



Date: _____
Series: God Teaches Me His Way
Summer Year 2, Lesson 13

The Sheep and the Goats

Bible Event: Proverbs 22:9; Matthew 25:31-46

Take Home Point: *GOD TEACHES ME – *to share with others.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus shared his life with me.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God wants us to share with others, not to get into the kingdom of heaven, but to show his love to others. When God loves us, we can show him how much we love him back by helping other people in need. All this is because God loves us so much. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD TEACHES ME – *to share with others.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: Jesus once told his disciples what it would be like when the world ends. Here is what he said. Jesus will sit on a throne and all the people of the earth will be gathered in front of him. He will separate all of the people into two groups: those who believed in him and those who did not believe. Jesus will separate the people just like a shepherd separates the sheep (show stuffed sheep; place on right side) into one group and the goats (show stuffed goat; place on left side) into another group. The believers will go to heaven to be with God forever and the unbelievers will go with the devil.

Here is how Jesus will know who really believed in him and who didn't. He will say to the believers on the right side of him, "Come, you who are blessed and live in the kingdom of heaven. When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat. (Show fake food.) When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. (Show a plastic cup.) I was a stranger and you said "hi" to me. When I had no clothes to wear, you gave me some. (Show a shirt.) When I was sick, you took care of me. (Show some tissue.) When I went away, you came to visit me."

None of the people could remember helping Jesus that way. So they asked him, “Jesus, when did we do those things for you?” Jesus answered, “Whenever you helped out another person in need, it was just like you were actually helping me.”

Then Jesus looked to the non-believers on his left side. He said to them, “Leave me now and go with the devil. When I was hungry, you didn’t feed me. (Toss fake food over shoulder.) When I was thirsty, you didn’t give me a drink. (Toss cup.) I was a stranger and you ignored me. You didn’t give me any clothes to wear when I needed them. (Toss shirt.) You didn’t help me when I was sick (toss tissues) and you didn’t visit me when I was away.”

These people also couldn’t remember ignoring Jesus this way. So they also asked him, “Jesus, when did we not do these things for you?” Jesus answered, “Whenever you did not help out a person who needed it, it was as if you were ignoring me.”

When we needed a Savior, God shared his Son Jesus with us when he sent Jesus to die for us. We love God when we share what we have with others.

It’s very important to help other people who are in need. It’s not how we earn our way into heaven, but it is how we show people how much God loves us and how much we love him back. Remember: ***GOD TEACHES ME – to share with others.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Animal crackers. Have children pour a few out on a plate for each other. See if they can match any of the animals before eating.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Give the children water and something small like raisins or oat cereal and talk about how Jesus talked of feeding him and giving him water. Remind the children that we don't have to give fancy things just needed things.

Drama Zone: Have children pretend that they are helping others by practicing serving food or taking care of someone who is sick.

Puppet Zone: Have the children create scenes where the puppets have to share and help each other.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of "The Sheep and the Goats" from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #114, "Jesus Takes Care of Us," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Have children fold sheets of paper in half to make a card to give to someone who needs extra love this week. Provide markers, crayons, glitter, and stickers for decoration. Attach a pre-made label saying "Jesus loves you." Children may take the cards home to give to someone specific, or they may leave them at church to be delivered somewhere else. (*Retirement home, prison ministry, etc.*)

Play Zone: Play "Sheep, Sheep, Goat" (Duck, Duck, Goose).

Quiet Reading Zone: Set out a basket of Bible picture books.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out onstage holding a sheet of paper with several tally marks on it. He is keeping track of all the nice things he does for people in need so he can get to heaven. He is very proud of himself for being so smart about today's lesson.

The large group presenter tells Bubba how wonderful it is to be doing nice things for others. He's concerned about why Bubba is doing them and keeping track of them. Bubba explains that the people in today's lesson who did all of the good things got into heaven. Isn't that right?

The large group presenter explains that the people who did the good things for others in need DID get into heaven. But they didn't actually get into heaven BECAUSE they did all of those things. You see, the people who got into heaven BELIEVED in Jesus. Because they knew how much God loved them, they had all of this love inside of them. They wanted to share all of that love with other people. So, they did nice things for people who needed help because the believers wanted to show them how much God loves them and how much they love God back. When God's love and Jesus are in your heart, you want to help other people. That's how you get into heaven – by believing in Jesus and having so much love for him in your heart that you want to help other people. Remember: ***GOD TEACHES ME – to share with others.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- stuffed sheep
- stuffed goat
- fake food
- plastic cup
- a shirt
- some tissues

Action Zones:

Snack:

- animal crackers, raisins or nuts

Drama:

- fake food
- table or serving utensils

Craft:

- blank paper
- markers or crayons
- glitter
- glue
- stickers
- pre-made labels, "Jesus Loves You"

Play:

- no supplies are needed

Quiet Reading:

- Bible picture books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- use felt board characters to act out the story of "The Sheep and the Goats."

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- sheet of paper with tally marks

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books