

Jesus Knew He Would Be Rejected

The Gospel Project: Unit 24 Session 1

Luke 13

Midweek Bible Lesson

Week of July 14th, 2024

Christ Connection: Everyone is invited into the kingdom of God, but not everyone will enter. People are saved only by trusting in Jesus and being baptized. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

Big Picture Question: PS: Why do people not choose Jesus? People choose what they want rather than what God wants. Elem: Why do people reject Jesus? People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.

Memory Verse: PS: People were unkind to Jesus. Isaiah 53:3; Elem: He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Isaiah 53:3.

Spiritual Discipline: Prayer

Leader Bible Study: Jesus often used parables about knocking on a door to teach something about God's kingdom. The example from this week's Bible story is a sobering one, indicating that not everyone who knocks on heaven's door will be let in. This seems to contradict what He said just a couple chapters earlier in Luke's Gospel: "knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). What makes the difference?

Those who are knocking on the door in Luke 13:25 had been content to simply hang around Jesus, enjoying His food and His

teaching, but had not personally stepped through the narrow door of faith in Christ's righteousness alone. God's gifts are intended to draw us into relationship with Him, not to be enjoyed apart from the Giver. That's why the parable in Luke 11 is immediately followed with "if you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (v. 13) You cannot get deeper into relationship with the Father than to receive the Holy Spirit. And "everyone who asks receives" (v. 10).

All of this is in response to a question about prayer in Luke 11:1. Jesus not only teaches His disciples what to say in verses 2-4, He encourages them to be persistent (using another door knocking parable in verses 5-8) and promises the very best reward: a personal relationship with the triune God. But none of this should have come as a surprise to those who were familiar with the Old Testament, particularly the Psalms.

The writer of Psalm 5 understood the key to entering the Lord's "house". David began his prayer with bold intimacy: "Listen to my words, Lord; consider my sighing. Pay attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for I pray to you" (Psalm 5:1-2). Apparently, he began his prayers similarly on many mornings (see v. 3). But David was not insisting that God grant his request because of anything he deserved. He knew his way in was only "by the abundance of {God's} faithful love" (v. 7). It was this knowledge that drove him to bold prayer day after day. David wanted to be intimately familiar with the one in whom he could "take refuge," who would "shelter" him and "surround him with favor like a shield" (vv. 11-12).

Let's not just teach on prayer. Let us personally enjoy communion with God through prayer and guide our kids to do the same!

[Welcome](#)

Sing Songs

Memory Verse Cards

Materials: Bibles, index cards, pencils, hole punches, binder rings

Help kids look up the memory verse in their Bibles and copy it onto an index card. Invite kids to use additional cards to copy previous memory verses or other meaningful verses. Demonstrate how to hole punch each card in the corner and attach the cards to a binder ring. Encourage kids to keep their verse card set in their backpack or bedroom, where they can practice memorizing the verses throughout the week. Explain that the Holy Spirit will often bring a memorized verse to mind in answer to prayer, so memorizing Scripture helps you hear from God. Share a personal example.

Prayerful Story Review Game

Materials: color dot die, index cards

Gather a color dot dice and index cards in matching colors. Assign a type of prayer to each color, such as yellow for praise, red for repentance, blue for requests, orange for thanksgiving, and so forth. Review the week's Bible story with the kids, inviting them to think about how it could prompt prayer. Write anything praiseworthy about God in the passage on a yellow card. If there is anything in the story that exposes sinfulness, write it on a red card. Write any prayer requests prompted by the passage on a blue card. Anything that encourages thankfulness can be written on an orange card. Continue until you have multiple cards in each color of your set.

Roll the dice and draw a card with matches the colored dot you rolled. Demonstrate how to pray what is written on the card. For instance, if you rolled a red and the card read something like "people rejected Jesus," you could pray along the lines of "God, we

confess that our sin leads us to reject your Son, Jesus. Please forgive us!” Take turns rolling the dice and drawing a card. Encourage kids to pray the prompt on their card and make suggestions as needed. Do not force a kid to pray out loud if they are uncomfortable.

[Learn About Prayer](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Say, ***“During this time, we talk a lot about spiritual disciplines.”***

Ask, ***“Who can tell me what a spiritual discipline is?”***

Say, ***“A spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action, we do that helps us grow in love for God and godliness.”***

Follow Up on Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Ask, ***“Who remembers our challenge from last week?”***

Say, ***“That’s right! We were to talk to one person each day about the practice of Christian fellowship.”***

Ask, ***“Who can share about how they took part in the challenge?”***

Say, ***“Great job in sharing with others about the spiritual discipline of fellowship!”***

Introduce the Discipline of Prayer

Materials: none

Say, ***“We are going to learn about the spiritual discipline of prayer in this unit. We’ve discussed prayer a few times before, but we won’t grow much in love for God and godliness if we don’t continue to practice it.”***

