

Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

Notes on Lesson Eight: Teacher

Lesson Eight: Teacher

Central Message

Jesus was a great teacher who taught the truth about God. However, not everyone was ready to hear the truth. At times his words had a hidden meaning. If you wanted to know more, you had to ask the teacher. As the disciples came to Jesus, they learned not only the truth, but the One Who Is True. *Jesus* is the secret of the Kingdom of God.

Life Application

When you hear the Word of God, do you want to understand it? Do you come back for more? Are you like the disciples, or like those who can only hear the Word of God in parables? Think about where your heart is on the charts above. Where do you want your heart to be? Ask Jesus to teach you more about the truth.

Community-Building Activity and Introduction⁴³ *Stories*

Preparation: Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

Instructions: Jesus taught with stories about everyday events. Think of a true story about yourself, about something that happened to you. It can be serious or funny. Tell the story to two other people in a small group.

Teaching Notes: If you are working with married people, you might ask them to tell a story about their spouse. They are often more comfortable doing this than telling a story about themselves! The stories could take a while, so pairs or small groups work best.

⁴³ The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

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Alternate Community-Building Activity

Farming

Preparation: This can be done in talking lines or any other small group format. The purpose of this activity is to get them thinking about farms and farmers, and to introduce some vocabulary that they may have missed in their study of English.

Instructions: Have you ever lived on a farm, visited a farm, or planted a garden of vegetables? What are some things people do on a farm? Make a list. If you do not know the word in English, act it out and see if others can tell you.

Teaching Notes: This opening activity often begins before everyone has arrived, so when you call them together, they will not all have had time to work on a list of words. That is not a problem. Ask them for farming words, and write them on the board. Talk about sowing seeds and harvesting crops.

Introduction: The lesson introduction states that the parables intrigued the people. We are curious and intrigued by something that is hidden from us. Talk about the word “intrigue.” (See the footnote in the lesson.)

Lesson Notes

Part One: The Parable of the Sower Luke 8: 4-15

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

- 1.2. When the students look for the words “some fell,” they will see the pattern of the parable, and they will recognize this pattern when they read. Make sure they know what it means to sow seeds. (One of the community-building activities introduces other farming terms.)
3. The chart can be done in small groups. The seed falls along the path, on rocky places, among thorns, and on good soil. The seed is walked on and eaten when it is on the path. (Note the passive voice. The seed has no response.) It dries up on rocky places, gets crowded out among thorns, and produces a crop on good soil. (This is an observation exercise. The interpretation will come later.)
4. The farmer is God. The seed is God’s message, the Word.
5. The people whose hearts are like the soil along the path do not believe. The devil comes and takes the message away. The people whose hearts are like the

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soil on the rocky places receive the word with joy and believe for a while, but they have no roots. After a while, when hard times come, they fall away. The people whose hearts are like the soil among the thorns hear and keep the word in their hearts for a while, but they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures. They do not put God first, so they do not last. The people whose hearts are like the good soil hear the word and respond with honest and good hearts. They remain faithful and they show it with their lives. Note that belief is never just what we think in our head. Our lives show the beliefs in our heart. The question of "fruit" comes up later, so you can wait to discuss the "fruit" that is produced.

6. The crowd of people was listening to the parable, but only the disciples asked Jesus for an explanation. The students should mark the text. Luke 8:4 says, "And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him." and Luke 8:9 says, "And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant."
7. Ask the students to look back at the chart to answer this question.
8. Any one can answer this question, they do not need to already know about the "fruit of the spirit." Ask them to think about the character of Christians, and also what Christians do, such as serving others. The message of the Sermon in Luke 6 was also about the character of a Christian. Jesus taught that we are to be like our teacher. The final verses at the end of the lesson is Galatians 5:22.23. You can show them those verses at this time and talk about the fruit of the Spirit.
Why do we need patience? It takes time to "grow" as a Christian. On the one hand, we are new people with new hearts, but on the other hand, we can still be selfish and mean. God is patient with us, so we should be patient with ourselves and with each other.
9. The main question here is "What did the disciples do that the others did not do?" They asked Jesus to give them an explanation. They received more because they asked Jesus for more. Being a Christian is all about knowing Jesus in a personal way.

Lesson Notes

Part Two: The Lamp Luke 8:16-18

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

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Note:

This section is very important in helping them see the need for a response.

