

TEACHER NOTECARDS LEVEL 3, QUARTER C— MIGHTY MIRACLES

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching *Explore Scripture*. Choose the outline form or narrative form based on your teaching style and preference.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture* sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

© 2008, **DiscipleLand**. Permission granted to reproduce for class use, only with purchase of the corresponding **DiscipleLand** Teacher Guide.

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 1: The Light

Big Idea: **Jesus is the Light of the world who shines through the darkness.**

John 8 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus is a light for people in darkness.*

Ask: *Which of Jesus' statements excites you the most?*

1. In the Temple courts, Jesus helped a woman and taught a powerful lesson about judgment and forgiveness.

- *The Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery* John 8:3
- *The religious leaders tried to trick Jesus* 8:5
- *Jesus said only a sinless person could judge and punish her* 8:7
- *Jesus forgave the woman and told her to sin no more* (picture 3C.1) 8:11

2. Jesus defended the claims that He made about Himself.

- *Jesus is the Light of the world* (picture 3C.2) 8:12
- *Jesus came from the Father* 8:16
- *Jesus came from above* 8:23
- *Jesus sought only to please His Father.* 8:29

1

3. Jesus debated the Pharisees about their claims.

- *The Pharisees did not see that they were slaves to sin* 8:34
- *First they said Abraham was their father; then that God was* 8:39-41
- *Jesus said that their actions showed who they served* 8:39,42
- *Because they rejected Jesus, they also rejected God* 8:44-45

4. Jesus told the Pharisees why they should believe in Him.

- *Jesus offers eternal life.* 8:51
- *Jesus is God's Son, glorified by Him.* 8:54
- *Even Abraham longed for Jesus' day.* 8:56
- *Jesus is eternal, the great I AM* 8:58

Conclusion: *Jesus' amazing words confounded the Pharisees but gave hope to sinners. Jesus IS God! He is the great I AM!*

2

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 1: The Light

Big Idea: **Jesus is the Light of the world who shines through the darkness.**

John 8 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus is a light for people in darkness.*

Ask: *Which of Jesus' statements excites you the most?*

Read John 8:1-11 (picture 3C.1). Emphasize how Jesus' answer to the Pharisees' question about stoning the woman shed light on their hearts. Instead of telling them not to stone her, Christ caused them to see their own sins and evil motives. *Why did the accusers leave instead of stoning the woman?* Jesus made it very clear that everyone has sinned. No one could cast a stone. In this same way, the darkness of sin touches each of our lives, so we need Jesus' forgiveness. Jesus came to show us our sins and to provide forgiveness.

Read verses 12-20 (picture 3C.2). Jesus is a light for people in darkness. People couldn't see God's path and they couldn't see the sin that was in their own hearts. Jesus was like the light we need when the power is out. He showed people what they were really like and how much they needed a Savior. Ask children to recall times when they tried to do something, but it was too dark. What were some

1

problems they faced? How did light help make it better? Describe one way that Jesus proved to the Pharisees that He was the Light of the world.

Read verses 21-30. *What kinds of things are "darkness" in our lives? In what ways would you describe Jesus' relationship with His Father (8:26-29)? What words tell us that Jesus never sinned (8:29)?* Jesus sets us free from sin.

Read John 8:31-59. Jesus made several statements here. Unfortunately, the people did not believe what Jesus said, even though He always spoke the truth. *How do we know Jesus and God are one? Why wouldn't the people believe what Jesus said? What did Jesus mean when He said He was the Light of the world? Who sent Jesus to reflect His glory?*

Jesus came as the Light of the world to help every person understand how much God loves us. He wants to have a relationship with us. He wants us to recognize right from wrong. He wants to forgive our sins and give us eternal life with Him. Jesus guides us through the difficult times, when things don't seem as they are, and when we need to see the truth about ourselves. Let's be sure to focus on His light and follow His teachings.

2

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 2: God's Work

Big Idea: **Jesus shows His disciples that loving and serving God is most important.**

Luke 10 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus was most concerned that people love each other and God.*

Ask: *How can we balance “work” with loving God?*

1. Jesus sent His disciples into the world to prepare others for His arrival.
 - *He told them to take nothing, to rely on God Luke 10:4*
 - *He told them to heal the sick and teach that God's kingdom was near . . . 10:9*
 - *The disciples returned to Jesus, jubilant at their success 10:17*
 - *Jesus praised God for His goodness. 10:21*
2. Jesus told a parable that defined how we should love other people.
 - *A man wanted to know who his neighbor was 10:29*
 - *Jesus told a parable about a man who needed help 10:30*
 - *Only a hated Samaritan stopped to care for the man (picture 3C.3) . . 10:33-35*
 - *Jesus showed that all people are our neighbors 10:36-37*

①

3. Jesus emphasized love for God over works.
 - *Jesus went to stay at Mary and Martha's home 10:38*
 - *Mary sat listening and spending time with Jesus 10:39*
 - *Martha busied herself with hosting and preparations 10:40*
 - *Jesus said that Mary had chosen the better way (picture 3C.4) 10:42*

Conclusion: *Jesus wanted people to know that God and His kingdom should be the focus of our lives. All other considerations are secondary!*

