



# Life of Christ

## Jesus and the Pharisees

## Matt. 15:1-11; 22:15-22

### Younger Verse

Guide me in Your Truth and teach me. Psalm 25:5

### Older Verse

Guide me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior and my hope is in You all day long. Psalm 25:5

### Lesson Goals

Share how to know the Truth  
 Accept and love others that are different  
 Know that God sees us as we really are on the inside and He loves us

### Welcome Time

Has anyone ever gotten upset with you because you didn't play a game by the "rules?" Let's see what happens when people ask Jesus about rules.

*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 the story in the Bible.*

### Bible Story

While Jesus was telling people about God, there were other people who believed that the only way to Heaven was to obey every little rule. These people were called Pharisees. They had many, many rules that they followed. One silly rule was to wash their hands 12 times before they ate dinner.

Jesus knew that following rules would not get a person to Heaven. He knew that the only way was to trust Him and believe in Him. When He explained this to the Pharisees, they were angry and tried to find ways to trap or trick Jesus.

One time, they asked Jesus why His friends did not wash their hands before they ate. Instead of answering the question, Jesus asked them a question. He knew that in their hearts they had done wrong even though they acted like they were perfect on the outside.

He told the Pharisees that they were hypocrites. That means that they said one thing around people but did the opposite when no one was looking. They pretended to worship God in front of others. However, in private, their hearts were far from loving God. They pretended that they were better than other people. Jesus knew that they were just like everyone; they had done wrongs.

When Jesus told them what was true, they despised Him for saying this and tried to find ways to get rid of Him. Instead of seeing their mistakes and doing the right thing, they blamed Jesus and tried to find ways to hurt Him.

Another time the Pharisees asked Jesus a question. Before they asked Jesus the question, they said many nice things. Jesus knew that they were trying to "butter Him up." That means that they were trying to pretend that they liked Him. They didn't fool Jesus at all.

They asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to Caesar, the king. Jesus knew that they were trying to trick Him. In fact, He even told them that! He also called them hypo-

crites again!

Jesus asked to see a coin they used to pay the tax. When they gave Him a coin, He asked whose picture was on it. They told Him that Caesar's picture was on it. He told them that they should give to Caesar what was Caesar's money and give to God what was God's money.

The Pharisees were amazed at Jesus' wisdom. They could not trick Him at all.

Sometimes, even now, there are people who believe different things. Sometimes they believe just because someone told them something. Instead, a person should find out for themselves what is true. How does a person know what is right and what is not?

God wants us to look in His Word, the Bible, to discover for ourselves what is true. The important thing is to see how God deals with things. Some people may use one sentence to explain why they believe a certain thing. God wants us to look at the Bible as a whole to discover what is right. As we pray and ask God for wisdom and understanding, He will help us know right from wrong.

Let's use an example to explain. Let's say someone reads in the Old Testament that it is OK to take an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Just looking at that one verse a person may think it is OK to take revenge on others. However, when a person looks at the rest of the Bible and reads where Jesus said it is best to love your enemies, a person realizes that God wants us to love instead of taking revenge.

Another thing that some people think is that everyone will go to Heaven. When we read the Bible, it shares that God has a way for us to go to Heaven. We must believe in Jesus and trust Him in our hearts. When we do this, He will clean away the wrongs we have done and promises to take us to Heaven one day. He also promises to stay with us forever. Did you know that believing in Jesus is the way to Heaven? If you want to know more, talk to us about it.

#### Learning Activities

Help the kids see the importance of looking in the Bible for answers.

#### Memory Verse Activities

Our memory verse is a prayer asking God to guide us and teach us. Ask the kids to think of ways that God guides us and things He teaches us.

#### Prayer Time

Thank God that He gave us the Bible. Thank Him for teaching us and helping us know the truth.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

During snack time, ask the kids if they have questions that they were wondering about in the Bible.

Planning for July 14th  
What is the church supposed to do?  
Jesus in the temple  
Matthew 21:12-16

Preschool Lesson  
For  
Jesus and the Pharisees

Teachers: bring soap and a washcloth to class today.

Kids, do you wash your hands before you eat? Most of the time we do. Sometimes we forget, though.

One time, some mean people came to Jesus because His friends forgot to wash their hands. They were very, very upset. They asked Jesus why His friends did not wash their hands.

Jesus smiled. He knew that these mean people were trying to trick Jesus. Instead of trying to explain why His friends did not wash their hands, Jesus asked them a question. He asked them why they broke God's rules.

Jesus knew that they did not love God. They thought that the way to Heaven was by keeping all the rules. Jesus tried to help them see that the only way to go to Heaven was by believing in Jesus.

They did not listen to Jesus and went away upset.

Another time, they tried to trick Jesus again. Just as the last time, Jesus knew what they were doing. Jesus took a coin and helped them see that they must pay money to the king, but they must also serve and love God.

Pray and thank God that He loves us.

Sing, "Jesus in the morning."

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Jesus and the Pharisees

To help the kids see what a hypocrite is, bring a coffee cup to class. Before class, wet the inside and put dirt inside. Be careful that the kids do not see the inside of the cup! Show the pretty cup to the kids. Share with the kids that a hypocrite is someone who pretends to be pretty on the outside, but is dirty on the inside (show the inside of the cup). Explain that we should not compare ourselves to others or judge others if we think that they have done wrong. God wants us to talk to Him about our lives and let Him take care of other people's mistakes.

To help illustrate the memory verse, Give the kids pieces of paper and ask them to mark off how much 6 inches is. Then, bring out a ruler and measure to see how accurate the kids were. Explain how important a ruler is to measure things. Talk about how important God is as our guide to help us do the right thing and "measure" up.

Jesus told the Pharisees that they were like blind people leading other blind people. Blind-fold two people and let them try to lead each other. It looks funny and ridiculous. Explain that the only person that can guide us is Jesus. Share with the kids how they can believe and trust in Jesus.

Let the kids look at different kinds of money. Ask them what is on the coin. Normally it is a picture of a president or ruler of a country. Let them look at the words around the coin. Let them design their own coin with their picture on it.

The Pharisees tried to blame others instead of taking responsibility for their wrongs and mistakes. Instead of blaming others, we must admit our wrongs and tell Jesus we are sorry. Then, He wants us to turn around and start doing right things.