

Teacher's Lesson for children

Life of Christ

The sheep and the goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Younger Verse

Jesus said, "I am the ... life." John 11:25

Older Verse

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25

Lesson Goals

Help the kids learn what it means to be faithful
Share with the kids how they can be one of God's sheep—by trusting and following Him

Welcome Time

Have you ever played a game where one or two people decided who would be on the team? Sometimes it looked like you would be on the winning team and other times maybe on the losing team. How did it feel to be on the losing team? the winning team? In today's lesson, Jesus talks about a time when God will do something like this. Let's see what He means.

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 as Jesus was teaching His friends, He shared a story to help us see how important it is to be faithful to God. Faithfulness means that you can be trusted to do the right thing—even when no one is looking. When a person is faithful, he will help others because He believes in Jesus and wants to help others know about Him. He will do kind things for others because it's what Jesus would do.

Jesus' story is about sheep and goats. When a shepherd gathers his sheep, he does not want any goats in the flock. He has to separate them. He puts the sheep on one side and the goats on the other side.

Jesus explained that God will do that some day to all the people of the world. He will separate those who believe (on His right) from those who do not believe (on His left.)

The believers listened as God told them that they were faithful and did good things to help others and tell them about Jesus. One day, God will say, "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes and you gave me something to wear. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

The believers will then answer, "When did we see you and do these things?"

God will say, "When you helped someone in need, you were helping me and showing me that you believed in me and wanted to do what I said."

Those who did not believe in Jesus are on His left. God will say to them, "Go away. You will be punished in the fire that burns forever. I was hungry and you gave me

nothing to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was alone and away from home and you did not invite me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison and you did not care for me.”

The people will say, “When did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you alone and away from home? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison?”

God will say, “When you refused to help anyone who was in need, you were refusing to help Me.”

These people will be forever in the fire because they never trusted Jesus and followed Him. The believers will be with God forever in Heaven.

God tells us we all have a choice—to follow Him or not to follow Him. He also tells us that He will separate His believers from those who do not believe. The best thing is that God loves us so much that He has made a way for us to be believers and go to Heaven. We do this by believing in Jesus and trusting Him with our lives. We ask Him to come into our life and change us to be like Him. We will want to help others and be faithful to whatever God says. Would you like to believe in Jesus? We can talk about it anytime!

Learning Activities

This lesson can be very convicting. Please be sure that you are not scaring any children to make a decision. Share God’s incredible love for us and His plan to help us get to Heaven.

Memory Verse Activities

Help the kids learn the verse by doing the “Gather the Sheep” puzzle. Talk to them about how they can be faithful to the truth. Ask them to give you examples of how to do this.

Prayer Time

Circle up and pray for each person. Ask God to help each person be faithful and true to God this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Munch on “sheep food” today (your name for snacks). They can make little sheep with marshmallows and toothpicks, too.

Planning for November 30th
God gives a promise
Isaiah 53 and Micah 5:2

Preschool Lesson
for
The Story of the sheep and the goats

Ask the group to say “Ba-ba” when you say the word “sheep” and “Na-na” when you say the word “goat.”

One day as Jesus was teaching His friends, He shared a story to help us see how important it is to be faithful to God. Faithfulness means that you can be trusted to do the right thing—even when no one is looking. When a person is faithful, he will help others because He believes in Jesus and wants to help others know about Him. He will do kind things for others because it’s what Jesus would do.

Jesus’ story is about sheep (ba-ba) and goats (na-na). When a shepherd gathers his sheep (ba-ba), he does not want any goats (na-na) in the flock. He has to separate them. He puts the sheep (ba-ba) on one side and the goats (na-na) on the other side.

Jesus explained that God will do that some day to all the people of the world. He will separate the believers on His right (have everyone hold up their right hands—you may have to help them) from those who do not believe (on His left.) (have everyone hold up their left hands—you may have to help them.)

The believers listened as God told them that they were faithful and did good things to help others and tell them about Jesus. One day, God will say, “I was hungry (pat your tummy) and you gave me food. I was thirsty (hold your throat), and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes and you gave me something to wear. I was sick (hold your forehead) and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”

The believers will then answer, “When did we see you and do these things?”

God will say, “When you helped someone in need, you were helping me and showing me that you believed in me and wanted to do what I said. You will be in Heaven with Me!”

God loves us so much that He wants us to be in Heaven with Him one day. We get to Heaven by believing in Jesus. It is the only way to Heaven! God is so good!

Sing, “I want to be a sheep ba-ba.”

Teachers: A fun idea would be to bring things for each act of kindness. Share as you teach the lesson or afterwards, to reinforce it.

Hungry—give them a snack

Thirsty—give them juice or water

Alone—give a hug to someone

Without clothes—bring some shirts from the Mission to try on

Sick—give everyone a band-aid

Prison—tell someone “Hello”

Hands-on Activities for The Sheep and the Goats

Make a woolly lamb hat (see instructions).

Sing the song, “I want to be a sheep, ba-ba.”

Play the concentration game with sheep and goats. Turn the pictures over on the table. The kids take turns turning over 2 slips of paper. The object of the game is to find 2 matches. As they see what others turn over, they can find a match. The person with the most matches wins. Play and help each other so that all feel like they have won.

For smaller kids, bring copies of sheep and goats. Let them sort out the two groups like the shepherd did in the story.

Try the “Bridge to Heaven” demonstration. It will surprise the group!

Act out the story. Then ask the goats how they feel about being “goats” (and the same with the “sheep”). Talk about how to get to Heaven, by believing in Jesus alone. Be sensitive to those who may want to make decisions.

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