

Jesus the Teacher

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He wants to teach me.

● Memory Verse

"More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
(Luke 11:28).

Word of the Week

"Listen" - To listen is to pay attention to sound. When we pay attention to the words someone is saying, we are listening. Jesus asks us to listen to His wise words, and then do what He says.

This week's lesson

is based on **Matthew 5:14-16; Matthew 13:31-34; Luke 6:43-45; Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 6:9-13;** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 298-314.

Sunday

Jesus the Storyteller

The little boy leaned forward and lifted his chin. He sat on his hands and made his body very still. Carefully He listened to Jesus.

A girl beside him squeezed a little closer. She bumped into him, but the boy didn't notice. He kept looking right at Jesus. The Teacher's kind eyes shone as He told another story. One was funny. Another, exciting! One made him look at the pretty trees and flowers around him and sigh with happiness. Even though he was young, he could understand all the stories. Jesus was the best storyteller of all.

Jesus told stories to small groups in small houses. And big groups, under big blue skies. He spoke in temples, from boats, and while He walked along dusty roads.

How often did Jesus tell stories? Read **Matthew 13:34**.

Jesus talked about flitting birds, colorful flowers, and fields of wheat. Boys and girls could look and see these things as they quietly listened. He told stories about naughty sheep, silly builders, and busy farmers. Oh, everyone knew what they were like.

Whether gray-haired and wrinkly or young and wiggly, everyone loved to listen and learn from Jesus. People even traveled from far, far away to hear His wise words.

Jesus is still our best storyteller. If we listen closely, His stories can help us grow closer to Him. The Bible says, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

I Wonder

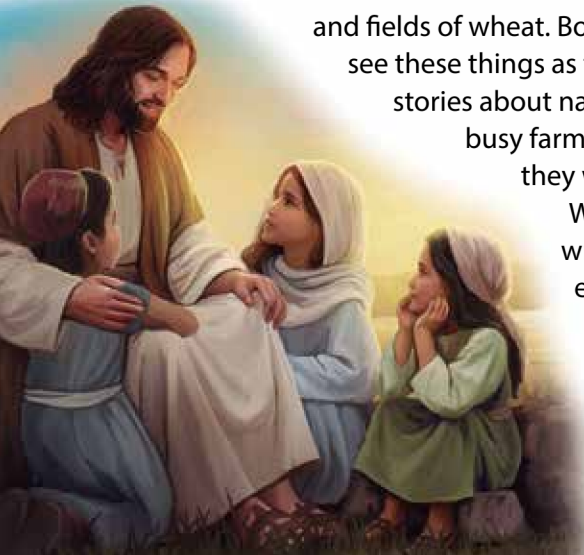
- » How many of Jesus' stories can you name?
- » What story do you think Jesus might be telling the children in this picture?

● Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for all the amazing stories we can read in the Bible.

● Do

Stand in front of your family and retell a favorite Bible story and explain why you love it so much.





Monday

The Bright Lamp

The little flame flickered as it grew bigger and bigger. Its golden glow warmed the room. Carefully the lamp was lifted and placed on a shelf. Now all the family could see each other's smiles. They could find the cooking pot, the needle and thread, and a cozy cushion to sit on.

At night, Jerusalem and other surrounding towns sparkled with hundreds of these little lights. Every family used small pottery lamps to light their home.

One day Jesus sat on the side of a mountain, talking to a big crowd. He reminded them of these night lights. He said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).

The people listened closely. They thought about their homes and towns that shone in the darkness.

Jesus continued: "People don't hide a light under a bowl" (Matthew 5:15, ICB). People smiled. Some chuckled. What a silly idea! No one would ever light a lamp and hide it under a bowl. Lights were for shining, not hiding!

Jesus added, "They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house" (Matthew 5:15, ICB). What did Jesus say next? Read **Matthew 5:16**.

Everyone nodded. Yes, what a good story! Everyone had a lamp, and everyone could understand. Jesus wants us to speak and do things that show His goodness. We can be like a bright light for all the world to see.

Fast Fact

How long does it take you to spin in a circle seven times? Did you know that light can travel around our whole earth more than six times in one second? Now, that is faster than fast!

I Wonder

- » What type of lights do you have in your house?
- » Why do you think Jesus told the story about an ordinary lamp?
- » How did you shine for Jesus today?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you shine brightly for Him.

Do

With the help of a parent, light a candle and put it under a bowl. Can you see the light? What does Jesus want us to do instead?

Memory Verse

Tuesday

The Tiny Seed That Grew

The sun glistened on the still water. Jesus sat in a boat on the edge of a lake and looked out at the smiling crowd. They sat on the sandy beach, quietly waiting. They were ready to listen to another story.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,” Jesus said loudly, “which a man took and sowed in his field” (Matthew 13:31).

Everyone imagined the teeny, tiny mustard seed. They pictured a farmer popping it in the ground and covering it gently with dirt. *Pat, pat, pat.*

Jesus continued: “That seed is the smallest of all seeds. But when it grows, it is one of the largest garden plants. It becomes a tree, big enough for the wild birds to come and make nests in its branches” (Matthew 13:32, ICB).

