

Jesus' extraordinary teaching

**Verse:**

Jesus teaches the people
Matthew 5:1-12,43-48; 7:24-29

**Aim:**

To discover how Jesus teaches



In today's session we will look at some of the ways Jesus taught the people and how he teaches us today.

Jesus taught people in lots of different ways. He used stories and sermons and showed them how they should live their lives through the way he lived his.

Each child will need:

- *Wise Man, Foolish Man* handout
- Pens/pencils
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- Flip chart / large sheet of paper (optional) – see Action It



Start it

Say:

Today we are going to learn about Jesus and the way that he taught people.

Discuss:

- Who is your favourite teacher?
- Why do you like them so much?
- How do they make learning fun and interesting?
- What kinds of things make learning difficult for you? How could your teacher help?

Say:

Jesus understood how people learn and would use lots of different methods to help them understand what he was saying. In today's session we will look at a few examples and discover why Jesus was such a great teacher.



Sing it

Say:

Jesus used a variety of ways to teach people. One day he gathered the disciples and a lot of other people together on a hillside. He taught them what it means to be happy or blessed. Many of the things he said went against the ways of the world. Jesus said that those who are humble will be happy and those who are treated badly for doing good will be happy. The people listening had never heard anything like this before.

Say:

Our song for today is based on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:1-12.

Song

'Beginner Motions' (The Beatitudes) by Saddleback Kids (2:34)



Tell it

Say:

We have just sung some of the words of Jesus that he taught to the people on the hillside. These words are part of the Sermon on the Mount. Toward the middle of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said this:

Read:

'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemies." But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven. Your Father causes the sun to rise on good people and on bad people. Your Father sends rain to those who do good and to those who do wrong. If you love only the people who love you, then you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, then you are no better than other people. Even people without God are nice to their friends. So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.'

(Matthew 5:43-48 ICB)

Discuss:

- The people had always been taught to love their neighbour and hate their enemy. What did Jesus teach and how was it different?
- What do you think the people thought when they heard this new message from Jesus?
- What do you find challenging about loving your enemies?

Say:

Jesus didn't just teach by sharing sermons and stories. He also showed the people how to live like him. Watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Sermon on the Mount by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:34)

Ask:

How did Jesus show his love for others through both his words and actions?

Say:

In the clip there are lots of examples of Jesus not just talking about showing love to others but following up his teaching with action. Our memory verse reminds us that we need to live our lives like Jesus. Let's share it together.

Memory verse:

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)



Action it

Say:

One of the ways Jesus taught the people was by using stories called parables. By creating a picture in their minds, Jesus was able to communicate what it looked like to follow him. He often used story settings that the people were familiar with, to help them understand what he was trying to say.

Give each child a copy of the 'Wise man, Foolish man' handout and read through the story together (shown below).

Read:

'Everyone who hears these things I say 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 that

house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. 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.

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

(Matthew 7:24-29 ICB)

Ask:

What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us in this story?

Planning

The aim of this activity is for the children to decide how they would tell this story to the children in their class at school. You may want to discuss a range of ideas with them and note them on a flip chart. They could create a song, comic strip, Lego animation, drama script etc. At this stage, the aim is to decide on a way to tell the story and plan how they could create it. The Wise Man, Foolish Man handout gives them the opportunity to carry on with this activity at home. Encourage them to be as creative as possible and think of ways to hold the interest of their classmates while communicating the important message of the story.

When they have had sufficient time to complete the activity, share the ideas as a group.



Pray it

Ask:

Think back to our session last week. What prayer did Jesus ask the disciples to make each time they entered someone’s home?

Say:

Jesus asked the disciples to say, ‘Peace be with you.’ Throughout all his teaching Jesus showed us how to feel peaceful inside. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us how to be at peace with ourselves and others.

To bring our session to a close we are going to have a time of peace and quiet to think about everything Jesus has taught us today.

Prayer

It is up to you how you would like to bring this session to a close. The link for the song ‘Deep Peace’ is provided below and you may want to give the children a quiet space to rest and pray.



Alternatively, you could use this song for a time of remembrance. You may want to give the children the opportunity to remember the sacrifice of others in bringing about peace to the world or discuss how Jesus encourages us to be peacemakers.

Listen

'Deep Peace' by Libera uploaded by Warner Classics (3:39)

When the song has finished, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

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



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Create

In this week's Explore It session you planned a creative way to tell the story of the wise man and the foolish man, found in Matthew 7:24-29. Now you can bring those plans to life. Using your ideas from the session, create your own version of this parable of Jesus.



Share

Now that you have created your own version of the parable of the wise man and the foolish man, it's time to share it with others. If there is an opportunity, you could ask your teacher if you could share your story with the rest of the class. If not, the people at home would love to hear it, or you could bring it to your next Explore It session to show the rest of the group. Maybe others at your church would like to see it as well.



Song for the week

'Beginner Motions' (The Beatitudes) by
Saddleback Kids



Memory verse

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(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

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

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children
& Youth