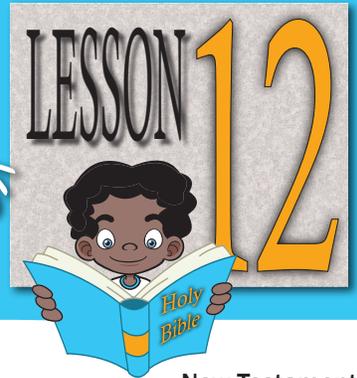


Be Careful about Being Judgmental, Critical, and Prejudiced

Matthew 7:1-6



New Testament 1
Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 6:37-45; John 7:24; Romans 2:1-6; 14:10,12; James 2

MEMORY WORK:

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site

- [“Matthew 7:1”](#)
- [“Matthew 7:12”](#)
- [“Jesus Loves the Little Children”](#)
- [“Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes, What You See”](#)
- [“Choices”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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- Plastic frogs of different sizes and colors, or pictures of different frogs
- Pictures of children or people from different countries
- Picture of what John the Baptizer might have looked like
- Pictures of things in nature that are different, yet the same (black horse/white horse; tall tree/short tree; furry cat/not-so-furry cat; birds that sing/birds that don't sing;



flowers that smell lovely/flowers that don't smell at all; etc.). Make a flipchart called "All Are Beautiful" to show that all these were created by God and all are beautiful to Him.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to treat others in the same way I want others to treat me.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review previous Sermon on the Mount lessons. Lots of people want to like or dislike someone because of what they look like or something they do that's different from them, or because they don't share. Jesus taught us how to treat other people the way we want to be treated.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review previous Sermon on the Mount lessons. A lot of the humor that we see in the movies and on TV revolves around making fun of someone or treating them badly. This is not what Jesus taught us about how to treat others.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus used parts of the Sermon on the Mount to teach the multitudes how they should treat other people. Matthew 7 begins with His strong words against being critical of others (saying negative things about them) when we are guilty of the same or far worse things. Jesus knew that many of the Pharisees spent their time watching other people just to find something to criticize, while hoping to make themselves look better (more righteous, more religious).
2. We should never be critical or make fun of others just because they are "different" (handicapped, from a different country, have different skin color, go to a different school, etc.). (Show picture of John the Baptizer.) Remember that John the Baptizer seemed strange to a lot of people because of what he wore and where he lived. Jesus Himself was not like "everyone else" either. If John or Jesus came to your school or your neighborhood, would it be right to say things about them just because they look or act differently?
3. Look at these little frogs (use different colored plastic frogs or pictures of different frogs). Each one is a different color, lives in a different place, eats different foods, and makes different sounds. Which one does God love the most? He loves them all the same because He made each one. People are different as well. (Show pictures of children/people.) We look different, live in different places, eat different foods, wear different clothes, and speak different languages. Which one of us does God love the most? God loves us all the same!
4. If a new student comes to your school, do you decide if he or she is the "right kind" of person because of how he or she looks or talks? If two new people come to a party and one is dressed better than the other, are you friendlier and kinder to him? If you have a party, do you invite just the people that look like you, or do you include those who are different (e.g., disabled or a different skin color), too? God loves everyone (John 3:16), and He doesn't "play favorites" (show partiality), because He loves us all the same!

5. In Matthew 7:12, Jesus said we must not play favorites either. We must treat everyone like we want to be treated ourselves. Many people call this verse “The Golden Rule” because it is very valuable and very important in helping us to live like Jesus. It is important to remember this verse because we are to treat others like we want to be treated seven days a week, 12 months a year. [“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18).]
6. If we judge others harshly, we also will be judged in the same way. Remember the Old Testament story of Esther? In the beginning of the book, arrogant Haman was very hateful toward Mordecai, Esther’s uncle, simply because Mordecai was different: he was a Jew. Haman built a gallows to hang Mordecai and kill all the Jews in the kingdom, but Haman didn’t know that Queen Esther was also a Jew. She pleaded with the king for her people, including her uncle. Haman was hanged on the gallows instead. He was judged according to how he had judged others.
7. Haman was prejudiced. Prejudice leads to feeling superior, then to contempt, and even to hatred. Prejudice makes light of Jesus’ sacrifice because He died for all men. We cannot be pleasing to God and be prejudiced towards others.



NOTE: Points six and seven may want to be left for Wednesday night. If taught on Wednesday night, go into more detail of Esther and Haman, possibly having students read different passages in class.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[5 Reasons Racism is Ridiculous](#)” and “[To Judge, or Not to Judge?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for relevant articles to this lesson.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Golden Rule Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Using stick puppets or hand puppets, act out “The Story of the Elephant.” Then let the children tell the story.
- Help the children make a magnetic “Golden Rule” card to take home. Have the memory verse and the words, “The Golden Rule” printed (or let them copy it if they’re able) on a piece of construction paper that looks like a ruler. Use magnetic strips from a craft store to attach magnets to the back.
- Talk about ways the children can be nice to someone.
- Game: Smile if it’s nice; frown if it isn’t nice. Use these and other situations: “Saying please.” “Pushing a friend.” “Sharing a toy.” “Taking something that isn’t yours.” “Saying thank you.” “Playing well with others.” “Making fun of someone.” “Using kind words.” “Holding the door open for someone.” “Giving a hug to someone you know.”

