

Lesson 1- Who Gives the Power?

September 8, 2019

Worship: 10 minutes

DVD: See Cheri

Points to consider as you think about how to teach this lesson:

Per Pastor Gabe –

There is a sin that is unforgivable: It is when the person ultimately and completely rejects the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus. (If this scripture section is problematic for you, please discuss it with Pastor Gabe.)

Confessing our sin is the way to forgiveness for us.

Clearly, Satan can live in people, but he does not live in people where the Holy Spirit lives.

STORY TEACHER:

This could be a very confusing story for small children. It is completely appropriate to talk about the devil having power – always making the point that God has more. Make the final scripture, ³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit,” your goal. We can tell who is behind something, if we pay attention to what happens to the result...

Matthew 12:22-33

²² Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”

²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit

of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³²And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Lessons that can be drawn from this story:

Jesus did His work here on earth in purity and goodness. The Holy Spirit creates that kind of “fruit” in Christians, too. Love, Joy, Patience, Goodness, Self-Control, Forgiveness, etc. When we ask Jesus into our hearts and the Holy Spirit comes, He never causes us to be evil – always good.

Jesus is in the business of making “bad trees” into “good trees.” He wanted to send His spirit into people’s lives that would change them. He can change us, too – not by telling us to “be good,” but sending His Spirit to live inside us and making us WANT to do good.

In fact, we are all born “bad trees.” We can only become “good trees” by being BORN good trees... This happens when we are “Born Again” – when God’s Spirit comes into our hearts.

Jesus wants to send the Holy Spirit to live in us, so He can push out all the darkness. Have you asked Him into your heart?

Small Group Lesson

Small Group Teachers pick and choose activities:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Questions for older children

Today, it is recommended that you teach the memory verse FIRST, then discuss. All the questions will come from the memory verse.

What do you think the “fruit” of our lives is – what shows whether we are a “good” person or a “bad” person?

Jesus cast out the demons from the man, but the Pharisees claimed it was the “devil” in him that made him do that. Why would they say that?

What was it in Jesus that caused him to heal the demon possessed man?

Was it the devil?

How do you know?

Does Jesus look at us and say, “Oh, well, he’s just bad! Too bad!” ? What does He do, instead? *He wants us to admit we are bad (repent) and trust in Him to change us and make us good (faith).*

Questions for younger children

Today, it is recommended that you teach the memory verse FIRST, then discuss. All the questions will come from the memory verse.

How can you tell whether somebody is good or bad?

What is it inside of us that makes us want to do good things?

Why do we do bad things?

Does Jesus look at us and say, “Oh, well, he’s just a bad boy! Too bad!” ? What does He do, instead? *He wants us to admit we are bad (repent) and trust in Him to change us and make us good (faith).*

PRAYER:

Invite the children to pray with you as you pray a prayer of confession and faith – something like this:

Dear God, I know I do things I shouldn't.
 There is bad stuff inside of me that makes me do bad things.
 I know that you died for me – I know that you love me.
 I pray that you will live inside me and change my heart.
 Please make me new on the inside so I will be good on the outside.
 Amen.

if the prayer is kept short, it is good for especially young children to “repeat after me.” If you choose to do that, keep the phrases short.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 12:33

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Have two children stand in front of the class, arms raised like a tree. Designate one tree a good tree and one a bad tree. Talk about how both look pretty good – both have leaves and are green. How can we know which one is not a good tree?

Have a child go up to the bad tree and pretend to take a piece of fruit off of it. Ask him/her to pretend to bite into his/her “bad fruit.” Let the child show how he/she would react to eating a piece of bad fruit.

Then have a child walk up to the good tree and pretend to take a piece of fruit from that tree. Ask him/her to pretend to bite into his/her “good fruit.” Let the child show how he/she would react to eating a piece of good fruit.

Now, teach the memory verse. Beginning with good fruit – “Either make the tree good and it's fruit good....

Bad fruit - Or make the tree bad and its fruit bad,

Point out the obvious conclusion: “The tree is known by its fruit.”

Drama:

See memory verse.

ACTIVITIES:

A simple game of Charades can illustrate pretense from reality.

Younger children can be given quietly given the name of an animal to pretend to be. Let the other children guess what animal they're portraying.

When the children guess correctly, ask: Is Keith REALLY a lion? How would Keith be a real lion? "He would have to be born a lion.

Can you act like a lion for a long time? A day? What about a month? Why not?

How long do you think it would take you before people would notice you weren't REALLY a lion?

It is up to the teacher to keep reminding children of the point of the lesson.

Older children can be given more difficult challenges like: an astronaut, a gold medal winner, a teacher, a grocery check-out person, etc.

ART:

Using playdough, have the children create "bad fruit."

Then, ask them to turn the bad fruit into "good fruit." How would they do that?

Ask: How does God change us into people who do good things rather than bad things?

See "Lesson 1 - Resources Pages" for coloring sheet and worksheet for older students.