

Life of Christ

The Harvest

John 4:27, 31-38

Younger Verse

I must finish the work that [God] gave me to do. John 4:34 (CEV)

Older Verse

Jesus said: My food is to do what God wants! He is the one who sent me, and I must finish the work that he gave me to do. John 4:34 (CEV)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Has your mom ever pointed something out to you that was around you the whole time, but that you did not notice, like maybe your dirty socks on the floor or your brother's baby bottle. Have you walked into the room, looked around and said, "I don't see it," whatever "it" is? I bet your mom even walked back in the room with you and picked up exactly what she asked you to go find! Jesus' disciples had the same kind of problem. They did not yet see the way Jesus saw. Let's look again at the story of the woman at the well and see what happened.

Do you remember our story about the woman? Jesus was tired from His journey through Samaria into Galilee and sat down by a well to rest. Did Jesus go to this Samaritan town alone? No, His disciples traveled with Him. Well, the woman came, around lunchtime, to draw water for her home but found out about the living water of having Jesus in her life. Do you remember where His disciples were while Jesus talked with the woman? They went to town to find something for lunch. When the disciples returned with lunch, they were surprised to find Jesus talking with this woman, this Samaritan woman, but none of them said anything.

Then, the disciples offered Jesus lunch, but he wouldn't take it! And you know what Jesus said? He said, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." This confused His disciples! They asked each other if anyone had brought Jesus something to eat while they had been away. What they did not understand was that Jesus was not talking about physical food like apples and ham and potato chips! It is a little like what Jesus explained to the woman at the well about living water not being physical water at all but Jesus in her life. Jesus was trying to explain to His disciples that telling people about God nourished Him

Lesson Goals

Introduce the idea of a harvest and its spiritual implications.
Discuss the importance of "seeing" people, really seeing them, and sharing Jesus with them.

and was more important to Him than food. Doing God's work filled Jesus up inside and satisfied Him so that He did not even want to think about eating. He was excited that the woman at the well had believed in God, through Him!

Jesus shared a story with them to explain even more! Jesus talked about the harvest, a time when farmers who have planted, go out into the fields and pick what is ready and what God has made grow. For Jesus and His disciples, it was the time of year when people would talk about the harvest only being four months away. Jesus wanted them to see what He could see, that a harvest was ready right now! Do you remember thinking about those socks or a baby bottle in the floor that you couldn't see until your mom picked them up? Jesus wanted His disciples to look around them. Yes, they were traveling from one place, through Samaria, to get to another, but God had plans for a woman at a well and many people in her town. They didn't seem to see that. They had their minds on resting and eating lunch. Jesus wanted them to see that the people of Sychar needed to know, and wanted to know, about Him. Jesus told His disciples to look around them that the fields were ripe and ready for harvest. The harvest that Jesus was talking about was a harvest of people believing in God. Jesus knew what was happening in the city as the woman at the well told people she had met the One whom God had sent and that He told her everything she had ever done! Do you remember, from last week, what happened next? Many people trusted in Jesus because of what the woman said and many others trusted when they listened to Him.

How about you? Have you trusted in Jesus, believing that He is the One sent from God? If not, will you now? And if you have, will you learn from Jesus and look around you? Who do you see everyday at school, or on the way to school? Who do you see every afternoon? Have you ever told anyone about Jesus? Does it make you feel good when you get to talk about God with someone who wants to know why God loves them and why He sent Jesus to die in their place? Try it today!

Memory Verse Activities

Have students look up their memory verses. Then give them time to create a chant or rap, not changing words but making the tune their own.

Prayer Time

Pray to see like Jesus sees. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with someone today!

Clean Up and Snack Time

As you eat snack, talk about the ingredients in what you are eating, i.e. flour. Talk about flour coming from wheat and show pictures of wheat being harvested.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 12
The Official's Son Lives
John 4:43-54

Preschool Lesson

I Can Work for Jesus!

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”

Jesus worked for God all day, worked all day, worked all day.

Jesus worked for God all day, I can do it, too.

I can work for Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

I can work for Jesus, you can do it, too.

Have you ever thought about Jesus working? Can you remember any of the things Jesus did?

He was a carpenter with his father Joseph.

He taught the Bible at church.

He taught His friends, the disciples.

He changed water to wine.

In our story for today, we open the Bible and read that Jesus had to finish the work God gave Him to do. Jesus worked for God and Jesus wanted to do His best, always. God sent Jesus to tell people how much God loved them. Jesus told a man named Nicodemus and He told a woman at the well. And then the woman at the well went and told the people where she lived.

You can work for Jesus. You can tell people how much God loves them, too. You can tell everyone you know that God loves them!

Pray: “Thank you, God, for loving me. Help me tell everyone I know that you love them, too.”

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Discuss with your students the idea of Jesus having other food. Find out which students have ever been so excited about something that they could not eat - maybe a program at school or a birthday party. Talk about Jesus being even more excited to share the truth of God's love with the people around Him. Encourage your students to do the same.
- If your group is older, go a little more in depth with a discussion of harvesting. Bring in pictures of harvesting from now and from Bible times. Talk about sowing (planting) and reaping (gathering). The sowing was usually done after the fall rainy season and the harvesting or reaping was done after the spring rainy season. Many times the one who sowed was not necessarily the one who reaped.

Spiritual Implications: Our sowing the word and harvesting the fruit of a life given to the Lord happen after the person has heard the truth of the Bible and been prepared - like the fall and spring rains. And many times the person who has the wonderful opportunity to lead someone to the Lord is not the first person who told them about Jesus. Be patient. Be obedient. Let God work!

- Make sickles. Use cardstock or cardboard to draw out the form of the handle and curved blade. Leave the handle brown to resemble wood and cover the "blade" with aluminum foil.
- Bring wheat and wheat products or corn and corn products. Continue to talk about harvesting and how many people there are around us who don't know Jesus yet. Encourage your students to tell one new person about Jesus each day this week.
- Play tag. Choose one or more persons to be the "harvesters." Everyone else will be "wheat." "Harvesters" run through the group tagging "wheat." When "wheat" has been tagged, they remain in place, just like a bundle of wheat that has been harvested and stacked. Play ends when everyone has been "harvested."