



Life of Christ

Who can become a Christian?

Luke 18:10-14

Younger Verse

I am with you always. Matthew 28:19-20

Older Verse

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Lesson Goals

Share who can become a Christian
Tell how to be right with God
Know how to pray and when to pray

Welcome Time

Have you ever had a disagreement with a friend and you didn't speak to each other? It feels so much better when you're "right" with each other and ask for forgiveness. God wants us to be right with Him too. Listen to the story Jesus told.

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.*

Jesus loved to tell stories to help people understand an important lesson. He told this story to help people see that they were being too proud of themselves and judging others who they thought were not good. It also helps us see the attitude of the person who can become a Christian. See if you can tell.

Once there were two people who went into the church temple to pray. One man was very proud. He had done many things like memorizing many verses and he had done some things to show that he knew lots of things about the Bible. He really thought that he was better than other people because he was so good.

This man, called a Pharisee (fair-a-see), stood up in the church and prayed in a loud voice so that all could hear. Sadly, he was praying loudly so that other people could hear him bragging about himself! He bragged about how he did right things and did not steal or do evil. He didn't think he had done anything wrong!

Then, the other man stood up to pray. He collected money from people. He was so sad before God that he had to stand in the back. He couldn't even lift his head to God because he knew that God was good and he had done lots of wrong things. This is sometimes called being humble. It is the opposite of being proud.

Finally he asked God to listen to him and forgive him for all the bad things he had done.

Which man do you think had the right attitude when he prayed? The Pharisee, who was proud of himself, or the money collector who knew that he had done wrong and asked God to help him do right?

Jesus tells us that God heard the sinner man's prayer because of his attitude. He knew that God was perfect and he was not. He told God he was sorry for all the wrong things that he had done and asked God to forgive him. He became "right" with God.

God listens to the person who has the right attitude and is not proud. 1st Samuel 16: 7 tells us that the Lord does not look on the outward appearance, He looks at the person's heart. The money collector knew he had made mistakes and wanted his life to change.

Who can become a Christian? God accepts everyone who has a humble attitude and wants to be made "right" with God. Just as the money collector, a person must come before God with a humble heart and tell God they are sorry for all the wrong things they have done. They have to really mean what they say and not just say it so that others will like them or be proud of them. Then, a person must believe that Jesus died and came back to life. Then, a person must ask Jesus to come into their life and help them make decisions God's way. God hears their prayer and they become a Christian. Jesus lives forever with them and will take them to Heaven one day.

What happens next? When someone becomes a Christian, they want to follow God and do things God's way. They begin to read their Bible and learn more about Jesus. They start doing things to help others. They are excited about telling others what has happened to them. It doesn't mean that they are perfect. Christians still make mistakes, but they know that they can come to God and ask Him to forgive them and help them do right.

Would you like to become a Christian? Come and talk to me during activity time or after snack time and we can talk about how you can become a Christian.

Learning Activities

Be sensitive to those who may be thinking about trusting Jesus. Remember, do not pressure the kids to make a decision. Always ask open questions that start with Who? What? Where? When? Why? so that you can see if they understand and are genuine.

Memory Verse Activities

Write the words on a board and one by one block off a word to help the kids learn the verse. This is the second week to learn the verse so help them really learn it.

Prayer Time

The money collector knew how to pray in the right way. We should not pray as a way to brag. It should be a prayer that is to God and with a right attitude. Take time to pray and ask God to forgive all the wrong things we have done this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Pray and eat snacks. Take time to answer questions about the lesson and prayer.

Planning for Feb. 3rd
How can I become a Christian?
Nicodemus
John 3:1-21

Preschool Lesson
for
Who can become a Christian?

Make a paper puppet to tell the story.

Jesus loved to tell stories to help people understand important lessons. He told today's story to help some people see that they were being too proud of themselves and looking down on others.

Once there were two people who went into the church temple to pray. One man was very proud. He wanted to show off. This man stood up in the church and prayed in a loud voice so that all could hear. He was praying loudly so that other people could hear him bragging about himself! He bragged about how he did right things and no bad things. He did not tell God about any wrong things that he had done.

Then, another man stood up. He collected money from people. He was so sad before God that he had to stand in the back. He couldn't even lift his head to God because he knew that God was good and he had done lots of wrong things.

Jesus tell us that God heard the money collector's prayer because of his attitude. He made sure that he told God all his mistakes and asked for forgiveness.

When we pray, we must have the same attitude as the money collector and tell God our mistakes and ask Him to help us be clean on the inside.

Pray a short prayer telling God we are sorry for all the wrong things we have done and telling Him how much we love Him.

Hands-on Activities For Who can Become a Christian?

Create a fun Popsicle or ice cream cone to help the kids remember the verse.

Bring a chalk board or white board. To illustrate forgiveness, write some wrong things on the board, then wipe them off. Share how God wipes away all our wrongs (sins) when we share them with Him. Tell how Jesus made a way for us to go to Heaven if we believe in Him and are truly sorry for the wrongs we have done.

There are several prayer activities or crafts to help the kids see the importance of prayer with a humble heart.

For older students, ask them why attitude is so important to God? Ask them why they think that God would not listen to someone who is proud and boastful?

Share an object lesson to show the importance of how to become a Christian. Bring a clear glass or vase with water in it. Add 1 tiny drop of red food coloring (if you add more than one drop, it is harder to bleach the water). Share how our wrongs have separated us from God. Tell the kids that God wants us to be right with Him. Explain that Jesus made a way for our sins to be gone. Sin is like the red food coloring. Once we do it, it invades our life. The water turned completely red with just one drop of food coloring. Jesus died and came back to life to pay for all the wrongs that we have done. If we believe this, we must tell Him we are sorry for our wrongs and ask Him to come into our lives. Jesus comes into our lives and changes us. He cleans out all the wrong stuff and makes us pure. We now are right with God. Pour bleach into the water until the red coloring is gone. Just like the bleach cleans out all the red and makes it clean again, Jesus cleans out all the sin and makes us pure again. Share that Jesus is the only way to clean our lives and help us get to Heaven.