

5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2023-
July 2, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:34-42

THEME: The Christian Loves God Above All

SONG: CW21 704/ CW93 452– Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

VISUAL: A favorite food (a sandwich, cookie, chips, etc.)

OBJECT LESSON

Begin by telling the children about the favorite food. Show it to them and describe it—the smell, taste, texture. Then emphasize that you LOVE this food. Ask the children if they have a favorite food. Ask them to close their eyes and picture it and remember a time when they tasted it. Talk about how while you love this food, it isn't the most important thing in your life and that you love other things and people more than you love this food.

BIBLE TRUTH

In our Bible reading today, Jesus tells us something that can be really hard. He tells us that out of everything and everyone, we are to love God the most. More than our favorite food, our favorite pet, our favorite friend or relative. More than everything! We don't always love God above everything else, though, and that is a sin.

But here's the good news: Jesus put his Father first, and what his Father wanted was you. So he lived a perfect life and died on the cross to buy you back from sin and death so you can have eternal life. This food is really great, but the one who created it is so much better!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What is something you put above God? How can we keep God first in our hearts?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us all the good things in our lives. You are the creator of all things and you bless us with them. Sometimes we look at what you have created and put it in a place higher than you. Forgive us and help us to always keep you as number one in our hearts. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 3, 2023-
July 9, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25-30

THEME: The Christian Finds Rest in Jesus

SONG: CW21 818 - My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone
(Psalm 62)

VISUAL: Dumbbell

OBJECT LESSON

Begin by doing some reps of an exercise (bicep curl, bench press, etc.) with the dumbbell (if you don't have access to a dumbbell, this would work with push ups or tricep dips as well). Maybe have the children count with you. When you have done a few, exaggerate how tired you are and say, "I need a rest." Have you ever needed a rest? Like when you played really hard outside? Or after gym class? Rest is good.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus talks about a different type of rest. It's called spiritual rest. Spiritual rest is when we are strengthened in faith and put our trust in Jesus to take care of all the problems in this world. Because there are a lot of problems. And sometimes they make us tired. Sicknesses, disasters, and fighting are all examples of sin in this world that make us spiritually tired. Where can I find spiritual rest?

Jesus has the answer. He wants us to come to him. He wants us to learn from him. He wants to show us his love and reveal to us all the goodness he is. He has taken the burden of our sins on himself. All our sins were paid for by Jesus on the cross. He gives us the forgiveness he has won through his Word and sacraments. He wants to remind us of heaven and how it is waiting for us. Jesus knows all the troubles we face in this life and he invites us to lay those troubles on him. He already has saved us from them and we can find peace and rest in him.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What is a way we can lay our burdens on Jesus? Discuss prayer and the importance of it. Practice memorizing Matthew 11:28.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us all the good things in our lives. You are the creator of all things and you bless us with them. Sometimes we look at what you have created and put it in a place higher than you. Forgive us and help us to always keep you as number one in our hearts. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 10, 2023-
July 16, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

THEME: The Christian is Planted by the Word

SONG: CW21 644/ CW93 324 - Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

VISUAL: Some seeds

OBJECT LESSON

Show the seeds. These are seeds. They will grow and grow and grow until they become big and then they will produce vegetables. Sometimes, weeds or bad soil make the plant not grow big or produce vegetables.

BIBLE TRUTH

The seed is the Word. Many things try to take the Word away from us and keep it from creating faith in us. The devil tries to prevent us from hearing the Word or taking it to heart. He tries to distract us by trying to make us want good things God gives us more than God himself. He tries to get us to doubt God's Word like Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.

God is almighty and his Word is powerful. He uses his Word to save us and give us eternal life. He planted faith in our hearts and he is stronger than the devil. No one can snatch us out of his hand. We are strong because God is on our side.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Explain how we can grow good roots from listening to God's Word and those who preach it.

PRAYER

Dear Almighty God, you are all powerful. You are all knowing. You have used your Word to grant faith to all of us here. Continue to strengthen our faith and let us spread that seed of the gospel to everyone we know, that they may share in the wonderful gift of heaven with us. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2023-
July 23, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

THEME: The Christian Lives as Wheat Among Weeds

SONG: CW21 491/ CW93 613 - Come, You Thankful People,
Come

VISUAL: Trail mix

OBJECT LESSON

Eat some trail mix, but take out one part of the mix each time you grab a few (like take out the raisins). I really like trail mix, but I really don't like raisins so I take them out. I don't always know if anyone will eat them, so they might end up going in the garbage.

BIBLE TRUTH

At the end of time, God is going to separate the believers from the unbelievers and the unbelievers are going to go to hell. Maybe that sounds scary. I don't want to go to a fiery furnace. How do I know if I am wheat or weeds?

