



Growing as followers of Jesus

Leaders Guide

Introduction: Jesus is a good teacher & Jesus teaches us about God.

You will notice this session that we are reflecting on Jesus being a good teacher and that his teachings tell us more about God and how God wants us to live our lives. A lot of what Jesus said was controversial at the time and still challenges us today.. For us Jesus teaching ministry is core to who he is and his purpose. It would be good to know the teachings that mean a lot to you and why, or maybe one that has challenged you as part of your sharing.

Ideas for families:

- **Share stories about your best and worst teachers. Why made those teachers helpful or unhelpful?**
- **Talk about some of the things which you have learnt from Jesus and how they have made a difference in your life.**
- **Name two times where you can remember stories of Jesus teaching in the Bible. What did he say or do? Who were the learners in the story? What did they learn?**

Ideas for Congregations:

Gathering Idea –

- **Have a shape of a person traced on a large (person-sized) piece of paper or whiteboard, even recycle a big cardboard box.**
- **Have people in cross-aged groups talk about their favourite teachers.**
- **Get the groups to come up with their own list of what makes a good teacher.**
- **Have representatives from each group write on the shape of a person attributes of a good teacher.**

BIBLE READINGS: (choose 2 to look at)

- **MARK 10: 17-21 (Good Teacher)**
- **MATTHEW 13:44 (Parable of the Treasure in a Field)**
- **JOHN 13: 1-17 (Jesus sets his disciples an example)**





Heart of the Story (Everyone Chat):

Jesus was considered a rabbi by many people in his time. A rabbi is a Jewish teacher who helps people learn about God and what God calls us to do and be like. Jesus was once called 'good teacher.' It is in our first Bible reading. Why do you think that Jesus was a good teacher? If we think about what we have learned about Jesus - through the Bible and through Church etc. - which of the 'good teacher' things that we wrote on our teacher shape, can we see in Jesus?

Jesus was a good teacher. He did not just teach by telling people things that they should learn, he told curious and challenging stories and he acted in ways which helped people learn what God is like. Jesus was a good teacher about what God is like, because Jesus was God as a human. That is what we believe as Christians. What do we learn from our Bible readings about God? What should we do to be better disciples now that we have learnt that about God?

Activity: Be the Teacher

- **Find a story that Jesus told as part of his teaching. Flip through one of the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John or look up the 'parables of Jesus' on the internet.**
- **Come up with a lesson about the story. Work out.**
- **How you would tell the story**
- **What you would like people to learn**
- **What activity would you get people to do to help them learn**
- **Try your activity for yourself so that you get to have the fun and see if it would work.**

Outcomes:

- 1. Identify why Jesus was a good teacher**
- 2. Identify examples from the Bible of Jesus being a good teacher**
- 3. Reflect on the ways that Jesus was a good teacher**
- 4. Consider how some of Jesus' teaching might be put into practise**





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Who is Jesus?

Teaching us about God

Name of
the Book

Chapter

Verse

MARK 10 17-21

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.'[a]" 20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Getting Ready!

Who is your favourite teacher ever? What did they teach you?



An important part of who Jesus was came from his great teachings about how to live life well.

This teaching was not just about obeying the rules but understanding that God asks us to love like God loves. The rules that Jesus was talking to the rich young man about were not new rules they had been around for a very long time; Jesus challenged the rich young man to use what he had to make a difference to people who were much worse off than him. There are many times where Jesus challenges people about putting money and treasures on earth before God, not because Jesus does not like money but because he knows that when we only focus on those things, we miss out on some of the most amazing things in life. Being generous and kind changes not only the receiver but also the giver. Most of Jesus teaching is about how to love everyone, being just and fair and helping those in need, he is teaching us about these things because this is who God is, this is how God loves us. God does it not because there are rules to do it but because God cares for all humans and all of God's creation.

PRAISING GOD

Wise and Loving God, thank you that you love us without measuring the cost to you, that you are willing to forgive us and fight for justice when others have given up. Thank you that your love is for everyone but especially me. Amen

SORRY GOD

Hopeful God, sorry for the times we do not appreciate your love when we keep it for ourselves and not want to share that love with others. Help us to be brave, to love others like you do and be willing to help wherever we can. Amen

THINK OF THREE PEOPLE, WHO COULD SHOW LOVE TO. THINK OF AT LEAST ONE WAY TO SHOW LOVE TO THEM. TRY TO DO THIS FOR EACH OF THE PEOPLE YOU THOUGHT OF, WHEN YOU DO THE THING FOR THEM, GIVE THEM ONE OF THESE CARDS.



To: _____
Jesus is God with us
To: _____
Jesus is God with us
To: _____
Jesus is God with us



COLOUR IN EACH SPACE THAT HAS A BLACK DOT, TO REVEAL THE SECRET WORD.



TELLING OTHERS!

Share with someone something that you have learned about God from Jesus.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Ask people what they have learnt about God from Jesus?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Look up at least one of the stories that Jesus told in the Bible. Read it. Think about what it is teaching you. Ask God to help you understand more about who God is and what you should do to be more like God in the way you live and interact with other people.

BLESSING

Set a goal for the next couple of days of how you are going to put something that you learned from Jesus into practice to bless others.