②

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 2: God's Work

Big Idea: **Jesus shows His disciples that loving and serving God is most important.**

Luke 10 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus was most concerned that people love each other and God.*

Ask: *How can we balance “work” with loving God?*

Read Luke 10:1-20. *What did Jesus mean when He referred to a “great harvest” in verse 2? (Jesus empowers His disciples to spread His Word to others.) How can you share God's Word with others? What do you think Jesus was telling His disciples should be their priority?*

Read Luke 10:21-24. *Why were the disciples so excited when they completed their work? When the disciples returned, Jesus was very thankful. The first thing He did was praise God. How can you be thankful for God's help? What does this tell us about another priority Jesus expects us to keep in our lives? There is great joy in seeing God at work as we serve Him!*

Read verses 25-37 (picture 3C.3). *What priority was Jesus trying to teach the religious*

①

experts with this parable? Discuss ways the people passing by treated the man and how the Samaritan showed kindness to him. What was the relationship between Samaritans and Jews? How did the Samaritan show mercy and love to the injured man? God wants us to show mercy and unconditional love to others. How can you love your neighbors this way?

Read Luke 10:38-42 (picture 3C.4). Explain that Martha felt it was most important to cook and clean for her guests. She didn't realize that her priorities were wrong. *What things do you suppose Martha was doing? How do you think Martha felt? Explain that it is also important to be a good friend when you visit with someone. Jesus said that Mary had chosen something “better” than what Martha was doing. What was “better?” What was Jesus teaching us about our priorities?*

Jesus showed His disciples that loving and serving God are most important. *How could we make these things a priority in our lives? What can you do to make sure you are keeping God's work your highest priority? It is most important to have a relationship with Jesus. When you come to love and serve Him from your heart, He will bless you with assurance, confidence, and wisdom about how to do His work most effectively.*

②

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 3: God's Rewards

Big Idea: **Jesus reveals that how His followers live on earth determines how God will reward them in heaven.**

Luke 12:1-21, 35—13:9 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus stressed that how we live now matters to God.*

Ask: *How is our earthly life connected to our eternal destiny?*

1. Jesus explained that everything we do in this life has eternal consequences.
 - *Everything we try to hide will one day be revealed* Luke 12:2-3
 - *God cares for us greatly* 12:7
 - *Whoever stands up for Jesus now, Jesus will stand up for him/her in heaven* . . . 12:9
 - *People who think only of earthly comfort are not spiritually rich* 12:16-21
2. Jesus spoke about His return—that we all must be ready, for we do not know when it will be.
 - *Those who are ready will be rewarded* 12:37
 - *Those who ignore their responsibilities will be punished* (picture 3C.5) . . . 12:47
 - *Although we don't know when Jesus will return, we can watch for signs* . . . 12:56

1

3. Jesus said that people must repent of their sins.
 - *The alternative to repentance is death* 13:5
 - *Jesus told a parable about a fig tree that did not bear fruit* (picture 3C.6) . . . 13:6
 - *God will only wait so long for people to repent* 13:7-9

Conclusion: *Even though heaven is our eternal home, what we do now on earth is very important to God. Let's live for our audience of one—God!*

2

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 3: God's Rewards

Big Idea: **Jesus reveals that how His followers live on earth determines how God will reward them in heaven.**

Luke 12:1-21, 35—13:9 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus stressed that how we live now matters to God.*

Ask: *How is our earthly life connected to our eternal destiny?*

How many of you would say you are rich? What does a person have who is rich? Encourage responses. Let's look at what Jesus has to say about wealth and rich people. Read Luke 12:1-21 as children follow along. *Why was the rich man a fool? Why is it foolish to live your whole life only for earthly rewards? What does God use to measure wealth?* (Real wealth is measured by what we store up in heaven.) *How can you be rich toward God with your _____?* (Friends, Money, Family, Church, Work, Freedom, Life, Education, Talents, Faith.)

Read Luke 12:35-48 (picture 3C.5). *Why is it important to always be ready for Jesus' return? What is similar between the wedding and the household stories? What does God expect from those who have been given much?* Explain that God will reward us when we are ready to use what He has given us to serve Him.

1

Read Luke 13:1-9 (picture 3C.6). God patiently waits for us to repent and follow Him. *What will happen to those who do not turn from their evil ways? How is Jesus' story about the fig tree like us? Why is fruit so important to God? What kind of fruit is God looking for?*

Jesus reveals that how His followers live on earth determines how God will reward them in heaven. God measures our life not by how much we own, but by how we have acted toward Jesus and others. Having money and earthly possessions is not a bad thing, unless we make it a priority over seeking riches in heaven. God may give us many earthly treasures when we earnestly seek to do His will. But we need to avoid becoming greedy.

Since we do not know when we will die or when Jesus will return, we must live every day ready to serve God and do what He wants. God is patient with us, and will help us follow Him, but we must repent and ask for God's forgiveness in order to produce the fruit God wants. Everything we do here on earth matters—it will all lead to positive rewards or negative consequences.

