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Test

Handouts: Beatitudes, 10 Commandments, The Lord's Prayer

Additional Materials

Lesson 1 Jesus, the Son of Abraham.

Children's Bible Activities found for each lesson at-: <http://www.bibleactivities.com/>

Text: Matthew 1:1-6

Intro

- Introduce yourself, how you wish to be addressed, etc.
- Make Roster - *Write down each child's names*
- Curriculum: Two books this year, Matthew and Genesis. *Can they find them in their Bibles?*

Weekly

- Read Bible Every Day of Previous Week
- Bring Bible to Class
- Good Behavior During Class
- Bible Verse Memorization

Lesson

Intro to Advent season - Advent wreath in sanctuary

Explain what advent means, and have them all say it We'll be doing 4 Sundays in Advent focusing on 4 names (*write on board*): Abraham, David, Jesus and Immanuel

The Sunday after Christmas we'll talk about Bethlehem, then the next week the Wise Men.

Today: Abraham.

Read Text (Matthew 1: 1-6)

Talk about Abraham, focusing on the 3 promises to him: Land, Son & Blessing to the Nations. Emphasize PATIENCE of Abraham. Abraham had to wait to get the land (had to leave because of the famine, had to pull off a rescue for nephew Lot, etc.); had to wait to get a child (until quite old); had to wait to be a blessing to the nations (difficulties for him and his son, Isaac, in foreign lands). The world had to wait 4,000 years for the promised Savior, Jesus. God fulfilled these promises fully by sending Jesus. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham. Matthew ends with Great Commission, the Son tells us to disciple all the nations in all the land/world.

Application

Focus on patience, using examples of how they have to be patient. How were they patient this past week? Will they be patient or impatient this week? Thank God for Jesus, the Greater Abraham, who in His Advent, brings us patience.

Song: The Beatitudes

Homework Sheet: Instruction to Parents

Memory Verse

“You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

James 5:8

Supplemental Material - Other Verses

1 Thess. 1:2,3 (patience of hope); Col. 1:11 (strengthened to all patience); Luke 8:15 (the good seed brings forth fruit with patience); Rom. 8:25 (hope and patience); 2 Thess. 3:5; Rev. 1:9 (the patience of Jesus Christ)

Lesson 2 Jesus, the Son of David

Text: Matthew 1:6-17

Intro

- If new children, introduce yourself, how you wish to be addressed, etc., *add to roster*.
- Did they read their Bible every day this past week?
- Did they bring their Bible to class?
- What two Bible books are we going to be talking about this year? *Can they find them?* Did they memorize the verse?
- Review the verse.

Lesson

- Review Advent season - Advent wreath in sanctuary.
- *Explain what advent means, and have them all repeat it.*
- First candle - Abraham, second candle - David. Later, Jesus & Immanuel.

Review last week's story

Lesson

Read Text (Matthew 1:6-17)

Other Applicable Verses: 1 Kings 2:4; 3 :6; Luke 1 :32; Psalm 2, Acts 2:25-32 (Note: in Acts, David is a prophet: he made music and sang the Lord's message to others. Saul was also a prophet)

1) *Talk about David*, focusing on the promise to him that his seed would sit on the throne forever, the best of all Kings, the King of Kings. Solomon was a *near* fulfillment, but his son caused division of the Israelite monarchy, not expansion to the entire world.

2) *David was the second king of Israel's kings*. People were impatient, wanted a king before they would get a good one from God, got a bad one instead (Saul). If we don't wait patiently for God to provide, we end up getting things that turn out bad. Adam was impatient, *Adam's was the 1 st fall*, that of impatient disobedience to God; Abraham was the 1 st reversal of the falls, in patient obedience to God. (2nd fall is Cain, hating his brother and killing him. 3rd fall is sons of God, marrying wrong. 2nd reversal is Jacob, kind to Esau, reconciled to him. 3rd reversal is Joseph, resisting Potiphar's wife. We are to be patient, kind and holy, and we will get to rule the world, the way Joseph did - by serving!)

3) *Review how Matthew ends: Great Commission.*

4) *David replaced Saul, the way Jesus is the new Adam.* Saul was like a "Gentile" ruler, ruling by lording it over people. David was a servant, the true King. He served his father (and his family) with their flocks & served Israel (his country) by killing Goliath and other enemies. He served his church by reforming worship and writing many psalms, a hymnbook. He was a faithful servant in small things so was increasingly entrusted with large things, becoming King. David was patient, serving the wicked Saul for many years. Saul was like a pagan king, not serving, but demanding to be served.

The world waited for 1,000 years for the greater David, the true Servant of the Lord.

Memory Verse:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Put memory verse in context (kings) by reading Luke 22:25-32. Also see Mt 20:25-28 and Mark 10:41-45.

Application

- Focus on patience again, and add in "service."
- Use real life examples. How can they be servants today? To their parents tomorrow? Etc.

Song - The Beatitudes

Lesson 3 Jesus, the Savior

Text: Matthew 1:18-21

Intro

- If new children, introduce yourself, how you wish to be addressed, etc., add to roster.
- Did they read their Bible every day this past week?
- Did they bring their Bible to class?
- What two Bible books are we going to be talking about this year?
- Can they find them?
- Did they memorize the verse?

Review

- Review the verses, reviewing PATIENCE and SERVICE
- James 5:8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- *Review* Advent season - Advent wreath in sanctuary.
- Explain what advent means, and have them all say it.
- First candle - Abraham (Patience), second candle - David (Service). Later, Jesus (Savior),

Immanuel

- Review last week's story

Lesson

Read Text (Matthew 1:18-21)

Jesus is the same as Joshua (very same name). *Review life of Joshua*. Joshua fought against enemies. This involved hard work. Jesus fights against our enemies too. Relate to things on television news (Iraq, WMD, etc.) Very important part of saving us is His fighting our enemies.

But is that what our verse is mostly saying? Read verse 21 again, stressing why he was to be named Jesus. He will save His people from their **SINS!** Jesus is the greater Joshua. He is the greater fighter, the greater conqueror. And what is He mostly going to conquer? Our sins! What is harder, to conquer an enemy or to stop sinning? (The latter). The whole reason we celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus, is what this verse tells us about. The purpose of Christmas is so that we wouldn't sin so much.

He saves **His people** from their sins. We are His people by reason of our baptism. (Woody example from Toy Story). This saved us from hell, the just punishment of our sins. He will save us one day from even being in the presence of sin. But He saves us now by helping us not to sin so much. How? Our memory verse tells us how:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Here's the way we confess sin:

Address everyone involved.

Avoid excuses (if, but, maybe)

Admit what we did (specifically)

Apologize

Accept consequences (*Stress here that only Jesus can pay the price for our sin. He came to die on the cross, so that we could break the habit of sinning. He saved us by dying for us.*)

Alter behavior

Ask forgiveness

Example - We stole a cookie when we were hungry. Go through the 7 A's. Address Mom and God. Avoid saying you were hungry. Admit you stole the cookie and broke Mom and God's Word. Apologize--tell Mom and God you are sorry you sinned. Tell Mom that you will accept what she says should happen to you (spanking, restitution, etc.). Tell Mom (and God!) that you are going to try hard to not steal anymore. Ask Mom to forgive you.

What is sin? Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of the Law of God. Talk a bit about sins of commission (things they do) and sins of omission (not doing what they are told to do.) Jesus came to save us from these sins!

Conclude by reciting together (line it out for them) two verses of Isaac Watts' Sabbath song: This is the day when Christ arose

So early from the dead:
Why should I my eyelids close,
And waste my hours in bed?
This is the day when Jesus broke
The powers of death and hell;
And shall I still wear Satan's yoke,
And love my sins so well?

Application

Focus on patience again and add in "service." Jesus saves us from impatience and from laziness and wanting to be the boss. The other sin He saves us from is lying. Stress that honesty is linked to confession, and that deceit is what causes u not to confess.

Song - The Beatitudes Hand out parent sheet?

Memory Verse

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. " 1 John 1:9

Supplemental Material:

1. Advent of the Savior-King: Jesus as Greater Abraham, David, and Moses
2. Chapters 5-7, Talk #1, "The Sermon on the Mount"
3. Chapter 10, Talk #2, "The Sending Of the Twelve"
4. Chapter 13, Talk #3, "A Bright Future: Kingdom Parables"
5. Chapter 18, Talk #4, "Humility and Forgiveness"
6. Chapters 23-25, Talk #5 "The Old Kingdom Is Judged as the New Kingdom Is Established"
7. Chapters 26-28, The Great Commission

The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before.

The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Lesson 4 Jesus is Emmanuel

Text: Matthew 1

Intro

- If new children, introduce them to the class.
- Did they read their Bible every day this past week?
- Did they bring their Bible to class?
- Did they memorize the verse? Review the memory verse.
- What two Bible books are we talking about this year?
- Can they find them? First Genesis, then Matthew. They are the first books of the two halves of the Bible. - Read all of Matthew 1, stopping at Abraham, David, Jesus and review the past lessons, stressing worship (praise God for what He did in each of these men's lives, etc.) and stressing the character traits of patience, service, and honesty.
- Review the 7 A's of confession.
- Review Advent season - Advent wreath in sanctuary. Explain what advent means, and have them all say it.
- First candle - Abraham, second candle - David. Third Candle - Jesus, Today - Immanuel- God With Us!!

Lesson

Re-read Verses 22 to 25.

Other Applicable Verses: Isaiah 7:10-16; Isaiah 8:7-15; Matthew 28:20

The name Immanuel means, God Is With Us. The text in Matthew 1 notes the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, so the advent theme of fulfillment can be profitably brought into this lesson. The sign was a sign that God was with His people, and that the fear they had of other men was not necessary - God was with them, and they would not be attacked by the men they feared.

Here at the beginning of Matthew's Gospel was the same sign - men would not have to be fearful, because God would be with them in a new and marvelous way. Jesus would come, God would put on human flesh, to die for our sins, and to be raised for our victory. Matthew's Gospel ends with the last half of 28:20: "and I, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Talk about times they may be fearful. God gives them courage by reminding them that He is with them. Talk about this week's memory verse:

Hebrews 13:6

6 So we may boldly say: [stress boldly - say it loud!] "The LORD is my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

The early church knew how important it was to not be fearful. In Hebrews 2: 15 tells us that fear of death brings us into bondage to sin. When we believe God is Immanuel, God is with us, Jesus is with us till the end of all time, then we will not be as tempted to sin. So, they developed a liturgical tool to help them remember that God was with them. They used the truth of 2 Timothy 4:22 in their worship service. The pastor would say "The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." And the people would respond with the second half of the verse, or words close to it: "Grace be with you. Amen." Each Sunday, people would be reminded that Jesus is Immanuel- God With Us! So that all week long, they wouldn't be fearful, and wouldn't sin so much.

Isaiah 12:2A

2 Behold, God *is* my salvation,

I will trust and not be afraid;

'For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' "

Psalms 46: 11 The LORD of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge.

There is another important thing for children to learn from Immanuel. In Isaiah 7, the verse being fulfilled in Matthew 1 tells us about what kind of child Jesus would be:

14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. 15 "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 "For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. Isaiah 7:14-16

Jesus refused the evil and chose the good. That's the kind of children God wants us to be. And with Jesus always with us, that's the kind of children we should be today and the rest of our lives.