1st-2nd Graders:

- Play Tic Tac Toe or Hang-Man with facts from this and previous lessons (see [N.T. 1 Review](#))

[Questions](#) for example questions)

- Write the words of the memory verse on the board. Erase one or two words at a time, while kids have their heads down. Ask them to raise their heads and fill in the blanks. Repeat until they can say the entire verse.
- Help the children make a magnetic “Golden Rule” card to take home. Have the memory verse and the words, “The Golden Rule” printed (or let them copy it if they’re able) on a piece of construction paper that looks like a ruler. Use magnetic strips from a craft store to attach magnets to the back.
- Make different scenarios to give to the students for them to practice how they would use the Golden Rule. These can be said out loud, or write them on strips of paper and let the students draw/pick their card from a basket, bucket, etc.
- Play “Mother May I” using different situations. Give the children a situation. If it’s a good way to treat others, they take a step forward. If it’s not a good way to treat others, they don’t move. Use these and other situations: “Saying please.” “Pushing a friend.” “Sharing a toy.” “Taking something that isn’t yours.” “Saying thank you.” “Playing well with others.” “Making fun of someone.” “Using kind words.” “Holding the door open for someone.” “Giving a hug to someone you know.”
- “[The Golden Rule](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read *The Berenstain Bears and the Golden Rule*, by Mike Berenstain

3rd-4th Graders:

- Have the children read Matthew 7.
- Give the children concordances (preferably children’s concordances), and ask them to look for scriptures about judging.
- Play Tic Tac Toe or Hang-Man with facts from this and previous lessons (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
- Write the words of the memory verse on the board. Erase one or two words at a time, while kids have their heads down. Ask them to raise their heads and fill in the blanks. Repeat until they can say the entire verse.
- Make different scenarios to give to the students for them to practice how they would use the Golden Rule. These can be said out loud, or write them on strips of paper and let the students draw/pick their card from a basket, bucket, etc.
- “[The Golden Rule](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Fill in the Blank Activity: Luke 6:37-45](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

SONGS

“MATTHEW 7:1”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden In My Heart II](#)” CD)

“MATTHEW 7:12”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden In My Heart II](#)” CD)

“JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Traditional

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white,
They're all precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus died for all the children...
Jesus rose for all the children....

“OH, BE CAREFUL, LITTLE EYES, WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see. (point to eyes)
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.
For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love.
So, be careful little [eyes] what you see.

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear...
Oh, be careful little mouth what you say...
Oh, be careful little hands, what you do...
Oh, be careful little feet, where you go...
Oh, be careful little mind what you think...

“CHOICES” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Yankee Doodle”)

Everyday and in every way,
We all make our choices.
We say, “Yes,” or we say, “No,” by using our own voices.

Help us Lord to do what's right,
Everyday and every night.
Help us Lord to do what's right; we want to make good choices.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Be Careful about Being Judgmental, Critical, and Prejudiced

Matthew 7:1-6



New Testament 1
Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

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MEMORY WORK:

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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tall tree/short tree; furry cat/not-so-furry cat; birds that sing/birds that don't sing; flowers that smell lovely/flowers that don't smell at all; etc.). Make a flipchart called "All Are Beautiful" to show that all these were created by God and all are beautiful to Him.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to treat others in the same way I want others to treat me.

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday's lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions).

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. The Old Testament said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but it did not allow people to take revenge into their own hands (Leviticus 24:19-24). "An eye for an eye..." was simply a way to help judges decide how to give punishments that would fit various crimes.
2. It also did not command the Jews to hate their enemies. The Old Testament did not command or encourage hateful, vengeful actions toward other people (Leviticus 19:17-18; Exodus 23:4-5). The Old Law limited retaliation to avoid abuses and make the punishment fit the crime, allowing punishment to be determined only by a (hopefully, unbiased) judge (Deuteronomy 19:18).
3. Solomon encouraged kindness to enemies as much for our own benefit as for theirs (Proverbs 25:21; 24:29). Jesus said that we should not treat enemies as they treat us; instead, we should do good to them and pray for them. If they strike us on one cheek, we should not strike them back. Instead, we should have an attitude that would cause us to allow our enemies to strike us on the other cheek as well. Jesus was often insulted and mistreated, but He never tried to "get back" at anyone.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday's lesson

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