1. Note that there is not a pre-reading exercise.
2. You may want someone to draw the pictures on the board so you can use them during the lesson.
3. Note that sometimes they will have to change the word order to fit the chart. The contrasts include darkness and light, what is hidden and what is made manifest (see footnote definition.), what is secret and what is made known (in the light), the one who does not have and the one who has.
4. Who can see the light? The question is not who *has* the light, but who can *see* it. In Luke 8:16, “those who enter” or “those who come in” can see it. In Luke 8:4-15, the disciples are the ones who “come in” to find out the meaning of the parable. They “come” to Jesus.
5. What is the warning or command in Luke 8:17-18? “Take care how you hear.” In Luke 8: 4-15, the command is ““He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” The parable of the sower is also about hearing, and the warning there is that you can choose the condition of your heart. If you do not listen with a “humble and good heart,” you will not really hear or understand. (This is a simple answer, but enough of an answer at this time.)
We can think of verse 18 in terms of “the Word of God,” “the secret of the Kingdom of God,” and “the light.” If we come to Jesus, even with just the beginnings of faith, we will be given more. If we think we already know the truth without Jesus, even what we have will be taken away. Jesus makes himself known to those who come to him.
(There is a future element to the parable of the lamp. Someday the truth about Jesus will not be a secret. However, the time to respond to Jesus is now. “Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.” Luke 8:18.)
6. Jesus used parables to intrigue people, to get them to think, to get them to search for an answer and to ask him for an answer. Jesus only wanted people to know the truth if they were ready to hear it. He did not want to tell everyone who he was because they needed to find out for themselves by listening to him, learning from him, and getting to know him. Also, if he proclaimed his identity to everyone, he would have been killed before he had finished his work on earth.

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LIVE This first question is an information question, whereas the second question is a personal question.

1. God has revealed himself through the prophets, through Jesus, and through every word of the Bible. He has revealed himself through the power of nature, and the beauty of human love. God reveals himself to the world through Christians, even though we are not perfect reflections. In addition to this, God has sent his Spirit to the World to speak to each of us personally. There is probably not time to discuss how we know God is speaking to us. It would be better to hear the testimony of a Christian. See question two.
2. There are actually two questions here. The first question is directed to Christians. You may want to ask an international Christian in your class to prepare ahead of time to answer this question in class. However, if the people in your study are open to God, some can answer the first question even if they are not yet Christians. The second question is likewise open to Christians and non-Christians. Let them share freely.

Read the "Consider this" section to the class. This is a good lesson to end with prayer.

The following verse is added for the teacher:

"Let us give glory to God! He is able to make you stand firm in your faith, according to the Good News I preach about Jesus Christ and according to the revelation of the secret truth which was hidden for long ages in the past. Now, however, that truth has been brought out into the open through the writings of the prophets; and by the command of the eternal God it is made know to all nations, so that all may believe and obey." Romans 16: 25, 26 GNB

Further notes for the teacher: Jesus did not give people more than they were ready to receive, but some may ask about the future nature of the parable of the lamp. Here is one partial explanation.

God is sowing the Word; however, He will not always sow. There will be a time when he will come to get his harvest. We can listen now, but there will be a time when we will no longer be able to listen. Someday we will meet God, and He will take those who know Him to live with Him forever. If we have the Word, Jesus, in our hearts, then when we meet God after we die we will receive more, much more.

Think of it this way: while we are here on earth, everyone knows something about love and beauty and goodness. All of this comes from God. However, for those who don't know Jesus, even what they know about God (and love

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and beauty and goodness) will be taken away. This is not because some are better than others. The Bible teaches that we have all turned away from God and fall short of God's measure of goodness. (Romans 3:23) There is only one way to know God. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

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Workbook One: Exploring the Identity of Jesus

Teacher

In the last lesson, John the Baptist's disciples asked Jesus a question, "Are you the Messiah?"⁷

Jesus told them to go back and report to John what they had seen and heard. "The blind receive sight, ...the deaf hear, and the dead are raised." Only the Messiah has that kind of power.

In this lesson, however, we see that others still do not understand Jesus' true identity. Jesus has to teach them with simple stories. We will discover what they must do in order to find out more.

Community Time



Stories

Jesus taught with stories about everyday events.

Think of a true story about yourself, about something that happened to you.

It can be serious or funny.

⁷ Literally, "the one who was to come."

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Tell the story to a group with two other people.

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In this lesson, however, we see that others still do not understand Jesus' true identity. Jesus has to teach them with simple stories. We will discover what they must do in order to find out more.

Community Time



Farming

In this lesson, Jesus tells a story about farming. Get into groups for this activity.

1. Have you ever lived on a farm?
2. What are some things people do on a farm? Make a list. If you do not know a word in English, act it out and see if others can tell you.

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