End with Isaiah 9:6,7, which told of the coming of the one who would be our Immanuel:

Isaiah 9:6,7

6 For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Song - The Beatitudes

Memory Verse

So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13:6

Supplemental material

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament on Immanuel

With us is God. This proper name occurs twice. It is the name to be given to the child to be born of the virgin (Isa 7:14). Isaiah addresses Judah's king, of Davidic lineage, as Immanuel (8:8). The prophet also gives the meaning and application of the name by stressing that, in spite of what a disobedient king does, God will be with his covenant people (Isa 8:10).

The name Immanuel gives expression to the truth God had expressed in various ways to his covenant people in times previous to Isaiah. He had specifically said that he would be God to Abraham and his seed (Gen 17:7). He would go with Jacob (Gen 28: 15) and Moses (Ex 3: 12). God identified with his people saying he had taken them to be his possession (Ex 19:5-6). The angel of his name would go with and guard his people (Ex 23:20.24). To Joshua the word came, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you" (Josh 1:5). To David God said, "I have been with you" (II Sam 7:9).

Solomon earnestly prayed that the Lord would be with him and Israel as he had been with David (I Kgs 8:57). By various visible means, i.e. cloud, pillar of fire, and the ark of the covenant the Lord confirmed his word. He was with his people. He led, upheld, and blessed them.

Isaiah, speaking to Ahaz, assured him that the faithful covenant God was present as he had been and as he would be in the incarnate Son to be born of the virgin. Thus the past, present, and future intimate relationship of God's presence with his people is summed up in the name Immanuel.

For a fuller statement from the biblical point of view cf E. J. Young "Immanuel," NBD p. 556-57; for a modern critical statement, C. North in IBD.

Lesson 5 Bethlehem, City of David, House of Bread

Text: Matthew 2:1

Intro

- If new children, introduce them to the class.
- Did they read their Bible every day this past week? - Did they bring their Bible to class?
- Did they memorize the verse? Review the memory verse.
- What two Bible books are we talking about this year? - Can they find them? First Genesis, then Matthew. They are the first books of the two halves of the Bible. - Review Advent season - Advent wreath in sanctuary. Review Matthew 1, using the four names: Abraham, David, Jesus and Immanuel.
- Review the character traits of patience, service, honesty and courage.
- Review the 7 A's of confession.

Lesson

Reread Matthew 2: 1

Other Applicable Verses: I Sam 17:12; 20:6; I Sam 16: 13; Micah 5:2

1. Show Bethlehem on the map. (One will be on the wall).

2. Talk about David being born there, and being anointed as King there. Bethlehem is where we would expect to have a king be born! Another king is mentioned in the verse- Herod a very bad man. After the wise men told him Jesus was born there, he would kill many small children, trying to kill Jesus. But Jesus was kept safe. Times were very hard for Mary and Joseph. Herod was a bad King, but another bad man was over him - Caesar Augustus, emperor of Rome and ruler of all the world. He commanded all the Jews to go back to their home towns to be taxed. Imagine our President today ordering everyone back to their home towns, and then to tax them once they got there! Bad King, bad Emperor. But another King was coming into the world. A king who would hold little children in his arms, not kill them. A king who would bring freedom. A king who would rule all the world in love and kindness! King Jesus, the son of David!

Jesus' father obeyed the Emperor, even though it was very hard on him and his wife. Because he trusted God enough to obey, he went to Bethlehem. And because of his obedience, prophecy was fulfilled! Micah 5:2 had prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. (Read the verse)

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,

Yet out of you shall come forth to Me

The One to be Ruler in Israel,

Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting."

Bethlehem, then, reminds us to obey God, even when it's hard on us, especially when it's hard on us! Have them discuss a time when it as hard *for* them to obey, and yet they did.

So, Bethlehem reminds us to obey. But the city's name also reminds us that if we obey, God will bless us greatly! You see, Bethlehem means house of bread. It was in a very rich agricultural area, the breadbasket, so to speak, of Judah. It was a fruitful land. The city, Bethlehem, House of Bread, was in an area named Ephrata, meaning Fruitful! Jesus came to give Himself, the true "bread" of God to us. Today's sermon will be on John 6, where Jesus says He is the true bread *from* heaven. We will eat bread, the body of Christ today, as we do every Lord's Day. Jesus came to feed His people, just like King David was also a shepherd and provided food *for* his sheep. We can obey God because He always takes care of us. Herod killed little children. Jesus holds them and feeds them, today! Shouldn't we obey Him, and those He puts over us in authority, our parents, our teachers, our elders, and *our* governors? Our memory verse says yes we should, and reminds us that if we do, God will feed us good things!

Memory Verse

If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land. Isaiah. 1:19

Song - The Beatitudes

Supplemental material

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament on Immanuel

??? *House* of bread. In English it is read as one word, "Bethlehem," designating the city. It appears forty-three times; four times, as ???. "Bethlehemite," designating one belonging to Bethlehem. This name can refer to the place (house) of fighting (since the root refers also to fighting or to the place (house) of the god. ??? (probably from the Amarna letters, where a complaint is registered that ??? was in the hands of the invaders), but all this etymology is uncertain.

The area is first mentioned in Scripture when Rachel was buried by Jacob on the way to Ephrath, specifically at Bethlehem (Gen 35:19). It is located about five miles south of Jerusalem in Judean territory.

The city with the surrounding area was the center of the tribe of Judah. A well-known family, descendants of Perez, settled there and in the Judges period some of the family included Boaz the ancestor of, and Jesse the father of David. This area produced the godly family of Ruth and Boaz.

Bethlehem unfortunately was the abode of the Levite(who became the priest of Micah in Ephraim and later of the Danites (Jud 17; 18). Jewish people to this day despise this one for while he was a grandson of Moses, he became a shame. Therefore, in order to conceal his genealogy, the biblical text reads Manasseh (with an n **above** the line) instead of Moses (Jud 18:30). The Levite of Ephraim had a concubine from Bethlehem, and it was her death at the hand of the Levite that caused the civil war between Israel and Benjamin (Jud 19).

Bethlehem's prominence in the OT was in its association with David. It was his home (I Sam 17: 12: 20:6) and there Samuel anointed him king (I Sam 16:1. 13). Possibly Bethlehem was one of the worship centers on Samuel's circuit. Some of David's kinsmen who were his personal warriors. sons of Zeruah. were born there also. Near the end of Saul's reign the Philistines were

quartered there (II Sam 23: 14-16). It was the burial place of Asahel, brother of Joab (II Sam 2:32).

The succeeding history can be brief. Rehoboam fortified it (II Chr 11: 16). Some of Gedaliah's murderers stopped at Bethlehem on their way to Egypt (Jer 41: 16-17). Ezra 2:21 and Neh. 7:26 record more than one hundred Beth-lehemite emigrants, some of the leading citizens. Jews continued to live in Bethlehem in NT and post NT times and *Lam Rabbah* 1: 15 records that a Roman garrison was quartered there to destroy any remnant of Bar Kokhba's army. Today no Jews live in Bethlehem.

Because of the messianic passage (Mic 5:2 [H 1]), early Jewish believers who recognized Jesus as Messiah, emphasized Bethlehem as his birthplace (Mt 2: 1, 5; Lk 2:4, 15; Jn 7:42). Justin Martyr mentioned that the birthplace of Jesus was in a **cave**.

Thus the Son of God humbled himself to be born in a cave housing animals in a town so small and insignificant that when the land was distributed it was not even mentioned among the forty-six cities of Judah (Josh 15:20-63; Mic 5:2). In 325 Helena, mother of Constantine, had a church erected over the cave. It was destroyed in 529 A.D. in the Samaritan uprising against the Byzantines. Justinian (527-65) rebuilt it, and the Church of the Nativity today reflects the Justinian pattern. At the beginning of the 400s A.D., Jerome settled in Bethlehem and lived in a cave near the nativity cave. While in Bethlehem, Jewish scholars taught Hebrew to Jerome. His work in that cave, of translating the OT from Hebrew to Latin, became the basis of the Vulgate, in addition to his work of NT translation.

Bethlehem of Judah is not to be confused with a city of the same name in Zebulun (Josh 19:15). This is located about seven miles northwest of Nazareth.

Bibliography: Crowfoot, J. W., *Early Churches in Palestine*, Oxford, 1941, pp. 22-40. Masterman, E. W., "Bethlehem," in *ISBE*, I, pp. 449-50. Orni, Ephraim, "Bethlehem," in *Encyclopedia Judaica*, IV, pp. 739-45. Van Beck, G., "Bethlehem," in *IDB*, I, pp. 394-95.

Lesson 6 Wise Men Worship Jesus, the Light of the World

Text: Matthew 2:1-12 Epiphany

Introduction

- If new children, introduce them to the class.
- Did they read their Bible every day this past week?
- Did they bring their Bible to class?
- Did they memorize the verse? Review the memory verse.
- What two Bible books are we talking about this year?
- Can they find them? First Genesis, then Matthew. They are the first books of the two halves of the Bible.
- Review Advent season and Christmas - Review Matthew 1 and 2:1, using the five names: Abraham, David, Jesus, Immanuel, and Bethlehem. Review the character traits of patience, service, honesty, courage and obedience. Review the 7 A's of confession.

Lesson

- Read Matthew 2:1-12

Other Applicable Verses: Isaiah 60:1-3

1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

1. **When:** At forty days old, Jesus was taken into Jerusalem. Right after the wise men visit Jesus, his parents take him to Egypt. So, Jesus had to be at least 40 days old when the wise men came. Jesus was between 40 days and 2 years old.

2. **Where:** In Bethlehem, Men Came From the East Show Bethlehem on the map, and point out where East is.

3. **Who:** Some wise men. These were men of great power and influence. Some say kings, but they were probably priests who voted who should be the rulers of the East. These were king-makers, even more important than Kings! Some say there were three of them, because three gifts are mentioned. Tradition even names them: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. But we really don't know this for sure. What we do know is that these were very important men, who weren't Jews. They represent the Gentile world and its kings, and they are the very first people whoa recorded in the bible as worshipping Jesus!

4. **What:** These wise men are said in the text to "worship" Jesus. This means they bowed down on their knees before the baby Jesus. Even when He was a baby, Jesus was still King of Kings, and these men knew that! They believed God, and had studied the Bible, and came to worship Jesus. They also brought him presents: gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the bible, it's the King who has gold, and his house smells of frankincense and myrrh. It smells really good! So worship this same Jesus each Lord's Day, bringing him our gifts of our time and our money. Wise men still worship Him.

5. **How:** But how did the wise men know where to find Jesus? Well, God led them to Jesus by means of a bright star. Our text tells us that the star led them first to Jerusalem, then right to the very place in Bethlehem where Joseph, Mary and Jesus were staying! Long before this time, Isaiah wrote that "the Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." This is what our text says happened!

In John's Gospel, Jesus said this: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Epiphany celebrates the coming of Jesus, the light of the world, and calls us to worship Him. To tell men about Him in our text, God put a great Light in the sky. But does God still show men where Jesus is by using a great star? No, God says that WE are to be lights, shining in the midst of an otherwise dark world. By the way we live our lives, men can see the light of Jesus, and we can tell them about Him, by sharing the bible with them.

Would you like to be light for Jesus? The Bible tells us how. In Philippians we read that we shine like bright lights when we don't grumble or complain.

Philippians 2:14,15

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

When our parents give us food, we should be cheerful and thankful, and not complain or grumble. When our parents tell us to do a chore, we should be cheerful, and not grumble, complain or talk back to them. Will you try hard this week to be a bright light for Jesus?

