



The Word Is Truth

SUPPLIES Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- Teaching words of Jesus cards (for Hearing of the Word lesson).

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- Jonah & Jesus comparison chart (from Week 2 Activity #1 for review)

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheets (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons* (Found in the introduction section.)

**These items will be needed every week.*

LEADER'S Review

The element of worship we are studying this month is the sermon. We want to teach our children the value of listening to the preaching of God's Word. Throughout Scripture, God called His people not only to study His Word individually but also to hear His Word within the covenant community. We need to hear the Word preached to us. Encourage students to listen to the sermon in church each week and to remember our pastors have been called by God to preach the Word to His people.

On the night Jesus was arrested, He attested to His own calling. First, before the high priests He confirmed He had taught openly in the synagogues and said nothing in secret. Then, when Jesus stood before Pilate and was questioned, He replied, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." In these two scenes, Jesus demonstrated both the value of corporate teaching and His own calling to preach.

Earlier, in Nazareth, as He was beginning His public ministry, Jesus read the words of Isaiah which prophesied the Messiah's coming: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." Then Jesus declared He was the fulfillment of the prophecy; He was anointed (or called) to proclaim the good news. And, that's what He did throughout His ministry on earth; He taught those who listened to Him.

Since Jesus's return to heaven, the Holy Spirit has called preachers to bear witness to Christ and the gospel. First, there were the apostles in the Book of Acts, and there have been men throughout church history—Augustine, Patrick, Luther, Spurgeon—whom the Spirit has called to "bear witness to the truth." And, yes, even your own pastor is among those called. As you teach students this week of Jesus's call to preach, remind them He has called others to continue preaching His Word, and we are called to listen.





Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (4-7 minutes)

John 18:33-37 (Jesus Came to Bear Witness to the Truth)

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Luke 4:16-21 (Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy)

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Matthew 5:1-2, 7:28-29 (Jesus Taught with Authority)

¹ Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them.

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.



Prayer

Pray a prayer of praise to God who is “holy, holy, holy... the LORD of hosts.” (3-4 minutes)

Dear Jesus, You whom the angels worship left the glories of heaven to come and teach us the truth about Yourself. What amazing love! Please give us ears and hearts to hear the truth and to join the angel hosts in worship. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (8-12 minutes)

We have been studying about hearing the Word of God this month. In our worship service, this is when the pastor gives the sermon. It is the time when the preacher opens the Bible and teaches us what it means. Every sermon should always point to Jesus and the saving truth He came to teach us—even stories from the Old Testament, like Jonah's. Last week we learned that the story of Jonah pointed us to Jesus. What are some of the things about Jonah's story that remind us of Jesus? *Use the Jonah-Jesus comparison page from last week to help remind them.*

One other thing Jonah and Jesus have in common is they both were called to preach the truth. Unlike Jonah, however, Jesus was perfectly obedient to the call. We don't always think about Jesus as a preacher. Sometimes we think about the miracles He did while on earth, or we think about His being born in a stable, or we think about His coming to die for our sins and then His resurrection and return to heaven, but we often forget about His preaching. We might remember Him teaching the disciples important lessons, but we forget that He often proclaimed the truth to hundreds of people at a time.

In the first passage we read today, when Jesus was being questioned by Pilate, He told Pilate that His purpose for coming to earth was to bear witness, or proclaim, the truth. For the three years of His public ministry, Jesus preached the Word of God, the truth. He began His preaching ministry, as we read in the second passage, in His hometown of Nazareth when He proclaimed to everyone in the synagogue that He was the fulfillment of the prophecy Isaiah had been given 700 hundred years earlier. Sadly, the people in Nazareth didn't believe Him; they didn't understand because they could only think of Him as a carpenter's son, not as a preacher, and certainly not as the Messiah, God's only Son.

