

# Life of Christ

## Don't Judge Others

## Matthew 7:1-5

### Younger Verse

We will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

### Older Verse

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

### Lesson Goals

Learn not to judge others  
Explain why Jesus does not want us to judge others

### Welcome Time

Have you ever seen something that was unfair? It is easy to want to judge the other person or even say bad things about them. Let's see what Jesus said we should do.

### 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.*

Many times people would come from far away to listen to Jesus. He shared many lessons about who God is and how much God loves people. People would sit for hours listening to Him.

One day, Jesus was outside talking to many people. He sat down on the side of a mountain and began to teach them many things about the way that they should live.

Then, He said some things that shocked the people. Back in the Old Testament, the Bible tells us that if someone hurts us, we should hurt them back. Jesus told the people that God wanted them NOT to do this. The people stared at Jesus.

Jesus told them to be kind to others, especially their enemies. He said if someone hits you on the right cheek, turn your head and let him hit your left cheek too! That means don't hit them back!

The crowd did not know what to think. They had NEVER heard anyone say things like this before. They used to take revenge. Now, Jesus is asking them to love and not fight back.

Then, He told him not to judge others. He helped the people see that when they look down on others, they are making themselves look better than they are. That is not right.

He helped them see that we all make mistakes. Jesus said before you see a big problem like a speck of sawdust in a person's eye, you should look at your own life and see the "log of wood" in your eyes.

That means that we should look at our own wrongs and fix them, before we try to criticize others' wrongs and mistakes.

There is an old saying that when you are pointing a finger at someone else's wrongs, there are three fingers pointing back at you at your wrongs.

Jesus told the people not to be hypocrites. That is a very big word. It means that you say one thing, but do the opposite. For example, a person says they are a Christian who loves God. However, when no one is around, they do things Jesus would be sad about. The person says words, but they have no meaning in their life.

Jesus wants us to say and do things that please God. He wants our thoughts and words to be kind and helpful to others. This is NOT easy. It is hard being nice to mean people. It is hard to see good in others instead of judging them. Jesus helps us see that God is our judge. He is the one that will judge all people one day. God will do the right thing.

Some people judged Jesus wrongly too. They did not understand that He was really God's Son. They had a trial and brought in people who lied about Jesus. They judged Him guilty when He was innocent! They made a horrible mistake! They crucified Jesus on a cross. However, this is not the end! Jesus died, but He died for a special reason. He died to pay the price for all the wrongs WE had done. He traded places with us! Then, He came back to life 3 days later! If we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our hearts, He will clean out all our sins and make us pure. We do not have to worry about all the wrongs we have done. He has forgiven them. He will stay with us and help us live for God and do things His way. Then, one day, He will take us to heaven. Would you like to know more? Talk to us about it.

**Learning Activities**

This is a great lesson to apply to our lives. Help the kids "get it."

**Memory Verse Activities**

Talk about other people we can serve instead of God (ourselves, friends, etc.)  
Share how God wants us to serve God and follow Him.

**Prayer Time**

Ask God to help us not to judge others this week. It will really take some practice to show love and kindness instead of judgment. Ask for help from God.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Share snacks together.

Planning for March 2nd  
Wise and Foolish Builders  
Matthew 7:24-27

Preschool Lesson  
For  
Don't Judge Others

(Teachers, we will focus on being kind. Judging is a concept the kids will not quite understand yet.)

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Then, He said some things that shocked the people. Back in the Old Testament, the Bible tells us that if someone hurts us, we should hurt them back. Jesus told the people that God wanted them NOT to do this. The people stared at Jesus.

Jesus told them to be kind to others, especially their enemies.

The crowd did not know what to think. They had NEVER heard anyone say things like this before. They used to fight back. Now, Jesus is asking them to love and not fight back..

Jesus wants us to love others and be kind to them. He wants us to be friends and care for others.

Let's ask God to help us be friends and help others.

Sing, "My best friend is Jesus."

## Hands-on Activities For Don't Judge Others

Everyone has had a time when we have criticized others. One old Indian statement says that we should walk in their shoes before we criticize them. That means that we may not know what has been going on their situation. We should look at that before we judge them. Bring all kinds of fun old shoes to class. Let the kids try to walk around in the shoes. Be sure to bring ladies high heels, little baby shoes etc. Share how hard it is to walk in the shoes. Explain that we should not judge others because we do not know what has happened in their situation.

Try this as a great way to talk about judging others. Bring lots of snacks. As you pass out snacks, give some kids huge portions and others very small portions. Very quickly, the kids will say "that's not fair!" What a great teaching opportunity. Share how we should not judge others. Help them see that we should be glad for what we have and not look or criticize others. (It would probably be best to then add snacks to the very small portion people)

Bring tongue depressors for everyone. Press the stick in your mouth and help the kids remember to watch what they say. Remind them to say kind words to others.

Bring tweezers and remind the kids that we should take the log of wood out of our eyes before we take the speck of dust out of someone else's eyes.

Bring cookies and break each one into two pieces. Give a broken cookie to each person. Each child must help another child mend their cookie with icing. Share how we must mend our harsh words and instead say kind words to others.

Illustrate what a hypocrite is by bringing a piece of good fruit and bad fruit (the bad fruit should look good on the outside but bad on the inside). Peel or cut the fruit so that the kids can see both. Share how a hypocrite looks good on the outside but is rotten on the inside. Share how God wants us to be good fruit.