## Lesson 1: Introduction to the Life of Christ 1

# In the beginning

* John 1:1-14; Jesus the Creator
* Gen. 1:26,27; Let Us make man in Our image

# Prophecies concerning Christ

* Genesis 3:14-15 Consequences of sin-the woman’s seed shall bruise the serpent’s seed’s head and the serpent shall bruise His heel. The first prophecy of the Christ over coming Satan.
* Isaiah 53 tells of the life of Christ and how He will be put to death even though innocent and why God would have it that way.
* Psalm 22:1-2, Mark 15:34, Matt. 27:46, “Why have you forsaken Me?” at Jesus’ crucifixion.

# The lineage of Christ

# Promises to Abraham

Gen. 12:1-3 Great nation; 18:10; 21:2,3, Sarah shall have a son; 22:18, The seed promise.

* Promises to David-1 Chronicles 17:11-14.
* Matthew 1: 1-17

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Rahab, Boaz and Ruth, Obed, Jesse, David, Solomon, the kings of Judah, those born in captivity, and Mary; a total of 42 generations to Christ.

Notes:

* Luke 2:25-35, Simeon was promised he would see the Christ before he died
* Luke 2:36-38, Anna, a prophetess who served in the temple.
* Referred to as “son of man”, and “son of woman”, and “Son of God”
* Jesus’ involvement in creation, His eternal nature with the Father and the Spirit
* God had planned for Jesus to come and save the lost from the very beginning.
* Emphasize the promises to Abraham
* Line to go through David
* GOD HAD A PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING!

Additional aids:

Make lineage chart from Abraham to Christ that would go around the room before the first class.

Find as many name references as you can in scripture, Old and New Testament, possibly a class activity; list verses found.

**Lesson 2 – Gabriel Announces John and Jesus; John is born**

Luke 1:5-80

# Food for Thought

Luke 1:41-45

# Keys to Understanding

Time period; rule of Herod

Still under Law of Moses

Providence of God

# Lesson

* John’s birth announced to Zacharias
* His turn to burn incense in the temple; many people present
* Gabriel appears to him about his wife Elizabeth having a son
* Zacharias’ disbelief and being struck dumb until the birth of John
* Elizabeth’s reaction to her pregnancy
* Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth
* Mary was betrothed to Joseph
* Gabriel tells her she will be the mother of the Messiah
* Mary questions Gabriel about it since she has not known a man
* Mary visits Elizabeth and her babe leaped in her womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit
* John is born
* Why Zacharias is able to speak after the birth of John
* The reaction of those around them
* Zacharias’ prophecy
* The early life of John; preparation for his role as a forerunner of Jesus

# Applications

What is the difference between Zacharias’ reaction to Gabriel and Mary’s reaction?

**Lesson 3 – The Birth of Jesus**

Matt.1:18-2:1; Luke 2:1-24

# Keys to Understanding

Marriage traditions at that time, Joseph and Mary were betrothed, not just engaged as today’s standards. They were considered married, but had not had relations yet. They were told not to until after Jesus was born.

Looking back at lesson 1, review the lineage of Christ and how Joseph and Mary are in David’s line.

The providence of God using the Roman Empire and the census, and the birth in Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy.

# Lesson points

* The decree from Augustus Caesar to go to hometown for the census
* Joseph and Mary of the line of David
* Joseph wants to put Mary away privately
* Angel tells Joseph to go ahead and marry her
* The place where Jesus was born and why

# Application

* Joseph did not want to make a public spectacle of Mary being pregnant. People can be kindly with one another when dealing with sin by pointing it out using scripture and not be the condemning; God is the judge.
* Joseph listened to the angel, and showed faith by doing as directed. We may not understand why God wants us to do certain things, but He has His reasons.
* The Lord was born in a lowly way; parents were of ordinary background, but righteous.
* God uses all sorts of ways to fulfill His will.

