

Children's Worship Lesson – July 5, 2020

Focus Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Purpose: To discover what Jesus meant when he said, "Put on my yoke and learn from me."

Summer Sessions: June 7 to August 31



An Awesome Adventure: "SEEKERS AFTER JESUS"

Clue #1: Where We Find God

Clue#2: How Does God Work in Our World

Clue#3: Joining God in Creating Shalom

Clue#4: Give and You Will Receive

Clue #5: Take My Yoke Upon You

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

2 broom handles

4 bags

Pictures for story are at the end of the lesson

books

scrunched up paper

Lighting the Christ Candle: "We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us."

Prayer

Dear God,

we are your adventurers, seekers after Jesus,

looking for clues about you and your love.

Guide us in the adventure of following Jesus and sharing your love.

Amen.

Song: (Tune Baa Baa Black Sheep)

Jesus, Jesus we're tired can we rest

Yes, sure Yes, sure your load is heavy rest

If we work together, the load won't feel so big,

Give water to the thirsty, and love to those who are sick.

Yes, sure Yes, sure your load is heavy rest!

Introducing the Theme: Game – “What’s Missing”?

Ask a child to go into another room. Change something about one person (e.g. add a necklace or take shoes off, change places, etc.) Once they are finished, the child returns and tries to discover what is different. If there are more children, give everyone a chance to go out and then search for what is different.

Talk to the child(ren) about the game they’ve just played. What did it take to be a good detective? (watching carefully and listening for clues, patience, etc.) These are also the things that followers of Jesus try to be and do.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

Sometimes as followers of Jesus, we have to be like detectives. Some of the stories Jesus told were almost like puzzles or mysteries that had to be examined carefully, to be understood. We are going to read one of those stories now from the book of Matthew. Does anyone remember who Matthew was? (a tax collector who became one of Jesus’ disciples.) Listen carefully to what Jesus said:

“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest...

Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me...

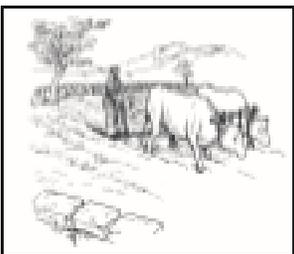
For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

I wonder what these words mean? **“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”** What do you think that might mean? It means that Jesus loves us and helps us to see what is really important. The disciples also learned from Jesus that when people love one another and work together, the work seems easier to do and doesn’t take so long.

Now this next part is even more of a mystery. What do you think these words mean? **“Take my yoke and put it on you and learn from me.**

For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.” Yoke –now that’s a funny word. Do you have any ideas what it is? (They will probably think of the yolk of an egg.) (Show the “Yoke” teaching picture.) Yokes were used to help the two oxen work together and to stay straight when they were digging up the fields. It helped the oxen keep on track. A young ox could learn about plowing quickly if it was yoked with an experienced ox.



Let's make some of our own yokes, so we can see what they are like. (Bring out the 2 yokes and have the child(ren) hold one of the yokes, then switch) Talk about how it felt to carry the different loads. Yokes were made of wood, by carpenters. Jesus' father was a carpenter and Jesus learned to be a carpenter too, and probably had made many yokes for the farmers in his town. Jesus used the image of the yoke to tell people something about what it meant to follow him. Jesus didn't ask his disciples to plough a field like the oxen. What was the job that Jesus had asked his disciples to do? (to teach and heal others, to offer a cup of cold water to thirsty people, to show love to everyone.) Jesus was saying that this would not be a hard, heavy job for his disciples, because Jesus would help us.



(Look at the picture "The Women Disciples.") How do you think these disciples are feeling? Do they look tired and weary from following Jesus? They can feel Jesus' love and are happy to be his followers and help others. At one time Mary Magdalene had been sick and very sad. Jesus healed Mary. She is very happy to be his disciple. So this is one more clue, one more thing that we have discovered about being disciples of Jesus.

Activity or Craft – "Find Your Way to Jesus"

Materials: pencils, pencil crayons, or crayons

Give each child a copy of the activity sheet. Use the pencil or crayon to find the way. Notice how the disciples feel when they find Jesus. Decorate the sheet with whatever you wish.

Closing Prayer

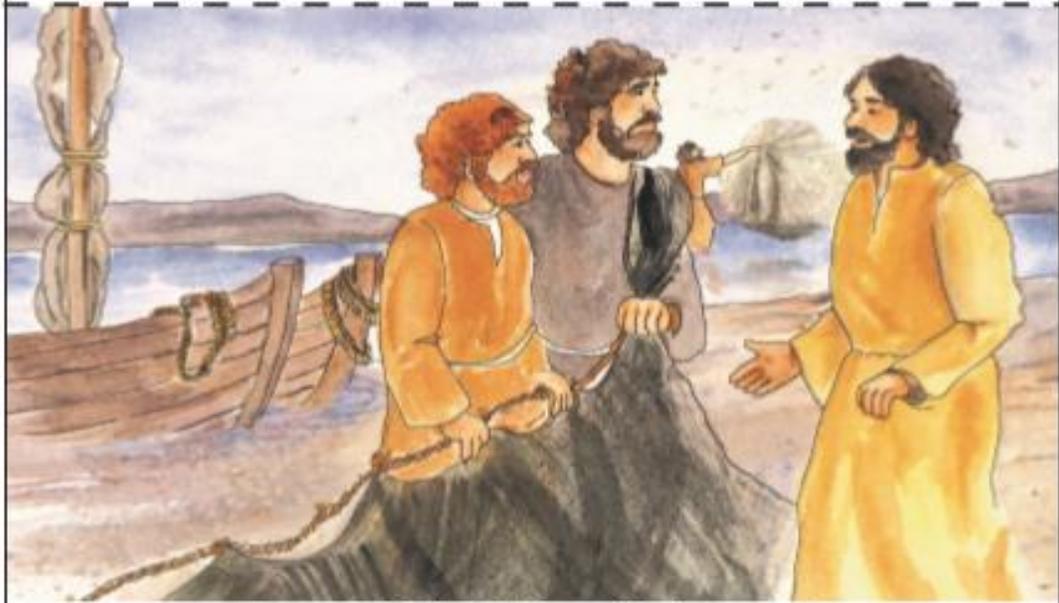
Thank you God for lips to praise you,
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!
Amen.

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Cut apart and mount separately



The Women Disciples (Luke 8:1-3)



Jesus Calls the Fishers (Mark 1:14-20)

The Yoke