The people looked from the lake to the fields. Large mustard plants waved their branches in the breeze. Birds flitted from twig to twig, whistling pretty songs.

Why did Jesus tell them this story? Read **Matthew 13:34**.

Jesus loved using nature to teach them about His love and power. He wanted them to know that He could work a miracle in their hearts too, just like that seed. All they needed was a little bit of trust in Him.

Jesus promised that He can work a miracle inside of you too. He will help you grow stronger and braver every day when He lives in your heart.

I Wonder

- » Do you know where the seeds are found for a pumpkin, strawberry, avocado, and banana?
- » Would you have liked to learn from Jesus? Why?

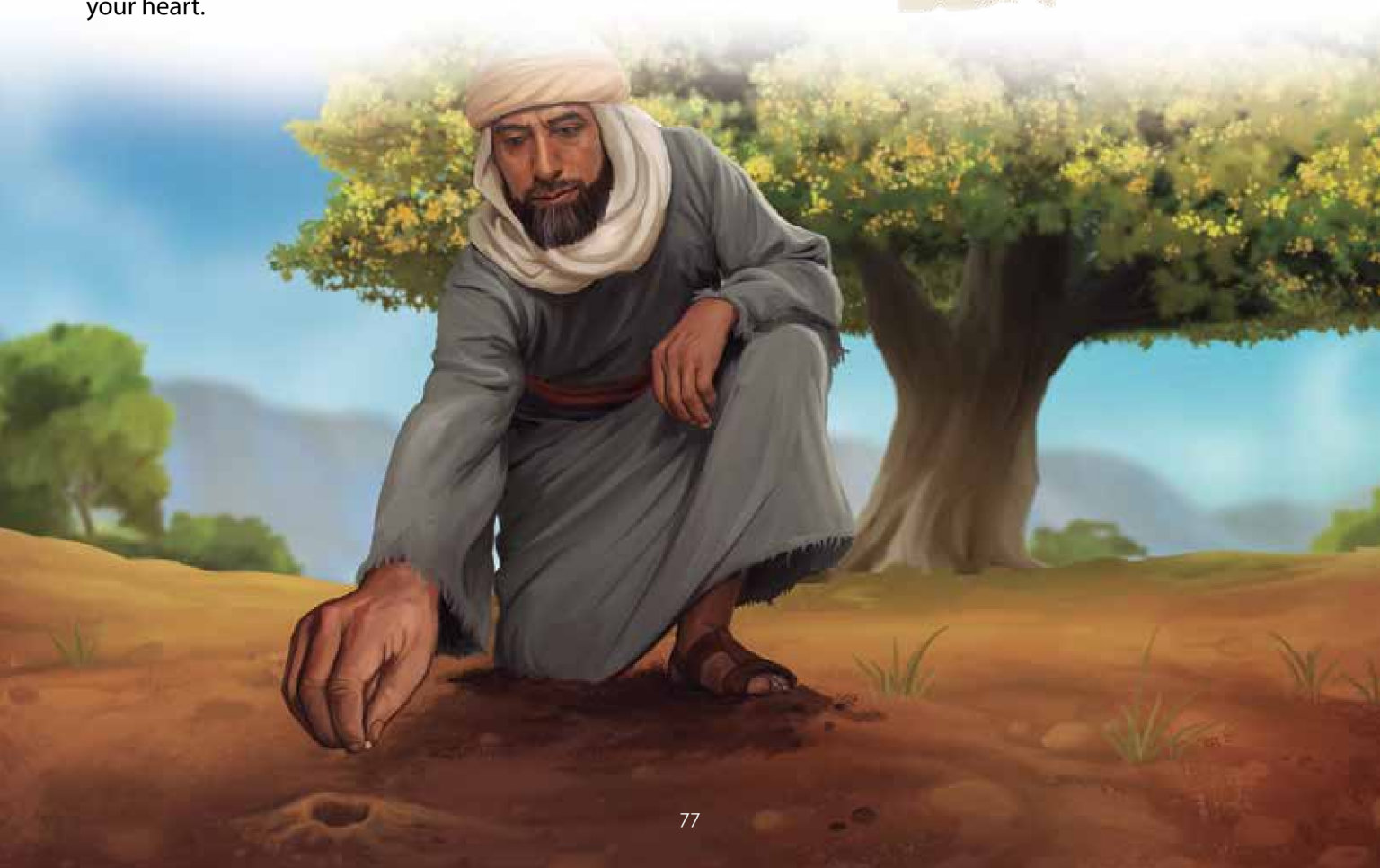
Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you trust Him more each day.

Do

Go outside together and plant a seed or look for plants with seeds. Talk together about how God grows in your heart.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Prickles or Figs?

Everybody knows that plums grow on plum trees, and grapes grow on grapevines. And of course, berries grow on orange trees. No! Berries grow on berry bushes!

Jesus stood at the bottom of a mountain teaching and healing many people. Everyone listened carefully—they didn't want to miss any of His wonderful words. Then Jesus said to them, "Each tree is known by its fruit. People don't gather figs from thornbushes" (Luke 6:44, ICB).

