

LESSON 1 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Take a look at yourself before you judge others!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn “That we should not judge other people.”

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 7:1-5, Do not Judge

MEMORY VERSE:

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3

SUMMARY:

Jesus says not to try to pick a spec out of someone else’s eye when you have a plank in your own eye. It’s hilarious to think that we can be so focused on other people’s faults that we can’t even see our own. We can’t see other people’s hearts, but we can work on our own! When we are humble and see our sins, we can speak the truth in a more loving way to others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to realize that we are all sinners and we humbly need you. Give us wisdom on how to speak the truth in love to others to help them walk away from sin in their lives.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“My goal is that their hearts may be encouraged and strengthened. I want them to be joined together in love. Then their understanding will be rich and complete. They will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIRV)

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

“I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NLT)

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Put the memory verse up on the big screen. Read it to the kids. Say, “This new series is called, “Okay, that’s funny!” because Jesus said some things that sounded funny. But even though they can sometimes make you laugh, everything Jesus has taught us is wise.” Read the memory verse again. Ask the kids, “Where does this passage say that all wisdom and knowledge are hidden? Jesus!”

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference. Give each kid a piece of paper and pencil and ask them to copy the memory verse. Then hand out highlighters and ask the kids to highlight who all wisdom and knowledge are hidden in.

SKIT

Okay, That's Funny!

ITEMS NEEDED:

A piece of chopped up firewood (small log)

A small splintered piece of wood

Fire pit

Ax

Marshmallows ("Campfire" is a good allergy-friendly brand to use.)

CHARACTERS:

Scott

Bill

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Wilderness expert – Scott

Wilderness expert – Bill

Wilderness experts, Scott and Bill, are standing center stage next to their firepit. Scott is holding a piece of chopped-up firewood and Bill is standing next to him. An ax is sitting nearby to show they just chopped wood.

SCOTT: Welcome campers! I'm Scott.

BILL: And I'm Bill. And we are so glad you are all here to take our wilderness class.

SCOTT: It's important to know how to build a proper fire if you are going to go camping or be out in the woods.

BILL: This is because you never know when it might get cold and you need a fire to warm yourself by.

SCOTT: A fire is also important for cooking your food. Without it, you will go hungry.

BILL: As you can see, we have already chopped wood. An ax is an important tool to have when you go camping.

SCOTT: We split the wood and now we have excellent chopped firewood just like this piece here.

BILL: Hey Scott.

SKIT

SCOTT: Yeah?

BILL: I think you forgot something very important.

SCOTT: What's that?

BILL: The matches.

SCOTT: Oh yeah? Well, you forgot to bring the steaks. How are we going to eat!?

BILL: That's true. I guess I shouldn't judge.

SCOTT: When you go camping you should always bring matches and food. If you don't bring food, you will have to hunt for it or gather it, and that is a whole other class.

BILL: Hey Scott.

SCOTT: Yes?

BILL: Sorry I judged you and called you out on forgetting matches. I guess I'm just as bad since I forgot the steaks.

SCOTT: It's okay, man. We are a team. We sometimes make mistakes but we have to have each other's backs.

(Bill holds up a small splintered piece of wood.)

BILL: It's just like that Bible verse, I noticed this small splinter in your eye, but I didn't even notice the big log in my own.

SCOTT: Hahaha! That verse always makes me laugh.

BILL: Me too.

SCOTT: How people can notice other people's sins but not see their own is pretty funny.

BILL: Yeah, pretty sad too. We are so quick to judge other people for the same mistakes we make.

SCOTT: Well, even though we don't have matches or steaks. We are going to teach you

SKIT

how to light a fire by rubbing two sticks together.

BILL: And I at least brought marshmallows. So, we can have that for a snack!

SCOTT: Great...it'll only take about an hour to light this fire...

BILL: An hour?

SCOTT: Yep, rubbing two sticks together is not the easiest way to light a fire. It can take a very long time.

BILL: Or we could just eat these marshmallows the way they are?!

SCOTT: Good idea!

BILL: Who wants a marshmallow?!

(Volunteers hand out a marshmallow to each kid.)

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Mud on your hands and shirt

Hey guys! Today I'm going to call my friend out on their mistake. I'm so sick of them tracking mud into my house. Alright...where are they? Let me at them.

I haven't seen them yet. I'm sure they are coming soon. I saw them out in the garden, and I know when they come in, they will forget to take their shoes off AGAIN. And make it all muddy in here. I would never do that. Look at me, I'm perfectly clean!

