JESUS, THE TEACHER


Bible Verse: “[Simon Peter said,] ‘We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’” —John 6:69, NIrV

Bible Point: Jesus told stories to teach people. You can learn from Jesus’ stories, too.

Resource: The Story for Little Ones, Chapter 24: “Jesus, the Teacher”

PREPARATION FOR LESSON 25: This week, take pictures of the children in your class and print them. You will need them for a craft next week. You can take one of the whole group if you are pressed for time, but individual pictures would work best.

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Stuff you need: another adult, rubbing alcohol, cotton ball, ointment, bandage

Say, “Good morning! I am so excited to talk more today about Jesus. The first story we heard was about Jesus being born! What was his mother’s name? (Mary) Who came to see him? (the shepherds) And who announced his birth to the shepherds? (angels)

“Then, last week we talked about how Jesus shows us God’s power. Who baptized Jesus? (John) Who came down from heaven? (God’s Spirit in the form of a dove) We learned that God’s power shows through Jesus! Jesus is amazing!

“Today we’re going to learn about—”

Have an assistant interrupt you and say, “Excuse me, Teacher! I hurt my finger, and I wondered if you could help me out.”

Say, “Well, I’m right in the middle of teaching these children about Jesus.”

Your assistant says, “It really hurts.”

Help the assistant by treating the wound.

Say, “Well, it’s very interesting that this happened, because today we’re going to hear a story about a man who was hurt.”
**STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY**

**Stuff you need:** Ace bandage, blanket, Bible-time robes (optional)

First, read aloud Chapter 24, “Jesus, the Teacher,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Say, “When you go to school, you have a teacher. A teacher tries to explain things to you. Jesus was a teacher, too. He made his lessons fun. Jesus used stories to teach people. People understood his stories. Let’s act out this story together.”

Have four volunteers come to the front of the room with you.

Say, “Jesus told people to help their neighbors. But a man wasn’t sure what Jesus meant when he said ‘neighbor,’ so, Jesus told the following story.”

“A man went on a trip. (Have Volunteer 1 start walking across the teaching area.) But while he was walking, robbers attacked him and stole everything the man owned. They beat him up and left him lying in the dust. (Have Volunteer 1 lie down on the ground.)

“A church leader walked by. He saw the man, but he thought he didn’t have time to help him, so he just kept walking. (Have Volunteer 2 walk by, see the hurt man, and keep walking.) Another church leader walked by. He also saw the man, but he didn’t want to help either, so he just kept on walking. (Have Volunteer 3 walk by, see the hurt man, and keep walking.)

“Then a Samaritan man walked by. Now, God’s people didn’t like the Samaritans, and the Samaritans didn’t like God’s people. They were enemies. But when the Samaritan man walked by, he felt terrible for the hurt man! He stopped and helped him up. (Give Volunteer 4 the blanket, and have him help Volunteer 1 up off the floor, put the blanket around his shoulders, and walk him to the edge of the teaching area.) He took him to an inn where they could help the man. (Volunteer 4 wraps Volunteer 1’s arm in the Ace bandage.) The Samaritan was a good neighbor and helped the man recover.”

Say, “Let’s thank our volunteers!” Have the children clap while the volunteers go back to their seats.

Say, “So, Jesus told this story to the crowd. Then Jesus asked, ‘Who was the good neighbor?’ The man in the crowd said, ‘The Samaritan man.’ He was right. By telling this story, Jesus was teaching the people that anyone who needs your help is your neighbor.”

Ask:

- What happened to the man? (Robbers beat him up and stole his things.)
- Did the church leaders help him? (no)
- Who helped him? (the Samaritan man)
- So, who was the hurt man’s neighbor? (the Samaritan man)
- Was this story true? (No, this is a story Jesus told to teach a lesson.)
Say, “Jesus told stories to teach people. We can learn from Jesus’ stories, too. For example, today we can learn that, in order to be a good neighbor, we need to help those who need help.”

Have the assistant say, “Thanks for helping me with my finger! You were a good neighbor to me by helping me when I was hurt, even though you were busy teaching.”

Say, “You’re welcome! Let’s ask God to help us learn from Jesus’ stories.”

Pray with your children, asking God for help learning from the stories you read in the Bible.

**STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE**

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

**Option 1: Bowling**

*Stuff you need:* children’s bowling sets, 1 for every 5–6 children. If your church doesn’t have any bowling sets, you can make them by filling 2-liter bottles halfway with sand. Use tennis balls to knock them down. Have children line up and take turns bowling. They can be good neighbors to one another by helping each other pick up the pins for the next person in line.

**Option 2: The Lord’s Prayer**

Say, “Jesus taught us how we should pray. He did not want people to say a lot of words that didn’t mean anything. He also didn’t want people to say loud prayers if they didn’t mean them. That’s why he told us what should go into a prayer. I am going to say the words to a prayer Jesus taught, and you do the motions with me.”

- **Our Father in heaven** *(Raise your hands in the air to God.)*
- **May your name** *(Fold your hands as if in prayer.)*
- **Be honored** *(With folded hands, bow.)*
- **May your kingdom** *(Put your hands on your head, fingers up like a crown.)*
- **Come** *(Wave someone toward you.)*
- **May what you want to happen be done** *(Point up.)*
- **On Earth** *(Make a circle with your arms.)*
- **As it is done in heaven** *(Raise your hands in the air.)*
- **Give us today** *(Hit a fist in the palm of your other hand.)*
- **Our daily bread** *(Pretend to eat.)*
- **Forgive us our sins** *(Cover your face with your hands.)*
- **Just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us** *(Pretend to pat someone on the back.)*
- **Keep us from falling into sin** *(Sway as if you are about to fall.)*
- **When we are tempted** *(Put a finger to your chin as if you are thinking about something.)*
Save us (Raise your hands in the air to God.)
From the evil one (Point behind you as if a bad guy is chasing you.)

Repeat a few times until children get the motions.

**Option 3: Jesus Teaches**

*Stuff you need:* Jesus Teaches Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. Have the children color the picture of the Good Samaritan helping the man on the road. Talk about how we can be good Samaritans today.

**Option 4: Chalk Picture**

*Stuff you need:* black construction paper, chalk, wet wipes

Say, “You can be a good neighbor by doing nice things for other people. We are going to make chalk pictures, and you can give your picture to someone you love as a gift.”

Give each child a piece of construction paper and some chalk. When they are done making their pictures, wipe hands with wet wipes.

**Option 5: Wrapping Paper**

*Stuff you need:* large sheets of butcher paper, crayons, stamps and stamp pads, washable markers, stickers

Say, “Another way we can be good neighbors and show other people we care about them is to give gifts. You are going to make your own sheet of wrapping paper, and you can use it to wrap a small gift.”

Hand out supplies, and encourage children to use their imaginations. When parents come to pick up their children, explain the purpose of the wrapping paper.

**STEP 4: GOING HOME**

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card* 24. Say, “The front of this card will remind you that Jesus told stories to teach people. Show your parents the back and tell them that you can learn from Jesus’ stories, too.” Have them practice saying this before they leave.

Use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.