**Lesson 4 – Reactions to the Birth of Jesus**

Luke 2:25-38; Matt.2:1-23

## Memory Verse

## Keys to Understanding

Time of year was probably spring, not winter

Shepherds would not have been out at night with the sheep in the winter

Jesus’ whole life was fulfillment of OT prophecies

## Lesson notes

* The shepherds were told how to find Jesus, Luke 2:8-20
* Mary and Joseph lived under Old Testament law and were obedient to it. They circumcised Jesus at the proper time and followed purification and sacrifice laws. Luke 2: 21-24
* The Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25-35
* Anna, a prophetess, bore witness to the Christ. Luke 2:36-38
* Joseph and Mary marveled at the encounters with Simeon and Anna.
* The wise men from the east saw a star and followed it. Matt. 2:1-12
* Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes to find where Jesus was born; they knew the prophecy concerning His birth. They were very troubled about this. Matt 2:5
* The wise men gave gifts to Jesus to honor Him. They were warned to go back another way. Matt. 2:12
* Joseph was told by an angel to flee to Egypt until word came telling him it was safe to go home. Matt. 2:13
* Time to go home. Matt. 2:19-23

## Applications

* God’s will is accomplished, no matter what men try to do.
* Prophecies from prophets who wrote much and little speak. Isaiah and Jeremiah wrote long books and Hosea and Obadiah wrote small books. They have equal importance in God’s eye. We must not dismiss a “minor” prophet’s words just because they are few.

## Discussion and Thought

Do you think God spoke to people between the testaments, even though we have a break in scripture? Support your answer.

The prophecies concerning from where Jesus would come seem to contradict each other unless the whole picture is seen. It was said the He would come from Bethlehem, “out of Egypt”, and be called a Nazarene. Look for the scriptures and discuss the way it could all be true. Matt. 2:23; Micah 5;2; Hosea 11:1

## Additional

Mark on your classroom map where Joseph and Mary traveled before and after Jesus was born.

**Lesson 5 – Jesus’ Childhood**

# Matt. 2:23; Luke 2:40-52

## Memory Verse

## Keys to Understanding

Passover celebrated in Jerusalem

Mary and Joseph had more children after Jesus

Mary kept many things in her heart

## Lesson Notes

* They went to Jerusalem for the Passover in a large group
* Time to go home, but Jesus stayed behind
* Joseph and Mary thought He was with them
* Going home, they traveled a day before they missed Jesus
* They returned and searched Jerusalem 3 days, a total of 5 days apart
* Finally found Him in the Temple
* Jesus was both listening and asking questions
* The teachers were astonished at His understanding and His answers
* Mary’s reaction was that of a normal mother v. 48
* Jesus answered her in a spiritual way, but His parents did not understand
* Jesus was still subject to His parents v. 51

## Application

* Think how you would feel as the parent of a child missing for 5 days?
* What kind of tone of voice do you think Jesus spoke with when replying to His mother?
* Why do suppose Joseph and Mary did not understand Jesus’ reply?
* Despite the fact that Jesus was deity, He was still subject to His earthly parents
* No matter how smart you think you are, your parents still deserve your respect and obedience.

## Challenge

What other times did Mary keep things in her heart concerning Jesus? What does that say about her?

What do v. 40 and 52 have in common?

**Lesson 6 – John and Jesus Begin Their Work**

**Jesus is Baptized**

Matt. 3:1-17; Mk. 1:2-11; Lk. 3:1-22,23; Jn 1:6-37; Malachi 3:1; Isa. 40:3-5

## Memory Verse

## Keys to understanding

John’s role was prophesied to be a forerunner of Jesus. They were also related through their mothers; look at lesson 1.

John’s message did not sit well with everyone

## Lesson Notes

* John preached repentance; prepared people for Jesus’ message of salvation
* John preached about attitudes as well as repentance, show by actions, the fruits of repentance-Luke 3:11-14
* John is questioned by priests and Levites regarding his identity, and why he is baptizing people
* Herod does not like John’s condemnation of his marital situation
* John preaches and baptizes throughout Judea and beyond the Jordan
* Jesus comes to John while he is baptizing in the Jordan and asks him to baptize Him. Jesus tells John He needs to fulfill all righteousness, and so John baptizes Him
* God responds to this by speaking and a dove-like Holy Spirit descends to show approval
* John felt completely unworthy to remove Jesus’ sandals let alone baptize Him
* Jesus goes and starts preaching “repentance for the kingdom of God is at hand”.

## Application

1. Discuss the importance of Jesus’ baptism and God’s response.
2. How can we respond like John to Jesus’ request of John to baptize him?
3. Why mention those in Luke 3:1,2? Why would God want us to know this?
4. John’s preaching was difficult for some people to accept, but he did it anyway. What does that mean to us?

**Lesson 7 – Jesus Is Tempted**

Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13

## Memory Verse

## Keys to Understanding

The temptations were immediately after Jesus’ baptism

Fasting is little or no food for a period of time. Ex: we break our night fast in the morning-breakfast. Fasting was commonly known, usually with prayer.