What's that? Did someone say I'm not perfectly clean? What do you mean?

Oh, well I didn't wash my hands after I was weeding. I guess that I could possibly make a mess if I touch things inside.

And yeah, I guess I should probably change my shirt. It is kind of a mess. I didn't even notice.

Huh! Okay, that's funny! How is it that I noticed my friend making a mess but I didn't even realize that I'm doing the same exact thing. Weird.

In our relationship with Jesus, He calls us to work on our own hearts and to let go of our sins. But sometimes we start focusing on other people around us and compare ourselves to them. We think that if we can look better than them, that somehow our sin won't be as noticeable. But God sees all sin. He doesn't want us to focus on making everyone around us clean, He wants us to focus on our own personal relationship with Him. When we do this, we are becoming more like Jesus.

But when we focus all our attention on other people's mistakes and don't admit our own, we won't see our sin. Jesus said, "Do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" Oftentimes when we distract ourselves by telling other people how to improve, we miss out on the opportunity to improve ourselves. But once we have worked on our own sin, we can humbly help others with theirs.

LARGE GROUP GAME

Work on yourself First!

ITEMS NEEDED:

Life Jackets (5 or 6) or sports jerseys
Pool Noodles
Balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Create 5 to 6 teams of kids. Tell the kids that each team will be racing. They will be racing into the river, hopping over “river logs”, and getting a ball. Have them line up and ask the first kid in line to put on their life jacket, run as fast as they can across the room hopping over pool noodles (logs) and retrieving a ball, then racing back, hopping over any “logs” on the way. Once they return, they must take off their life jacket and help the next person in line put on their jacket, then go to the back of the line and sit down with their ball. Tell them to hold on to their ball because if they lose it, they will have to go again. After each kid has gone through the race and brought back a ball, count up the balls to be sure each kid has one. The first team to be sitting with balls in hand wins.

VARIATIONS:

N/A

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Just like in an emergency, you can't help other people if you aren't safe first. You have to put on your own life jacket or breathing mask before you can help someone else with theirs. If you don't, you won't be any use to them if you're drowning or you can't breathe! We need to take care of our sin before we can help other people with theirs.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

TAGLINE:

Take a look at yourself before you judge others!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn “That we should not judge other people.”

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 7:1-5, Do Not Judge

INTRO:

How is it going, friends?! Jesus talks about some pretty funny situations. Situations that we get ourselves into that can be pretty hilarious...that is if you can laugh at yourself! WE aren't perfect and sometimes it's good to be able to laugh at ourselves and not take ourselves too seriously. One funny thing Jesus said about people is that they often judge one another even though they themselves are sinners. Okay, that's just funny!

Everyone take a look at your neighbor beside you and tell them they have a bird on their head. Now look at someone else near you and tell them they have a cat on their back! Look at someone else and say that there is a log in their eye! These are just silly tricks. You don't really have a cat on your back or a bird on your head. But what if you did? What if someone told you that you made a mistake or that you did something wrong. What if they noticed your sin and judged you for it? How would that make you feel? There is a good way and a bad way of telling people things that are wrong with them. Let's read what Jesus says about it!

READ MATTHEW 7:1-5

MAIN POINT:

Jesus tells us not to judge one another. This means, we realize that we aren't perfect either. That we are sinners and make mistakes too. When we realize this, we don't think of ourselves as better than other people, even if they have sinned. This is because we have sinned too. We shouldn't judge because we will be judged when we do.

Instead, there is a better way. Later in the passage it said that we should take notice of the log in our own eye before we point out the splinter/saw dust in someone else's. This means, we might notice that someone else has made a mistake or a poor choice, but we should take a look at ourselves to see if we have any sin. When we realize that we sin too, we will be less likely to judge them and more likely to forgive and give them grace.

Some examples of this could be: If you see that your friend is cheating on a test at school. You could tell your friends and talk badly about them, or you could recognize that you have cheated before too. Or if you haven't cheated, maybe you've butted in line. Or maybe you've excluded someone from playing with you and your friends. Maybe you've pushed or shoved someone. Whatever it is, no matter how small, you have made mis-

LARGE GROUP LESSON

takes too.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Sin is bad and God doesn't want us to pretend it didn't happen and just look the other way. But there is a good way and a bad way with dealing with other people's sin. First, we can recognize we are sinners too. Next, we can lovingly let them know that we saw what they did. Then we can also tell them that we make mistakes too and we forgive them, or we want to help them make better choices by being a supportive friend. For instance, if you caught someone cheating on a test, next time a test is coming up, offer to study with that person and help them to work hard to get a good grade. This way you are helping them not to cheat and offering a better way to get an A! We never know people's hearts and why they are sinning. All we can know is that we have sinned too and that instead of judging them, we can offer a helping hand.