2

Big Idea: **Jesus guides people out of their darkness into God's light.**

John 9 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus healed people of both physical and spiritual blindness.*

Ask: *In what ways can people be spiritually blind?*

1. Jesus healed a man who had been born blind from birth.

- *The man's blindness was not punishment, but was for God's glory John 9:3*
- *Jesus healed the man (picture 3C.7) 9:6-7*

2. The Pharisees questioned the man about his healing.

- *The Pharisees did not believe the man had been blind 9:18-19*
- *The blind man's parents would not admit Jesus had healed him. 9:22*
- *The man gave Jesus the credit, unafraid of the Pharisees 9:25*
- *The man had decided to follow Jesus 9:27*

①

3. Jesus found the man He had healed (picture 3C.8).

- *Jesus asked the man to believe in Him 9:35-37*
- *The man worshiped Him 9:38*
- *Jesus came to reveal people's spiritual condition. 9:39*
- *The Pharisees were spiritually blind—they did not admit their sin 9:41*

Conclusion: *Jesus guides people out of their spiritual darkness into God's light. How can you avoid becoming "blind" again?*

②

Big Idea: **Jesus guides people out of their darkness into God's light.**

John 9 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus healed people of both physical and spiritual blindness.*

Ask: *In what ways can people be spiritually blind?*

In today's Bible story, we'll meet a man who was born blind—whom Jesus miraculously healed! Unfortunately, not everyone believed in Jesus' miracles.

Read John 9:1-12 (picture 3C.7). *What reason did Jesus give to explain why the man was born blind?* (So others could see God's power displayed.) *Is it fair to assume that sickness or disease is a punishment for someone else's sins? What did Jesus say about this?* Mention that we need to respect the differences in people because God's glory can be displayed on earth in these special circumstances. *What do you think the blind man felt when he could see for the first time? How would you react if you had been the blind man?* Disease and hardship allow God to display His work in a person's life. *When bad things happen, how can you find opportunities to let God display His glory?*

①

Read verses 13-34. *What were the two different opinions about Jesus after He healed the blind man?* Name some reasons why it was hard for the people to believe in Jesus, even after this great miracle. *Why did the Pharisees become angry at Jesus for working on the Sabbath? Why were the blind man's parents afraid? Was the man healed from blindness afraid to tell the truth?* (No.) He knew he had been miraculously healed, and he was not afraid to tell others.

Read 9:35-41 (picture 3C.8). *What kinds of blindness exist in the world today? How can you tell if you are spiritually blind? What things keep a person from being healed from spiritual blindness? Why is spiritual blindness worse than physical blindness?* The blind man's spiritual eyes were opened—he became confident that Jesus was indeed his Lord, and he believed.

Except for Jesus, every person who ever lived was born spiritually blind. We cannot find our way to God by ourselves. If someone points us to the Bible, we are pointed in the right direction. But only the Lord can open our spiritual eyes so that we can understand and believe what the Bible says about Jesus. As you experience life, you will face illness or injury or hardship of some kind. When you do, remember to keep your eyes on Jesus. Read His Bible and ask Him to keep your spiritual eyes open to the truth.

②

Big Idea: **Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.**

John 10 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus protects and cares for us like a shepherd does his sheep.*

Ask: *How can you respond to Jesus' loving care?*

1. Jesus used a sheep and shepherd metaphor to explain His relationship to us. We are His sheep.

- *We are vulnerable to thieves and robbers* John 10:1
- *We know Jesus' voice and follow Him* 10:4
- *Jesus loves us, and we love Him.* 10:14
- *Though we live in different "pens," we all belong to Jesus* 10:16

2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

- *Salvation only comes from Jesus, the Gate* 10:9
- *Jesus lays down His life for us* 10:11
- *Jesus protects us from the enemy's attacks* (picture 3C.9) 10:12
- *Jesus shepherds all of us* (picture 3C.10) 10:16

1

3. People once again confronted Jesus about who He was. Jesus answered them plainly, offering comfort to His followers.

- *People wanted to know if Jesus was the Messiah* 10:24
- *Jesus said they could not understand because they did not believe.* . . . 10:25-26
- *Jesus' sheep will live eternally—their salvation cannot be stolen* 10:28
- *Jesus explained that He was God's Son* 10:30-38

Conclusion: *Jesus loves us, cares for us, and protects us. Our salvation is secure—no one can take it from us! Praise Him for being our Good Shepherd!*

2

Big Idea: **Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.**

John 10 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus protects and cares for us like a shepherd does his sheep.*

Ask: *How can you respond to Jesus' loving care?*

Read John 10:1-5. *Who are the sheep?* (People.) *Who is the Good Shepherd?* (Jesus.)

Read verses 6-10. *Who did Jesus mean for the thief to represent?* (The Pharisees.) *How is Jesus like the gate of a sheep pen?* (Jesus is the only way to God.) *What other ways than the gate did the Pharisees try to enter the sheep pen?* (They tried to go through their traditions and good works instead.) *In what way was the devil using the Pharisees to steal, kill, and destroy?* Encourage responses. *How can a person enter through the gate and be saved?* (Jesus is the Gate. When we turn to Him and believe in Him, He welcomes us into His flock.)

