



Life of Christ

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Matt. 19:16-26

Younger Verse

Everyone who receives Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Acts 10:43

Older Verse

Everyone who receives Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Acts 10:43

Lesson Goals

Understand how a person can go to Heaven
See that God has to be #1—can't have anything above God

Welcome Time

When someone says that he is a Christian, what does that mean? (wait for answers) Explain that today's lesson is about a man that learned what it means to be a Christian. Challenge them to listen and explain it to you after the 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 the story in the Bible.*

A Jewish leader asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could enter the kingdom of God (Heaven). He wanted to live forever.

Jesus knew the young man was very rich. He also knew the man had trained for many years to be a religious leader. Jesus told the young man something he already knew. Jesus told the man to follow the commandments (rules). Can you name the 10 commandments? We can look them up in Exodus 20.

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the commandments. Can you believe that! That means he must have been a really good person.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew that there was one thing that separated him from God. He knew the young man loved his money more than anything else in the world. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his money to the poor and follow Him.

When the man heard this, he gasped. He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not given God first place in his life. He was not willing to give up his riches and follow Jesus. So he walked away, very sad, because he could not put God ahead of money.

Jesus commented that it was easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich person to go to Heaven because it is hard for them to give up all they have.

Some people overheard Jesus talking and asked who could go to Heaven. Jesus responded by saying that people could not get to Heaven by themselves. People cannot get to Heaven by being good enough or doing the "right" things. Jesus said it is impossible with man, but it is possible through God.

The way for us to get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son. He was born and lived with us. While He was here He did not do anything wrong. He did not sin at all. Many people loved Him, but others decided that He must die because of the things that He was saying.

These people arrested Jesus and put Him on trial. He was finally sentenced to death--on a cross! However, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life.

How do you do this? You must be sorry for the wrong things that you have done. You must tell Jesus that you have done wrong and ask Him to forgive you. Then you must believe in Jesus and pray for Him to come into your life. Praying this prayer means that He has to be the most important thing to you now. If you mean what you say, Jesus will come into your life and you will go to Heaven.

When you pray this prayer, you probably will not feel any different or see fireworks etc. It may seem so simple, but Jesus will come into your life and He will never leave you. So, what's next? You will want to spend time with your new best friend. Read your Bible, pray and learn more about Jesus. Invite other friends to church and tell them about the prayer you prayed.

So what does it mean to be a Christian? It means that you love God first and best. No one or nothing is ahead of God. It does not mean that God will make you get rid of all your money. It does mean that God wants the best place and the **only** place in your heart.

When you are a Christian, you will also want to be good—to obey God. What kind of good thoughts can you think? Let's list some examples. Will you try to think good thoughts this week? How can you remember this lesson during this week? What does it mean to be a Christian?

Learning Activities

Choose the activities that will help the children apply the lesson to their lives and learn what it means to be a Christian.

Memory Verse Activities

Play hangman using posterboard or pieces of construction paper. Make a line for each letter of the verse. Let the kids take turns guessing letters. When completed, explain the verse and ask them what it means.

Prayer Time

Ask the kids if they are praying every day? Encourage them to do so. Please don't belittle them if they haven't yet—there is always today. Instead, praise them for what they have done and encourage them to make it a goal this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Be sure everyone helps clean up. It really helps them learn responsibility. Pass out snacks and enjoy the time with the kids. Be sure they put all the litter in a trash sack.

Planning for Feb. 24th
Why be a Christian?
The woman's hair
Luke 7:36-50

Preschool Lesson
For
A Rich young Man

A leader asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could go to Heaven. He wanted to be with God forever.

Jesus knew the young man was very rich. He also knew the man had trained for many years to be a church leader. Jesus told the young man something he already knew. Jesus told the man to follow all the rules.

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the rules.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew that there was one thing which stood between this man and God. He knew the young man loved his money and things more than anything else in the world. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his money away and follow Him.

When the man heard this, he was very sad. (make a pouty face) He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not given God first place in his life. He was not willing to give up his riches and follow Jesus. So he walked away, very sad.

Some people heard Jesus talking and asked who then could go to Heaven. Jesus said that people could not get to Heaven by themselves. People do not get to Heaven simply by being good enough or doing the "right" things. Jesus said it is impossible with man, but it is possible through God.

The way for us to get to Heaven is through believing in Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son. He was born and lived with us. While He was here, He did not do anything wrong. He did not sin at all. Many people loved Him, but others decided that He must die because of the things that He was saying.

These people arrested Jesus and put Him on trial. He was finally sentenced to death--on a cross! However, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life.

Sing the fun echo song, "O You can't get to Heaven."

Hands-on Activities
for
The Rich Young Man

Money was blocking the rich man's way to Heaven. Give each person a blank piece of paper and let them draw other things that block our way to Heaven. Examples may be material things, boyfriend/girlfriend relationships, pride, etc.

Jesus mentioned the 10 commandments in this lesson. Do you know where they are in the Bible? Take time to look them up with the kids. They can be found in 2 books of the Bible: Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Explain what they mean.

Share the paper fold illustration of "How to get to Heaven." It is not by having a boat, house, plane, or rocket; it is by asking Jesus to come into your life.

Arrange furniture so that there is a very small space that the kids must squeeze through. Let them try to get through the space. Explain that the "eye of the needle" was a way for Jesus to help His friends understand that just as it is hard to squeeze through a small space, it is hard for a rich man to go to Heaven because he loves his money more than God.

Again emphasize that being or doing good will not get a person to Heaven.

Make up a version of the new TV show "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" Instead, use the words "Who wants to go to Heaven?" or something similar. Use questions that will help the kids see that they can only go to Heaven by believing in Jesus. For fun you may want to use the phrase "Is that your final answer?" and use "Life Lines—like poll the audience, take away two wrong answers and phone/ask a friend".