

Youth Worship Lesson – November 22, 2020

SERVING THE LEAST

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Purpose: To review the qualities of God’s community of shalom

Youth issue:
Faith in Action

Preparation

Worship Table –white cloth

Pictures for Bible story and activity materials at the end of the lesson.

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

Opening Prayer

O God, we come seeking your guidance and strength.

There are so many choices we must make each day.

It is not easy to live out our faith when so many around us don’t seem to care.

You have entrusted us with your vision. Give us the strength to be faithful to it.

Amen.

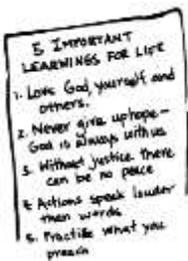
Song: Rise Up - Andra Day on YouTube

Introducing the Theme

Throughout the world and throughout time, there have been people who have gone to sit at the feet of a “wise one” to ask about the meaning of life and how they should live. The gurus of India, Hindu holy men, are sought out by some in this way.

Let’s imagine that we are a group of “wise ones” whom people are coming to consult about what is really important in life, about how they should be living their lives.

We must share with them the secret of living that we have learned from our experience – but we have to do it in only 5 sentences. What will we say? **(give a few moments for thought)** It may help to think about what we have been learning over the last five weeks. **(Record all of the ideas, then work cooperatively to decide which 5 sentences are the most important.)**



Exploring the Theme – “The Sheep and the Goats”

Many people came to Jesus, asking about the meaning of life. Just before he was arrested, he reminded his disciples of the key things to live by – how God wants us to live. Let’s read that passage together. Ask your children to read the parts of the king and the narrator. Be sure to follow carefully so that you know which is your part. Let’s turn to Matthew 25:31–46.

Let's put this passage into our own words. (Give time for this.)

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me." They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?" He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

What do you think is the most important line in the passage? Are any of these ideas similar to what we put into our five sentences? Who were "the least important ones" in Jesus' day? (**widows, orphans, children, lepers, Samaritans**) Who are the "least important ones" today? (**homeless people, refugees, people who rely on social assistance programs, minority racial groups**) How does this parable relate to the Great Commandment?



Hand out copies of the "Faith in Action" sheet and read it together. Discuss the questions about how we see ourselves, our church and our nation measuring up to the responsibility of caring for "the least." Take time to explore this carefully. Then discuss the three scenarios, including how they relate to today's passage.

Unit 2 Logo and Theme: This is the last week of the unit on Making A Difference. Let's look one last time at the logo. How does it relate to today's passage? (The hands are reaching out, working together and ready to help. The candle represents Jesus, who is alongside them, guiding and inspiring them)

Memory Verse: *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these; you did not do for me."* Matthew 25:46

Integrating the Theme - Chocolate Oatmeal Delights

Ingredients: 2 cups sugar
½ cup margarine
6 tbsp. cocoa
½ cup milk
½ tsp. vanilla
1 cup shredded coconut or ½ cup chopped nuts
3 cups oats

How to make: Combine in a saucepan and bring to a boil: 2 cups sugar ½ cup margarine, 6 tbsp. cocoa, ½ cup milk.

Add: ½ tsp. vanilla. Remove from heat and stir in 1 cup shredded coconut or ½ cup chopped nuts, 3 cups oats. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto wax paper; chill. (Makes 4 1/2 dozen)

Closing Prayer

We go forth into a world of apathy and half-heartedness.

Help us to change the world a little, for God's sake.

May God's spirit guide our days.

Amen.

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Faith In Action



An Adaptation of Matthew 25:42-45

I was hungry and you said I must be lazy.
I was hungry and you checked the moon.
I was hungry and you told me to wait.
I was hungry and you set up a commission.
I was hungry and you said, "So were my ancestors."
I was hungry and you said, "We don't hire over 35s."
I was hungry and you told me I shouldn't be.
I was hungry and you told me machines do that work now.
I was hungry and you had defence bills to pay.
I was hungry and you said the poor are always with us.
Lord when did we see You hungry?

And Matthew 25:34-36

I was a foreigner and they made me feel at home.
I was nerve-shattered and they gave me rest at the farm.
I was evicted and they found me a place to live.
I was afraid and they taught me to pray.
I was lonely and they invited me to their own homes.
I was out of jail, and they stood by me till I could live as a free person again.
I felt useless and they let me help.
I was shut-in and they came to visit regularly.
I was ashamed and they showed me how to accept forgiveness and a new start.
I was bereaved and they brought me hope that death is not the end.

And Jesus said, "Come, you blessed ones, inherit the Realm prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

If this is what it means to be a Christian

...to put faith into action.

...to belong to God's realm of shalom...

- How do you see your self measuring up?
- How do you see your church measuring up?
- How do you see our nation measuring up?

How would your faith affect your actions?

1. There is a new student in your class. She lives on the same street and attends the same church as you. You have made plans to spend Friday evening together at her house. Her family is a church-sponsored refugee family and they are still nervous about their daughter being out at night. Later, your friends say they are planning a campfire party that night. What will you do?
2. You are on the Board of Directors for a small manufacturing company. Recently, your company hired a group of students who were willing to work for minimum wage so that they could gain work experience. The students worked hard and suggested some good ideas about how things could be done more efficiently. Your company's business is booming, in part due to the students' suggestions. For the company to be the most successful and profitable in the field, you will need to modernize the system with robotics. The robotics would do the jobs of the students, who would have to be laid off. What will you do?
3. You are 16 years old. Your father left the family many years ago. Your mother has a low-paying job and struggles each month to cover the bills. You would like to get a part-time job to help your family and have submitted many applications. But there is a lot of competition for only a few jobs, and you haven't even gotten an interview yet. A local restaurant is hiring dishwashers, and you have been invited to an interview at 3:30 p.m. today. On the way to the restaurant, you run into your little sister. She is crying because she has lost her cat. If you help her look, you will miss your job interview. What will you do?



Unit 2

Making a Difference

October 18 to November 22, 2020