


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 21

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 21: Living Unto Eternity

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Waiting for The Return of Jesus</p> <p><i>Matthew 25:1-13, 31-46</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• One copy of Handout 1 for every four students
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.”</p> <p><i>1 John 2:28, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>I can be ready for Jesus’s return and for life forever with him.</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.

You will need to print and cut out the cards in Handout 1 according to how many students you have. Each student will choose one card at random and it will indicate how they will participate in the Bible story.

After Jesus was lifted into the sky, two men dressed in white appeared and told his followers that he would return some day in the same way that he had gone. Before

leaving, Jesus had taught his followers about his return. Jesus taught them that when he returned his kingdom would be perfectly established forever. Here is one story Jesus told to illustrate what would happen when he returned:

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to wait for the bridegroom.

(Invite any of the students who received a bridesmaid card to stand up.)

Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The five foolish bridesmaids took their lamps, but they did not take more oil for the lamps to burn. The wise bridesmaids took their lamps and more oil in jars.

Indicate that the students with the wise bridesmaid cards should move to the right side of the room, and the students with the foolish bridesmaid cards should move to the left side of the room.

Because the bridegroom was late, they became sleepy and went to sleep.

The students with the bridesmaid cards should pretend to fall asleep.

“At midnight someone cried out, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’ Then all the bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready. But the foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’ (Invite the foolish bridesmaids to repeat the line.) **The wise bridesmaids answered, ‘No, the oil we have might not be enough for all of us. Go to the people who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’** (Invite the wise bridesmaids to repeat the line.)

“So while the five foolish bridesmaids went to buy oil, the bridegroom came. The bridesmaids who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.

“Later the others came back and said, ‘Sir, sir, open the door to let us in.’ (The foolish bridesmaids repeat the line.) **But the bridegroom answered, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know who you are.’**

“So always be ready, because you don’t know the day or the hour that I will come.”

When Jesus returns, he’s promised that he will come in great glory with all his angels. He will be recognized as the king and will sit on a great throne. All the nations of the world will be gathered before him, and he will separate them into two groups as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Then Jesus will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Indicate that the students with the sheep cards should move toward the right side of the room and the students with the goat cards should move toward the left side of the room.

King Jesus will say to the people on his right, (Those with the sheep cards should step forward.) “Come, my Father has given you his blessing. Receive the Kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”

Those people will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?” (You may wish to invite the students to repeat these lines aloud.)

Then the king will answer, “I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.”

Then the King will say to those on his left, (Those with the goat cards should step forward.) “Go away from me. You will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever that was prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you did not invite me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you did not care for me.”

Then those people will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or alone and away from home or without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?” (You may wish to invite the students to repeat these lines aloud.)

And Jesus will answer, “I tell you the truth, anything you refused to do for even the least of my people here, you refused to do for me. These people will go off to be punished forever, but those who were ready for me will go on to live forever.”

In our small groups today, we’re going to talk about how trusting in Jesus’s return will transform us into people who are ready for Jesus to come again as eternal king.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.

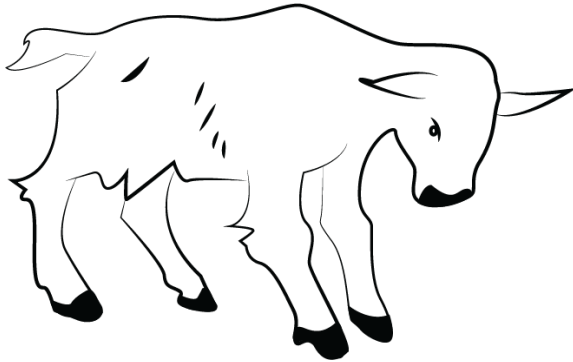
Handout 1



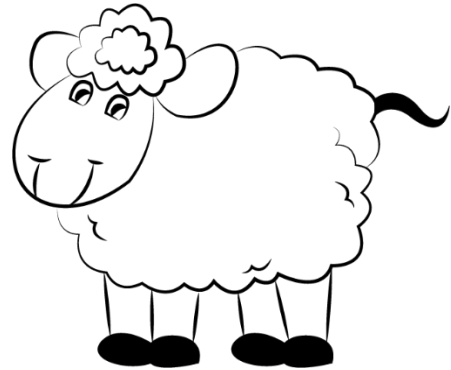
The Wise Bridesmaids



The Foolish Bridesmaids



The Goats



The Sheep