



# 7

## Jesus Teaches

### Key Theme

- Jesus teaches His disciples.

### Key Passages

- Matthew 5:21–22, 5:38–39, 5:43–44, 5:48; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8–9

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how Jesus's teaching was different from the teaching of the scribes and Pharisees.
- Explain what Jesus's teaching was showing the people.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by writing out the first two letters of each word. They will then try to recite the verse using only the letter clues they have written on the sheet.



### Activity 1: Jesus Teaches Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus Teaches Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

When Jesus preached, He wanted to correct what the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching. Outward appearance is not what the Lord seeks. Jesus seeks a heart that longs to love Him and obey Him. Jesus desires that His followers have humble spirits and contrite hearts. Jesus showed that it is impossible to obey the Law perfectly. And because of this truth, man is lost without the Savior.



### Activity 2: Love Your Enemies

Students will act out a skit about friends who encounter a bully from school at a theme park. They will discuss what it means to love your enemies.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- ☐ Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### JESUS TEACHES CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one Jesus Teaches Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Year 3, Quarter 1, Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster



### LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

- ☐ Print five Love Your Enemies Scripts from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Five Love Your Enemies Scripts



## Memory Verse

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





## Prepare to Share

### SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) along with this background.

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7 is no doubt one of the most famous passages in the New Testament. Both those inside the church and those outside have heard of it. Most people in the Western world have heard of “The Beatitudes” or “The Golden Rule,” which are both parts of this sermon, the longest recorded sermon of Jesus. But what is the essence of this sermon? Is this sermon of Christ a set of rules that must be followed to earn favor with God? Is this a description of how Christians ought to live? Is this the “manifesto” of God’s future kingdom?

There are many views on the meaning and purpose of the Sermon on the Mount, and dozens of books have been written on the matter. We will not try to fully address the topic in this short background. However, we do believe that one purpose and application of the Sermon on the Mount is clear: the hopeless condition of man in sin and his need for God’s grace through Jesus.

Before Jesus was born, the religious leaders of Israel had already decided what it meant to live righteously. Starting with the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament, they had developed a system of rules contrary to Scripture—a self-righteousness based on doing good works and following certain very specific laws. When Jesus entered the world, He gave the people an authoritative interpretation of the Law. Jesus stated that He had come not to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus distinguished between how the teachers had redefined the Law as a means to achieve righteousness based on works—the “You have heard that it was said” statements—from the full meaning of the Law—the “But I say to you” statements. You see, God’s laws had always demanded both inward and outward holiness, but many of the Jews perceived God’s Law as a call to the outward appearance of holiness only. For example, in the case of adultery, the Jews recognized the need to avoid it. But they did not address the issue of the heart that would lead to the desire to commit that particular sin (Matthew 5:27–30).

They were also misguided about murder (Matthew 5:21–26). The Jews agreed that murder was a serious offense worthy of judgment and punishment. But again, the intentions of the heart were not addressed. Murder is provoked by unholy thoughts of anger, unforgiveness, hatred, and contempt toward someone. Jesus made it

clear that the feeling of hatred toward another person is sinful against God, as is the murder that follows.

Jesus continued in this vein throughout much of the sermon—pointing out that adherence to the letter of the Law is not enough. To merely acknowledge that any sinful act is wrong without addressing the issue of the heart cannot bring true righteousness. And in this, Jesus taught clearly that the Law was humanly impossible to keep. What a shock for the “keepers of the Law,” who considered their “righteousness” to be perfectly acceptable to the God they claimed to worship and serve (Romans 10:3).

And how much more shocking to everyone who listened when Jesus stated in Matthew 5:20, “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” This was shocking because the scribes and Pharisees were considered to be the most righteous of people. They went to the Temple regularly, paid tithes, fasted, and prayed constantly. How could Jesus say that someone must exceed them in righteousness? Clearly, Christ wasn’t impressed with their religious performance, because their obedience was merely an outward performance—and their hearts were not aligned with God’s will.

As stated earlier, Jesus moved from the letter of the Law to the indwelling condition of the heart that leads to the temptation to sin. This teaching from Jesus is not a list of do’s and don’ts but a study of what is our real motivation. And again, as stated, Jesus made it clear that obeying the Law as He put forth could not be done, except by Jesus Himself.