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:14

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Song – This Little Light of Mine, The Beatitudes

Lesson 7 Out of Egypt Have I Called My Son

Text: Matthew 2:13-23

Intro

(Perhaps you could tell the story in 3 parts this Sunday. Paul mentioned a little loss of attention towards the latter part of the class. So, maybe start the class with part of the lesson/story, then do the review of Scripture, then tell more of the story, then review the catechism, then finish the story, and practice the Beatitudes song. These intervals of review/singing should involve MOVEMENT, which should go a long way to avoiding a loss of attention during the non-moving times)

Part One – God Takes Care Of Us

Remind them of last week's story – the wise men. When they first came to Israel, they talked with King Herod, a very wicked man. He didn't want Jesus to be King instead of him, so he wanted to kill Jesus. So, the wicked king told the wise men to tell him where Jesus was living. What will happen?

Talk about angelic appearance, warning of Herod's actions.

God takes care of us! He took care of Joseph and his family by warning him of danger, but He also took care of him by giving him the rich gifts of the wise men so that the family could finance their trip to Egypt, and their stay there. God takes care of us!

Review memory verses.

Part Two – We Should Obey God

Joseph's response was immediate obedience. Immediate means that he didn't wait around, but promptly, without anything in between, obeyed.

Stress first time obedience. Ask them about how they obey Mo or Dad when they are called to dinner, do their chores, etc.

Did you notice when they went to Egypt? Nighttime. Why is the night mentioned? Urgency of escape, but also the blackness of the wicked King's sins seems to be pictured.

Where did they go? Why do you suppose God wanted them to go to Egypt of all places?

Do you know anything about Egypt from the Bible?

Review the story of the Exodus.

Notice how odd this seems. In Moses day, the wicked king was in Egypt, and God had his people go to Israel. Now, the wicked king is in Israel, and God has his people go to Egypt for safety.

God wants us to think about these two stories together for many reasons. But one of the most important ones is to see how bad Israel had become during the time leading up to Jesus' birth. He came in very dark times, people, even the people who thought of themselves as God's people, had become very sinful. They were acting not like God's people, but like Egypt's people!

Jesus came in the worst of times. No matter how bad things may get for you, Jesus will come to you. You can trust Him to take care of you, the way God took care of Jesus and his family. PERSONALIZE. What are you afraid of? What bad things do you think might happen? We should learn to trust God, knowing that He has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is IMMANUEL, God with us!

Let get up, move around a bit, and review our catechism questions.

Part Three: Jesus and Moses

Another reason God tells us about this story in this way is to make us think about Moses. Moses led God's people out of Egypt. Our text today tells us that God was fulfilling a prophecy that he would bring His son out of Egypt. You see, He had brought his children out of Egypt before, and now, He was bringing His dearly beloved son out of Egypt. Jesus brings us out of bad places, just like Moses brought God's people out of bad places.

While Jesus is safely away in Egypt, King Herod does a very wicked thing; he kills little children, as he tries to kill Jesus. That's how bad things were in Israel! Herod was acting like the wicked ruler, called Pharaoh, in Egypt in Moses time acted. Pharaoh demanded that God's people kill their children too! And that's one reason why God judged Egypt. In the story in Matthew we are talking about today, God judges Herod, just like He judged Pharaoh. Right after telling us that Herod was as wicked as Pharaoh, the Bible tells us then that Herod died. Once more, God is protecting His people. And once more, God tells Joseph the news, this time very

good news - the enemy of Jesus was now dead, and the little boy and his parents could go back to Israel.

Herod and Pharaoh, Moses and Jesus. God wants us to think about Jesus as being like Moses, but even better! Moses couldn't die for our sins, but that's just what Jesus came to earth to do. To deliver us from our sins, and to cause us to trust and obey Him.

God takes care of us. He knows what is going to happen, and if we need to know, He will tell us. Even in very bad times, we can trust God. Bad men are once more killing little children and innocent people. But once more, God will take care of us. We can trust Him. How do we know if we are trusting God? By our obedience!

There is a song that your parents all know about trust and obedience. Maybe we could sing it.

Trust and Obey, Beatitudes songs

Memorize verse: Proverbs 3:5

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Optional: Proverbs 3:6

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Lesson 8 John the Baptist: Repent, For the Kingdom of Heaven Is At Hand!

Text: Matthew 3:1-12

Intro

Part One – John the Baptist, Wilderness and Sins, Repentance and Confession, Nearness of Christ vv. 1-6

Those who came to repent were confessing their sins. You'll remember that we talked about confessing Jesus is coming today! During each Lord's Day worship service, God draws near to His people in a special way. From one view, we go to heaven to be with Him. The Bible says that in worship, we go to the heavenly Jerusalem. That's what the Sursum Corda part of our worship is all about. We lift up our hearts, to appear before God in heaven. And from another view, He comes down to meet with us. In Revelation, Jesus is pictured as standing and knocking at our door during worship. So either way, whether it's us going up to see Him, or Him coming down to see us, the Bible pictures the worship service as getting very close to Jesus. This is particularly true as we take the Lord's Supper.

Does being closer to Jesus make it safer or more dangerous? Well, today we read about someone who warns us that when Jesus comes close, it's dangerous! We've been talking about Jesus' birth, and his first few years as a boy. Now, the text takes us up to the time that Jesus is a man, about 30 years old. There is also another man about the same age who is very important for Jesus' ministry, who is called John the Baptist. His mother was a relative of Jesus' mother.

John's job was to prepare the people for Jesus' coming. What happened to Adam and Eve when they sinned in the Garden? They had to leave, and go into what the bible calls a wilderness, not a very pleasant place! Well, the bible says that the people of God would go to where both John and Jesus were in the wilderness. John was preaching out in the wilderness and the people came out to hear him, because they knew he was a prophet from God. They weren't in a real wilderness, but God wanted them and us to think about how sinful they had become. Sin and wilderness are linked in the Bible. So, John comes to prepare people for Jesus coming to them by warning them that their sins make God very angry.

John's message was that, because Jesus was coming close, they needed to repent, or suffer God's wrath against them. This word "repent" means several things. But in this first part of the story, we read that our sins by using 7 words that all start with A.

- Address** everyone involved.
- Avoid** excuses (if, but, maybe)
- Admit** what we did (specifically)
- Apologize**
- Accept** consequences
- Alter** behavior
- Ask** forgiveness

We get ready for Jesus drawing near to us in worship by confessing our sins at the start of our worship.

Move around some, review memory verses.

Part Two – Pharisees and Sadducees: Offspring of the Serpent, Repentance and Fruits, Natural Privilege and Wrath; Axe and Trees vv. 7-10

John saw some particular people coming to him to be baptized. They are called Pharisees and Sadducees. But John calls them by a very colorful name – a brood of vipers, the offspring of snakes! He calls them snake children! He understood that they thought of themselves as something pretty special and neat, because they went to church when they were supposed to, read their bibles a lot, and actually taught other people about God. But they were full of pride! They thought that just because they were born into good homes, and were raised to do the right things, they didn't need to repent ever or confess their sins. They really didn't believe that they needed a Savior to die for them, because they weren't that bad, or so they thought.

This is why John called them snake children. We talked about Adam and Eve, and the garden and the wilderness. Do you remember who got Adam and Eve to disobey God? The serpent! And he tempted them to think they didn't really need God. He taught them to be prideful. Pride, thinking we are better than others because of who we are, or how we are raised, or because we go to church all the time, is a very bad sin. God wants us to go to church all the time, do the right things, and all of that. But He wants us above all other things to be humble, to know that its only

because Jesus died for our sins that we can do the right thing, benefit from going to church, and do anything right. He wants us to know that we need Jesus all the time.

The snake children needed to repent. They needed to confess their sins. But John also told them to bring forth fruits of repentance. In other words, their lives should show that they are really sorry, and know that they have sinned. Repentance means much more than just being sorry. It means to change our minds, our hearts, and what we do, by God's power. So, if we used to steal, and then we stopped stealing and started working so we could give to people in need, that would be a very good sign that we really repented. Repentance is something that you can see in someone's life. That's what John the Baptist said.

And he also said something very scary. He said that when Jesus comes close, he has an axe in His hand! Of course, he is the Good Shepherd; He will not hurt his sheep. But if we think we are better than everyone else, that just because our parents are Christians, Jesus has to love us, then we need to get scared! We need to repent, and be humble before Jesus.

Humility is the character quality we are stressing today. Humility means being low, not being puffed up. Not walking around with our noses up thinking we are better than everyone else, but knowing that without God's grace we would and should go to hell. Humility serves others, thinks more about others than about oneself.

The very first beatitude (attitude to be) in our song, and in the bible, is this humility, which is what poor in spirit means. It means humble, those who know that without Jesus, we have nothing. The poor in spirit are those who recognize their poverty, and need for Jesus.

Sing Beatitudes Song

Lets talk a little about humility and pride and what they look like in our lives.

Discussion, introduce new memory verse

Memorize verse: Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low,
But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

Part Three - The Barn or the Fire vv. 11,12

I brought some wheat today to help you understand what the last part of our story talks about. It's the scariest part! John says that when Jesus comes close, not only will he have an axe, but He will have fire with Him, He will burn some people up.

Explain wheat and chaff using the wheat you brought.

The good part of the wheat is heavy. The part of the wheat that is blown away or burnt up is light. So it is with people. If we want to be somebody that has some weight, that is actually important, we are told to be humble before God and other men. But if we, like the snake children in our lesson, think we are important, better than others, and weighty, if we are prideful, God

says we are actually very light, we are almost nothing, good only to be blown away or burned up in the fires of hell. Where do you want to be – the barn or the fire?

Jesus is coming close to us in worship today. It is very important that we live lives of repentance, of confessing our sins, of being humble and not prideful. Jesus is very dangerous to be around. People who don't love Him and His forgiveness of them will be cut down, and burned. But for us, who love Him, who are humble, who are poor in spirit, who know we are nothing of ourselves, but only in Jesus, for us, His coming near is to feed us and take care of us.

Lesson 9 Jesus' Baptism and Temptations

Text: Matthew 3:13-4:25

Intro

Review memory verse, and last week's lesson.

Proverbs 29:23 ***A man's pride will bring him low,
But the humble in spirit will retain honor.***

Review Character Qualities

Patience; Service; Honesty; Courage; Obedience; Cheerfulness; Trust; Humility

Today - Perseverance

Pick up theme from last week of elapsed time. We moved forward 30 years or so in the life of Jesus, and talked about one of his relatives, a very important man named John the Baptist.

Today, John and Jesus will come together in our text.

Part One: The Trinity Revealed at the Baptism of Jesus

Read 3:13-17

There are always many truths in a particular Bible text. We usually have to focus on just one or two, and that's particularly true in a class like this, that only lasts a few minutes. Today, there are two truths from this part of our story that I want you to remember. The first is that we have here a picture of what we call The Trinity. What we mean by this is that there are 3 persons of the Godhead. We don't have 3 Gods, there is only 1 God. But this 1 God exists in 3 persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. If you listen carefully to Pastor Tuuri's sermon today, he will talk about this. Jesus didn't start to live when Mary gave birth to Him, he came down from heaven, that is he always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, all 3 persons, interacting with each other, communicating, living, serving one another, as God throughout all time. The Holy Spirit is pictured as a dove, and the Father's voice can be heard speaking of His beloved Son.

There is a communion between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, which we may speak of as a community. In the same way, you are not just little bb's rolling around the

world with no communion with others! You are part of families, and of this church. You live to serve others, just as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit serve each other. This is why the character quality we stressed a couple of months ago, service, is so important.

So, Jesus is God the Son, part of the Trinity. The second thing to remember about the baptism of Jesus is that this is the start of His public ministry. This is where His work really gets going. At the end of the next chapter, we see Jesus is doing all kinds of things. Lets read 4:23-25

Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist shows us that Jesus is both fully God and fully man, and it also shows us the beginning of His work, His ministry. But you noticed we skipped the next part of the story – Chapter 4, verses 1 and following. We'll talk about that in a minute, but first, lets move around!