## Lesson Notes

* After Jesus was baptized, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
* He ate nothing (or little) for 40 days, He had to have water, or He would have died
* He was to be tempted by the devil, Mark 1:12,13 says He was with wild beasts, also
* The temptations mentioned specifically were:

**Satan**  Command this stone to become bread

**Jesus** Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, Deut. 8:3

**Satan** Throw yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple and the angels will catch you. Ps 91:12

**Jesus** You shall not tempt the Lord your God. Deut. 6:16

**Satan** Bow down before me and worship me and I will give you all the worlds kingdoms to rule

**Jesus** Get behind me, Satan! You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only. Deut. 6:13

* Satan left Jesus and angels then ministered to Him.

## Applications

Satan knew the scripture and twisted them just enough to be true, but used in the wrong way. In what kind of situations do people do this today?

Jesus responded to Satan by using scripture from Deuteronomy. How can that example help us?

How can we prepare for temptation in the future?

## Challenge/ Thought

What were the differences among the three temptations we read about? Are there any differences? Discuss.

**Lesson 8 – First Miracle, Temple Cleansing, Nicodemus**

John 2:1-3:21

# **Memory Verse**

John 3:16-18

# **Keys to Understanding**

First miracle

First cleansing of the temple

Nicodemus visits Jesus

# **Lesson Notes**

Mary, Jesus, His brothers, and His disciples are invited to a wedding feast in Cana.

The wine runs out and Mary volunteers Jesus to do something about it.

Jesus doesn’t really want to because “My hour has not come”, but He does it anyway for His mother’s sake.

Jesus turns the water into a very good wine, and all are impressed.

The whole group travels to Capernaum and stays a few days, then goes on to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Jesus enters the Temple and sees the animals and moneychangers there; He becomes angry.

He overturns the moneychangers’ tables and drives out the animals for sale for sacrifice.

Some Jews asked Him “ what sign do you show us, since you do these things?”. John 2:18

Jesus answers in v. 19 something they don’t understand.

The disciples remember what He says after His death in three years.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, comes to Jesus and admits Jesus is from God

Jesus tells him he must be born again and Nicodemus does not understand

Jesus explains what is means. John 3:5-21

**Application**

Even though it wasn’t time for Jesus to start showing His power and authority, He did as His mother wished by turning the water into wine. Was it proper for Mary to ask this of Him? Jesus still respected and honored His mother.

Jesus spent time with Nicodemus to explain what it meant to be born again. He was patient with him and knew it was hard to understand. Nicodemus must have had the right kind of heart that wanted to understand. Notice Jesus’ patience. We should not feel “superior” to those who believe differently, ask “stupid” questions, or just don’t have the knowledge we take for granted.

# **Challenge**

It is easy to feel proud or smarter than someone who hasn’t been taught from the Bible. How would you feel if you are with friends who are playing a game you don’t know, and aren’t patient with you? They may not explain the rules well and expect you to “get it” right away. When you don’t understand right away, do you feel stupid?

What objections did Jesus have with those He threw out of the Temple? Was it unusual for people to sell things for Passover and change money? Look at Matthew 21:12-14; Luke 19:45-48; Mark 11:15-16.

What are the main points of what Jesus tells Nicodemus? Choose three and discuss.

**Lesson 9 – Jesus in Judea and Samaria**

Mat. 14:1-5; Luke 3:19-20; John 3:22-4:42

# Memory Verse

# Keys to Understanding

Where did the problems between the Jews and the Samaritans start?

It goes back to the time of the final group going into captivity. Those who were the poorest of the poor were left to fend for themselves, while everyone who had status or could be of some use were carried off to Babylon.

# Lesson Notes

John is imprisoned by Herod. Matt. 14:1-5; Lk. 3:19-20

Before John is put in prison, there are questions about Jesus; preaching and baptisms.

John explains his role, Jn 3:23-36, and likens Jesus to a bridegroom.

Jesus left Judea for Galilee and went through Samaria and stopped at Sychar for rest and food.

The disciples went to find food and left Jesus sitting by Jacob’s well.

Jesus asked a Samaritan woman to draw Him a drink of water, and she is surprised He asked her.

She asks why He asks her and He begins to teach her about “living water”.

She doesn’t understand.

Jesus tells her to go and bring back her husband and she replies that she has none.

Jesus tells her about her being married 5 times and the one she lives with is not her husband.

She says, “Sir, I perceive you are a prophet”, and she went and brought all who come to see and hear Jesus.

Many believed that day.

# Application

Jesus used all opportunities to teach.