It may seem scary to think of the end of time, but God has a plan. He chose you to be his child. He will take away all the sin and the bad and the broken parts of the world. And when all that is gone, we will be left to shine like the sun. We are safe in his kingdom forever.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Explain that while we wait for judgment day, God wants us to act like wheat among the weeds. How can we do that?

PRAYER

Dear heavenly father, thank you for making us wheat. Help us to shine for you among the weeds and hasten the day when we will shine like the sun in your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2023-
July 30, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 3:5-12

THEME: The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth

SONG: CW21 827/ CW93 443 - Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

VISUAL: Something you really wanted as a kid (or a picture of it)

OBJECT LESSON

When I was a kid, I really wanted this. Hold up the object. Maybe you have wanted something really badly and asked for it for your birthday or Christmas. Maybe you had a list but you put stars around the most important thing you wanted.

BIBLE TRUTH

In our scripture lesson today, we learn about King Solomon. God told him he would give him whatever he wanted. He could have asked for a new car or the coolest toy they had in those days—something like what I wanted as a kid. But Solomon asked for something called a “discerning heart.” A discerning heart is a heart that can tell the difference between right and wrong. Sometimes I get right and wrong mixed up and I sin. You probably do, too.

But here is good news: Jesus did not mix up right and wrong. He was perfect. For us. He knew how God wanted him to act and did it perfectly so that we can be with him in heaven. That sure is the best thing I could ever get!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Sometimes we call knowing right from wrong “spiritual wealth.” How can we get better at knowing right from wrong? Who can you talk to if you can’t decide whether something is right or wrong?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for putting us first. Thank you for sacrificing yourself so we could have eternal blessings and wealth with you in heaven. In your name we pray. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

10th Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2023-
Aug. 6, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 17:1-6

THEME: The Christian Trusts God to Provide

SONG: CW21 603/ CW93 236 - All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

VISUAL: Lunch box with a single cracker in it

OBJECT LESSON

I asked my spouse to pack my lunch today. Let's see what is inside. Open the lunchbox to reveal the single cracker. Look surprised. What? This is not an adequate lunch for a human. This isn't even an adequate lunch for a parrot. I trusted my spouse to pack my lunch and now I will be hungry the rest of the day.

BIBLE TRUTH

Sometimes when life is going well, it is easy to trust God. When our lunch box is full, it's easy to trust God. But if our lunch box is close to empty, it isn't so easy. When we are having a bad day. When we are mad at our parents. When we are afraid. We stop trusting that God is good. We stop trusting in God and his love for us.

But God still provides. Even when we don't trust him, he still takes care of us. But because he provides for us, he invites us to trust him. Sometimes, he provides through miracles, like the way Elijah was fed by ravens. Ravens! Birds came and gave him food. And that is just our Scripture lesson for today. Think about all the other places in Scripture where God provides in miraculous ways. God usually provides through natural ways. He gives your parents jobs to buy food and a house and clothes and cars. God loves you. He cares about you. He provides for you. You can trust in him to provide in any situation.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Help the children memorize Psalm 56:3.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, you give us everything we have. You take care of us. You provide for us. We doubt you and your love. Forgive us and strengthen our faith. Help us to trust you completely and remind us daily all the blessings you bestow on us. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Aug. 7, 2023-
Aug. 13, 2023
Pre-K
Message

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-33

THEME: The Christian Answers Doubt with Faith

SONG: CW21 832 Immovable Our Hope Remains

VISUAL: A toy boat that will float and a small tub of water

OBJECT LESSON

Raise your hand if you think this toy boat will float in this water. Think carefully! Are you absolutely certain it will? What if there is a hole in the boat that you can't see? What if the boat isn't balanced and it will tip over? Do you still think this toy boat will float in this water? Put the toy boat in the water so that it will float. Those questions I asked may have caused you to doubt whether the boat would float or not

BIBLE TRUTH

Doubt is when we question something and maybe don't trust it is true. Peter doubted Jesus in today's scripture lesson. He was afraid of the wind and waves and he doubted Jesus. Sometimes we doubt God when we are afraid. Maybe we are afraid of the dark and we don't remember that God is always with us. How can we overcome this doubt?

Look at what Jesus does. He catches Peter right away. And he gently reminds Peter that he is with the son of God. How could Peter get hurt with Jesus there? We can remember the same thing. Jesus is always with us. He watches over us—even when we are sleeping. He loves us and takes care of us. We are safe and secure in his arms—we don't need to be afraid.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Talk about the first sin and thinking, "Did God really say?" Talk about how the devil uses doubt to get us to sin and not trust in God.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you have done miraculous works. You have healed many. You have walked on water. You are all powerful. We often doubt that power. Forgive us and strengthen our faith that we may not doubt, but continually trust in you. In your name we pray. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**