[Perhaps you could have the kids chant the character qualities or memory verse, or catechism answer as they march around the room.]

Part Two – Commitment Is Followed By Testing

Immediately [stress!] after Jesus' baptism, something happens. Jesus goes into the wilderness for 40 days, doesn't eat or drink anything, and is then tempted by the devil himself! Lets read 4:1-11.

Notice that it is the Spirit of God that leads Jesus. Again, there are many wonderful things we can say about this part of the bible. But we want you to remember a very important truth that will lead us to the character quality we are stressing today. What is that quality? [Wait, if possible, until someone remembers, or maybe you have written it on the board.]

The important truth is that commitment is followed by testing. Jesus is just beginning His important public ministry. But His commitment to do what eh Father tells Him to do is tested. The Devil tries to get him to sin. The Devil is very tricky. Sometimes, he even uses the Bible to try to trick us! Did you notice how Jesus answered the Devil each time? The answers are different, but they all start the same. How? [Wait until one of them says, "it is written"]

Jesus resists temptation by knowing the bible very well (to avoid being fooled when the Devil uses it wrongly), and by using His Bible to resist sin. That's why we are doing these classes – so that you might know your Bible better, and be able to resist sin. Resisting sin is sometimes very, very hard to do. Jesus was hungry, no doubt very tired, and not feeling very good. We should eat right, get to bad on time, and all that, to avoid sinning through fatigue. But sometimes, God wants us tired, and still ants us to not sin. We have to commit ourselves to persevering in doing right. To not get tired of doing right, no matter how hungry, tired, or sad we may be.

1 Cor. 10:31 says: **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

Lets talk about what this means. [Lead discussion]

What does it mean: No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man

What does it mean: but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able

What does it mean: but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Commitment is very often followed by God's testing of us to see if we are really committed to doing what is right. We should commit ourselves to persevere in the good we are trying to do. To resist temptation, using God's Word as a means of reminding ourselves to do what is right.

Jesus always resisted temptation, always persevered. We won't. We will sin. But Jesus fought the devil for us, and won! He comes back from the wilderness and starts healing people and making the world better. Because Jesus always persevered, we can try hard to persevere and usually we will! Will you commit to doing that this week? To trying hard to keep doing what's right, even when you get tempted to stop? Maybe you're trying hard to read your bible every day this year. And maybe you'll be tempted to go out and play instead of reading your Bible. Or maybe you'll get very tired before you get around to reading your bible. But persevere in doing what's right, and read your bible instead of paling, or going to bed. Or maybe you have committed to not eating a snack just before dinner. Even if you get very, very hungry, perseverance will not give in to temptation, and wait until the family all comes together to eat.

Let's pray that we all persevere in doing good this week.

Sing Beatitudes Song

Introduce new memory verse

Memorize verse: Job 17:9 Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.

Lesson 10 The Beatitudes, Blessings on Sinners

Text: *Matthew 5:1-16*

Review memory verse, and last week's lesson.

Memorize verse: Job 17:9 Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.

Review Character Qualities

Patience; Service; Honesty; Courage; Obedience; Cheerfulness; Trust; Humility; Perseverance

Review the similarity between Moses and Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. You may want to do the following by asking questions.

Jesus was saved as an infant from a wicked ruler (Herod), Moses was saved as an infant from a wicked ruler (Pharaoh).

Jesus came out of Egypt; Moses led God's people out of Egypt.

Moses was a teacher of God's Word. Jesus is the greatest Teacher of God's Word. While Moses was a man, Jesus is both a man and the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is God.

In Deuteronomy, there are long sermons by Moses about the Law. In Mathew, there are a number of long sermons or teachings by Jesus. Jesus came as the one Moses was a shadow of in the Old Testament. We say Jesus is the Greater Moses.

Do you remember where Moses got the Law from God?

[Point out the picture on the wall.]

In today's story, where does Jesus go to teach the people?

[Make sure the kids understand it's not the same mountain! But when Jesus goes to teach the people about the law, He goes to a mountain, just like Moses went up to a mountain to get God's Law to give to the people.]

In today's text, the greater Moses goes up on a mountain. He will teach about three things on the mountain that we will talk about in the next six weeks – what we call the Beatitudes, the Law, and prayer.

Today, we'll start where Jesus started. The Beatitudes are sometimes called the Be – Attitudes. They tell us the proper attitudes to have. [The word beatitude comes from a Latin word meaning blessedness. We see this word blessed in what we call the Beatitudes.] There are a series of blessings that Jesus pronounces upon certain people, who have certain attitudes.

As we start to talk about them, it's very important that we understand how Jesus' teaching about the Law starts. It starts with blessings, not demands!

It is important that we think about the kind of people Jesus says are blessed. But we know that we can never do everything perfectly. In fact, the very first Beatitude is pronounced on those that are poor in spirit. One man said that the way to think about this is that God blesses those who **recognize their poverty in spirit, or ability**. In other words, if you think you are good, are not needy, but can be good all by yourself, you don't see how poor in spirit you really are. Jesus said He came to heal the sick, not the well. In reality, there are no truly well people, all of us have a great need for Jesus to save us and make us strong. But some people think they have no need of Jesus. These people are not "poor in spirit," they are not blessed. Jesus was saying that He only is a blessing to those who know they need Him. This is the first step! This is the first Beatitude!

The wondrous thing about the Beatitudes is that they come **before** Jesus gives us teaching about the requirements of God's Law. We don't get blessed because we obey; we get blessed when we recognize that by ourselves, we have no power to obey God. The most important Beatitude, then, the first one, is to know that we are saved by God's grace, not by our works.

Today's memory verse is a reminder of that. It's a "beatitude" from the Old Testament, from the Psalms.

Introduce new memory verse

Memorize verse: Psalm 32:1 ***Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.***

When we recognize that God comes to us to bless us as we rely on Him, as we think humbly of who we really are, we should be filled with thankfulness, today's character trait. Our thankfulness is a humble thankfulness, it is a thankfulness that comes from our humility of knowing that when we couldn't save ourselves, Jesus did save us and bless us.

[From the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

“the Latin beatitudo, from which it is derived, occurs in the Vulgate (Jerome's Latin Bible, 390-405 A.D.) version of Romans 4:6 where, with reference to Psalm 32:1, 2, David is said to pronounce the “beatitude” of the man whose transgressions are forgiven]

[Spend the rest of the time learning the Beatitudes Song, and using the handouts to speak about the Beatitudes. Perhaps each week you could do the song early in the class time, and talk about one more of the Beatitudes.]

Lesson 11 The Beatitudes, Blessings on Sinners

Text: Matthew 5:1-16

Intro

Review Memory Verse

Memorize verse: Psalm 32:1 *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

Review Character Qualities

Patience; Service; Honesty; Courage; Obedience; Cheerfulness; Trust; Humility; Perseverance, Humble Thankfulness

Review last week's lesson, which was the intro to this section leading up to Palm Sunday.

Review the similarity between Moses and Jesus in Matthew's Gospel using the mountain picture as a visual reminder.

[From last week's lesson]

-Jesus was saved as an infant from a wicked ruler (Herod), Moses was saved as an infant from a wicked ruler (Pharaoh).

-Jesus came out of Egypt; Moses led God's people out of Egypt.

-Moses was a teacher of God's Word. Jesus is the greatest Teacher of God's Word. While Moses was a man, Jesus is both a man and the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is God.

-Sermons from mountain

Review the three parts of Jesus' teaching on the mountain – **Beatitudes, Law and Prayer**

Review the "poor in spirit" – those who know their need for Jesus.

Teach the other beatitudes, using the handouts provided.

Of particular focus:

Meek ("broken to harness") originally referred to a strong horse (so absolutely doesn't mean weak!) but a strong horse that had learned to obey his master.

This is the character trait for this week – meekness, being "broken to harness."

Introduce new memory verse

Memorize verse: Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." [KJV]

Hunger and thirst for righteousness. Righteousness means justice. We are to hunger and thirst for obedience to God's Law, in our own lives, and in the world around us.

Merciful – You may want to use the alms offering at communion as an example. God is merciful to us, Jesus died for our sins. We should do what we can to help others.

Peacemakers – those who bring God’s order. We are peacemakers when we keep our room clean, for instance. In regards to people, it means getting along well with our brothers and sisters, not just the absence of fighting, but the presence of God’s Spirit of love.

Ultimately, all of these attitudes point o Jesus. He is the blessed one, and we are blessed as we are in Him.

Jesus is the light of the world. But Jesus calls us to be lights as well – the text tells us that. Our lights shine when we have the Be – Attitudes!
[Perhaps sing “This Little Light of Mine.”]

[Spend the rest of the time learning the Beatitudes Song, and using the handouts to speak about the Beatitudes. Perhaps each week you could do the song early in the class time, and talk about one more of the Beatitudes.]

Lesson 12 God’s Law and Anger

Text: Matthew 5:17-26

Intro

Review

-Memory Verses

-Character Qualities

Patience; Service; Honesty; Courage; Obedience; Cheerfulness; Trust; Humility; Perseverance, Humble Thankfulness, Meekness

-Asscoaitons between Jesus and Moses

- This Little Light of Mine

Big Idea - This Little Light of Mine - Having the Be-Attitudes, the Right Attitudes

The saying of Jesus that His people are to be the light of the world looks back at the blessings (Beatitudes) He peaks to His people before He commands them. But it also points forward to how we can make sure we shine bright!

Songs – This Little Light of Mine, Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit

Big Idea – This Little Light of Mine – Having the Right Actions

After Jesus teaches about the blessedness of His people, He goes on to talk about God’s Law. Remember how Moses went up on a mountain to get God’s law, and Jesus went up on a mountain to teach God’s law again.

[Talk a about the 10 Commandments, using the wall chart and the handouts that were in the stack of materials I gave you and Paul. I have put 10 copies of the three meant to be handed out in your room. It would be good to use the Judy Rogers song of the 10 Commandments in this section if you know it or could get a copy of the tape.]

Songs – This Little Light of Mine – Judy Rogers 10 Commandments Song

Point out how Moses begins the 10 Commandments (not on the wall chart, but on the handout) by saying that He brought them out of slavery in Egypt. They were blessed by God first, then He began to give them commandments. Just so, Jesus first gives the blessings, the Beatitudes, then talks to them about the laws by which they should live. Another reason Jesus talks about the laws here is that the Jews had told people lies about God's law, so Jesus was correcting these wrong teachings.

We'll talk a bit now and next week about two very important actions of ours that Jesus tells us about in this part of the Sermon on the Mount. Today, we'll talk about anger.

Listen again as I read verses 21 and 22. Does Jesus tell us never to be angry?

No, He says its wrong to be angry with others without a good reason. Lead a discussion to show that our anger is almost never for a good reason. So, Jesus tells us that if our light is to shine, we should very rarely get angry.

Introduce memory verse: Psalm 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm.

What else did He say about how we treat other people? [If necessary, reread the verses.]

Yes, He told us not to call people bad names. [Discuss some of the names we use that we rally shouldn't.]

The other side of anger is a character trait of forbearance. Forbearance means not getting angry when others when they do things that might otherwise upset us.

[Read verses 23-26. Draw a correlation between these verses and what we're about to do in worship.] Children at RCC are very blessed to be able to take communion. But blessings also bring responsibilities. Before we take communion, we should ask to be forgiven by anybody who we may have gotten angry with, or called a bad name.