He had no prejudices about to whom He spoke.

# Challenge/Thought

Jesus did not withhold the gospel because Jews just didn’t get involved with Samaritans. Do we get out of our comfort zone to speak to others? Do we make judgments about others when we don’t know their hearts?

**Lesson 10 – Galilean Ministry**

Mt.4: 12-17; Mk. 1: 14-15; Lk. 4:14-36; Jn. 4:43-54

## Memory Work

## Keys to Understanding

John tells of his decrease and Jesus’ increase, so, as John is put in prison, Jesus works more earnestly and teaches more strongly about the kingdom of heaven.

John preached about repentance, and Jesus preached about repentance, but the difference is the signs and wonders to confirm Jesus as the Son of God.

## Lesson Notes

* John is put in prison.
* Jesus goes to Galilee and teaches in synagogues in His hometown.
* Jesus’ message was “repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”.
* He stood up and read from Isa. 61:1,2.
* Because of what He said in Nazareth, the people rejected Him (Luke 4:22-24), and tried to throw Him over a cliff, but He disguised Himself and left.
* He goes to Capernaum to teach in the synagogues, which fulfills the prophecy in Isa. 9:12.
* Jesus heals a man with a demon. The demon knew Jesus was the Holy One of God. v. 34.
* His second sign was healing the son of a man who lived far away. Jesus spoke and the son was healed. The man discovered his son was healed the very hour Jesus spoke it.

## Applications

* Why would Jesus be rejected by His own hometown? Do we need people from other places tell us the same things as the people closest to us? Why do you think it makes a bigger impression on us when we seem to respond better to teachings from others outside our normal group of people?
* Trust Jesus’ word, even though there is distance between the Him and us time and/or geographically.

## Additional Aids

Use the classroom map to show Jesus’ travels for this time period.

**Lesson 11 – Jesus Calls, Preaches, Heals**

Matt. 4:18-25, Mk. 1:16-39: Lk. 4:31-5:11

## Memory Work

## Keys to Understanding

There were many demon-possessed people at that time. Why? Don’t know.

People were looking for the Messiah.

## Lesson Notes

* Lk. 4:31-37 Jesus is in Capernaum and calls out a demon from a man.
* The demon talks to Jesus and apparently there are more than one in the man. The demon says who Jesus is, but Jesus tells them to be quiet and come out of the man. Many marvel and are astonished.
* Jesus heals many of many sicknesses.
* Jesus calls Andrew, Peter, James, and John who are partners in fishing.
* Jesus used Peter’s boat to preach to a crowd on the shore of Lake Gennesaret. When He is finished speaking, Jesus tells Peter to go further out and cast their nets. Peter says they fished all night and caught nothing, but does as Jesus says. Their nets are bursting with fish and James and John help to pull in the nets. Both boats nearly sink with all the fish.
* Peter falls at Jesus’ knees and says, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man.”
* All of them were astonished and amazed.
* Jesus tells them they will be fishers of men.
* The four left everything and followed Jesus.
* All accounts in the Gospels say they stopped what they were doing and left immediately to follow Jesus
* Matt. 4:23 Jesus taught, preached and healed.
* Word spread and people came to be healed from diseases, torments, demon-possessions, epileptics, and paralytics. They came from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.
* While in Galilee, Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law from a fever. She immediately rises and begins serving them.

## Applications

1. Jesus repeatedly heals many, many people. Why?
2. How easy do you suppose it was for the four fishermen to forsake their livelihood, and follow Jesus? Do we have to leave something like a job in order to follow Jesus? How about something like an athletic activity or a band concert for school?
3. Do you think the four heard about Jesus before He called them? How?
4. What kind of knowledge do you think they had about God, or how strong their faith was? Look at how promptly they left everything to follow Jesus.
5. How could all this apply to each one of us?

**Additional Aids**

Find the places where Jesus was on your classroom map.

**Lesson 12 – More Healing, Matthew is Called**

Matt. 8:2-10; 9:2-13; Mark 10-2:17; Luke 5:12-32

**Memory Work**

# **Keys to Understanding**

* The Law of Moses required someone who was healed of leprosy, to show himself to the priest and make an offering.
* The centurion had people over him and under him in the Roman army; he understood authority.
* Tax collectors could be very corrupt, because they could charge more than what was needed to give Rome, and keep some for themselves for a reasonable living. Rome did not really care how much over the required tax, just so they got their amount.