Ask, ***“What do you remember about prayer?”***

Say, ***“One of the most special and unique truths about prayer is that we get to actually talk with God! This is an incredible privilege that each person who trusts in Jesus should do on their own, not just with others. Let’s play a game to understand why that’s important.”***

Group Game: Guess Whose Voice

Materials: none

Select one kid to be the guesser and step away from the group, turning his back to the other kids. Discreetly select another kid to be the speaker, who will say a simple greeting to the guesser. If the guesser cannot name the speaker after a few seconds, the speaker may say another short phrase, such as a basic fact about herself without giving away her name. Continue until the guesser correctly names the speaker, then select new kids for each role to play again as desired.

Say, ***“You really had to know one another to play that game! Talking and spending time with people is how we get to know them. That’s how we recognize our friends’ voices and knew facts about them. In a similar way, prayer is how we connect with God on a personal level. Of course, God knows everyone whom He made, and He has revealed Himself to the whole world through creation, the Bible, and Jesus. But God also makes Himself known to us through prayer.”***

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles

Say, ***“In our Bible story earlier this week, Jesus warned people about what would happen if they did not personally know and trust Him as Lord and Savior. (Review Luke 13:23-27.) Even those who dined with Jesus and listened to Him teach might hear Him say, ‘I don’t know you’ and be sent away in the end.”***

Ask, ***“How do we get to know Jesus personally?”***

Read Psalm 5:1-8.

Say, ***“The person who wrote this psalm, who was probably David, knew that God is holy and just to punish wickedness. David also knew that he could enter the house of the Lord only through the abundance of God’s faithful love. So the psalmist’s response to such knowledge was to pray! He wanted to make his voice known to the God who shows mercy. David didn’t rely on just knowing about God or being the king of Israel. He didn’t count on others to pray for him. He knew he needed to pray himself, and he was persistent about it. He begged God to listen to his prayer morning after morning. He made a practice, or a habit, or praying.”***

Christ Connection

Materials: Bibles

Read Psalm 5:11-12.

Ask, ***“How can we have such confidence in God’s blessing?”***

Say, ***“We can have confidence in God’s blessing by trusting in the Righteous One, Jesus! God showed His love for us by sending His Son to die on the cross and take the punishment that our sin deserved, so that we who love His name could rejoice in Him forever. We express our love and trust in God through prayer. Sometimes our prayer may only be a sigh, and other times we may feel like shouting for joy, but we never stop speaking of the Lord’s great love for us through Jesus!”***

Love God by Practicing Prayer

Write Letters to God

Materials: writing materials

Provide writing materials and ask kids if they’ve ever received or sent a letter or card in the mail. Invite them to share about the person it was from or to. Encourage kids to write a letter to God expressing their thoughts and emotions. Give each kid a letter-sized, manila envelope to store their letter, so they feel free to write honest and personal prayers. Encourage them to continue writing letters to God and storing them in this envelope in the future.

Explain that letters are a great way to communicate with those whom we cannot see in person on a regular basis. Jesus may have returned to heaven after He rose from the dead, but God has left us His Word and Holy Spirit to communicate with us. The Bible not only contains letters to and from specific people- the epistles, for instance- but the whole story is like a letter from God to His people. The Bible even contains some people’s responses to God, such as the psalm we studied today. Pray that the Holy Spirit would answer each kid personally and guide them into the truth of His Word.

Map the Phrases

Materials: paper, markers

Before the session, write the first three verses of Psalm 5 on a large piece of paper. Put it on display. Invite a kid forward and give him a colored marker. Ask him to circle all the command verbs. Then invite another kid to draw an arrow from each command verb to the person in the sentence to whom each command is addressed. Comment on how boldly the psalmist is addressing God! Then invite another kid to use a different color to underline with things the psalmist is asking God to listen or pay attention to. Finally, invite another kid to draw a square around every first-person pronoun or adjective.

Ask kids if they have ever prayed this way. Point out that one indication the Lord actually wants us to pray this boldly is that this prayer is in our Bibles! When we don't know how to pray, we can use words of Scripture like the Psalms. And when we pray from His Word regularly, we will get better at using our own words to express our growing love for Him.

Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Challenge kids to pray alone out loud for at least one minute each day this week.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer below, pray in your own words, or ask a student to pray.

Say, ***“Lord, please hear our prayer now. We know that You are a just and merciful God. We come to You, recognizing how little***

we deserve Your attention. But we place our trust in Jesus, who took our blame and grants us His righteousness, so we pray boldly. Lord, let each child here take refuge in You and rejoice in Your presence forever. Shelter them and surround them with favor like a shield. Lead us in Your ways. We gladly boast of Your great love for us! Amen.”