


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 5

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 5: A Life That Pleases God

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>“What Pleases God?” <i>Matthew 5-7</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• A poster board or sheet of chart paper• A permanent marker
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.”</p> <p><i>Ephesians 5:8-9, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>God is pleased with me.</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Before large group, cut out a large paper heart out of a poster board or a sheet of chart paper.

One day, great crowds were following Jesus, as he was healing the sick and performing many miracles. So Jesus went up on the side of the mountain to teach. He gave a message all about God's kingdom and the nature of God's love.

Jesus started his message by explaining the kind of person that pleases God. He

wasn't just talking about what this person would do on the outside, but the condition of their heart on the inside. To represent this, we're going to write what kind of heart Jesus is talking about inside this large paper heart. Here's what Jesus said,

God blesses those who are poor and realize how much they need God. The Kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Write "needy for God" inside the heart-shaped poster with a permanent marker.

God blesses those who are saddened by the ways the world does not reflect what God created it to be. Such people will be comforted on the day when God restores everything to what he created it to be on the day that Jesus returns!

Write "those who are sad" on the poster heart.

God blesses those who are humble, who see themselves as God sees them and don't think of themselves more highly than they ought to. God will not hold back anything from those who are humble. They will receive the whole earth when Jesus returns.

Write "humility" on the poster heart.

God blesses those who long for wrong things to be made right but wait for God to act instead of seeking revenge. God will satisfy them when he administers his justice and makes all wrong things right.

Write "a heart that longs for wrong things to be made right" on the poster heart.

God blesses those who are merciful, who don't treat people as their actions deserve, because that is who God is like. God will show mercy to such people.

Write "merciful" on the poster heart.

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, a heart that desires to love God and to love others. Such people will be able to see God as he truly is!

Write "pure heart of love" on the poster heart.

God blesses those who work for peace. He is proud to call such people his children!

Write "peacemaker" on the poster heart.

God blesses those who suffer for doing the right things. The Kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Write "suffer for doing the right things" on the large heart.

If this is the kind of heart that pleases God, do you think your life brings pleasure to God?

Take student responses.

If those are the high standards God has set, it seems really hard to please God, doesn't it? Jesus had other things to teach his disciples too, and they were difficult teachings, teachings that would require God's presence and power in their lives that Jesus had access to and was eager to provide for his disciples and followers! Jesus asked them to:

- **love their enemies and to not seek revenge but to do good toward those who sin against them.**
- **stop pretending they were good on the outside when they were actually full of sin on the inside. Jesus asked them to practice doing things in secret where they would be able to discover that there is nothing greater than pleasing God!**
- **not worry about food or clothing or the things that they need, but to instead trust that God would provide for their needs.**

Jesus also said,

“Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven! *Matthew 5:17-18, NLT*”

At the end of Jesus's sermon, the people marveled saying, "He surely practices what he teaches, there is power and authority in his words!" What do you think this means?

Take student responses.

Jesus came to accomplish or fulfill God's law. Everything that Jesus taught his

followers, Jesus was practicing and obeying in his own life. He did it perfectly. Jesus's life pleases God.

Jesus knew that his teaching would be difficult. But remember one of the first kinds of people that Jesus said were pleasing to God? People who recognized their need for God. It's okay to tell God that we need him to be able to live a life that pleases him!

God knows what we need, and he knows that we need his help in order to live a life that pleases him. So he sent his only son to live the perfect life that we could not live, a life of perfect obedience to God on the inside and the outside. Jesus wants to give us his perfect record of obedience as a gift so that we can consider our own life to be one that pleases God. When we receive such a gift and follow after Jesus, Jesus will supply all that we need to do what is good and right and true!

Review the Bible verse:

“For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.”

Ephesians 5:8-9, NLT

In our small groups today, we'll talk about how we can receive such a gift so that we can say with confidence that our lives are pleasing to God.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.