Let's review. Our lights shine when we have the right attitudes – humble thankfulness, meekness, etc. And our lights shine when we don't sin by getting angry with others, and when we love our brothers and friends instead of calling them names. When we believe God's blessings and obey His laws!

[This progression of songs can be used to review the progression of Beatitudes, we being the light of the world, then Jesus' Law: Blessed Are the Poor, This Little Light of Mine, Judy Rogers song.]

Lesson 13 God's Law and Love

Text: Matthew 5:33-48

Review

-Memory Verses

-Character Qualities

-Associations Between Jesus and Moses using the picture and charts.

- Blessing, then command, by singing Blessed Are the Poor, This Little Light of Mine, and Judy Rogers' 10 Commandments Song

New song today (If you know it) – O Be Careful Little Tongue What You Say

Remind them of where we are in the text. Sermon on the Mount - Maybe you could have them memorize the 3 elements we are stressing – The Beatitudes, The Law, The Disciplines (Alms, Prayer, Fasting)

Today, we continue to talk about the Law.

Verses 33-37 – Tell the Truth, The Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth!

[[Matt. 23:16-22](#)]

Perhaps you could use a courtroom analogy. When we go to court to be a witness, we have to take an oath to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Sometimes, when we take this oath, we are asked to put our hand on the Bible, as a reminder that we are taking an oath with God as our witness. It is okay to do this. But what Jesus is saying is that we shouldn't have to take an oath to tell the truth! Our every word should be truthful, and honoring to God. Everything we say should be as if we are in the witness box at a trial. The bible says that the Devil is the Father of lies. When we lie, we are acting like the Devil! Sometimes we tell little lies by not telling the whole truth. When our mother asks if we took a cookie from the jar, we don't say no, thinking that we didn't take A cookie, we took 3! We should tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!

vv. 38-42 – Don't Take the Law Into Your Own Hands!

Sometimes things go badly for us. Sometimes our brothers and sisters or others we know get away with things. We are tempted to take the law into our own hands, so to speak. To act as if we are the parents, we will make sure they get what's coming to them, we'll hit them if our parents won't spank them, and we'll steal back what they stole from us! Jesus says that this is against God's Law. We are supposed to go to parents, to authorities, to the police. And sometimes they won't do the right thing. But God is always in control, and we have to trust Him and not take the Law into our own hands. We sometimes have to suffer by losing things that we would like to keep. But God says its so important not to act like the boss if we aren't, that its better to have someone take your coat than for you to act like the devil, striking out at people that we should let God deal with. We should always try to tell whoever is in control, our parents, the elders, or the police. But when they won't help us, we have to leave it with God and not take the law into our own hands.

vv. 43-47 Be Patient and Kind To Your Enemies

Finally, the Bible tells us we are to treat those we like and those we don't like the same way. God says that His Law can be summed up as loving Him and loving our neighbor as ourselves. ([Matthew 22:37,38](#): Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,*

with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”) But when He says our neighbor, He didn’t mean just those we know or like! We are to be neighborly to all men. That’s the law, Jesus said! But what does it mean? Well, today’s memory verse reminds us of what the Bible says it means to love someone else.

1 Corinthians 13:4a

Love suffers long and is kind.

This part of the Bible (1 Corinthians 13) goes on to say a lot more about what love is like. But these first two pictures of love serve as a summary for everything else. Love is patient and love is kind. When people hurt us, we are patient, not striking out at them with our tongues or our fists. Not calling them names, as we talked about last week. Not taking the law into our own hands as we talked about earlier today. Not only are we to be patient, and not do these bad things, but we are to be kind, meaning useful or helpful to others as well. We don’t keep a list of what bad things people have done. We look for ways to help and serve them, the way Jesus does to us.

These are hard things to do. Actually, they are impossible to do apart from Jesus making us strong. He is Truth, and His Spirit makes us strong so that we can tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, even when it means we might get a spanking. Jesus suffered at the hands of men. He went to the cross, even though if He wanted to, He had all the power in the world to strike out at and kill Judas, Pilate and Herod. His Spirit makes us strong, so that we are able not to take the law into our own hands. And Jesus loved us, the bible says, even though, without His grace, in Adam, we were His enemies. His Spirit makes us strong so that we can be kind and patient towards our enemies as well as our friends. Let’s pray.

Lesson 14 The Lord’s Prayer

Text: Matthew 6

Review

- Memory Verses
- Character Qualities

Lesson

Remind them of where we are in the text. Sermon on the Mount - Maybe you could have them memorize the 3 elements we are stressing – The Beatitudes, The Law, The Disciplines (Alms, Prayer, Fasting)

In this first of two lessons on the Lord’s Prayer, talk about the context for the instruction about prayer—alms (6:1-4) and fasting (6:16-18). Then talk about the “bookends” of the Lord’s Prayer—the invocation and the doxology. Use the handouts on the Lord’s Prayer for this lesson and the next.

Character attribute

Devotion to God

Memory Verse

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment." Matthew 22:37, 38

Lesson 15 The Lord's Prayer

Text: Matthew 6

Review

- Memory Verses
- Character Qualities
- The context for the instruction about prayer—alms (6:1-4) and fasting (6:16-18).
- Last week's character trait of "Devotion to God"
- The "bookends" of the Lord's Prayer—the invocation and the doxology

Lesson

Continue to work through the handouts, discussing the Lord's Prayer with emphasis on its structure, content, and application.

Character attribute

Prayerfulness

Memory Verse

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

[NIV alternative: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.]

Lesson 16 Palm Sunday and Joy

Text: Matthew 21:1-11

New song today (If you know it) – Oh, the Joy of the Lord is My Strength....

Today's memory verse: **Nehemiah 8:10**

10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for *the joy of the LORD is your strength.*" (May want to shorten to the last phrase, in italics.)

Today Character Quality: Joy

Text: Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and

immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me.³ “And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

5 “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Behold, your King is coming to you,
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.’

”⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them.⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!’

Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”¹¹ So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Today Before Church

First, talk about what the children will be doing at the start of our worship service today. Remind them to know where their parents will be sitting, then to meet Pastor Tuuri downstairs, so that they can follow him into the worship service during the processional waving palm branches. It is a time of joy! But why are we doing this strange thing?

See if any of the children might have some knowledge of Psalm Sunday.

Then, lead a discussion of the text, starting with the general idea, then talking about some of the details.

What is the whole scene like?

The arrival of a conquering King! (Go over the story as it relates to this general idea of the entrance of the King).

Lets talk about some of the details of the text.

A Colt

Why did Jesus ride the young donkey, instead of the mature one?

Three ideas

1.) Fulfillment of the prophecy of Zech. 9:9

God keeps His Word! Rejoice!

2.) Normally, Kings (Jesus is coming in the text as King) rode on horses or mature donkeys. These animals were animals of war. Jesus is here proclaimed the King, but He doesn't use the animal of power or war, but the animal of submission and meekness.

Jesus is a different sort of King, who conquers by His Word. Rejoice!

3.) Jesus is the second Adam. Perhaps the imagery reminds us that He has done what the first Adam did not do- wait to rule until the Father's says its time. The Old World, the Old Adam, the Old Covenant are passing away, the New World, the New Adam, the New Covenant is taking effect. Adam didn't wait, he took the fruit from the tree of ruling, of determining good and evil, before he was ready to rule. Instead of going into the world outside of the Garden as Ruler, he was forced to go out as one who was ruled by the ground, so to speak. This will probably be over their heads, but its grist for your mill! The simple idea of Jesus dying for the sins of Adam and his descendants may be able to be grasped. Two donkeys, two men, Adam and Christ.

Jesus is the New Man, the second Adam. Rejoice!

Hosanna

What does Hosanna mean? Save now! It is found in Psalm 118:25. But it had come to mean that what was asked for – salvation from all of our enemies, had been accomplished, so it was a way to praise Kings. It thus means “you have saved!” You have defeated all our enemies! Today, when you wave the palm branches with Pastor Tuuri, you should say Hosanna, for Jesus has defeated all your enemies!

Jesus is the Savior! Rejoice!

Hosanna to the Son of David

Once more, this detail reminds us that Jesus is coming as King, the “Son of David.” This day, Sunday, is always a celebration of King Jesus. Jesus is hailed as King. He goes to the cross as King. He has patiently submitted to His parents on earth as a child, grown into a man, been patiently serving His Father in heaven, and the reward for this is His exaltation as King. Jesus goes to the cross as King.

Jesus is King! Rejoice! (Review Jesus Christ, Savior King)

Palm Branches

In John 12:13, we learn that the branches they put under the feet of Jesus' colt were palm leaves. Which is why we will be waving Palm branches today, and why this is called Palm Sunday. Where are tree branches normally at? (Up high!). So, Jesus is a sky-walker, a heavenly King. After Jesus dies for sinners, He will be raised up and then ascend to the highest heaven.

Jesus is the Heavenly King! Rejoice!

Palm Sunday is also seen as the beginning of what is called Passion Week, the week leading up to Jesus' dying on the cross, which is called His Passion. Lets talka bout a couple of other days in Passion Week.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy comes from an old Latin word that means Law (com-mand, mand-ate, etc.) Maundy Thursday is the celebration of Jesus' last supper, when we are told in John 13:34,35 that He gave His disciples a new commandment.

John 13:34,35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

He said that after He had washed the Disciples feet, before they ate dinner together. So, some churches have Maundy Thursday services, which include a foot washing, a visible way to remember that we are to help each other.

The King's Law is to love one another!

Good Friday

Good Friday is a remembrance of the day that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Why do you suppose we call it "Good" Friday? Many churches have good Friday services which are mostly quiet prayer, and times to think about Jesus' suffering on the cross for us.

Jesus died so that we are freed from our sins, so we an love God and one another!

Resurrection Sunday (Easter)

On Saturday of Passion Week, Jesus' body was in the grave. And of course, Easter Sunday is the remembrance of his resurrection, a day some churches call Resurrection Sunday. This is why our usual worship services are on Sunday, it's the day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead.

Hosanna! We get to wave palms to celebrate the Risen King!

Auxiliary Material, from the Word Bible Commentary on John 12:13

It is recorded that when Simon the Maccabee drove out Gentile forces from the citadel in Jerusalem “he made his entry with a chorus of praise and the waving of palm branches, with lutes, cymbals and zithers, with hymns and songs, to celebrate Israel’s final riddance of a formidable enemy” (1 Macc 13:51). Note also the vision in Test. Naph 5: the sun and the moon were standing still, and Isaac told the sons of Jacob to lay hold of them: “And we all of us ran together, and Levi laid hold of the sun and Judah outstripped the others and seized the moon, and they were both of them lifted up with them. And when Levi became as a sun, lo, a certain young man gave to him twelve branches of palm; and Judah was bright as the moon, and under their feet were twelve rays. ...” This is one of the many representations in the *Testaments* of the messianic salvation that was looked for through Levi and Judah, with priority accorded to the Levitical (priestly) messiah.

The cry “Hosanna” will have been linked with the palm fronds in the minds of the people.

