

## Teacher's Lesson for children

# Life of Christ

## A Mom asks a favor

**Matthew 20:20-28**

Younger Verse

We do not dare compare ourselves to others. 2nd Corinthians 10:12

Older Verse

We do not dare compare ourselves to others. 2nd Corinthians 10:12

Welcome Time

Have you ever asked someone for a favor? Did they help you? In today's lesson, a mom asks Jesus a favor. Let's see what He does.

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.*

One day, James and John's mom came to talk to Jesus. Their mom knelt down before Jesus and asked Him to do a favor for her and her two boys.

Jesus asked her what she wanted.

She asked Him to promise her that James would sit on one side of Jesus' throne in heaven and that John would sit on the other side. She knew that if Jesus was the king in heaven, whoever was sitting next to Him would have a very high place in the kingdom. She knew that they would be very powerful and very popular.

Jesus looked at her and the brothers and told them that a position like that would come about by much pain and suffering.

The brothers told Jesus that they were willing to suffer to sit next to Jesus in heaven.

Jesus explained that they had no idea what it would be like to suffer pain or even die for believing. He also told them that God would decide who sat next to Him.

While this discussion was going on, Jesus' other friends heard what happened and were angry with James and John. They could not believe that they had asked Jesus such a question.

Just then, Jesus called all His friends together to teach them an important lesson. He told them that if a person wanted to be important and popular, that person must be willing to be a servant. They must be willing to let someone else be first.

After that, Jesus told His friends that He did not come for people to serve Him. He told them that He came to serve and to give His life for all people.

His friends did not understand what Jesus was talking about. They could not imagine what was going to happen soon.

Lesson Goals

Know what it means to help or serve others  
Put someone ahead of yourself—put the lesson into practice

Jesus really did give His life to help us. When Jesus died on a cross, He did not die because of something wrong that He had done. He took our place and died for all the bad stuff we have done wrong. He took all our bad stuff on Himself and died to pay the price for all the sin we had done. The best news is that Jesus did not stay dead! Three days later Jesus came back to life. Because He is alive, we can go to Heaven and be with Him one day. We can do this if we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our lives and take away all the bad stuff we have done. He cleans out our life and makes us into a new person on the inside. Jesus did all this for us! Would you like to know more? Talk to me about it.

What is the difference between being popular and being a servant? Jesus wants us to think about others before we think about ourselves. He does not want us to boast or brag. Instead, He wants us to care for others and accept them. Jesus showed us how to be a servant by His example. Remember that He was in Heaven with God before He came to earth as a baby. Instead of being proud, He became a servant and helped others. Even more, Jesus substituted Himself on the cross to die for all our sins. We should care for others in the same way.

**Learning Activities**

Do activities that will help the kids see what it means to serve others and put others ahead of ourselves.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Make a pretend mirror with aluminum foil. Etch the verse in the foil with a pencil or blunt object.

**Prayer Time**

Ask God to help everyone think of others first before themselves. Ask Him to give us opportunities to help others.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Serve snacks and talk about what it's like to let others get snacks first.

Planning for October 12th  
Jesus is at the temple  
Matthew 21:12-17

Preschool Lesson  
for  
A mother asks a favor

One day James and John's mother came to see Jesus. She loved her boys and wanted to ask Jesus a very special question.

The mom asked Jesus, "Can my sons sit in chairs on both sides of you in heaven?"

She wanted James and John to sit in important spots in heaven.

Jesus told them that He could not decide who would sit by Him in heaven. God would be the one who decided.

Jesus told His friends that it was not important to be at the front and get attention. He told them that the best place to be is in the back, helping others. He told them that they must help others and do for them first.

Jesus wants us to help others too. How can you help someone this week?

Sing, "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam."

Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for Him each day.  
In every way try to please Him, at home, at school, at play.  
A sunbeam, a sunbeam, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam.  
A sunbeam, a sunbeam, I'll be a sunbeam for Him.

## Hands-on Activities for A mother asks a favor

Act out the story. Be sure the mother is very dramatic in asking (begging, pleading) for her sons to sit by Jesus.

Make a puppet of the mother out of a Styrofoam cup. Glue fabric on it for an outfit. Have fun reenacting the story.

Discuss why the brothers wanted to be on both sides of Jesus. Talk about what it means to be proud and powerful. How can it separate us from God? Why did Jesus say that the best place to be was last. What does it mean to serve others? Can you think of an example of someone who helps others? Why do you think they do this? Challenge the kids to do at least one thing this week where they let someone go before them.

When you pass out snacks, let each person serve another person their snack. Another idea is to let the boys serve the girls and visa versa.

Plan a time this week to take your group to Mission Arlington to work and help out. It will surely help them see what it means to serve others and help others before yourself.

Ask the kids to think about cartoon characters or superheroes that are humble and not proud. Share how they help others and do not brag about their super strength etc. Talk about how a person's voice is different when they are humble versus proud. Share how God wants us to be humble and help others.