**Lesson Notes**

* The three accounts include the same stories of the leper, the centurion, the paralytic, and the calling of Matthew, or Levi.
* Jesus was in a synagogue teaching and when he had finished, a leper came to Him to be healed. He said, “ Lord if you are willing” please heal me.
* Jesus healed him, told him to show himself to the priests and make an offering according to the Law of Moses.
* Jesus also instructed the man not to say anything to anyone about it.
* A centurion asks Jesus to heal his servant who was not with him. He understood authority, and how Jesus could just say it, and it would happen. Jesus did not have to go to the servant, even though He was willing to do so.
* Jesus said of the centurion,” I have not found such a great faith, not even in Israel.”
* The servant was healed at that very hour.
* Jesus had so many people wanting to be healed and hear Him that men bringing a paralytic man could even come close to Jesus. He was in a house healing and teaching, so the friends of the man pulled apart the roof so the paralytic man could be lowered to where Jesus was.
* Jesus said to the paralytic, ”Son, your sins are forgiven.” There was discussion about forgiving of sins by some Pharisees. Of course Jesus heard and knew what they said. He said, “What is easier, to say your sins are forgiven, or take up your bed and walk?”
* Jesus told the man to take up his bed and go to your house.” The paralytic did.
* The people were amazed when they saw this. They glorified God and were filled with fear.
* Jesus saw Levi in a tax collector’s office and said “ Follow Me”, and he did.
* Levi gave a great feast in honor of Jesus. The scribes and Pharisees complained against Jesus because He associated Himself with “tax collectors and sinners.”
* Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

# **Applications**

1. Jesus could see the good in people no matter their station in life. How can we be like Him in that way?
2. Why did Jesus say the centurion had the greatest faith?
3. Why do you suppose so many people followed Jesus from place to place, was it for spiritual or physical reasons? Today, many different churches offer programs for people in the community. Why do many people respond to those programs?
4. How can we serve people who need help outside God’s church, and who should be given the glory?

**Lesson 13 – Conflicts Over the Sabbath/Jesus’ Authority**

John 5

## Memory Work

## Keys to Understanding

Jesus went to Jerusalem for a particular feast day from Deut. 16:16,17.

The feast was observed three times each year for males only.

“They shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses; at the Feast of unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able…”

## Lesson Notes

* Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast day.
* He went to a pool known for having an angel stir up the water for a miraculous healing. Whoever got into the water first was healed of whatever the problem was. A certain man with an infirmity of 38 years had no one to help him into the water.
* Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed, knowing he had been in that condition for a long time.
* The man said there was no one to help him get into the water. Jesus told him to rise, take up his bed, and walk.
* The man did so, but did not know who had healed him until they both were at the Temple. The Jews accused the man of working on the Sabbath because he carried his bed.
* The man identified Jesus as the one who healed him and the Jews persecuted Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath, as well as saying He was the Son of God.
* Jesus said He could do nothing but what the Father allowed Him to do.
* He imitated the Father and the Father taught Him. V.19-20
* If they honor the Father, they should honor the Son. V. 23
* Jesus only seeks the will of the Father. V.30

There are four witnesses of Christ to prove His divinity:

1. John, the Baptist. V. 33,34
2. God the Father v. 37
3. Scripture v. 39
4. Moses v. 45-47

## Applications

1. Look at how Jesus spoke to the man by the pool. How did He interact with the man? How can you be like Jesus in this situation?
2. Think how Jesus explained His role on earth. Divide the verses into categories that make sense to you.

## Additional Aids

Have students put on separate pieces of paper the different ways they divided up the verses and compare.

**Lesson 14 – Twelve Disciples/More Sabbath Disputes**

Matt. 10:1-25; 12:1-21; Mark 2:23-3:19; Luke 6:1-16

## Memory Work

## Keys to Understanding

Although the twelve were called at various times, they are listed together in Matt. 10:1-25. There are two sets of brothers, Andrew and Peter, and James and John.

## Lesson Notes

* Jesus called each one of them to follow Him. He gave them power to cast out unclean spirits and to heal.
* The 12 are:

|  |
| --- |
| Simon Peter Andrew  James John  Philip Bartholomew  Thomas Matthew  James, son of Alphaeus Thaddaeus  Simon, the Canaanite Judas Iscariot |

* Jesus gives them specific instructions before He sends them out to preach.

V.5, 6. Where to go and not to go

V.7. Where to preach

V.8. What else to do

V. 9, 10. How to travel

V.11-14. Additional instructions

V.16-23. Be wise, but harmless

V. 24,25. A servant is not above his Master

* Jesus again is accused of defiling the Sabbath because He and His disciples eat grain from a field as they walk by it.
* Jesus heals a man with a withered hand. The Pharisees want to trap Him to destroy Him.