What was Jesus’s purpose in expounding on these laws? Well, in order for Christ to do His saving work, the people He intended to save had to realize how desperately they needed Him. The Jewish religious leaders’ interpretation of the Law as a specific list of outward acts to be followed or avoided had made the Law easier to fulfill. Because they kept this list, they considered themselves righteous before God. For the sake of His saving work, Jesus had to preach the Law in its full rigor so that it would “bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). Christ expounded on the Law so that the people would know that no hope existed for them since no one could possibly keep it.

God’s standard of righteousness is such that no one can attain it. Jesus was revealing the absolute necessity of the new birth. Man must not only do right, he must be right in thought, word, and deed—an impossibility for us, whose hearts are “deceitful above all things, and

desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). It is only when we come to Christ in repentance and faith that we are given a new heart, that we are made new creations in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). The gospel of Christ reminds us of the promise in Ezekiel 36:25–26, which speaks of God sprinkling sinners with clean water, cleansing them, putting His Spirit within them, and giving them new hearts of flesh in place of their hearts of stone. The Apostle Paul confirms this when he teaches that it is the Spirit dwelling in us that brings forth His fruit, which could not be produced by the Law (Galatians 5:16–25).

Pastor Tullian Tchividjian, grandson of Billy Graham, summarizes it well:

We naturally treat the Sermon on the Mount like we typically treat the rest of the Bible—like it’s a divine self-help manual, a blueprint for having your best life now. But actually the Sermon on the Mount is intended to show that the Christian life is a glorious impossibility.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus wants to set us free by showing us our need for a righteousness we can never attain on our own—an impossible righteousness that’s always out of our reach. The purpose of the Sermon on the Mount is to demolish all notions that we can reach the righteousness required by God—it’s about exterminating all attempts at self-sufficient moral endeavor.

So, in the deepest sense, the Sermon on the Mount is not a goal, but a wall we crash into so that we finally cry out “I can’t do it!”<sup>1</sup>

1. <http://www.pastortullian.com/2012/07/01/the-sermon-on-the-mountain-for-those-who-have-crashed-and-burned/>

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

It has been rightly said that the Sermon on the Mount is the most famous sermon ever preached. And it is the longest recorded sermon ever preached by Jesus, the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity. It is the most quoted portion of the New Testament, both by the early church fathers and in secular literature. People often refer to the Sermon on the Mount for its moral code. But, as with most secular takes on the Bible, snippets and sections are taken out of context and misapplied.

So what’s the proper use of the Sermon on the Mount? First of all, as stated above, it shows us that we are all sinners and fall far short of God’s righteous standard. It shows us our need for a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus Christ—the only one who ever completely fulfilled the Law of God and who offers His righteousness to us.

Second, the Sermon on the Mount gives the characteristics of the members of God’s kingdom—those who have submitted themselves to God’s rule and have been born again through Christ. We can examine ourselves, our actions, our motivations, and our desires according to the high standards of God’s righteousness. We will fall short, but we can press on toward the goal, leaning on Christ for strength and asking God to work these qualities in us through His Holy Spirit.

A third consideration would be the cultural impact of this sermon of Jesus. Sayings and expressions from the Sermon on the Mount have become part of our everyday language; quotes such as “do unto others,” “judge not lest you be judged,” “love your enemies,” “turn the other cheek,” “go the extra mile,” and “a wolf in sheep’s clothing.” And many have heard of the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Lord’s Prayer. By familiarizing ourselves with these common sayings, we can incorporate the Sermon on the Mount into our evangelism. When we hear people use one of these biblical phrases passed down from this sermon, we can stop them and ask if they know where that saying comes from. This can begin a conversation about what Jesus really taught about good deeds and righteousness and could lead to a candid gospel discussion of God’s perfect standard and our need for a Savior.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Perfect, holy God, Savior, and Teacher, thank you for providing a way for me to be righteous. Jesus’s words in the Sermon on the Mount remind us of our own inability to be perfect. Thank you, Lord, that Jesus redeemed me, and I am righteous in Him. My deepest desire is to be conformed to your image. Give me a heart that will desire to love my enemies and to please you in all that I do. I pray that this lesson will challenge my students to change their attitudes to be more humble, kind, loving, and Christ-like, and to see their need for a Savior.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Jesus Teaches Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Jesus Teaches Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll do it together.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what Jesus taught that was very different from what the Pharisees and scribes taught.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

*Refer to previous Lesson Theme Posters.* Jesus's life was not like anyone else's. He came to do His Father's will. He performed many miracles. He showed His power over nature (Lesson 2), over disease (Lesson 3), and even over death (Lesson 4).