Read John 10:11-13 (picture 3C.9). *What is the difference between the shepherd and the hired hand?* (The shepherd is willing to die to protect the sheep. The hired hand runs away.) *Why does the hired hand run away?* (He only works for money

1

and doesn't really care about the sheep.) Read verses 14-18 (picture 3C.10). *What did Jesus mean when He said He was the Good Shepherd?* Discuss the symbolism of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, emphasizing His loving care. *What does Jesus mean in verses 17-18?* (He and God are One. He knew that He would be crucified on the cross and buried, but on the third day would rise again.)

Read verses 19-30 quietly. *How did the people feel about Jesus' words?* (They were divided. Some called Him a demon and others believed.) *Jesus' sheep listen to His voice, have eternal life, and can never lose it. Hold out your hand. Who has the power to take you from Jesus' hand?* (No one!) *What did Jesus say about Himself and the Father?* (He and the Father are one.) *What did Jesus mean by that?* (Jesus is God.)

Read verses 31-42. *What do Jesus' miracles prove?* (That He is from the Father; that He is God's Son.) *Why did Jesus want people to believe in Him first, before believing the miracles?* (He wanted people to have faith in what He said and did.)

The Pharisees didn't listen and follow the voice of Jesus. They wanted to stone Him for claiming to be God. Jesus is God. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us, the sheep, so much that He willingly gave His life that we might live forever. He has the power to save and protect us when we claim Him as our Good Shepherd. Then one and nothing can ever take us out of the safety of His hand.

2

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 6: Motives

Big Idea: **Jesus challenges people to carefully examine the reasons behind their actions.**

Luke 13:10-17, 14:1-35 [outline form]

Intro: *God wants us to do the right things for the right reasons.*

Ask: *Why is it not okay to do good for selfish reasons?*

1. Jesus had compassion on a crippled woman. His love for her did not sit well with the religious leaders (picture 3C.11).

- *Jesus healed a woman who had been crippled for years Luke 13:11-13*
- *The synagogue leaders were upset that Jesus healed on the Sabbath. 13:14*
- *Jesus said that freeing someone from Satan is an act of love, not work . . . 13:16*

2. At a dinner with a prominent Pharisee, Jesus taught about putting others before ourselves (picture 3C.12).

- *Jesus healed another man on the Sabbath. 13:2-6*
- *Jesus explained that people who humble themselves will be exalted 13:8-11*
- *To earn God's rewards, help those who cannot help themselves. 13:12-14*

1

3. Jesus told a parable about a great banquet.

- *A man prepared a lavish feast and invited his rich friends 13:16-17*
- *Those invited made excuses not to come 13:18*
- *The man then invited the poor and lame. 13:21*
- *All are invited to God's banquet, but each must accept the invitation . . . 13:24*

4. Jesus wanted people to understand the true cost of following Him.

- *Those who follow Jesus must love Him above all others 13:26*
- *A man building a tower first counts the cost. 13:28-30*
- *A king going to war first determines if he can win 13:31-32*
- *Those who follow Jesus must be willing to give up everything. 13:33*

Conclusion: *Jesus challenges people to carefully examine the reasons behind their actions. If our motives are pure, our actions will please God.*

2

Level 3C—Mighty Miracles

Lesson 6: Motives

Big Idea: **Jesus challenges people to carefully examine the reasons behind their actions.**

Luke 13:10-17, 14:1-35 [narrative form]

Intro: *God wants us to do the right things for the right reasons.*

Ask: *Why is it not okay to do good for selfish reasons?*

Motives are all about *why* you do something. Sometimes the exact same actions are caused by pure (good) and bad motives!

Read Luke 13:10-17 (picture 3C.11). *Why did Jesus heal the woman?* (Jesus had great compassion for people.) *What was the motive of the synagogue leader when he yelled at Jesus?* (He wanted to make Jesus look bad. He wanted to stick with tradition instead of compassion.) *What was Jesus' motive for His words in verse 16?* (He wanted to shame His enemies.)

Read Luke 14:1-6. People were far more important to Jesus than traditions. Discuss Jesus' motives for healing the man in this passage. *When can you show compassion by caring for the needs of others?*

1

Read Luke 14:7-14 (picture 3C.12). God will humble proud people, and He will honor those who are humble. *What would motivate a person to want to sit at the head of the table? What pure motives should a person have for inviting the poor, lame, crippled, and blind to dinner?*

Read Luke 14:15-24. *What might be some bad motives the people had for making excuses not to go to the banquet? What do you think was the master's motive for inviting the people from the streets when the others refused to attend the banquet?*

Read Luke 14:25-35. Following God is not always easy. There is a cost we must accept in order to follow Jesus. This was a very extreme way for Jesus to make His point to the people. *What might happen to a person who does not consider the costs of following Jesus?* Jesus wanted His followers to clearly understand that discipleship is not easy but is always worth the cost, whatever that may be. *What might be a pure motive for becoming a disciple of Jesus? What will your devotion to Jesus cost you in order to follow Him?*

Jesus challenges us to carefully examine the reasons behind our actions. Too often people are concerned about being popular, having the best clothes, or being the first with a new toy. God knows our motives and will bless us when we truly try to serve Him, even when we seem to fail.