## Applications

There are two sets of brothers that Jesus calls to follow Him, what does this say about their upbringing? Remember they were in business together with Zebedee. What kind of education do you suppose they had? What does that mean to us? Do we have to have a formal education in the scriptures to be good disciples of Christ?

## Additional Aids

Assign each student one or two disciples and have them research where in the scripture each was called and what kind of job did they have. Make a poster with each student’s findings and put on the wall.

**Lesson 15 – The Sermon on the Mount – Part I**

Matt. 5; Luke 6:17-36

# **Memory Work**

# **Keys to Understanding**

Definition of beatitude is supreme blessedness; exalted happiness. (dictionary.com) The origin is from 1375-1425, which is probably through the Roman Catholic church. Some synonyms are bliss, ecstasy, happiness, and serenity.

These are the most fundamental teachings of the kingdom of God and how His subjects should think and act.

# **Lesson Notes**

* Compare the Luke passage with Matt. 5:3-12. These are what are usually known as the beatitudes. These are fairly simple ideas on the surface, but the true meanings are more complex. Discuss with the class why it is so. Some ideas are simple to understand, but difficult to put into action.
* Matt. 5:13-16 discusses how we are seen by the world, and how we give glory to God.
* V. 17-20 discusses how Christ fulfills the Law.
* V. 21-30 discusses how what is in our heart is what matters, and will be how we are judged.
* V. 31,32 discusses divorce.
* V. 33-37 discusses oaths; let your ”yes” be “yes”, and your “no” be “no”.
* V. 38-42 discusses going the second mile, or let people take advantage of you; give more of yourself than required.
* V. 43-48. Love your enemies; pray for them in order to be perfect in the sight of God.

# **Applications**

* Just discussing what Jesus taught makes it easy to apply His teachings.
* Can you find a progression of thought throughout the chapter?
* What is the whole point of the chapter in a few words?

# **Additional Aids**

You may wish to assign parts of the chapter to each student and have them report on what they see and discuss in class. Give them just a few minutes to talk so there can be time for some guided discussion among students.

**Lesson 16 – The Sermon on the Mount – Part II**

Matt. 6

# **Memory Work**

# **Keys to Understanding**

The underlying theme is what God sees us do in prayer, giving, and other aspects of our lives. Psalm 139 is a good background to understanding how God knows us, and enforces what Jesus is teaching here. Also, read Eccl. 12: 13,14, and Heb. 4:12,13.

# **Lesson Notes**

* V. 1-4. Our charitable deeds are to be done quietly. God sees what we do.
* V. 5-7. Jesus tells us how and where to pray, in secret.
* V. 8-15. Jesus gives an example of how to pray with additional discussion of forgiveness.
* V. 16-18. Fasting with a glad countenance, not mournful to be seen of men to show how godly someone is.
* V. 19-21. Wherever is your treasure stored, your heart will be.
* V. 22,23. Discussion of the lamp of the body-the eye, and how it affects the body.
* V. 24. Can only serve one master.
* V. 25-34. Do not worry about the temporal things, but God will provide the necessary things to survive on this earth. Seek His kingdom first.

# **Application and Thought**

* 1. If God knows what we need before we ask it, why do we need to pray at all?
  2. Discuss the model prayer. What kinds of things are included? Why do you suppose is it worded in that order?
  3. Can you see from all the readings how God knows us, when we sometimes don’t know ourselves? What does the Psalm have to do with Matthew 6? What about Ecclesiastes and Hebrews? How does it interrelate?

**Lesson 17 – The Sermon on the Mount – Part III**

Matthew 7

## Memory Work

## Keys to Understanding

* The first six verses of the chapter 7 are highly misquoted. It is talking about hypocrisy. We must judge situations everyday, which Jesus addresses in many ways. The last lesson had a portion of scripture about false prophets and their fruits. That is an example of using judgment to discern if someone is teaching the truth.
* Jesus spoke with authority because He is the author. The scribes copied and read the law, they had no authority. That is why people who heard Jesus were amazed.