So, Jesus left Nazareth and preached the good news in other places to other people who did believe. Hundreds and even thousands of people would go hear Him preach in the synagogues and in the countryside. They would be there all day listening to Jesus preach. His most famous sermon is recorded in Matthew chapters 5 through 7. It's known as the Sermon on the Mount because the people had followed Jesus up a hill where He sat down and taught them about God.

We call the first part of this sermon The Beatitudes because the first words of these nine statements are "Blessed are." One of The Beatitudes says we are blessed when we hunger and thirst for righteousness. That means when we want to know and follow God and His ways, God will teach us. Jesus continued by saying those who are merciful, or kind to others, will receive mercy or kindness from God. A third beatitude encourages us to be peacemakers, so people will know we are God's children.

After The Beatitudes, we find some practical instructions from Jesus. He told His followers, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others. Do not hide it under a basket." Just as Jesus came to show the truth, He has given us that truth so we can shine it out everywhere we go. Evil represents darkness. God's people bring light.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

Even though Jesus called us the light of the world, He knew that we still struggle with sin, so He addressed some matters of the heart with some very stern warnings. He said, “If you hate your brother, you are a murderer in your heart.” Even though we might never commit murder, God sees our hearts, and hatred is just as evil in God’s sight. Another sin He addressed is called lust which is wanting something we do not need or should not have. Jesus said if that desire makes you disobey God, then get rid of it immediately.

Next, He told His followers to be honest: “Let your yes be yes, and your no be no.” Tell the truth and keep your promises. If you say you are going to do something, do it. Then He instructed us to do some very hard things. First, He declared that if someone hurts us or does something mean to us, that it is not our job to “get even” or pay them back for what they did. Jesus commanded us to love our enemies and to pray for them! What?! How can I love someone who wants to hurt me and do mean things to me? We can’t on our own. We need Jesus to do that. He will help us love others as God loves them. He will remind us that we were His sinful enemies too, but through His great love for us, He came and took our punishment for us on the cross. So, now we can love and pray for everyone, even our enemies.

There are so many important things that Jesus taught that day. We could spend our whole lesson time talking about any one of them. Perhaps you’ve heard lessons about these next few statements, so you can tell me what they mean. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”? **Allow children time to answer.** That’s right. Don’t love money and things, but love and serve God and others which will bring rewards in heaven. Jesus also told us, “Don’t be anxious about your life, what you will eat, or drink, or wear. Look at the birds and flowers. God provides for them.” If God provides for the birds and flowers, He will take care of us even more, because we are more important to Him. We can trust God for everything.

I know you’ve heard this next statement: “Do to others what you would have them do to you.” Tell me what that means to you. **Let the children share, and then summarize their replies.** In everything we say or do, we should treat other people the way we want to be treated, the way God treats us, with love and forgiveness. The whole Bible tells us that, and Jesus demonstrated that when He lived on earth. Now He gives us His Spirit to help us live His way, even when it’s too hard for us to be loving on our own.

The last instruction recorded from the Sermon on the Mount is that Jesus told His followers to “build your house on the rock, so when storms come, it won’t be destroyed.” Who is that rock? The rock is Jesus. If we count on anyone or anything else, we will be like the man who built his house on the sand. The storms of life will wash us away, but no storm in our life is ever too much for our Rock, Jesus. He promises to keep us safe for eternity.

When Jesus concluded His address, the crowd was amazed. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that He was living everything He was saying—quite different from their other teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard! Some of the people believed in Jesus that day. Others went on with their lives as if they had never heard Him. Why? Jesus taught His followers that only the Holy Spirit can give people ears to hear and believe and follow Him.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

The hearing of the Word is powerful, and everyone needs to hear the Word preached over and over again. Because of our desperate situation, and because sin is our first nature, none of this great teaching will ever change us unless Jesus comes to dwell within us. His words along with His Spirit are powerful and will change the very worst of sinners. We all need Jesus because our hearts are desperately wicked. You have a sinful heart which only Jesus can change. Hear the Word today and believe that Jesus can give you a new heart.

Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!
(Ps. 29:11).



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