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(אָהַיְבוּחַ) is a strengthened form of the imperative “save!” (“do please save!”), but it came to be a greeting and even an ascription of praise. Its occurrence in Ps 118:25 was known to every Jew. In the least of Tabernacles the Hallel (see Pss 113–118) was sung each morning by the temple choir; when the cry “Hosanna” was reached in Ps 118:25 every man and boy in the temple shook the *lulab* (a bunch of willow and myrtle tied with palm), and the cry was repeated three times. So deeply was this ingrained in the minds of the Jews they actually called the lulabs *hosannas*. It was therefore entirely natural for the crowd to repeat the cry of praise from Psalm 118 as they waved the palm leaves in welcome of Jesus. The greeting “Blessed in the name of the Lord is the coming one” originally applied to the pilgrims on entering the temple, but it came to have a particular application to the Messiah, as may be seen in the Midrash to Psalm 118 (244a) (see Str-B 1:150). The messianic application is reflected in the question of John the Baptist to Jesus, “Are you the Coming One, or are we to look for another?” (Matt 11:3), and yet more plainly in Jesus’ citation of Ps 118:26. The additional line, “even the king of Israel” (v 13) makes the messianic application of Ps 118:26 explicit, and could be due to reflection on Zech 9:9, which is cited in v 15.

From Daily Study Bible

So Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The fact that the ass had never been ridden before made it specially suitable for sacred purposes. The red heifer which was used in the ceremonies of cleansing must be a beast “upon which a yoke has never come” (Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3); the cart on which the ark of the Lord was carried had to be a vehicle which had never been used for any other purpose (1 Samuel 6:7). The special sacredness of the occasion was underlined by the fact that the ass had never been ridden by any man before.

Lesson 17 Resurrection Sunday and Great Joy (Resurrection Sunday)

Text: Matthew 28

New song today (If you know it) – I am the resurrection and the life!

Today’s memory verse: **John 11:25**

"I am the Resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live even though he dies."

Today Character Quality: Great Joy!

Lesson Objectives –

- A. Be able to tell the story of Resurrection Sunday, in context.
- HOLY WEEK - this is the week between the day we call Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
 - MAUNDY THURSDAY - We often have special services on this day -- The word *maundy* comes from a word that means "commandment". On the night Jesus was arrested he said to his disciples: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)
 - GOOD FRIDAY - Often the church has special services on this day. The Friday that Jesus was killed was a very bad day. But now we know it was a good day! It was a day when God showed that God's love was stronger than death. It is a day to remember how much Jesus suffered for the world that God loved so much. You may wonder why the day Jesus died is called "Good" Friday. The day seems a lot more bad and sad than good. There is a reason. You see, if Jesus had only suffered and died, then that would have been really sad. There wouldn't have been anything good about Good Friday. But Jesus didn't just die. He also rose from the dead on Easter, and that is very good. If Jesus had not died for us on Good Friday, he could not have risen on Easter Sunday. That's what makes this Friday a Good News Friday.
 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY -- This is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. He rose from the dead -- and with this comes the promise (covenant) with all people that if we believe in him we will have eternal life. Tell the story of Resurrection Sunday and the events leading up to it, explaining the important events and discussing with the children
- B. Know the following: (Text quotations are in *bold italics*)
- 1.) A Resurrection Sunday greeting of the historic church: He is risen! He is risen indeed! ***"He is risen, as He said"*** (God keeps His word!)
 - 2.) Why we worship on Resurrection Sunday ***"the first day of the week"*** ***"after the Sabbath"***... "at the end of the Sabbath" (the end of the Old Testament Sabbath).
 - 3.) The significance of Resurrection Sunday ***"a great earthquake"*** It is the most important event in history. The Gospel is He is risen and ascension (40 days later), the Savior King (Jesus Christ) has ascended to the throne and reigns!! ***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***
 - 4.) The character transformation of Resurrection Sunday. When we understand and believe in the resurrection, we move from fear to great joy. ***"Don not be afraid"*** ***"Rejoice!"*** ***"Do not be afraid"***

Lesson 18 The Golden Rule and the Two Foundations

Text: Matthew 7:12, 24-27

Focus Songs Today: The Beatitudes; Seek Ye First; Be Ye Kind To One Another; The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock

Today's memory verse: **Matthew 7:12**

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Today Character Quality: Kindness

Lesson Objectives

- A. Be able to relate the major themes of the Sermon the Mount
 1. **The Beatitudes.** The blessedness of those in God's Kingdom as opposed to those outside of it.
 2. **The Law of God.** Obedience to God's Law involves the mind and heart as well as actions. God's Law is not given to save us, but because we are saved. God makes us His people, and then tells us how to live as His people. Today's memory verse is a summation of the law.. We are to love God and our neighbor.
 3. **The Lord's Prayer.** Devotion to God, manifesting itself in prayer, fasting, and alms, shows the proper heart commitment of God's People to Him and others.

- B. Learn the following:
 1. The Sermon on the Mount is the first of **5 major talks** by Jesus in this book. The 5 talks are found in Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 23-25. The children should start memorizing these chapter denotations. Just as there were 5 books in the Pentateuch, so this first of the Gospels has give major talks by Jesus recorded.
Song: The Beatitudes
 2. Jesus says we are to **seek first His Kingdom**, and the things we need will be provided by Him.
Song: Seek Ye First
 3. We seek His Kingdom by **treating others the way we would like to be treated.**
Song: Be Ye Kind
Activity Sheet: The Golden Rule, Coloring or Word Puzzles
 4. The wise man is the one who hears AND **obeys.**
Song: The Wise Man Builds His House Upon the Rock
Activity sheet: The Two Foundations, Dot to dot or Word Puzzles

Lesson 19 His Blessings Flow

Text: Matthew 8,9

Focus Songs Today:

Beginning song: The Beatitudes (They should have this really down by now.)

Review the need not just to hear, but to DO the word of God by singing "The Wise Man Built"

Focus on today's lesson by singing verse 3 of Joy To The World

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground!
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Today's memory verse: **1 Peter 3:8**

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous"

Today Character Quality: Compassion

Lesson Objectives

- A. Be able to relate the major themes of the Sermon the Mount
 1. **The Beatitudes.** The blessedness of those in God's Kingdom as opposed to those outside of it.
 2. **The Law of God.** Obedience to God's Law involves the mind and heart as well as actions. God's Law is not given to save us, but because we are saved. God makes us His people, and then tells us how to live as His people. Today's memory verse is a summation of the law.. We are to love God and our neighbor.
 3. **The Lord's Prayer.** Devotion to God, manifesting itself in prayer, fasting, and alms, shows the proper heart commitment of God's People to Him and others.
- B. Know that the Sermon on the Mount and the Sending Out of the Twelve are the first **2 of 5 major talks** by Jesus in this book. The 5 talks are found in Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 23-25. The children should start memorizing these chapter denotations. Just as there were 5 books in the Pentateuch, so this first of the Gospels has give major talks by Jesus recorded.
- C. Learn the following:
 1. Leprosy was a sign of the effects of the curse on mankind. Like the sweat on Adam's brow, leprosy is on the skin. As the lead miracle in these transition chapters from the Sermon on the Mount to the Sending Out of the Twelve, the message here is that the effects of the curse are being rolled back by the work of Jesus.
 2. Jesus did incredible and numerous miracles during these two chapters. He healed a leper, healed a painfully paralyzed servant (at a distance!), cured a

fever (concerned about all of our illnesses, not just the big ones!), cast demons out of people, calmed a storm at sea (we can trust Him when the weather scares us), healed a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years when she touched his garment, raised a girl out of a death-like coma, healed two blind men, and restored speech to a dumb man (we find our voice in Jesus).

3. Jesus is God. This is demonstrated by his incredible healing powers.
4. Jesus shows us that God has compassion on people. 9:36 is the segway from these miracles that show His blessings are flowing as far as the cruse is found, to the next major talk – The Sending Out of the Twelve who will also make His blessings flow. Will the children commit to being disciples, and being compassionate to people, and wanting to be a channel of blessing?

Lesson 20 The Sending Out of the Twelve

Text: Matthew 10

Focus Songs Today:

Beginning song: The Beatitudes (They should have this really down by now.)

Review last week's lesson (many miracles by Jesus, compassion on people) by singing verse 3 of Joy To The World

No more let sins and sorrows grow, etc.

Today's memory verse: **1 Thes. 5:13**

"Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."

Note Context: verse 12 *"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you"*

Today Character Quality: Esteem for Parents, Pastors and Sunday School Teachers

Lesson Objectives

- A. Be able to relate the major themes of the Sermon the Mount
 1. **The Beatitudes.** The blessedness of those in God's Kingdom as opposed to those outside of it.
 2. **The Law of God.** Obedience to God's Law involves the mind and heart as well as actions. God's Law is not given to save us, but because we are saved. God makes us His people, and then tells us how to live as His people. Today's memory verse is a summation of the law.. We are to love God and our neighbor.
 3. **The Lord's Prayer.** Devotion to God, manifesting itself in prayer, fasting, and alms, shows the proper heart commitment of God's People to Him and others.
- B. Know that the Sermon on the Mount and the Sending Out of the Twelve are the first **2 of 5 major talks** by Jesus in this book. The 5 talks are found in Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 23-25. The children should start memorizing these chapter denotations. Just as there were 5 books in the Pentateuch, so this first of the Gospels has give major talks by Jesus recorded.

- C. Know that the connecting link between the Sermon on the Mount and the Sending Of the Twelve is Christ's rolling back the effects of the curse, which His disciples will now do.
- D. Learn the following:
1. The twelve carry on the work of Jesus, rolling back the effects of the curse. (v. 1)
 2. The message they spoke was that the Kingdom had come with the coming of Jesus and His messengers.
 3. They were to expect people not to like them. The Kingdom challenges all other kingdoms.
 4. They were to have compassion, as Jesus did.
 5. Jesus is still sending men to teach His people about His Kingdom. The ones He has sent to you are your parents, your pastors, and your Sunday School teachers. You are to esteem them. They are part of God's means to help you avoid the effects of the curse, and enter into the joy and blessings of Christ's Kingdom.

Lesson 21 *Jesus Brings Joyous Sabbath Rest To Some*

Text: Matthew 11,12

Focus Songs Today: *The Beatitudes* (They should have this really down by now.)
The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock

Today's memory verse: **Matthew 11:28**

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"

Today's Character Quality: **Rest**

Lesson Objectives

- A. Put this lesson in context: Sermon on the Mount, Rolling Back of the Curse, Sending Out of the Twelve, Sabbath Rest
- B. Know that there are **5 major talks** by Jesus in this book. The 5 talks are found in Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 23-25.

Roger and Paul – While there are other sets of verses where Jesus is speaking, these five talks are singled out by the verses that follow them, to wit:

7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

11:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

13: 53 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

19:1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;

26:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples

- C. Learn the following:

1. Jesus promises those who believe in Him rest. (11:28)
2. This is a rest in the midst of enemies.
 - a. John the Baptist is arrested. (Jesus highly commends John the Baptist.)
 - b. Jesus curses those cities that do not believe in Him.
 - c. The Jews falsely accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath, even though nothing He did was a violation of God's Law.
 - d. The Jews plan here to kill Jesus (12:14) because he helped people.
3. The Sabbath is a day of evaluation. While Jesus' people are given rest, His opponents are given curse in this section.
4. The rest for those that believe in Jesus is a rest that brings joy.
 - a. The joy of eating.
 - b. The joy of being healed.
 - c. The joy of being able to work the rest of the week (withered hand made whole).
 - d. The joy of having an extended family (the church: the children can see other adults at RCC as uncles, aunts, cousins, etc.).
 - e. The joy of being able to help others. (The Jews should have invited Jesus and His men in to eat! They were traveling, doing the Father's work.)

Lesson 22 The Sower and the Seed: Bright Hope for the Future in the Kingdom Parables

Text: Matthew 13

Focus Songs Today:

The Beatitudes (They should have this really down by now.)