Some translations use the word “strait” which means “a position of difficulty, distress, or need. It also means “narrow passage, affording little space” (Dictionary.com)

## Lesson Notes

* V. 1-6 is telling us not to be hypocritical. Others will judge us by how we judge them. For example, liars expect others to be liars, so they don’t trust as easily as someone who isn’t a liar. It is not telling us not to judge anything, or anyone.
* V. 7-12 discusses how we should not be shy about asking God for things we need, and how generous He is with giving us good things.
* V. 13,14 describes how difficult it is to find the narrow gate to life and how easy it is to get on the wrong path in life. Few will find the right path.
* V. 15-20 teaches about false prophets and how we can distinguish between the righteous and false prophets by their fruit.
* V. 21-23. Jesus says not everyone who thinks they are doing His will can enter the kingdom because of their lawlessness.
* V. 24-27. Be wise and use the knowledge of God to be pleasing to Him and be able to withstand the storms of life.
* V.28,29. Here Jesus ends His speaking and has astonished His listeners with the way He speaks with authority, and not as the scribes.

## Application and Thought

1. Verse 12 has been taught through the ages as the “Golden Rule”. Discuss.
2. Discuss the difference between the broad gate and the strait, or narrow gate.
3. What is the difference between the Jesus spoke and the way the scribes spoke?
4. How can we be like the people Jesus spoke about in verses 21-23? What can we do to be better and acceptable?

**Lesson 18 – Jesus Heals and Preaches in Galilee**

Matt. 11:2-30; Luke 7:11-35

# **Memory Work**

# **Keys to Understanding**

* Understand when the kingdom of heaven will come.
* Jesus lived His life under the Law of Moses.
* People will find fault in others for no real reason.

# **Lesson Notes**

* John’s disciples went to Jesus to ask if He is the coming One. Jesus tells them to tell John what they gave seen and heard, the preaching and signs He performed.
* As John’s disciples departed, Jesus told the multitudes of people about John.
* John prepared the way for Jesus and His message.
* John is a prophet.
* There has not been anyone greater than John and he will not see the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 11:11
* The way John and Jesus were viewed in a negative way even though they were both preaching the same message in different ways. V.18, 19
* Jesus pronounces woes to different cities because they heard and did not repent. V. 20-24
* The Father/Son relationship and how it showed in Jesus’ teachings. V.25-27
* The life with Christ is easy compared to a life in sin. V. 28-30
* The only son of a widow is raised from the dead, and fear came upon the people and they glorified God. Luke 7:11-21
* Another discussion about John the Baptist and his role in Christianity. V.18-35

# **Applications**

1. How did John prepare the way for Jesus?
2. How was John accepted in general?
3. Was Jesus accepted any better or worse?

# **Challenge/ Thought**

We have several men this congregation supports that work in other countries. How should we treat them or view their work? How should we judge them? (Remember discussing false prophets)

There will be cultural differences between Christians that are not against God’s law. Are we guilty of thinking only in “American” terms for faithfulness and being scriptural in our worship and everyday lives?

**Lesson 19 – Jesus with Simon and other Pharisees**

Matt. 12:22-50; Luke 7:36-50

## Memory Work

## Keys to Understanding

The custom of the time was to have a servant wash the feet of guests when they arrived. Jesus did not have His feet washed by a servant, but a humble sinner.

## Lesson notes

* Discussion arises because Jesus was casting out demons; the multitudes asked if Jesus was the son of David. The Pharisees said Jesus did it by Beelzebub, or through evil easy. Jesus knew what they were saying and thinking, and says, “A house divided cannot stand against itself.” He further explains it and in Matt. 12:30 came to the conclusion that ” he who is not with Me is against Me.”
* Jesus next explains what blasphemy is in v. 31-32.
* A tree is known by its fruit, which is like the lesson on false prophets, “you shall know them by their fruits”. Everyone does things from what is in his or her heart, whether good treasure or evil treasure. V.35-37
* While Jesus was teaching, His mother and brothers come to speak to Him. He says that all who do the will of the Father are His brothers, sisters, and mothers.
* Jesus went to a Pharisee’s house to eat and a woman washed His feet with her tears, dried with her hair, were kissed, and anointed with fragrant oil.
* Simon thought to himself that if Jesus was a prophet, He would know what kind of woman she was- a sinner. Jesus told Simon a story about two people who owed a man money. He then asked Simon who loved the man more? Then He forgave the woman her sins because of her faith.

## Applications

* Since we read where Jesus answered people’s thoughts, does He know ours?
* How do our hearts and our deeds match up? Do our actions reflect our pure hearts, or do they reflect a not-so-pure heart?

## Challenge/thought

1. Define blasphemy from a dictionary and the Bible.
2. Define or explain the name “Beelzebub”.
3. Why do you suppose no servant washed Jesus’ feet?