Another example of this is if you saw someone steal food at the grocery store. Maybe that person doesn't have enough money to buy food. Instead of judging them, we can offer to make them a meal.

God is the only one who can judge our sin because He is the only one who knows our circumstances and our hearts. **TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF BEFORE YOU JUDGE OTHERS! WE SHOULD NOT JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE!** Let's pray and ask God to help us to look inside our own hearts and focus on our own relationship with Jesus.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to realize that we are all sinners, and we humbly need you. Give us wisdom on how to speak the truth in love to others to help them walk away from sin in their lives.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

ICEBREAKER:

Would you rather have an actual log in your eye or a snake in your boot?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference. Give each kid a piece of paper and pencil and ask them to copy the memory verse. Then hand out highlighters and ask the kids to highlight who all wisdom and knowledge is hidden in. Encourage kids to draw a cross with their highlighter underneath the verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

(Ahead of time, find a stick outside and cut it so that it is small and short.)

Play hot potato with the stick. Tell the kids, "It's not good to have sin (a log) so pass it as quickly as you can!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:1-5

What does Jesus tell us not to do?

Why do you think that is?

What happens when we look inward instead of at other people's sins?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and forgiving us for our sins. Help us to love one another well and not judge each other.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

ICEBREAKER:

Would you rather have an actual log in your eye or a snake in your boot?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference. Give each kid a piece of paper and pencil and ask them to copy the memory verse. Then hand out highlighters and ask the kids to highlight who all wisdom and knowledge is hidden in. Encourage kids to draw a cross with their highlighter underneath the verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

(Ahead of time, find a stick outside and cut it so that it is small and short.)

Play hot potato with the stick. Tell the kids, "It's not good to have sin (a log) so pass it as quickly as you can!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:1-5

What does Jesus tell us not to do?

Why do you think that is?

What happens when we look inward instead of at other people's sins?

How can we speak the truth to others in love without judging them?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and forgiving us for our sins. Help us to love one another well and not judge each other.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

When we judge others, we will be judged.

TRUE

If we take time to see our sins, we will be humble and not judge others.

TRUE

Jesus forgives us for our sins so we should be able to forgive one another for theirs.

TRUE

It's funny how other people are sinners and we aren't.

FALSE

It's funny how we notice other people's sins and not our own.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

OKAY, THAT'S FUNNY LESSON I

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

What happens when we notice someone else's sin? Should we judge them? No, we should look inside our hearts and notice our own sin. Then we can more humbly speak the truth in love to our friends. Matthew 7:1-5, Do Not Judge



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kid if they have ever noticed when someone was making the wrong choice. Ask how they reacted.

Ask your kid how they would want someone else to react if they made a mistake and/or sinned.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

How could you notice a tiny speck in someone else's eye but not your giant log of a sin?

What should we be focusing our attention on? Hint: the answer is in Matthew 7:1-5.

Instead of judging someone for their sin, what is an honest and loving way to respond to them?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3



PARENT TIME:

Sometimes things that Jesus says can be humorous. This is often because Jesus is pointing out how silly we can be. Today we learned that it's easy to see a speck of sawdust in someone else's eye but not the log in our eye. This means that we notice other people's faults, but we give ourselves a break and don't see our mistakes as a sin. One way to help children with this is to challenge them to look inward at their relationship with God and not outward, comparing themselves to other people. When we focus on our growth in Jesus, we are humbled by His mercy and much more likely to give others grace when they make a mistake. Next time your child tattles on someone else, remind them that we all make mistakes, use yourself as an example and then ask them to share a time they made a mistake. Humility is key!

TAKE HOME

Supplies: Tiny pine cones, acorns, sticks, pine needles, leaves, etc.

Ask kids to draw a self-portrait and then glue a collage of tree items all around and on the portrait. Tell kids to have fun with it and be as silly as they want with an acorn on their ear and a leaf on their nose.

Say, “Take a look at your portrait. You can easily see all the sticks, logs, leaves, and more on it because you are looking at it from an outside perspective. We can look inward and recognize our sin for what it is. When we do, we can ask Jesus for forgiveness and have a fresh start! When God forgives your sin, He forgets about it. We can do the same for one another. We can forgive and forget! We should never judge one another because none of us are perfect.”