Jesus's ministry only lasted about three years. He accomplished a lot in that short time. He was a great teacher, but the lessons He taught were not what the people were expecting. The religious teachers—the scribes and Pharisees—had changed God's Law. They taught the people that the Bible was a rule book, and the rules had to be obeyed all the time. They

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

taught that it was their obedience and works that would make them holy and right with God.

These teachers believed and taught others that they could earn God's love and forgiveness themselves because of what THEY did. But this was not right because they could never keep all the laws perfectly! No one could. Jesus was the only one who could do that. He is the only man who never sinned.

Today we are going to read part of a sermon Jesus preached to many people. He wanted to set them straight about what the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching about the Law. There was something different about Jesus's message. Let's take a look. Turn to Matthew 5:21–22. This is part of a long sermon Jesus preached. He was comparing what the people had read and heard from the false teachers about the Law—what was in the Old Testament—to what He wanted them to understand. Let's read. *Choose students to read the verses. Matthew 5:21–22.*

### Matthew 5:21–22

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Remember, in these verses, Jesus was showing the people what the Law really meant.

### Observe the Text

? What rule or law did Jesus bring up here? Look in Matthew 5:21. *You shall not murder.*

? Yes. Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of old." What was He talking about? Where did the people hear this law—that they should not murder? *Allow discussion.*

This is one of the Ten Commandments, right? It is the Sixth Commandment. You shall not murder. And the people Jesus was talking to thought that they were good and righteous if they did not murder anyone.

? What would happen to them if they committed murder? *Matthew 5:21. They would be in danger of the judgment.*

They would be judged, or punished, if they committed murder.

? But how did Jesus begin Matthew 5:22? Read the first five words. *Matthew 5:22. But I say to you.*

? Jesus was going to change something up a bit. What did He say to them? It was about being angry. Look in Matthew 5:22. *Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.*

Wow! Jesus was saying if you are even angry with someone you are in trouble.

- ? What else did Jesus mention here in verse 22? It has to do with calling someone a name. What is that name? *Matthew 5:22. "Raca!"*

Jesus said whoever calls his brother *Raca*—a bad name that means “empty-headed”—is in trouble of coming before the council to be judged. Just calling someone a bad name would get you into trouble? Yes! Jesus said if you are angry or if you call someone a name because you are angry, you are in danger of being judged. It is just as bad as murder in God’s eyes!

- ? There is another name in that verse Jesus mentioned. What is it? *Matthew 5:22. You fool!*

- ? And what might happen to someone who calls another a fool? *Matthew 5:22. He would be in danger of hell.*

Wow! Jesus was serious. This law against murder wasn’t only about murder. It had more to it than that. You see, God looks at the heart. Jesus was saying that the law wasn’t just about murder; it was about being angry with someone. Calling them names, hating them. This law was about being mean, angry, and hating another person. Jesus said that that behavior will be judged.

- ? I’d like to review a bit here. Will someone read #1 on your class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Murder. Have students complete #1.*

- ? And what about #2? What word will finish that statement? *Assign a reader. Angry. Have students complete #2.*

- ? And #3? Who will read it? *Assign a reader. Fool. Have students complete #3.*

This sermon showed the people that what they had learned was not right. Jesus isn’t interested in just how we look on the outside. He wants our hearts to be changed as well. And He alone can know your heart!

We are going to read something else He said in this sermon. Turn to Matthew 5:38–39. Will someone read that please? *Choose students to read the verses. Matthew 5:38–39.*

**Matthew 5:38–39**

- ? What did Jesus say at the beginning of Matthew 5:38? *You have heard it was said.*

Again, Jesus is reminding the people of what they had heard from the scribes and Pharisees who were the teachers of the time.

- ? And what law was Jesus reminding the people they had heard? *Matthew 5:38. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*

- ? What does that mean—an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? *Allow discussion.*

The people thought this law meant it was OK to get even with anyone who did anything wrong to you. If someone did something to you, you could do the same thing back to them. If I tripped you, you could trip me. If I hit you, you could hit me right back. If I poked you in the eye, you

could poke me in the eye. But that wasn't the purpose of the law. And Jesus made that very clear.

- ? What did Jesus say about this law in Matthew 5:39? *Resist an evil person. If they slap you on the cheek, turn your head so they can slap you on the other side!*

What? That seems crazy! Jesus was saying that when someone takes something of yours, or hits you, or is mean to you, you don't fight back, and you don't get angry. This would be very difficult to obey all the time, wouldn't it?

