

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 10 • Week 3

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

OBJECTIVE:

To acquaint the children with the wisdom of the teachings of Jesus and to teach them to visualize in their minds the stories they read in the Bible in order to make them more real and memorable.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Map showing the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem, Damascus, the Mediterranean Sea

Prepare: Make a copy of the next paragraph for each of the children.

The documentary will take place during the time of Jesus, in the city of Capernaum, located northwest of the Sea of Galilee. Roman soldiers were garrisoned in the city. Many people from distant lands passed through Capernaum because it was on the main highway between Damascus and the Mediterranean Sea. The main industry of Capernaum was boat building and fishing. The mountain where Jesus taught the people is a short distance from the city. The people in those days wore loose-fitting tunics tied about the waist and sandals. Some also wore robes. Jesus made this city His home and sometimes He was referred to as Teacher. Sometimes He taught in the synagogue. This documentary will be about Jesus teaching the people in His Sermon on the Mount.

Say: We are going to make a "documentary movie" called "The Sermon on the Mount." We'll create the setting and everything else by using our imaginations. Let's visualize how things would look and what would be taking place during the movie. Here is the information you will need in order to visualize and create the setting needed for the documentary.

Do: Give each child a copy of the description of Capernaum and let one child read the paragraph out loud while the others follow.

Ask: How should we start the documentary? [There are no wrong answers, but guide them in creating an appropriate scene. Also, you might want to add some questions of your own.]

Do: You can help them get started by saying: "Let's look at the information again. We have the busy city of Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee where there is boat building and fishing, people from different cultures, Roman soldiers and the mount from which Jesus gave His sermon."

If they need further help you might say: "Perhaps you could start by 'panning' (to photograph a scene while rotating the camera through a wide angle) the imaginary camera along the shore of the Sea of Galilee with its fishing boats. Then through the eye of the camera we could travel through the main streets of Capernaum showing its important buildings, like the synagogue where Jesus taught, the garrison where the Roman soldiers were housed, and finally, to the distant mount where Jesus is giving the Sermon on the Mount."

Ask: What should be our focal point (the center of activity or attention)?

Do: If they get stuck, you might ask:

- Who is the documentary about? (Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount.)
- What do you think the background around Jesus should look like?
- Where would be the best place for Him to be giving the sermon? Should He be on the same level or a little higher than the people? Why?

Ask: What kind of people do you think would be in the crowd? What other things can we show? This is only a guide—the children may come up with something totally different—the more they come up with the better. The main idea is to give them a mental picture of the Sermon on the Mount so that it will be more real to them.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: This is the setting you have created [summarize the imaginary scene the children have created for the documentary].

Matthew 5:1 states "...and when He was seated His disciples came to him." During Jesus' time, teachers and rabbis would sit while they were teaching. So, let's picture in our minds Jesus sitting on a boulder on the side of the mount or hill, a little higher than the crowd.

Do: Have students read Matthew 7:1-5. Let each verse be read by a different child.

Say: As you read your verse, I want you to say it in the manner that you think Jesus would speak—as if you were playing the part in the movie.

Ask: What is the lesson that Jesus taught in these verses? [Don't be quick to think evil of someone.]

What does the word judge mean in verses 1 and 2? [Condemn.]

What do you think verses 3 and 4 mean? [The faults that we consider to be large in others]

are quite small compared to our own faults. We can see clearly the faults of others, yet we are blinded to our own.]

What does verse 5 mean? [The word “hypocritical” means to pretend to be what you are not. It is hypocritical to ignore your own faults while pointing out the faults of others in order to look good. Jesus tells us to correct our faults before we try to correct others.]

Say: Let’s read Matthew 7:24-27

Do: Let each of the verses be read by a different child. Read these verses also in the manner that you think Jesus would speak.

Ask: What was the lesson that Jesus was teaching here? [Only by building our lives (our character) on the doctrines of Jesus Christ, who is called the Rock, will we be able to withstand the troubling times or storms in our lives.]

Do: Read Matthew 7:28-29 to the children.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught the deeper meaning of the law and that it should not only be obeyed with outward acts but also in the inner depths of the human heart. Let’s read a few more of His teachings that He gave in the Sermon on the Mount.

Do: Select a different child to read each of the following passages, then ask the class to explain.

- Matthew 6:14-15—Forgive others.
- Matthew 6:19-21—Treasures in heaven.
- Matthew 6:25-34—Do not worry.
- Matthew 7:7-12—Ask, seek and knock.
- Matthew 7:13-14—The narrow and wide gates.

MUSIC:

Teacher’s choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 7:28-29 “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

family activity

THE POINT:

The lesson for this week has been about “judging others” and the “wise and foolish builders”—two of the lessons Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. The lessons that Jesus taught are timeless and will help in solidifying your child’s foundation in learning God’s truth.

ASK ME...

- Why should we be careful about judging others?
- What/who must we build our lives on?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Take turns reading the Sermon on the Mount starting with Matthew 4:25, then skip to Matthew 5:11 and from that point read the rest of chapter 5. Add chapters 6 and 7. While reading, also discuss the wise teachings of Jesus and how to apply them in one’s own life.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 7:28-29 “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”