

Lesson Summaries

Unit 3

Jesus Teaches His Church

The following summaries are intended to provide a Bible lesson link to parents and the congregation.

Consider these ways to use the summaries:

- Print them in your congregation’s weekly bulletin or newsletter.
- Email them as a weekly encouragement for student and parent participation.
- Email them as a follow-up review to the Bible lesson each week.
- Email them as a “staying in touch” note for students or families who are absent.

Lesson 1

In this week’s lesson, “A Mercy-Full Message,” Jesus tells the famous parable of the Good Samaritan, who risks his own life to help a Jewish man whose peril was ignored by his own countrymen. In telling the parable, Jesus answers the question “Who is my neighbor?” for His followers as He challenges us to “go, and do likewise” (Luke 10:37). As a family, you could discuss ideas to help those in need in your community.

Lesson 2

“A Prayer Lesson” is the title of this week’s Bible lesson. With Jesus’ disciples, we, too, implore, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). Jesus teaches His disciples—and all humankind—the prayer used throughout the Church to this day. Jesus follows His instruction with a parable illustrating how our heavenly Father unfailingly hears all our prayers. As a family, challenge one another to recite the Lord’s Prayer from memory.

Lesson 3

This week’s Bible lesson is “A Shepherd Loves.” Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd as He promises to lead and guide His sheep. Jesus willingly laid down His life for His sheep, even those who often ignore the voice of the Shepherd. His flock includes “other sheep” (John 10:16), Gentiles not descended from Abraham. David’s familiar Twenty-third Psalm describes the work of our Good Shepherd. Discuss, “When do we often hear Psalm 23 spoken?”

Lesson 4

In this week's lesson, "A Tree View," students learn about Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector, who anxiously awaits the arrival of Jesus. Short of stature, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see the Savior. Despite criticism, Jesus invites Himself to the tax collector's home. Motivated by Christ's compassion, Zacchaeus confesses his sin and promises to make restitution. Families could discuss, "How does Jesus motivate you to make a difference in your world?"

Lesson 5

This week's lesson is "A Crushing Truth." The events of Christ's crucifixion unfold in a series of brutal and bloody vignettes: questioned before Pilate, mocked and abused by the Roman guard, nailed to the cross. Jesus hangs between life and death—abandoned by His Father—yielding up His life at the moment He chooses. Multiple witnesses see where Christ is laid in a borrowed tomb. Discuss how you can remember the crucifixion of Christ.

Lesson 6

This week, students will study "A Living Truth." The women who witness Christ's burial are the first to witness His resurrection. With great joy, they run to tell His disciples that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Discuss, "How can we as a family spread the word of Christ's resurrection?"

Lesson 7

"A Revealing Truth" is the Bible lesson for this week. On Easter afternoon, Jesus joins two disciples discussing the events of the past week in Jerusalem while on their way to Emmaus. Along the way, Jesus interprets the Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself. Arriving at Emmaus, the disciples suddenly recognize Jesus, who then disappears from sight. The disciples quickly return to Jerusalem to share their amazing account. Discuss how you, too, can share this amazing story.

Lesson 8

The Bible lesson this week is "An Ascending Truth." During His last days on earth, Jesus instructs His disciples, preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead. Gathering His disciples on the Mount of Olives one last time, Jesus physically ascends to heaven. Two angels repeat Christ's promise to return in the same way He ascended into heaven. Discuss, "What great commission does Jesus give His followers?"

Lesson 9

"A Telling Truth" is the Bible lesson for this week. With the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire, the promised Holy Spirit descends on the disciples. As they speak "in other tongues" (Acts 2:4), their hearers, from a multitude of nations, hear about "the mighty works of God" (v. 11) in their own languages. Beginning with Old Testament prophecies,

Peter's sermon proclaims Jesus, the promised Messiah. Discuss, "How did Pentecost change the Church forever?"

Lesson 10

This week, students will study "A Servant Speaks." The Twelve select Stephen as one of the first seven deacons in the Early Church. Synagogue leaders twist Stephen's words, falsely accusing him of blasphemy. Stephen's testimony before the high priest recalls Israel's rejection of God's promise and their rejection of Jesus, the promised Savior. When Stephen says he sees a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God, the enraged officials cast Stephen out of the city and stone him. As a family, consider discussing, "How does the death of Stephen affect the other believers?"

Lesson 11

This week, we will study "A Deacon Delivers" in class. Directed by an angel, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official reading from the Book of Isaiah while riding in his chariot. Realizing the Ethiopian needs help to understand the Scriptures, Philip steps in. After instructing the Ethiopian, Philip baptizes the man and then is carried away by the Spirit to Azotus. Consider discussing, "Who helps us understand Scripture today?"

Lesson 12

In today's Bible lesson, students study the amazing account of "An Enemy Converts." On the road to Damascus, Saul encounters the risen Lord, who converts him from a persecutor of the Church to its greatest missionary—Paul. God sends Ananias to lay hands upon the temporarily blinded Saul, baptizing him in the name of the living God. Despite the disciples' distrust of Saul's motives, Barnabas speaks boldly on Saul's behalf. Discuss, "How does the conversion of Saul change the history of the world?"

Lesson 13

"A Soldier Believes" is the focus of today's Bible lesson. In Philippi, Paul and Silas cast the spirit of divination from a slave girl, but her angered owner has the two thrown into prison. Around midnight, Paul and Silas are praying and singing to God when suddenly an earthquake shakes the prison. The jailer, thinking his prisoners have escaped, prepares to take his own life. Paul and Silas interrupt his plan as they share the Gospel with him and his whole family, whom Paul then baptizes. Discuss how God uses events in our lives to give us opportunities to share His Word.

Lesson 14

Today, students study "A Returning Truth." Banished to the island of Patmos, John receives a revelation of the new heaven and new earth. In this climax to the Book of Revelation, John describes the indescribable—the Lamb of God in His glory with His people in their eternal home. As a family, you could discuss, "How does God reassure us concerning His return on the Last Day?"