2

Big Idea: **Jesus proves that He has power over death.**

John 11 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus raised Lazarus back to life, proving that He had God's power.*

Ask: *What does it mean to know that Jesus has power over death?*

1. Jesus' dear friend, Lazarus, became very ill.

- *Mary and Martha sent for Jesus* John 11:3
- *Jesus said that Lazarus' illness would glorify God and Him* 11:4
- *While Jesus lingered, Lazarus died* 11:14
- *The disciples were willing to follow Jesus into danger* 11:16

2. Lazarus' sisters were distraught that Jesus had not arrived in time to heal their brother.

- *Martha met Jesus first. She had complete faith in His power* 11:21-22
- *Jesus told her that Lazarus would live* (picture 3C.13) 11:23
- *Martha confessed that Jesus was God's Son* 11:27
- *Mary also met Jesus on the road. She was very upset* 11:32
- *Jesus was moved to tears by their grief* 11:33-35

1

3. Jesus went to Lazarus' tomb.

- *Lazarus had been dead for four days* 11:39
- *Jesus prayed aloud for the benefit of those present* 11:41-42
- *Jesus called to Lazarus in a loud voice* (picture 3C.14) 11:43
- *Lazarus came out of the tomb, alive* 11:44

4. The people responded in widely different ways to Jesus' miracle.

- *Many put their faith in Jesus* 11:45
- *The Sanhedrin met because they were threatened by Jesus' power* 11:47-48
- *The high priest had prophesied that Jesus would die* 11:51-52
- *From that day on there was an active plot to arrest and kill Jesus* . . . 11:53-57

Conclusion: *Jesus showed that He had God's power over death. There is no reason for people who believe in Jesus to fear death!*

2

Big Idea: **Jesus proves that He has power over death.**

John 11 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus raised Lazarus back to life, proving that He had God's power.*

Ask: *What does it mean to know that Jesus has power over death?*

Today's Bible passage is filled with many emotions, but it is also filled with many facts. Read John 11:1-16. *Why did Jesus wait until Lazarus was dead four days before raising him to life?* God is glorified by Jesus' power over death. Just as Jesus loved Lazarus, God cares for each and every one of you.

We are all destined to die. Every person, including you, needs his or her sins paid for in order to avoid the punishment of death and separation from God.

Read verses 17-37 (picture 3C.13). *What did Mary and Martha feel? What facts did they know? What did the people who were comforting Mary and Martha feel? What facts did they know?* What Mary and Martha knew to be true helped them endure what they felt.

Jesus explained that everyone who believes in Him would not die. When Jesus died

1

to forgive your sins, He took the punishment you deserved.

Read John 11:38-44 (picture 3C.14). *What did Mary feel? What facts did she know? Why did Jesus talk to God before raising Lazarus to life?*

This was the most amazing display of Jesus' power! Not only did He raise Lazarus to life, but He restored Lazarus' body. Jesus gave Lazarus new life. He offers us the same. If you trust Jesus, you become God's child and receive new life.

Read verses 45-57. *What did the people feel? What facts did they know? What did the Pharisees feel? What facts did they know?* Discuss the reactions of the various people—how some put their faith in Jesus while others rejected Him. *If we truly believe in Jesus Christ, what glorious reward can we count on? Will you put your faith in Jesus or reject His claim?*

Why do you think Jesus would bring only one person back to life? Why not everyone? Discuss this for a moment. We will all have eternal life after we die as long as we believe in and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. When Jesus gave His life on the cross for us, He made it possible for us to live forever in heaven! We don't need to be miraculously raised to life on earth because we know we will live eternally in heaven instead!

2

Big Idea: **Jesus truly cares about people and seeks to bring them to God.**

Luke 15 [outline form]

Intro: *God desperately wants the lost to come to Him.*

Ask: *What value does God place on your life?*

1. Jesus told the first of three parables in response to the Pharisees' complaints. They found it distasteful that He associated with sinners.

- *A shepherd who loses one sheep will leave ninety-nine to find it. . . . Luke 15:4*
- *When he finds it, he carries it on his shoulders and rejoices with friends . . . 15:5-6*
- *In the same way, heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents. . . . 15:7*

2. His second parable was about a woman who lost a valuable silver coin.

- *She will do everything she can to find it (picture 3C.15) 15:8*
- *She, too, rejoices with others when she finds it 15:9*
- *In the same way, angels rejoice before God when someone repents 15:10*

①

3. Jesus' third parable involved an ungrateful son who spent his father's inheritance on selfish living. (picture 3B.16)

- *The son asked for his inheritance and left 15:12-13*
- *The son spent all he had, then fell on hard times. 15:14-16*
- *He decided to return to his father and beg for work 15:17-19*

4. The son returned to his father.

- *Before he got to the house, his father ran out and embraced him. 15:20*
- *The son confessed his sins 15:21*
- *The father only cared that his son was alive and returned to him. . . . 15:22-24*

5. The older brother was offended at his father's lavish forgiveness.

- *He complained that he had been dutiful and never so rewarded. 15:29*
- *His father explained that he already shared in the family wealth. 15:31*
- *The younger son, once dead, was now alive—reason to celebrate 15:32*

Conclusion: *God is passionate about all people and wants those who live in sin to come to Him. Pray for the lost, and if you find that you need to "return" to God, do so today!*

②

Big Idea: **Jesus truly cares about people and seeks to bring them to God.**

Luke 15 [narrative form]

Intro: *God desperately wants the lost to come to Him.*

Ask: *What value does God place on your life?*

Jesus told three stories about how God feels when people are lost to Him and then repent of their sins, or become found. Read Luke 15:1-7. Seek: *What did the shepherd do when the sheep became lost? Who does the sheep represent? Find: What did the shepherd do when he found the sheep? Who does the shepherd represent? Celebrate: What did the shepherd do after he brought the sheep back? Why does God rejoice more over sinners who repent than over the righteous?*

Why did the fact that Jesus spent time with sinners bother the Pharisees? What was different between the way the Pharisees and Jesus treated sinful people? (The Pharisees did not tolerate sinners, but Jesus sought them.) How can a person be lost in sin?