You see, God has a different standard. The people thought if they looked good on the outside, they were righteous. But Jesus was saying their hearts had to change. They had to change their attitudes and learn to get along with people without getting even.

- ? Take a look at your class notes. Who will read #4 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Hurts. Have students complete #4.*

- ? And what about #5? What did Jesus say about getting even with someone who wants to fight? *Assign a reader. Kind. Have students complete #5.*

Are you starting to see a pattern? Let's read another example. Turn to Matthew 5:43–44. Again, we will hear what the people thought was right and what Jesus wanted them to do. Will someone read it? *Choose students to read the verses. Matthew 5:43–44.*

- ? And how did Jesus start this verse? The first part of the verse. *Matthew 5:43. You have heard that it was said.*

- ? And what had they heard about their neighbor and enemy? *Matthew 5:43. You should love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*

That seems reasonable. It is easy to love your neighbor—people who love you. And we shouldn't have to love our enemies—people who hate us, right? No! Not to Jesus! What did He say we should do? There are four different things He mentions.

- ? What is the first thing? *Matthew 5:44. Love your enemies.*

- ? And what is the next thing Jesus said in that verse? *Matthew 5:44. Bless those who curse you.*

- ? And the third thing? *Matthew 5:44. Do good to those who hate you.*

- ? And the last thing? *Matthew 5:44. Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*

Who can do these things? These are tough teachings. Most people don't have trouble loving people who love them back. But it must have seemed like a very hard command when Jesus said they should love their enemies. And Jesus said not only to love them but to bless them and pray for them, too!

### Matthew 5:43–44

- Write the list of the four things that Jesus asks on the board as students recite them. 1) Love them. 2) Bless them. 3) Do good to them. 4) Pray for them.

- ? Take a look at your class notes. Will someone read #6 for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Love. Have students complete #6.*

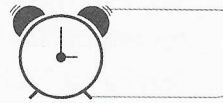
## Discover the Truth

Wow! This was quite a change. Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said." He was talking about what the scribes and Pharisees had been teaching about God's Law. And then Jesus said, "But I say to you!" Jesus told the people that they weren't obeying the laws the way God had intended them to. They had forgotten that God wants obedience on the outside AND the inside. God looks at the heart. God doesn't want us to just look good and obey the rules. God wants us to obey Him because we love Him.

Jesus knew the Pharisees and scribes were proud of themselves. They felt like they did everything right. But they didn't love others or God the way God demands. They thought God would love them because they kept the law. Jesus showed them they weren't really keeping the law—they weren't really that good after all. He wanted them to be holy and to love others from their hearts. Jesus wanted them to have the right heart attitude when they obeyed. But how could they do that? How can WE do that? How many of us can obey like Jesus said—by loving our enemies and by not getting angry at anyone?

- ? Is it possible to NOT want to get back at someone who hurts you? *Allow discussion.*

I know that I can't do that. I don't like to get angry, but I do. And I don't like it if someone takes my stuff or is mean to me. I want to get even when that happens! But Jesus has a different way.



## READ THE WORD

Turn to Matthew 5:48. Jesus's way is very difficult! We know what He expects from this one simple verse. Will someone read it for us? *Matthew 5:48. Assign a reader.*

Matthew 5:48

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Wow! What did Jesus say we need to do? *Be perfect.*
- ? Be perfect like whom? *Like your Father in heaven.*
- ? Who is the Father in heaven? *God.*

Jesus's teachings just kept getting harder. Here Jesus said that we must be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.

- ? How is this possible? How can we be perfect like God? *Allow discussion.*

## 2 Corinthians 5:21

? Who is the ONLY man who ever lived a perfect life—a life without sin? *Jesus.*  
That's right. Jesus alone is perfect. But Jesus said WE must be perfect.

? How do we do that? *Allow discussion.*

Well, it is impossible for us to be perfect while we are on earth because we are born sinners. The Bible says we all sin and fall short of God's glory. Our sin makes us unrighteous to God. We are sinful and wicked. But, Jesus was perfect and righteous before God. That means He obeyed perfectly and never sinned. Jesus is far different from us!

This seems impossible! Or is it? How is it possible to be perfect or righteous in God's eyes? There is an answer in the Bible. Turn to 2 Corinthians 5:21. This verse is talking about Jesus. Will someone read that for us? *2 Corinthians 5:21. Choose a student to read the verse.*

? Who was without sin? *Jesus.*

? What did God make Jesus to be? *Sin for us.*

God sent Jesus, who had NO sin, to earth to be sin for us.

