

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GETTING RID OF JESUS

📖 Matthew 12:1-2,8; 13:10-13; 15:1-2,10-14 Obey God's law, not men's

🎯 Aim: To know why the religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus

Jesus continued to upset the religious leaders by bending and breaking the religious laws that they thought were important. He told stories that seemed like riddles to the Pharisees and he didn't appear to follow the Sabbath rules. In today's session we will discover more about how the religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus.

Each child will need:

- Four Parables handout (one parable per child)
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It Ideas handout

Start It

Ask:

- What is your favourite story?
- Why do you like it so much?

💬 Say: Watch the clip and see if you can guess the children's story from the emoji clues.

Video

Guess ... the Children's Book by Guess ... (3:00)

💬 Say: Jesus used stories to teach the people who came to listen to him.

Sing It

💬 Say: Our song for today is going to help us to memorise our verse for this month. Let's sing the song together and then share our memory verse.

'John 3:16 – Eternal Life' by Seeds Family Worship (3:02)

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

— (John 3:16 NIV)

Tell It

💬 Say: In our last session we discovered that not everyone was happy with what Jesus was doing. When Jesus forgave the sins of the paralysed man, the religious leaders questioned why he thought he could do that. After all, only God can forgive sins. They were also frustrated with Jesus because he didn't follow the rules in the same way they did.

Ask: Do you always wash your hands before you eat?

Say: In the time of Jesus, washing your hands before eating wasn't just important for hygiene reasons, it was also part of Jewish Law – and you had to do it a particular way. Our story for today starts with a grumpy group of religious leaders who were unhappy with the disciples' hand-washing habits.

Read:

'Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem. They asked him, "Why do your followers not obey the rules given to us by the great people who lived before us? Your followers don't wash their hands before they eat!"'

— (Matthew 15:1-2 *ICB*)

Say: The Pharisees were always trying to catch Jesus out, but each time they tried, he used it as an opportunity to teach the people that were listening. To do this, Jesus often used parables.

Ask: What is a parable?

Say: Let's watch the clip to find out more.

Video

What is a parable? Bible Answers for Kids by Maranatha Chapel Kids (0:46)

Say: The clip describes a parable as a simple story with an important message. Sometimes the important message can seem easy to find, and sometimes the message means different things to different people, and sometimes the message can develop the more you think about it.

Say: When the Pharisees, the scholars and community leaders questioned Jesus, he told them two simple stories with an important message. Here is the first one.

Read:

'Jesus called the crowd to him. He said, "Listen and understand what I am saying. It is not what a person puts into his mouth that makes him unclean. It is what comes out of his mouth that makes him unclean."'

— (Matthew 15:10-11 *ICB*)

Ask: What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the people through this parable?

Say: In the second parable, Jesus warned the people listening about the Pharisees.

Read:

'Stay away from the Pharisees. They are blind leaders. And if a blind man leads another blind man, then both men will fall into a ditch.'

— (Matthew 15:14 *ICB*)

Ask: What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the people through this parable?

Say: On a different occasion, the Pharisees tried to catch out Jesus and his disciples.

Read:

'About that same time, Jesus was walking through some fields of grain on a Sabbath day. His followers were with him, and they were hungry. So they began to pick the grain and eat it. The Pharisees saw this, and they said to Jesus, "Look! Your followers are doing something that is against the Jewish law to do on the Sabbath day."'

— (Matthew 12:1-2 *ICB*)

'[Jesus replied,] The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath day.'

— (Matthew 12:8 *ICB*)

Ask: Why were the Pharisees annoyed with Jesus and his disciples?

Say: Jesus continued to do things in a way that the Pharisees did not like. They believed he was going against God, when in fact he was the Son of God. Their anger at his actions increased the more Jesus broke their special rules.

Action It

Say: Jesus loved to tell the people parables to help them understand his teaching. His followers wanted to know why he did this.

Read:

'The followers came to Jesus and asked, "Why do you use stories to teach the people?"

'Jesus answered, "Only you can know the secret truths about the kingdom of heaven. Other people cannot know these secret truths. The person who has something will be given more. And he will have all he needs. But the person who does not have much, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I use stories to teach the people: they see, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really understand."'

— (Matthew 13:10-13 ICB)

Say: Today you will get the opportunity to discover more about the stories Jesus told and see if you can discover their simple truth.

Four parables

Explain to the children that they will each be focusing on one parable from Matthew 13. There is space to create a picture of the parable and a sentence to complete: 'I think the simple truth of this parable is ...'

You may need to support some children with the reading and understanding. Encourage the children to have their own thoughts about the parables – that there is no 'right or wrong' answer, but only what the parable has revealed to them.

When the children have completed their parable exploration, they can share their work with the rest of the group. This should give you an opportunity to explore the different messages Jesus communicated through the parables he taught.

Pray It

Say: In today's session the Pharisees were unhappy because Jesus wasn't following the ritual rules of the Sabbath, their holy day. These days we can forget that God gave the Sabbath, our Sunday, to rest after a busy week. For our prayer time today, we are going to take the opportunity to rest.

The length of this activity will depend on your group. Ask the children to find a space to lie down or relax. As they listen to the music, they can close their eyes and spend time with Jesus. When the group becomes restless you can fade the music and then bring the session to a close in prayer.

Listen

'God so Loved' – Hidden In My Heart Volume III by Scripture Lullabies (5:21)

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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FOR ME



Read

This week we discovered more about lots of different parables in Matthew 13. Read the whole chapter to explore the simple truths Jesus wanted to share with the people.

TOGETHER



Rest

How good are the people at home at taking a moment to rest?

Ask them to spare five minutes to take some moments to relax and listen to a Scripture Lullaby with you.

'God so Loved' – Hidden In My Heart Volume III by Scripture Lullabies



Song for the week

'John 3:16 – Eternal Life' by Seeds Family Worship



Memory verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

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KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