Read verses 8-10 (picture 3C.15). Seek: *What did the woman do when she lost one of her coins? How much does God care about even one person? Find: What did the*

①

woman do to find the coin? How far will God go to find a lost sinner? Celebrate: What did the woman do after she found the lost coin? How do you think God celebrates when we turn from our sins?

In Jesus' time, people often had very little money. One coin might have been worth much to the woman in Jesus' story. *What value does God place on your life?*

Read Luke 15:11-32 (picture 3C.16). Seek: *What did the father do when his son wanted to leave? Why does God let us choose things other than Him? Find: What did the father do when he saw his son returning? How does God react when we finally come back to Him? Celebrate: What did the father do after his son wanted to come home? What will God do when someone who was lost returns to Him?*

This last parable is much longer than the other two. Jesus had several very important lessons in this one story. Discuss the symbolism of the prodigal son (repenting sinner), the older son (the Pharisees), and the father (God).

Jesus seeks those who are lost and waits for them to respond. Anytime a person turns toward Jesus, He is ready to receive and to forgive him or her. Jesus loves each and every person, and the angels in heaven celebrate with God when one person repents.

②

Big Idea: **Jesus encourages His followers to use money in ways that please God.**

Luke 16 [outline form]

Intro: *God wants us to use money to help others and to serve Him.*

Ask: *How can you use what you own to help others and to please God?*

1. Jesus told a parable that illumined God's view of money.

- *A manager was losing his job because he had been wasteful. Luke 16:2*
- *The man reduced the debts of people who owed his master money in order to win their friendship and goodwill (picture 3C.17) 16:4-7*
- *Jesus explained that we should use what we have to help others 16:9*

2. Jesus went on to teach about wealth and responsibility.

- *Prove your trustworthiness with whatever you have been given 16:10-12*
- *You cannot serve both God and money 16:13*
- *God knows what is in our hearts. 16:14*
- *What the "world" values, God detests 16:14*

1

3. Jesus told another parable highlighting how a person's attachment to wealth and comfort can have eternal consequences.

- *A rich man lived a life of luxury and ease 16:19*
- *A poor beggar lived outside his gate, starving and hurting (picture 3C.18) 16:20-21*
- *Both died. The beggar went to heaven, the rich man to hell. 16:22-23*
- *The rich man wished to warn his family to live righteously 16:27-28*
- *Scripture is our warning to live righteously 16:29*

Conclusion: *Money is a tool, but if you are not careful, it can become your master. Use money in ways that please God!*

2

Big Idea: **Jesus encourages His followers to use money in ways that please God.**

Luke 16 [narrative form]

Intro: *God wants us to use money to help others and to serve Him.*

Ask: *How can you use what you own to help others and to please God?*

Money is a tool, just like a hammer or an ax—it can be used for good and bad things. God cares more about how people use money than about how much they have.

Read Luke 16:1-9 (picture 3C.17). Help avoid confusion with your children by making these three points: 1) *Why did the manager lose his job?* (He was wasteful and dishonest with the master's money.) 2) *Why did the master praise the manager?* (He was praised for being clever, not for being dishonest.) 3) *What do you think the manager learned? What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the disciples with this parable?* (Money will not last forever, so it is wise to use it as a tool to provide something that will last into the future.) Jesus warns against wasting our possessions. *How can you use what you own to help others and please God?*

1

Read verses 10-18. Being trustworthy with little things proves we can be trusted with bigger things. Jesus also said we cannot serve two masters. *How can money get in the way of our service to God? What did the Pharisees love? How did this affect their service to God?* If appropriate, probe a little deeper: *What things are detestable in God's sight? Does God hate money? How can we honestly and responsibly use what God has given us? What will this do for us?*

Read Luke 16:19-31 (picture 3C.18). *What does this story teach us about life after we die?* (Decisions in this life determine your eternal destiny.) *Why do you think the rich man didn't pay more attention to God's Word while he was still living on earth? Why couldn't Lazarus help the rich man once they both died? What did Abraham mean by his words (verse 31)?*

Jesus encourages His followers to use money in ways that please God. Remember, money is an important tool in our lives, but it can be used for good or for evil. We need to make wise choices when we spend or use our money. Most importantly, we should use our possessions, including money, in obedience to God. As long as we use our money to help others, it can be a great blessing.