The people must have smiled at the silly thought. Imagine someone searching in a thornbush for figs. Ouch! How spiky and scratchy! The only thing to find in a thornbush is prickles and pain.

Jesus then explained that we are like trees. Of course, we don't have green leaves and branches. But the way we act, and the things we do, are like fruit on a tree.

Without God's Spirit living inside our hearts, we are a lot like a prickly thornbush. We can hurt others and don't grow good fruit. But when the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, we will grow His beautiful fruit. What type of fruit will we grow? Read **Galatians 5:22, 23**.

The people must have smiled as they ate their fruit the next day.

Jesus had taught them a lesson that was so easy to remember! They had listened. They could remember. Now they could ask God to help them do what Jesus said. The Bible says, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

Parent Faith Talk

Affirm your child for something they have done recently that has shown one of the fruits of the Spirit.

I Wonder

- » If you could be a fruit tree, what would you want to be? Why?
- » Can you say all the fruits of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22, 23.) What would you like to ask for more of?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus for His Holy Spirit to live in your heart so you can grow and show His fruit.

Do

Jesus told stories so we can remember them. Can you remember the stories from this week's lesson so far? Try telling them to a friend or family member. Look back at the pictures for some clues if you get stuck.

Memory Verse

Thursday

House on the Rock

The excited crowd soon hushed. Shh! Kids stopped giggling. Moms and dads stopped whispering. Everyone looked and listened. Jesus had another story to tell . . .

Dig, dig, dig! A builder was building a house. His shovel dug deep into the dirt. *Thud.* The man had reached a hard, strong rock. Perfect! He would build his house on this rock. First the man built a solid floor. Then he built tall walls, and finally, on went the roof. Done!

A mighty storm rumbled in. The rain came down, and the floods came up. But the man wasn't worried one bit. The flood wouldn't knock his house down, "because the house was built well" (Luke 6:48, ICB). It had been built on a rock.

Then Jesus told His listeners about another builder . . .

Bang, bang, bang. Up went the tall walls and on went the roof. This builder didn't care about digging down to strong rocks. He didn't bother to build a solid floor. He chose some sandy land, then quickly built his house. Done!

Down came the rain and up came the flood. Then with one mighty crash the whole house fell . . . down!

Our lives are like a house, and God is the rock. What does the Bible tell us about God our rock? Read **2 Samuel 22:3**.

When we listen to God's words from the Bible and obey them, we will stay strong through every storm and problem.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think the second house fell down?
- » How can we stay strong for God, like the house on the rock?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you listen and do what He says.

Do

Sing "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock" together. Try to say your memory verse at the end.

Mission Challenge

Make a card or drawing and have an adult add your favorite memory verse from this quarter. Give it to your new friend.

Memory Verse





Friday

How Do We Pray?

The people sat on the hillside and listened carefully to Jesus. They had smiled at the stories of the crashing house and the mixed-up fruit. They had nodded at the stories about seeds and bright lights. So this was what God's love was like!

Jesus smiled at the people. He really wanted them to come even closer to their loving God. He would teach them how. He would teach them how to pray.

Looking up into the sky, Jesus began a beautiful prayer.

"Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen" (Matthew 6:9-13).

Jesus started by praising God and putting all His trust in Him. Then He asked God for the things they needed, such as food, forgiveness, help, and strength. Jesus finished by praising God.

Jesus wants us to pray like this too. He is our best teacher. He shows and tells us how to be close to God and show His love.

I Wonder

- » Is there anything you would really like to talk to God about today?
- » What did you like about the way Jesus taught the people this week?

Prayer Idea

Do a paper prayer together. Using two pieces of paper, label one page "Thanks" and the other "Ask." Take turns writing words or drawing pictures as a prayer to God on each of these pages.

Do

Listen to "The Lord's Prayer" from the AJJ website several times until you know it by heart.

Memory Verse

Family Activity






Memory Box









Look around the house for something that reminds you of Jesus' wonderful and wise words. Place it in your memory box as a reminder of this week's lesson.



For You, Parents





"Prayer unites us one to another and to God. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives new strength and fresh grace to the fainting, perplexed soul" (Ellen G. White, in *Review and Herald*, Oct. 30, 1900).


Listening Ears

Sue and her friends were on a little canoeing adventure together, paddling down a peaceful , enjoying God's creation. They could hear  croaking,  humming, and  slipping into the  to hide.

As the group came around a bend, two beautiful  splashed through the shallow  and disappeared in the tall . Then Sue noticed their twin baby  called fawns standing on the other side. The small animals began  and trembling. Sue and her friends sat still and quiet. From inside the tall  came loud snorts. It was the  parents. It seemed they were saying something very important, because the fawns stopped .

Maybe the mother and father  had said such things as "Don't be afraid; we're right here." Or maybe "Be quiet and hold still." Whatever it was, the baby  listened and obeyed.

When the  had floated past, Sue watched as the mother  came back out of the  and led her babies safely across the .

Jesus wants us to listen and obey His wise words too. He knows what is best for us. We can trust and follow what He says, because He  us! The Bible says, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

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