**Lesson 20 – Parables (Agricultural Theme)**

Matt. 13:3-43; Mark 4:3-32; Luke 8:5-18

# **Memory Verse**

# **Keys to Understanding**

* Why did Jesus use these topics for His parables?
* What is a parable?
* Each of these parables starts with “The kingdom of heaven is like…”
* Read each account of the same parables for deeper understanding.

**Lesson Notes**

* The sower/soil parable is about how seed landing on different soils can grow well, poorly, or die after it has sprouted. Jesus explains to His disciples what it means spiritually.
* The disciples ask Jesus why He taught in parables. Jesus’ response tells of the prophecy in which He would do this. Ps. 78:2,3; Matt. 13:34,35; Mark 4:10-12.
* The next parable is about wheat and tares growing together, and how and when they will be separated. Then He explains the spiritual meaning to His disciples, as before.
* Jesus tells another parable in Mark 4:26-29 how seed grows; that the sower does not know how it does so, but it does grow.

# **Applications**

The seed is what?

The sower is whom?

What does this parable mean to you? How does it affect those you try to teach? Does it help you to understand that not all people will remain faithful to God, and why?

**Lesson 21 – Parables of the Kingdom/Three Miracles**

Matt. 8:23-34; 13:33-35; Mark 4:35-5:20; Luke 8:22-39

# **Memory Verse**

**Keys to Understanding**

* What is leaven?
* In the pearl of great price parable, note that in that day, pearls were not cultured like today; they were much more precious and costly back then.

**Lesson Notes**

The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven. How? Matt. 13:33; Luke 13:30,31.

The pearl merchant finds the best pearl he has ever seen and sells all to buy it. We know it as the ”pearl of great price”. Matt. 13:45,46.

Three Miracles

1. The disciples and Jesus are in a boat. Jesus goes to sleep and a storm breaks out. They cry out to Him to save them. He asks where their faith is. Matt. 8:23-27
2. They come upon a man living in the tombs who is possessed by many demons. They call themselves Legion. Mark 5:18-20. They ask not to be thrown into the abyss, but to be cast into the nearby herd of swine. They ran over a cliff into the sea. The people of Decapolis asked Jesus to leave the area, because they were afraid. The man who was possessed asked to go with Jesus and the disciples, but Jesus tells him to tell others what happened to him.
3. The ruler of a synagogue has a daughter who is very ill, possibly dead. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with Him to see the girl. He heals her and she gets up and walks. Jesus tells them to give her something to eat.

# **Applications**

* + We may not be with Jesus physically for Him to help us when we are in danger, but how can we depend on Him and ask for help today?
  + Please note that there were Jews who were believers that had positions in the community like the ruler of the synagogue. Not all were against Him.
  + How can we be leaven?

# **Additional Challenge**

Why were there herds of swine there since Jews were forbidden to eat pigs, which was an unclean animal? Look at map to see where Decapolis is.

**Lesson 22 – Individuals are Healed by the Savior**

Matt. 9:18-34; 13:54-58; Mark 5:21-6:6; Luke 8:4-56

# **Memory Work**

# **Keys to Understanding**

Look at how the prominent people of the religious viewed Jesus, since Jairus was a leader of the synagogue.

# **Lesson Notes**

* Read all accounts, but use Luke 8 46-50 for teaching about Jairus’s daughter and the woman with the issue of blood.
* Jairus was a leader of a synagogue, but had faith that Jesus could help his daughter, who was at the point of death.
* On the way to Jairus’ house, Jesus feels power go out of Him and discovers a woman who touched His garment in hopes of being healed. She tells her story and Jesus blesses her for her faith.
* When Jesus and the crowd reaches Jairus’ house, the little girl has died, but Jesus raised her from the dead. Some of the people said He couldn’t help her, but after shutting the crowds out of the house Jesus raises her from the dead.
* Jesus travels to His own country of Nazareth. People did not understand that someone from their own area, who was the son of a carpenter, was actually the Son of God. They did not take Him seriously, so He only healed a few people there. He said, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country.”

# **Applications**

1. What was Jairus’ attitude about Jesus, did he believe Jesus could help his daughter? What about when they found out she was dead?
2. On the way to Jairus’ house, did the woman want to trouble Jesus? Look at Luke 8:44,47.
3. What do you think about how Jesus was treated in Nazareth? Do you think Jesus expected to be treated that way?

# **Additional Aids**

Look at your classroom map to see where Jesus traveled.