2

Big Idea: **Jesus demonstrates how faith in Him touches every area of life.**

Luke 17:7—18:14 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus pointed out different aspects of faith to His disciples.*

Ask: *How can your faith affect your life at home and at school?*

1. Jesus explained how the faithful are servants.
 - *A servant does not expect rewards or special treatment Luke 17:7-8*
 - *We serve God and others—it is our duty as believers. 17:10*
2. On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus encountered ten lepers.
 - *From a distance, they asked for Jesus' help 17:12-13*
 - *Jesus healed them, but only one returned and praised Him (picture 3C.19) . 17:14-16*
 - *Jesus commended the man's faith in Him. 17:18-19*
3. Jesus told His disciples to be faithfully ready for His return.
 - *God's kingdom exists among His people 17:20-21*
 - *Jesus' return will be sudden and unforeseen 17:24-30*
 - *The faithful will be taken, the rest will be left 17:34-35*

①

4. Jesus told a parable about prayer and perseverance.
 - *There was a judge who did not fear God or men 18:2*
 - *A woman who had not received justice continued to plead with him 18:3*
 - *Because of her perseverance, the judge gave her justice. 18:4-5*
 - *The faithful should also persevere in prayer 18:6-8*
5. Jesus told a story about humility. (picture 3C.20)
 - *A Pharisee prayed in a loud voice, extolling his goodness 18:11-12*
 - *A tax collector prayed quietly and begged for mercy 18:13*
 - *The humble tax collector was forgiven his sins 18:14*
 - *Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and vice versa 18:14*

Conclusion: *Faith is not just something we exercise in church. Faith is part of everything we do. Dutifully serve God in worship, watchfulness, perseverance, and humility!*

②

Big Idea: **Jesus demonstrates how faith in Him touches every area of life.**

Luke 17:7—18:14 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus pointed out different aspects of faith to His disciples.*

Ask: *How can your faith affect your life at home and at school?*

Read Luke 17:7-10. *What is duty? What does doing God's work with a good attitude have to do with faith?* If our hearts are filled with faith, they will be like sponges filled with water. Faith will seep out in our work and lives because we are filled with a desire to be faithful and dutiful to God.

Read verses 11-19 (picture 3C.19). *Why do you think nine of the lepers did not return to thank Jesus for what He did for them? How did the one who returned give thanks and show his faith?* Point out that when we are faithful, we give thanks and praise to God because we know we are helpless without Him. *What can you do to have a thankful heart as you worship God?*

Read Luke 17:20-37. *What does it mean to be watchful? How would a person act who believes Jesus is coming back soon?* Help the children understand that a watchful

①

person has faith that Jesus will return one day. Watchful believers are looking forward to Jesus' return. They do what God has told them to do to prepare for His return. *What do you think we should be doing to get ready for the Lord's return?*

Read Luke 18:1-8. *What does this parable teach us about prayer? What does persistent mean? How was this woman both faithful and persistent? How can you keep praying, even when you feel like God does not hear you?* Emphasize that faithful people keep praying because they believe and know that God hears and answers prayers.

Read verses 9-14 (picture 3C.20). *Why should people not be filled with pride? What was the tax collector's humble prayer?* Explain that the people disliked tax collectors. The Pharisees, on the other hand, were respected leaders who were proud of how they lived. *Why is humility so important to God?* Explain that being humble helps us remember we are sinners who need God's mercy. *If we are truly faithful, we will be humble before God and sorry for our sins.*

Jesus shows how faith in Him touches every area of life. If we live faithfully for God, then we will be dutiful, thankful, watchful, prayerful, and humble before God. We can let go of our lives and turn them over to God, knowing He will always take care of us.

②

Big Idea: **Jesus shows that faithfulness to God and to family matters most.**

Matthew 19 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus answered people's difficult questions with clear truths.*

Ask: *What questions would you ask Jesus today?*

1. The Pharisees continued to try to trick Jesus into saying something against the Law or unpopular with the crowd.

- *They asked Him about divorce Matthew 19:3*
- *Jesus explained how God intended marriage to be 19:4-6*
- *The disciples asked if it was better not to marry 19:10*
- *Jesus answered that only some are not meant to marry 19:11-12*

2. Jesus showed God's love for children.

- *Children were being brought to Jesus for His blessing (picture 3C.21). . . 19:13*
- *The disciples thought Jesus was too "important" for children 19:13*
- *Jesus welcomed the children—encouraging them to come 19:13*
- *Jesus stated that God's Kingdom belongs to those who are like children . . . 19:14*

1

3. A rich young man came, asking Jesus what to do to gain eternal life.

- *Jesus told the man to sell all he had and to follow Christ. 19:21*
- *The man would not let go of his wealth (picture 3C.22) 19:22*
- *Jesus warned that wealth makes it difficult for people to follow Him . . . 19:23*

4. The disciples wondered aloud if anyone could be saved.

- *Jesus claimed that God could do anything 19:26*
- *Peter wanted assurance of his salvation 19:27*
- *Jesus told His disciples that they would rule in heaven with Him 19:28*
- *God will reward everyone who sacrifices to follow Jesus 19:29*

Conclusion: *Jesus' answers weren't popular with many people, but they contained timeless truths about God's kingdom. We must learn to live by Jesus' words as we walk with Him.*

2

Big Idea: **Jesus shows that faithfulness to God and to family matters most.**

Matthew 19 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus answered people's difficult questions with clear truths.*

Ask: *What questions would you ask Jesus today?*

If Jesus stood before us in our room today, what questions would you ask Him? Encourage responses. Many people did have opportunities to ask Jesus questions while He was on earth. Jesus' answers reveal what matters most to God.