I Will Make You Fishers of Men

Today's memory verse: **Matthew 4:19**

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Today Character Quality: **Hope**

Lesson Objectives

- A. Put this lesson in context: Advent of the Savior-King, Sermon on the Mount, Rolling Back of the Curse, Sending Out of the Twelve, Sabbath Rest in the Midst of Enemies, Kingdom Parables.

- B. Know that there are **5 major talks** by Jesus in this book. The 5 talks are found in Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 23-25.
- C. Learn the following:
1. This chapter begins with Jesus in a boat on a sea. The last parable is about catching fish. The Kingdom will grow and be made up of people from all nations. In two weeks, on May 19, Pentecost Sunday, we will be stressing World Missions.
 2. The Parable of the Sower and the Seed, and Jesus' explanation of it. God is sovereign, His Word is VERY important. The Kingdom will grow gradually, but surely, producing great fruit. The following parables help us to interpret this great multiplication of the seed as the growing manifestation of Christ's Kingdom by those who have been given ears to hear the Word of Jesus.

Lesson 23 Bright Hope for the Future in the Kingdom Parables

Text: Matthew 13

Focus Songs Today:

The Beatitudes (They should have this really down by now.)

I Will Make You Fishers of Men

Today's memory verse: **Matthew 13:33**

Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.

Today Character Quality: Hope

Lesson Objectives

- A. Put this lesson in context: Advent of the Savior-King, Sermon on the Mount, Rolling Back of the Curse, Sending Out of the Twelve, Sabbath Rest in the Midst of Enemies, Kingdom Parables.
- B. Know that there are **5 major talks** by Jesus in this book. The 5 talks are found in Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 23-25.
- C. Know that the Kingdom Parables of Matthew 13 begin and end with a boat and all kinds of fish: all nations will be part of the Kingdom.
- D. Know the details of the Sower and the Seed, and that it teaches the fruitfulness of God's People.
- E. Learn the following:

1. The world is a wheat field. While bad men who don't believe in Jesus are in the world, it is God's world, and good seed will reproduce.
2. The Kingdom will, like a mustard seed, grow slowly, but it will fill the world, all the nations will live in it, not outside of it.
3. The Kingdom, like leaven, will change (positively) the whole world. The future is bright!
4. There is NOTHING more important than Jesus, His Word, and His Kingdom. It is the greatest Treasure and the pearl of great price.
5. The kingdom of heaven is like a fisherman's net. Just as that net has sea creatures of many kinds, so God's Kingdom will have many people in it. And, just like a fisherman separates the bad fish out of the net, so God will separate the wicked out of His kingdom. (Matt. 13:47-50)

Lesson 24 Persecution and Provision: How Does the Garden Grow?

Text: Matthew 14-17

Summary: Persecution, Provision, Worldwide Transformational Reversal of the Effects of the Fall Through Doctrine and Confession, The Submissive Rule!

Focus Songs Today:
 The Beatitudes
 Trust and Obey?

Today's memory verse: **Galatians 6:9**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Today Character Quality: **Perseverance**

Lesson Objectives

- A. Learn the context of this lesson. The last lesson in Matthew is scheduled for June 23. By then, we hope the children will know the following outline. Bracketed material is for the teachers or the really smart ones!

The Advent of the Savior-King: Jesus is the Greater Abraham, David, and Moses [Five Talks, Five Books]

Ch. 5-7 Talk One "The Sermon on the Mount"

[The News Kingdom Declared - Beatitudes, Law, Lord's Prayer]

[Genesis: Creation; Recreation]

[8,9 Proofs of Jesus' Divinity; The Curse Is Rolled Back]

Ch. 10 Talk Two “The Sending Of the Twelve”

[The New Kingdom Expands]

[Exodus: The Greater Exodus, Sabbath Rest in the Midst of Enemies]

[11,12 Sabbath Enthronement in the Midst of Persecution]

Ch. 13 Talk Three “A Bright Future - Kingdom Parables”

[The New Kingdom Shall Fill the Earth]

[Leviticus: The Reversal of the Curse]

[14-17 Persecution, Provision, Worldwide Transformational Reversal of the Effects of the Fall Through Doctrine and Confession – We Rule!]

Ch. 18 Talk Four “Service and Forgiveness”

[The Nature of the New Kingdom]

[Numbers: An Army of Gracious Servants]

[19-22]

Ch. 23-25 Talk Five “Out With the Old, In With the New”

[The Old Kingdom Is Judged as the New Kingdom Is Established]

[Deuteronomy: The Church Is the New Israel]

The Great Commission

B. Learn the following:

1. *Persecution: The Beheading of John the Baptist, Jesus’ Death*
Foretold

The great news of the kingdom parables are put in the context of persecution,

2. *Provision: The Feeding of the 5,000, the Crossing of the Sea, Many*
Healings

While men may persecute us, Jesus will provide for us. He feeds us on the Lord’s Day, intercedes for us all week long, and heals us (Gentile woman shows worldwide nature of the Kingdom).

3. *Doctrine and Confession: Two Leavens, Peter’s Confession*

The basis of the new Kingdom is the doctrine of Christ, contrasted with the leaven, or doctrine, of the Pharisees. The confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God is the “rock” which the church is built upon, and all other Kingdoms shall be destroyed by it.

4. *Transformation: The Mount of Transfiguration*

Jesus is changing us, so that we can truly behold His glory, and reflect it by deeds of mercy. The effects of the fall are being reversed! With deeds of love and kindness

Lead on, O King eternal,
Till sin’s fierce war shall cease,

And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy
The heavenly kingdom comes.

5. *Freedom and Submission: Taxes From the Fish*

The section ends with a declaration that we are free, but that we also need to show submission to the rulers established by God.

Additional Information

Events of chapters 14-17:

Persecution
Provision

John killed 14
5000 fed
Crossing of the Sea
All that are touched are healed
Scribes and Pharisees 15
Gentile woman healed
4000 fed
the leaven of the Pharisees (doctrine) 16
Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.- I will build my church
Death foretold, self-sacrifice of true disciples
Mt of transfiguration (after six days) 17
Demon possessed son healed
Death foretold
Taxes to the government – we rule

Lesson 25 Talk Four “Humility and Forgiveness”

Text: Matthew 18

[The Nature of the New Kingdom]
[Numbers: An Army of Gracious Servants]

Focus Songs Today:
Be Ye Kind To One Another

Today’s memory verse: **Ephesians 4:32**
Be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.

Today Character Quality: **Forgiveness**

Lesson Objectives

- A. Learn the context of this lesson. The last lesson in Matthew is scheduled for June 23. By then, we hope the children will know the following outline. Bracketed material is for the teachers or the really smart ones!

The Advent of the Savior-King: Jesus is the Greater Abraham, David, and Moses [Five Talks, Five Books]
Ch. 5-7 Talk One “The Sermon on the Mount”

[The New Kingdom Declared - Beatitudes, Law, Lord's Prayer]

[Genesis: Creation; Recreation]

[8,9 Proofs of Jesus' Divinity; The Curse Is Rolled Back]

Ch. 10 Talk Two "The Sending Of the Twelve"

[The New Kingdom Expands]

[Exodus: The Greater Exodus, Sabbath Rest in the Midst of Enemies]

[11,12 Sabbath Enthronement in the Midst of Persecution]

Ch. 13 Talk Three "A Bright Future - Kingdom Parables"

[The New Kingdom Shall Fill the Earth]

[Leviticus: The Reversal of the Curse]

[14-17 Persecution, Provision, Worldwide Transformational Reversal of the Effects of the Fall Through Doctrine and Confession – We Rule!]

Ch. 18 Talk Four "Humility and Forgiveness"

[The Nature of the New Kingdom]

[Numbers: An Army of Gracious Servants]

[19-22]

Ch. 23-25 Talk Five "Out With the Old, In With the New"

[The Old Kingdom Is Judged as the New Kingdom Is Established]

[Deuteronomy: The Church Is the New Israel]

The Great Commission

B. Learn the following:

1. *Humility*

The first part of this talk stresses the need for humility. Verse 4: Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The teacher may wish to act out the way in which this talk happened. The teacher plays the part of Jesus, one of the children the part of the child that Jesus used to teach His disciples. Children know their need for others, they tend to humbly accept instruction, and exercise simple faith in Jesus. All this can be contrasted with sinful attitudes that even children can engage in – disobedience, boasting, looking down on others, talking back, not trusting – all marks of pride.

2. *Forgiveness*

This classic text on Christian discipline can be used to teach children to forgive others. This is related to humility, since the failure to forgive can frequently be traced back to pride. Since we have all been forgiven much, we are all sheep that wandered away, and Christ the good Shepherd has retrieved us, we should be quick to forgive others. The memory verse stresses this "just as God for Christ's sake, has forgiven you."

However, this text should not be used to advocate indiscriminate forgiveness. The Savior gives us a clear process to follow when someone sins against us. This text tells children what they should do when others sin against them. Perhaps the Doorposts' brother offended chart could be useful here. The steps of verses 15-17 should be articulated for the children.

Finally, retelling the parable of the King in the last half of the chapter can drive the lesson of forgiveness home. Jesus' 70x7 can be contrasted with Lamech's never-ending vengeance against any that would wrong him (Genesis 4:24: If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold). In man's fallen nature, there is no end of vengeance and retribution (ala the Hatfields and the McCoys). But in Christ, there is no end of forgiveness for those who repent of their sins.

Lesson 26 Jesus Blesses Little Children Who Worship Him

Text: Matthew 19-22

Today's Memory Verse: Matthew 21:16b

“From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise.”

Today Character Quality: Praise to God

Lesson Objectives

In these chapters, Jesus is drawing a distinction between those who believe Him and follow Him, at all costs, and those who don't. These events and parables build on the last talk (Humility and Forgiveness) and move us towards His fifth and climactic talk. This last talk (The Old Kingdom Is Judged as the New Kingdom Is Established) will start with a series of woes on the Pharisees, and will end with a division between goats and sheep. The events of Chapters 19-22 can be used to demonstrate Jesus' sheep as gracious, forgiving servants, who worship Him.

An idea. Talk to the kids about books they may be reading. Tell them the bible is a collection of books. The book they are finding out about in this class is called the Gospel According to Matthew. They should know that Gospel means “good news” and the really good news is that Jesus is ruling everything! Tell them that we are going through this book as if it had seven chapters or sections.

We began in the first section talking about where Jesus came from, his family history and his own personal history. He seemed in this chapter to be a lot like Moses from the Old Testament. Moses wrote the first five books of the bible. In the same way, this Gospel has Jesus preaching five sermons.

The middle five sections of this book all have two parts to them. The first part of each of these five sections is a sermon by Jesus. The last part of each of these middle five sections are some things that Jesus did and said that help explain what his sermon was about.

The book “The Good News According to Matthew” ends with a section telling us that Jesus is with us and we are to make disciples of all the nations of the world.

Then, go to today’s text. Put it in context by talking about this fourth of the middle five sections of the book. The sermon at the start of this section was what we talked about last Sunday - “Humility and Forgiveness. Ask how many can recite the memory verse. Then go on to tell the following stories from the second half of this fourth section:

1. Jesus blesses children. 19:13-15

This should only take a minute or so, but can be very reassuring and special to these young children. Help make it so!

2. The workers in the vineyard parable; the two sons parable 20:1-16; 21:28-32

Grace is extended to repentant sinners, not sinless saints.

These two parables can be told in summary form. I have two handouts in your room on these two parables. The simple point to stress is what we talked about last week- its not our works that save us, but rather God’s grace shown to those who know they are sinners.

3. The story of the rich man 19:16-26

Jesus’ followers use their money for Him, giving alms to the poor.

