

Life of Christ

Jesus encourages friends John 13:33-14:6

Younger Verse

Let your light shine. Matthew 5:16

Older Verse

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16

Lesson Goals

To learn what it means to encourage someone
To take time to encourage another person just like Jesus did

Welcome Time

Have you ever had someone say something really nice to you? It feels good to get compliments and encouraging words. Let's see what Jesus does in today's lesson.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to your Bible.*

Jesus spent lots of time with His 12 friends. They traveled around the land together for 3 years. Near the end of Jesus' time, He tried to help His friends see that something amazing was going to happen. They did not always "get it."

Jesus and His friends ate a special supper and were talking together. Jesus knew that He needed to help them understand some of the things that were going to happen in the next few days.

Jesus tried to help them understand that He would die soon. He told them that where He was going they could not go yet.

Jesus knew that the most important thing that His friends could do was to love others. He told them to love others so that they would know that they really loved God.

His friends were confused. They could not imagine what Jesus meant, especially about going away. They did not understand. Peter spoke up and asked Jesus where He was going.

Can you imagine how you would feel if someone close to you told you that they were going to die tomorrow? You would probably be confused and upset, too.

Jesus knew that His friends were upset and needed His kind words. Jesus shared words of encouragement to help them. His words calmed their spirit.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me." These words helped His friends see how much Jesus loved them and cared for them. Jesus knew that He would come back to life in 3 days, but His friends did not understand this either.

Jesus also told His friends that He was going up to Heaven to prepare a place for all His friends and followers. He also gave them a promise. He told His friends that He

would come back! That must have given Jesus' friends much hope.

Jesus told His friends that they knew the way to the place He was going.

Thomas was not sure what Jesus meant. So he asked Jesus how he could know the way.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jesus tried to encourage His friends when they were upset and hurt. He helped them understand that even though He was leaving, He would return.

When we encourage others, we give them courage and uplift their spirits. We help them see that God will take care of their needs and help them through the hard times.

The best encouragement that we can give someone is to let them know "the way." Jesus told Thomas and His friends that He was the only way to Heaven. We can only go to Heaven if we believe and trust in Jesus. We must realize that we have done wrong and tell God we are sorry for the sins we have done. We must tell Jesus that we believe He died and rose again. Then, we must ask Him to come into our lives and help us do things His way. Jesus will hear our prayer and take away all the wrongs we have done. He will live in us and help us do things His way. He promises that He will never leave us and will take us to Heaven one day. If you would like to pray and ask Jesus to come into your life, talk to us about it today.

Learning Activities

Help the kids see how they can encourage others this week.

Memory Verse Activities

Our verse talks about shining so that others can see that we love Jesus. Try some of the activities and explain how we must encourage others and help them know that Jesus can help them with any problem they have.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us say encouraging, helpful words to others this week. Challenge the group for 1 week to say only good things to others.

Snack Time/CleanUp

As you give each child their snack, say an encouraging word to them.

Planning for Nov. 3rd
How can I show kindness?
The Kind Man
Luke 10:25-37

Preschool Lesson
For
Jesus says kind words to His friends

It is so nice to hear kind words! It makes a person feel so special and loved. Jesus said kind words to His friends too.

One time, Jesus' friends were very sad. They were not sure what was going to happen to Jesus.

Jesus helped them feel calm. He shared that He would be going to Heaven but would come back soon. They smiled and felt much better.

Then, Jesus told them how much He loved them. He helped them know that they were special to God.

Next, Jesus shared that He was the only way to get to Heaven. He told His friends that by believing in Him, they would one day go to Heaven.

Jesus' friends were so glad to hear His words. He gave them encouragement and showed them that He loved them very much.

Jesus loves us too. He cares for us and wants to help us when we are sad.

Pray and thank God for loving us and taking care of us.

Share the verse for today and sing the song, "This little light of mine."

Hands-On Activities For Jesus encourages His friends

Find a pair of big shoes from the mission (big enough for small children to step into). Let the kids imagine that the shoes are Peter's shoes or Thomas' shoes. Help the kids think about how Jesus' friends must have felt when they heard Him say that He would be leaving them. Remember that Jesus was their best friend. Get them to share how they would feel if their best friend said these words. Help them feel the emotion that must have been there as they realized that Jesus was going to die and the helplessness that they felt. Share the hope that Jesus gave them as He told them that He would return again (we know it was 3 days later) and would take them to Heaven one day.

For fun, let the kids experience the tart/sweetness by bringing a drink without sugar (like Tea, Kool-Aid, or Lemonade) and letting them taste it. It will taste very tart or strong without sugar. Add sugar and share how it makes it sweet and good. Explain that encouraging words are like the sugar. They make our lives sweet!

Bring blocks that can be stacked together. Share how encouraging words are like stacking blocks on top of each other. They encourage us and lift our spirits. However, when we say discouraging words, they knock us down (knock down the blocks). Help the kids to see how important it is to say good things instead of bad things to others.

Try this idea with older students. Give everyone a blank piece of paper and have them write everyone's name on the paper. (If you have two kids with the same name, make sure they write last names for those kids) Now ask them to write encouraging words for each person on the page. Explain that you are going to collect the papers and write the words for each person on a page and will give them to them. (If someone writes discouraging words, do not include them) The piece of paper will be something encouraging that will encourage each person. (This exercise has been used many years and encourages so many.)

Give everyone 3 pom poms that we'll call "warm fuzzies." Ask them to say a kind word to someone and give away the "warm fuzzy" pom pom to that person. Explain that the person must do the same thing: say a kind word and give the "warm fuzzy" to another person. It will be amazing to see how the "warm fuzzies" travel around the apartment complex! Share the importance of warm fuzzies versus cold pricklies.

Here is an object lesson for the verse:

Turn the light off in the room (if this is appropriate for your group.) Have one person hold the flashlight up and shine it down on the mirror. (You'll have to experiment to find the best way to do this) The person with the mirror had the task of reflecting the light into the darkest corner of the room. Let two or three people try this and see if they can light up a dark corner.

Share that Christ is like the flashlight, and we are like the mirror. We "reflect" or "shine" Christ's light to others so that they will know Him and believe in Him.