Read Matthew 19:1-12. One of the wonderful things that God gives us on earth are loving relationships with other people—parents, siblings, other family members, friends, and possibly a husband or a wife someday. *What do you consider to be a characteristic of a wonderful relationship?* Emphasize that the Pharisees kept trying to trick Jesus and distract the crowd's attention from His miracles. They thought asking Him about marriage and divorce would turn the crowd against Him. *What was wrong with the Pharisees' idea of marriage? How do Jesus' answers show us what matters to God about marriage? What can you do to help your family honor God?*

1

Read verses 13-15 (picture 3C.21). Families came asking Jesus to bless their children. In Jesus' day, children were not considered very important at all. *What do these verses tell you about the way Jesus feels about each of you? Why do you think the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like children? Since you are so important to God, how can you make sure God is important to you?*

Read Matthew 19:16-26 (picture 3C.22). *Why was the rich young man upset with Jesus' answer? Why did Jesus use the example of the camel and the eye of a needle?* (To show it is absolutely impossible to enter heaven by human means.) Jesus exposed the man's weakness. Loving other people and loving God are more important than any material things.

Read verses 27-30. *What did Jesus say would earn people hundreds of times what they gave up? Why does Jesus say the first will be last and the last will be first?*

God cares that families love each other and stay together. God cares deeply about little children. He desires us to use what we have to care for others and to honor Him. God wants us to seek Him before all others, and to rely on His grace for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus shows that faithfulness to God and to family matters most.

2

Big Idea: **Jesus measures greatness by a person's willingness to trust Him and to serve others.**

Matthew 20:1-28 [outline form]

Intro: *God's view of greatness is the opposite of the world's view.*

Ask: *Why would God value humility and service more than "greatness"?*

1. Jesus told a story about God's grace.

- *A landowner hired men to work his vineyard. Matthew 20:1*
- *He hired others later in the day, but paid them all the same 20:3-10*
- *The workers hired first complained about their pay (picture 3C.23) 20:11-12*
- *The landowner could pay what he wanted—generosity was his choice. 20:15*

2. Jesus again predicted His death and resurrection.

- *Jesus talked to His twelve disciples in private 20:17*
- *He told them He would be betrayed, mocked, and crucified 20:18-19*
- *On the third day, He would be raised to life 20:19*

1

3. Jesus taught the disciples about true greatness.

- *James and John's mother asked Jesus to exalt her sons (picture 3C.24) 20:21*
- *Jesus responded with a warning about suffering for Him. 20:22-23*
- *The other disciples were upset about what had happened. 20:24*
- *Jesus explained that greatness comes from servanthood 20:26-27*
- *Jesus Himself was their example to follow 20:28*

Conclusion: *Jesus was the perfect model of a servant. It is this kind of greatness that pleases God. Remember to always put others before yourself.*

2

Big Idea: **Jesus measures greatness by a person's willingness to trust Him and to serve others.**

Matthew 20:1-28 [narrative form]

Intro: *God's view of greatness is the opposite of the world's view.*

Ask: *Why would God value humility and service more than "greatness"?*

Pretend you raked leaves all day for ten dollars. After you raked all the leaves into piles, your brother (or sister) showed up and helped you put the leaves into bags. Raking took you all day, but bagging the leaves only took one hour. Your parents paid you ten dollars, but they paid your brother (or sister) ten dollars, too! *How would this make you feel?* Encourage responses. In today's Scripture, Jesus had a very interesting lesson to teach the disciples—with a very similar story!

Read Matthew 20:1-16 (picture 3C.23). Explain that a denarius was a common payment for an entire day's wages in Bible times. A workday began around 6:00 a.m. and ended around 6:00 p.m. Therefore, the third-hour workers began around 9:00 a.m. The sixth hour was noon, and the ninth hour was 3:00 p.m. *Why were the early morning vineyard workers upset with their pay? Why was it right for the*

1

landowner to do what he did? Why were the early morning workers' attitudes wrong? How does God treat each of His followers like the landowner treated his workers? How can you look forward to your rewards without comparing yourself to others?

Read verses 17-19. Once again Jesus predicted that He would be killed. He wanted His disciples to see that it was His Father's will, and that He would humbly obey God. *How can you follow Jesus' example of humble obedience?*

Which of these disciples was the greatest? Who do you think Jesus would have selected? Read Matthew 20:20-28 (picture 3C.24). *What were James and John showing by their request of Jesus? How do you think this made the other disciples feel? What did the disciples probably think greatness was? What did Jesus say true greatness is? How can you tell if you truly have a servant's heart or not?*

Many people have lived and died trying to be somebody great. They pushed and fought to make it to the top. But God's ideas about being great are not the same as ours. Jesus measures greatness by our willingness to trust Him and serve others. If you focus on trusting God and serving others, you will find yourself happier and more content. You won't compare yourself to others—you'll be too busy loving them!

2