The giving of alms was one of the things we talked about in the Sermon on the Mount. The Jews thought they were “rich” and so failed to enter the Kingdom.

4. Cleansing of the Temple 21:12,13

Jesus’ followers are to meet for the purpose of praying for the nations.

Jesus clearly says that the Temple was to be a place of prayer for the nations. Again, prayer was stressed in the Sermon on the Mount. The Jews weren’t doing it, so they were judged.

5. The wedding feast parable 22:1-14

We are to obey the call to the wedding feast, and come dressed appropriately

All of these stories can be thought of in terms of our Lord’s Day worship services.

We are called by God to come to church and be blessed by Him.

We are to confess our sins at the beginning of the service and believe that Jesus has forgiven us.

We bring our tithes and offerings to Him after He talks to us in the sermon.

We then join the Elder in our hearts as he prays to God for the nations.

We gladly take part in the Lord's supper, a picture of His wedding feast. Those who don't come to the Son's marriage feast, and those who come but don't think its very important, are both judged by God the Father. Next week, we'll hear more from Jesus about those who didn't love Him or the Father, and how He was going to judge them. But today, lets get our hearts ready to be blessed by Jesus, confess our sins, give our tithes and alms offerings, pray, and have supper with Jesus!

Our memory verse today is the last half of Matthew 21:16. You'll remember Palm Sunday, when we had the little children wave palms as they praised God. This verse is about that Sunday and every Sunday. When we know how much Jesus blesses us, it is our delightful duty to sing His praises. The Pharisees didn't like hearing the children sing Jesus' praises. But, speaking of the Father and quoting from the Old Testament, Jesus said this: Matthew 21:16b "From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise."

Lesson 27 The Fifth and Last Talk "The Old Kingdom Is Judged as the New Kingdom Is Established"

Text: Matthew 23-25

Focus Songs Today:

The Wise Man Built...

Be Ye Kind to One Another...

Today's Memory Verse: **James 1:27**

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Today Character Quality: **Benevolence**

1. Judgment
While the primary focus of the coming of Jesus is life, the new creation, and the rolling back of the curse, its necessary corollary is judgment. The first talk of Jesus was the Beatitudes, His blessings on His people. That is primary. But this last talk begins with His woes or curses upon the Pharisees, and ends in a division between goats and sheep, those that are His people and those that aren't, those that go to Hell and those who go to Heaven. When we pray that God's Kingdom might come or be manifest, we are also praying by implication that all other kingdoms be destroyed.
2. The Importance of Benevolent Acts

Use the handout provided to teach the story of the sheep and the goats found in 25:31-46

Certainly the measure of our acceptance or rejection by Jesus is faith, not works. But Biblical faith is faith that works. If we add the adjective “faithful” to the word works, then we may say that from one perspective we are saved by such “faithful works.” (See James 2:24) The children should have a good grasp of the specific categories of people that are to be the particular focus of our benevolent actions, and be motivated to try to be part of the work of the sheep in engaging in such benevolent actions, through their time, money or work.

To accomplish this, use the “Benevolences at RCC” handout to illustrate some ways the sheep at RCC are demonstrating their faith in a gracious God, who calls us to graciously minister to others.

Lesson 28 The Great Commission

Text: Matthew 26-28

Today and next Sunday’s Memory Verse: **Matthew 28:18,19**

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’”

Today’s Character Quality: **Optimism**

Intro

Review of Structure

Begin by reading 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1, asking the children to note the similarities of these phrases.

We have arrived at the last one of these sayings, the five talks are now over, and this Gospel is coming to an end. It ends with what we call The Great Commission. Can you all say that? Do you know what it means?

Before we talk about the Great Commission, lets talk a little about several other things that happen in these last three chapters of Matthew’s Gospel.

Passover, Death and Resurrection

Read verse 2 of Chapter 26.

Who knows what the Passover was? Well, it started a long, long time before Jesus was born. God's people were slaves in Egypt. To deliver them, God killed the Egyptians who were keeping them as slaves. God told the people to kill a lamb for each family, put its blood on the doorway of their house, and then have the lamb for dinner. All those who obeyed, whether they were originally Jews or Egyptians, were saved. The Angel of Death that God sent to kill the Egyptians "passed over" the ones who trusted in God and obediently put the blood of the Lamb on the door of their house. They left Egypt and were led by God into Israel, the Promised Land. Each year, God's people would remind themselves of this by keeping a Passover festival. Jesus was killed at Passover, reminding us that He died and was resurrected so we could follow Him into freedom and life. Each Sunday we have the Lord's Supper which is a reminder of Passover and the death and resurrection of Jesus, our Savior.

Herod, Egypt and Passover

Passover originally took place in Egypt. Do you remember us talking about Egypt at the beginning of this gospel, many months ago?

[Let the kids try to remember Herod and the slaughter of the Innocents]

When Jesus was a little child, the wicked King of Israel wanted to kill Him. But God warned his parents, and they took him to safety in Egypt. After a while, when it was safe, they brought Him back to Israel. So, at the beginning and end of this Gospel, God reminds us about Egypt and being delivered from it. Egypt is a picture of sin. Jesus died and rose up so that we could be freed from sin. Egypt is any place where people are disobedient to God. Jesus had to die because of our sin. Herod the King tried to kill Jesus at the beginning of this gospel, and here at the end, the Jews do indeed kill Jesus, but only when Jesus had decided the time was right. In today's sermon, Pastor Tuuri will talk about how Jesus laid down his life. He was in charge, even when He was crucified!

Gifts At His Birth and Death

Do you remember some people that came from far away to visit Jesus when he was a baby?

[Let the kids try to remember the story of the 3 Wise Men.]

Remember that at the beginning of this gospel, before Jesus went to Egypt, he had three visitors, three wise men, who brought him very expensive gifts. In these last chapters of Matthew's gospel, we once more have someone giving Jesus a very expensive gift. Mary anoints him with very expensive perfume. As a baby, and now as a man, Jesus is given great gifts, reminding us of how priceless He should be to us! Jesus is our "priceless treasure."

Have the children do the handout of Mary anointing Jesus for burial.

Genealogy and Great Commission, The Past and the Future

Do you remember how this Gospel started? It began by teaching us about Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, and who Joseph's parents and grandparents and great-grandparents, etc. were. It began by talking about the past. But now at the end, it tells us about the future. Jesus died for our sins, taking our place. We deserved to die because of our sins. But Jesus took our place. Is he still in the place He was buried? NO!! God raised Him up so that we can have life! As we believe in Him, that He is God, and that He died for our sins, and that He has saved us, He gives us His new life.

The Gospel ends this way:

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.** 19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** 20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Jesus, after He died for our sins, was raised up and all power was then given to Him. He tells us to go into all the world, and teach all the nations about Him and the Bible. That's why Pastor Tuuri goes to Poland, and Pastor Wilson goes to India. Jesus says the future will see all the nations of the world believing, obeying and worshipping Him! Jesus says that wherever we go He is with us. That's why we are to be OPTIMISTIC. This means we should be filled with great hope as we think about the future of the world and our own future. Jesus is with us, He has all power, and He will grant us great blessings as we follow him! Gospel means "Good News." It means YAHOO!!! It is GREAT news, the best news the world has ever heard, and it makes us happy to move into the future. It makes us optimistic, hopeful.

Worship and Mountain

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Jesus gave us the Great Commission, the command to go into all the world and teach all people about Him. He gave this to His disciples as they met on a mountain together. In bible times, mountains were one place people would go to worship God. Each Sunday, you come up this hill in Oregon City, and we worship Jesus. He comes to be with us. He comes to remind us that whatever we do this week, we are to do for Him, as His people. Wherever we go this week, He is with us. He tells us the future is good, and that more and more people and nations will believe in Jesus and follow Him.

Lesson 29 Review, Preparation for Test

Text: None

Focus Songs Today: The Beatitudes

Today's Memory Verse: **Matthew 28:18,19**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Today Character Quality: **Diligence (in prep for next week's test!)**

Lesson

Roger – I thought it might be good to have a test on July 7. If it's okay with you, this Sunday, June 30, can be used to review for the test.

The oral test will cover:

- 1. The Structure of the Gospel of Matthew (7-fold outline)**
- 2. The Beatitudes**
- 3. The Lord's Prayer**

Lesson 30 Matthew Test, Genesis Intro

Text: None

Focus Songs Today: None

Current Memory Verses: Gen. 1:1-3 (these will be our memory verses for several weeks.)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Current Character Quality: **Rest** (this will be the character quality we will work on as we teach about the seven days of creation).

Lesson

Each child should be taken out individually by one of the teachers and asked to sing the Beatitudes, recite the Lord's Prayer, and give the 7-part outline of the Gospel of Matthew. A perfect score would be 30 points, 10 for each of the three parts of the test.

The rest of the children will be given 3 or 4 activity pages to do. The four activity pages cover Creation, Adam, Noah and Abraham.

Today, just have the children work on the activity sheets and remind them that our outline for the book of Genesis, which means “beginnings,” will be Adam-Noah-Abraham.

More Teacher Information

Our most basic Genesis outline is structured around the first three covenants. [NOTE: the first three rooms of the downstairs floor of the educational wing are named Eden, Ararat and Moriah, moving chronologically from the Adamic to the Noahic to the Abrahamic covenant. Your class should memorize these room names and the 3 men (Adam, Noah and Abraham) and the chapters associated with each as an outline for the book of Genesis.

Chapters 1-6 ADAM

(Adamic Covenant, Eden, Creation and 3 Falls)

(The three falls are Adam, Cain and the Sethites [sons of God]. They represent sins against the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in that order. These correlate with the first 3 commandments)

Chapters 7-11 NOAH

(Noahic Covenant, Ararat, Recreation and Re-fall)

(Noah, whose name means “rest” is a new Adam. Ham is a new Adam/Cain, however; and the Shemites who traveled to the Tower of Babel area are new Sethites.)

Chapters 12-50 ABRAHAM

Abrahamic Covenant, Moriah (eventually the Temple mount, see 2 Chr. 3:1)

3 Recoveries

Abraham – the *patience* towards God that Adam lacked

Jacob – the *brotherly kindness* to one’s fellow man that Cain lacked

Joseph – the *holiness* in the face of other peoples that the Sethites lacked.

World Saved Through Joseph, brought to rest, Sabbath enthronement and bread for the world (4th commandment)

Next week, we will begin Genesis proper, with the 7 days of creation. Here’s how the 7 days of creation correlate with formless, empty and dark (Gen. 1:2).

7 Days of Creation (Forming, Filling, Lighting)

1 Light

2 Form

3 Fill Land (Deck 2 of the triple-decker world)

4 Light (Fill [firmament] and form [sub-rulers])

3 Fill Sky and Water (Decks 2 and 3)

2 Form (Ruler/re-former created)
1 Light (God who is light comes to us and enthrones us as rulers)

Gospel of Matthew

6 & 7 Year Old Class

Name _____

Score _____

Test

1. Advent of the Savior-King: Jesus as Greater Abraham, David, and Moses (5 Talks, 5 Books)

2. Talk 1, Chapters 5-7:

"The Sermon on the Mount"

3. Talk 2, Chapter 10:

"The Sending Of the Twelve" (The New Kingdom Expands)

4. Talk 3, Chapter 13:

"A Bright Future: Kingdom Parables" (New Kingdom Shall Fill the Earth)

5. Talk 4, Chapter 18:

"Humility and Forgiveness" (The Nature of the New Kingdom)

6. Talk 5, Chapters 23-25:

"The Old Kingdom Is Judged as the New Kingdom Is Established"

7. Chapters 26-28: "The Great Commission"

The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy

name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.