



LESSON 33

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MATTHEW 5-7

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about how a large crowd followed Jesus to a mountainside. Jesus sat down and began teaching them many things. Jesus taught that God's people experience joy as they live in right relationship with God and with others.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean to love your enemies? Matthew 5:43-48
- How can we let our lives shine before others? Matthew 5:14-16
- Jesus taught us not to worry. What does the Sermon on the Mount say about worrying? Matthew 6:25-34
- How are we doing as a family living out Jesus' teaching? Are there some things that we need to work on together with God's help?

TOGETHER HOME

The Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6:9-13, a part of the Sermon on the Mount. Read the Lord's Prayer together and talk about what the different lines mean. Then, commit to learn it. Include the Lord's Prayer in your family prayer times such as at meals, bedtime, or times you pray throughout the day.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11). Have younger family members learn the underlined section of the verse. Write the verse on index cards for each person. Encourage them to keep the cards with them this week and read it often.



LESSON 34

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: CALMING THE STORM

MATTHEW 8:23-27;
MARK 4:35-41

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, Jesus is on a boat with His disciples when a huge storm comes up. Water is coming in the boat and the disciples are terrified that they're going to drown. Meanwhile, Jesus is sleeping in the back of the boat. The disciples wake Him up and say, "Don't you care that we're going to drown?" Jesus calmly tells the storm to be still and the disciples are amazed, saying, "Who is He that even the wind and the waves obey Him?"

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- The disciples were terrified of storms. What things are you afraid of?
- How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus sleeping in the middle of the storm?
- What does this story tell us about God's power?
- When we trust God with our fears, what does He give us?

TOGETHER HOME

Build a boat together using chairs, tables, boxes, blankets, or other things you have around the house. Designate some family members to be disciples and one person to be Jesus. Act out the story of Jesus calming the sea. Then, trade roles and act out the story again.

Pray together that God will help you trust Him with the things that you are afraid of.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11). Have younger family members learn the underlined section of the verse. Practice this verse together whenever possible: in the car, at the dinner table, during devotions, while taking a walk or playing in the yard.

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about a man named Jairus, who came to get Jesus to heal his sick daughter. On the way to Jairus's house, a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years squeezed through the crowd and touched Jesus' clothes, knowing that even a touch could heal her. Jesus felt some power go out of Him and turned to find out who had touched Him. By the time Jesus made it to Jairus's house, the family said the little girl was dead. Jesus went in the house and said she was merely sleeping. He told the little girl to get up and she was healed. These two amazing miracles happened in one day's walk. God sent His only Son, and now Jesus was showing the people that God loves them. He cares about what hurts them and He wants to bring peace and healing to everyone.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think the woman only touched Jesus' clothes instead of going right up to him?
- Does Jesus have the power to heal us and help us today? Why do you think that way?
- Have you ever seen or heard of God healing people? Share some of those stories with each other.
- How do we know that Jesus cares for us even when he doesn't heal us right away or in the way we want?

TOGETHER HOME

Play "Wake up, you're healed" as a family. Have all but one person lay on the floor pretending to be asleep. The remaining person walks around the room quietly while the others pretend to be sleeping. Then, he or she chooses a person to sneak up on, tickle, and say, "Wake up, you're healed." The person who was just "healed" gets to be awake and choose the next person and so on.

Pray for needs (*Not just physical*) of your family and of others.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11). Have younger family members learn the underlined section of the verse. Make a poster of the verse. Let everyone help illustrate the verse.



LESSON 36

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: FEEDING THE 5000

JOHN 6:1-15

THE STORY HOME

Today, we learned about how Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fish (one boy's lunch). Everyone ate as much as they wanted. Then, when the crowd had left, Jesus told the disciples to pick up the leftovers. There were 12 baskets full of food left over. Jesus provided for the needs of the crowd, and performed a miracle to do it!

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What is a miracle? Is God still doing miracles today?
- What might have happened if the boy hadn't been willing to share his bread and fish?
- How has God provided for your family?
- How does Jesus call us to participate in His work of meeting people's needs?

TOGETHER HOME

Find a way to help some people who might be hungry or who have less than you. Volunteer stocking shelves or passing out food at a local food pantry. Prepare a meal at a soup kitchen. Or, get a few extra groceries for a family in need when you're doing your grocery shopping and drop them by their house. You can even do it anonymously if you want.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11). Have all your family members learned this verse? Review it as well as previous verses your family has learned.



LESSON 37

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:25-37

THE STORY HOME

Today we learned about the parable that Jesus told of the Good Samaritan. We learned about how even people who claimed to be “good people” and those who said they loved God passed by the hurt man, while the Samaritan, who was from the wrong side of the tracks, helped him. We understand that God calls us to help others, even those who are different from us. Loving our neighbors means loving all of those around us, not just the people who are like us.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean to love your neighbor?
- Have you ever seen or received “Good Samaritan” actions before? What did they look like? What did it feel like if someone else took care of you?
- Talk about some ways you can be “Good Samaritans” to the people around you.

