision to have Him as their partner, guide, and example. Jesus should become like one of the friends they mentioned at the beginning of the class. The children should know that Jesus is a faithful friend that will always be with them.

Conclusion:

Since this is the last lesson of this program, invite the children to share with the whole class what part of Jesus’ life impacted them most and why. As each child shares his impressions, it will be enriching for their whole class.

Memorize the following verse:

“...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

Optional activity:

You can use the following questionnaire to review all the teachings. If you consider that it will take too long, you can leave it for the following class.

- 1- What did we learn about the story of Mary?
- 2- What do you remember about the story of Simon?
- 3- What happened to Jairus’ daughter?
- 4- What is a disciple? (This is from the lesson about the 12 disciples).
- 5- What are the good attitudes that we learned from Jesus life? What can we take as an example?
- 6- What is the purpose of Jesus as the Messiah?
- 7- Why did the men on the boat feel afraid? What did Jesus teach them?
- 8- What happens if we leave everything in the hands of God? (Remind them the lesson in which Jesus feeds the five thousand).
- 9- What is a parable?
- 10- Who would like to share the story of the blind man, Bartimaeus?
- 11- What did Jesus teach us with the story of the good Samaritan?
- 12- What does baptism mean for the Christian?

All the answers can be found in the lessons of this book.

Estimate time: 50 minutes in total.