? What do believers get from Jesus, who knew no sin but was made sin? *The righteousness of God in Jesus.*

? Refer to Quarter 1, Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. What we are talking about here is the "great exchange." Can you explain what I mean by that? *Allow discussion.*

The great exchange refers to Jesus, who took the punishment for all the sins of anyone who would ever turn to Him, repent, and trust Him alone for eternal life when He died on the Cross. What those believers get in "exchange" is Jesus's perfect righteousness. It is an amazing, wonderful plan.

? So, back to the class notes to review what we just talked about. Who can read #7 for us? What word is missing? *Assign a reader. Perfect. Have students complete #7.*

? And what about #8? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #8.*

? And finally, what about #9? Someone read that and give the answer. *Assign a reader. Exchange. Have students complete #9.*

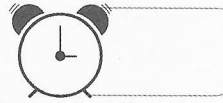
### Discover the Truth

Jesus wants us to know that obeying the Law is not enough, because no one can do it perfectly. And even if we do it pretty well, we must have the right attitude and heart about it.

This is not possible on our own efforts. We cannot get to heaven because of any "works" we do ourselves. We are all sinners, we are helpless without Jesus. We just can't obey the laws in the Bible perfectly. We need

Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, who came to earth, died, took the punishment for sinners, and rose again.

God's Word tells us that whoever calls on the name of the Lord, whoever repents and turns to Jesus for salvation, will one day have everlasting and glorious, eternal life with God in heaven.



## Love Your Enemies Skit

### MATERIALS

- ☐ Five Love Your Enemies Scripts

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Assign four students to play the characters. Encourage the actors to speak up and play their roles with enthusiasm.*

Today we get to watch a skit about four students. They are at an amusement park waiting in line for their favorite ride. Pay attention as these four discuss their problem with a bully and realize that without Jesus, it is impossible to obey and get to heaven! *Have students perform the short skit.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

It's one thing to listen to a lesson like this. And it's quite another to take what you hear from God's Word and put it into practice. And this lesson is a little tough to

put into practice. It is hard to love people who don't even like us! It's even harder to do it from the heart—out of love and obedience for Jesus!

Mark and Emily had a hard time with Rebecca C! And we will all have times when people make us angry. We need to learn how to respond to those people who bother us in a way that shows love for them and for Jesus!

With that in mind, we know it is impossible to obey all the laws of God perfectly. We just can't do it. That's why we need a Savior. And that's why Jesus came. Jesus changes our hearts when we turn to Him and receive His free gift of salvation by faith. Only then, with God's help, are we able to do the things that seem impossible to do.

And little by little we will grow to be more like Jesus.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster.* For many years, the Pharisees and the scribes had been telling the people that following certain rules would make them righteous before God. These religious leaders were more concerned with how they looked to everyone else. They wanted others to think they were good people. They were proud of their good works. But

when Jesus came, He changed that. His teaching was different. He taught that obedience must come from the heart. It was far more than looking good on the outside.

Jesus explained further that we can't keep the rules perfectly—no one can. Because of that we could never be right with God. That is why Jesus came. We need a Savior. We need to turn to Him and trust Him for forgiveness of our sins. Only Jesus lived a perfect life. And only His perfect life, His death, and His Resurrection could gain eternal life for sinners. It is not by any works we do. It is by the finished work of Jesus Christ that we get to heaven.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

This lesson is important for all of us. Many people in the world today still believe the same things the Pharisees and scribes taught. They believe that if they are good enough—if they just do enough good things for people or for God—they will be able to earn their way into heaven. But Jesus showed the people that no one can get to heaven no matter how hard they try to be righteous.

### Ephesians 2:8–9

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

? The Bible explains this in Ephesians 2:8–9. Those verses are on the bottom of your class notes. Will someone read that for us? *Choose a student to read the verses.*

? How are we saved? Look in Ephesians 2:8. *Ephesians 2:8–9. By grace, through faith.*

Right! Salvation is given to us as God's free gift of grace through faith to those who repent, believe, and receive Jesus as their Savior. No one is saved by their own good works. Jesus Christ is the only way, the only truth, and the only life. No one comes to the Father except through Him!



### MEMORY VERSE

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is a good God who has made it possible for us to receive the righteousness of Jesus.
- Thank God for the free gift of salvation that is available to all people.
- Ask God for the faith to believe and receive salvation through Jesus.