TOGETHER HOME

As a family, keep your eyes out for someone in need this week. Perhaps it's a lonely widow in need of some company or a plate of cookies. Perhaps it's someone having car trouble, or a group of people living in poverty far away from your family. Whoever it is, find a practical way you can love your neighbor: a friendly note or visit, helping to push a car out of the road, gathering change for hungry kids... the opportunities are endless. Pray that God will help you see your neighbors in need and know how to best meet their needs.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself'” (Luke 10:27). Have younger children learn the underlined portion of the verse. Discuss ways to love your neighbor.



LESSON 38

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: THE LOST SON

LUKE 15:11-32

THE STORY HOME

This week's story was the Epic parable of the lost son. In this story that Jesus tells, the younger son asks for his half of the inheritance and then goes off and squanders it. When he realizes that even his father's servants live better than he's living, he returns home, expecting to work for his father. Instead, the father throws a huge party celebrating the return of his lost son.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- What about the other brother? How does he feel when the lost son returns home? Why? What does God teach us about forgiving others through the brother who never left?
- How are we like the lost son?
- How can we "return home to the father"?
- Are there people who you need to forgive?

TOGETHER HOME

Use some play money and play "store" together. Set up some pretend prices and include things in the store that your kids really love. (real or pretend) Try to be a persuasive salesman and get your kids to spend all of their money at your store. When their play money is spent, switch roles. Then, talk about how the lost son squandered everything he had on stuff that didn't matter. What things do we "want" that aren't really that important? Are there things we need to ask God forgiveness for?

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Luke 10:27). Have the younger family members learn the underlined portion of the verse. Practice the verse at the dinner table, in the car, during devotions, and any other time possible.

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that their brother Lazarus was dying. Jesus stayed where He was for two more days before traveling to see Mary and Martha and Lazarus. When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had been dead for four days already. Both Mary and Martha said, "If you had been here, our brother would not have died." When they went to the tomb, Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out." Lazarus did come out! Jesus had raised him from the dead.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever known God to heal someone?
- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were some of Jesus' very good friends. How do you think it made the women feel when Jesus wasn't there when their brother was dying?
- As Christians, what do we believe about death?
- How does Jesus offer us hope, even when people die?

TOGETHER HOME

Lazarus's body was wrapped in grave cloths and placed in a grave. He would have been wrapped up similar to what we think of when we imagine a mummy. While spices would have been put on Lazarus's body, it wouldn't have been preserved the same way. After all, his sisters were concerned about how bad Lazarus would smell after being in the tomb for four days.

Learn how ancient people from other cultures mummified people by creating an apple mummy.

You'll need

- 1 Apple
- 1 Popsicle stick
- 1 Plastic bag (preferably a zip-lock freezer bag)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sodium carbonate (powdered bleach)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bicarbonate of soda (sodium bicarbonate, which is used as a raising agent in baking)

Step-By-Step Procedure:

1. Mix the salt, sodium carbonate, and bicarbonate of soda into the plastic bag.
2. Cut a face into your apple using the Popsicle stick. Do this by pushing the stick into the front of the apple to make eyes, a nose, and a mouth. (Be creative)
3. When finished with the face, push the Popsicle stick into the top of the apple so it makes a handle.
4. Place the apple into the bag with the mixture and ensure that it's covered by the dry mixture
5. Leave the bag open in a warm dry place for several days and watch what happens to the apple!

Note: This apple is NOT meant to be eaten! Once you take a look at the final result you'll probably agree it isn't something you would consume.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Luke 10:27). How is your family doing on learning this verse?



LESSON 40

**TODAY'S EPIC STORY:
ZACCHAEUS**
LUKE 19:1-9

THE STORY HOME

In today's Epic story, a short and notoriously shady tax collector named Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to town. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so he climbed up in a tree to get a better view. Jesus surprised everyone by saying he was going to Zacchaeus's house that day. The people who were watching said, "Who is this that eats with tax collectors and sinners?"

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Who does Jesus forgive? Is there anyone He won't forgive?
- Who should we forgive?
- Zacchaeus took responsibility for what he had done wrong and worked to set things right again. How did he do that? How can we do that?
- Is there anyone that you need to seek forgiveness from?

TOGETHER HOME

Sing together. This song may be one you know from your childhood. If you're not sure about the tune, find it on youtube.com, iTunes, or a kid's worship CD.

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, (*Motion with hand to show that he was short*)

And a wee little man was he.

He climbed up in a sycamore tree (*Pretend to climb*)

For the Lord he wanted to see; (*Put hands over eyes like you're looking*)

And as the Savior passed that way, (*Pretend to walk*)

He looked up in the tree, (*Look up*)

(Spoken) And he said, Zacchaeus you come down (*Shake your finger at Zacchaeus*)

For I'm going to your house today. (*March to Zacchaeus's house*)

For I'm going to your house today.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (Luke 10:27). This is the last week for this verse. See if all family members can say the verse. Take turns saying part of the verse and letting another family member finish it.

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