

Morning Overview

Lesson: *The Golden Rule*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

In our lesson today, we pause on the story from Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to His Ascension in Matthew 28 and Acts 1. This Sunday will be our final lesson on Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount. This lesson is one many are familiar with; the Golden Rule, the Tree bearing fruit, and the wise and foolish man. Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount with the premise that Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill it. The Sermon is where Jesus reinterprets the Mosaic Law and Prophets in light of Himself. Jesus then ends His Sermon summarizing that the way in which we treat others is also a summation of the law (7:12; cf. Matthew 22:36-40). Jesus' conclusion ends with several warnings. For the sake of the listener, we focus on two. The first is how to tell if someone is a false prophet. The other warning is what happens if a person does not heed the commandments of Jesus. Both are applicable to the entirety of what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, and thus both relate the Golden Rule.

Scripture: Matthew 7:12-29

Story: Gospel Story Bible, Pages 190-191.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

Craft: Golden Rule Bookmark

Supplies: Bookmark front and back, ribbon, glue, hole punch, crayons/markers

- Instructions:**
1. Color front and back bookmark pieces.
 2. Flip back piece upside down and glue pieces together.
 3. Punch hole through top.
 4. Loop ribbon through hole for hanger.

Relay of the Day: See Page 4

Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Craft: Wise Man (Foolish Man if there is time)

Supplies: Gray cardstock, wise man figure, craft sticks, dot marker, glue

- Instructions:**
1. Glue wise man figure to gray cardstock.
 2. Glue craft sticks to form a house around him.
 3. Use dot marker to make "rocks".

If there is time make Foolish Man craft:

1. Glue foolish man figure to tan cardstock.
2. Glue craft sticks randomly to create fallen house.
3. Use dot marker to make "sand".

Relay of the Day: See Page 4

Story: *Treasure in Heaven*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, what kind of fruit comes from an apple tree? [Allow for answers] What about an orange tree? What kind of fruit comes from it? [Again, allow for answers] Would you ever get an apple from a thorn bush? What about a cactus, would you ever get an apple from it? [Allow for answers] Well in our story today Jesus tells us about this very thing. Let's hear about our story today...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus' continues to teach on the Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus brings His teachings to a close. He talks about how we are to treat others, and then two warnings.
- Jesus teaches that to keep the Old Testament teachings, there is a relational component: How we treat or care for other people.
- Jesus then gives two warnings: Watch out for false prophets and obeying Jesus' teachings.
- False prophets were people who acted like sheep, but were dangerous like wolves. The way to discern prophets were by their actions. Jesus gives an example of trees, fruit and thorn bushes to make his point.
- Jesus then gives His second warning. To obey His teaching would be a very wise thing; to not obey His teaching would be peril and destruction.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, what kind of fruit comes from an apple tree? [Allow for answers] What about an orange tree? What kind of fruit comes from it? [Again, allow for answers] Would you ever get an apple from a thorn bush? What about a cactus, would you ever get an apple from it? [Allow for answers] Well in our story today Jesus tells us about this very thing. Let's hear about our story today...

The Golden Rule

Jesus had been teaching the big crowd for some time and he was about to finish His teaching. He wanted to tell everyone a few more things. All of it was important, but there was one especially important rule He wanted all of his followers to obey.

"Do for other people the same things you want them to do for you. This is the meaning of the law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets." Jesus wanted His followers to treat others – that means everyone – just as they wanted to be treated. No one likes to be punched or kicked, so do not do it to other people. No one likes to be made fun of by other people, so do not do it to other people. No one likes to be left out of games or fun, so do not do it to other people. The commandment was not a new rule though; Jesus said it was what the whole Old Testament was about!

Good Tree, Bad Tree

Treating other people the way you want to be treated revealed something about a person's heart. If you treated someone very badly it probably meant there was something wrong deep in your heart. Your heart was not full of love, or maybe you had been hurt and wanted to hurt someone else. There were also people who were good at saying nice things about people, but really meant to hurt them. Jesus called these people false prophets. False prophets, Jesus said, act like gentle sheep, harmless and friendly. But Jesus went on to say, "false prophets are dangerous like wolves." Jesus warned the crowd to watch out for false teachers. They are unsafe.

How would someone know if a person was a false prophet or not? You can tell if a person is a false prophet by the things they do. The Bible tells us Jesus said, "Good things don't come from bad people, just as grapes don't come from thorn bushes. And figs don't come from thorny weeds." This is true. Nice, juicy fruit does not come from thorns or weeds. Jesus went on, "In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit. And bad trees produce bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit. And a bad tree cannot produce good fruit." Jesus would then say that any tree that does not produce good fruit gets cut down and thrown away. You will know a false prophet by what they produce.

Build Your House

Jesus wanted everyone not to just hear what He said, but to obey His commands. Jesus told a story to the crowd.

"Everyone who hears what I am saying and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit against the house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock." Then Jesus said, "But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash." The wise thing to do was to obey Jesus' word and to have a sure foundation in Him, just like the wise man who built his house on the rock.

When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching. Jesus did not teach like the teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the Golden Rule?
- What's a way you can treat someone the way you want to be treated?
- Who did Jesus say seem like sheep but are actually wolves?
- Does a good tree bear bad fruit?
- Does a bad tree bear good fruit?
- What did the wise man build his house on?
- What did the foolish man build his house on?
- Why should we obey Jesus' commands?
- Why were the people amazed by Jesus' teaching?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

Scripture Memory for April:

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

Catechism Questions (1-20)

Relay of the Day

This week for our relay of the day we are going to act out the old children's song, "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man" for this new generation! If you don't know the motions, catch someone over 50 in the hallway and ask (or Jeanie will come by and show you)!

The wise man built his house upon the Rock, (beat your fist like a hammer into the other hand)
The wise man built his house upon the Rock,
The wise man built his house upon the Rock,
And the rains came tumbling down. (make rain with your hands)
The rains came down and the floods came up, (Lower hands and then raise them)
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
But the house on the Rock stood firm. (fist into hand one emphatic time)

The foolish man built his house upon the sand, (move your hands like you are playing the piano)
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
And the rains came tumbling down. (make rain)
The rains came down and the floods came up, (hands down and then up)
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the sand fell flat. (make a big splat by clapping your hands and saying "BOOM")

So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, (fist into hand then sign for Jesus)
So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
And the blessings will come down. (make rain)
The blessings come down as your prayers go up, (lower hands then raise them)
The blessings come down as your prayers go up,
The blessings come down as your prayers go up,
So build your life on the Lord. (fist to hand then sign for Jesus)