

# HE IS JUDGE

## LESSON TEXT

John 12:47-50; John 8:1-11;  
John 5:22

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain how the words of Jesus will judge us.
- The students will identify that although we deserve judgment, Jesus gives us a chance for mercy.
- The students will identify one passage in the Bible that they can obey because of God's love and mercy.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil
- For the teacher:*
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
  - globe or map of the world
  - 1 poster board
  - markers
  - raw egg
  - cake pan
  - construction paper

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student

## LESSON PLAN

### *Getting Ready*

Faithful Instruction  
Teacher Focus  
Teacher Tips  
Preclass Activity: "The Meaning of Mercy"  
Starting Up  
Welcome and Singing  
Opening Prayer  
Victories  
Good News from the Kingdom

### *Getting into God's Word*

Story/Activity: The Law of Gravity—Egg Drop  
Scripture Study

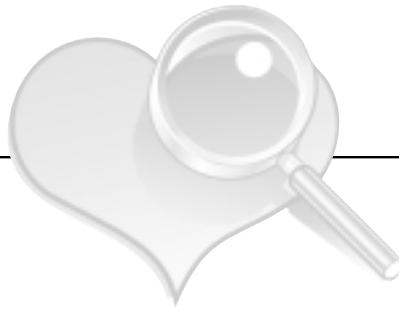
### *Getting It to Others*

Scripture Memory: John 12:48  
Weekly Challenge and Snack Time  
Conclusion

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

John 12:48



## FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

### TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on John 12:47-50 until you understand the basic story and the lesson it holds. Take a minute to think about today. How many times today did you say or think something judgmental? Now think about Jesus. If anyone ever had the right to judge others it was Jesus. However, instead of passing judgment on us, he looked at our condition, was full of compassion, and chose to come and save us from our sins!

### TEACHER TIPS

Do you imitate the compassion of Jesus with your students? Jesus, in his compassion, met our needs by saving us! Do you seek to meet the needs of your students?

## PRECLASS ACTIVITY

### "THE MEANING OF MERCY"

In a story that is real to their everyday life, the students will become more aware of obedience, repentance and mercy.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil

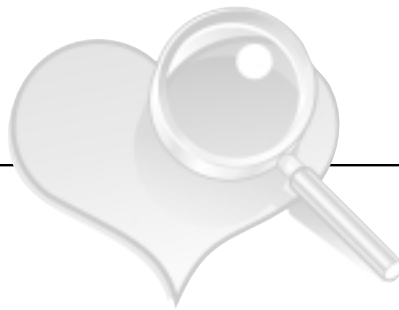
*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page A (the story).
2. Ask them to read the story and write answers to the questions.
3. They can do the activity alone or with a partner.





## STARTING UP

### WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

### OPENING PRAYER

*Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together?* Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, people they want to share Jesus with and to be especially thankful for a chance to be together.

### VICTORIES

Take time to have each student share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete the challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned?*

### GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

#### INSTRUCTIONS

*Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom."* Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share.





# GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

## STORY/ACTIVITY

### THE LAW OF GRAVITY—EGG DROP

The law of gravity is similar to the word of God. You cannot defy it. If you ignore the law of gravity, the fallen egg will break; it is “condemned”! In the same way God’s word tells us the “law” so that we will not get hurt, but if we choose to ignore it, we will suffer the consequences.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 poster board
- markers
- raw egg
- cake pan

#### PREPARATION

Write “Gravity” on the poster board.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. To begin the lesson for today, take out your egg and place it on the edge of a table or something from which it can fall. Place the cake pan where the egg will land.
2. Ask the students to come up with a definition of gravity. (You may need to help them.) It should be something such as, “Gravity = the force that pulls objects to the earth.” Write this definition on the poster board.
3. Ask the following questions: *Do you think this is a good or bad statement? Why?*
4. Write on the poster board the majority’s response, e.g. “Good, because it’s true.”
5. Say the following:  
*Well, I don’t think we always need to do the same old thing. I’m going to kiss the egg several times before dropping it off the table, and I believe because I kiss it will not fall and crack. How many of you think I’m right? Why do you think I’m wrong? Majority of class should say “wrong” because of gravity. I’m upset you don’t believe me! Do you not trust me? You never let me do what I want.*
  - Knock or push the egg off the table into the cake pan so that it falls and cracks... *I guess I should have listened to you!*





# GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have the students take out their Bibles, and select volunteers to read the passages. Ask the corresponding questions:

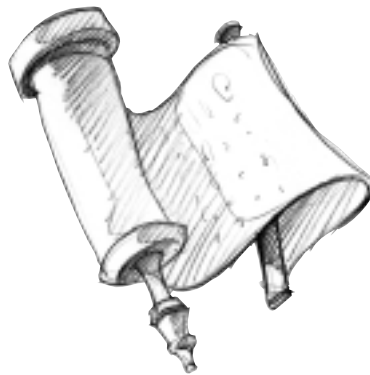
- Read John 5:22: *Why does Jesus have the authority to judge us?* (because his Father has given it to him)
- Read John 12:47-50: *How did he choose to use that authority?* (He did not come to judge the world, but to save it.)
- Read John 5:22: *If Jesus had the right to judge, why do you think he chose to save instead?* (Jesus cares about us and wants us to have eternal life!)
- Read John 5:22: *How do Jesus and his word condemn or save us?* (He gives us his word so we can obey it and be saved. If we ignore his word, we will be condemned.)

After hearing their answers, talk with them about how the Egg Drop makes this point: *Let's talk about the Egg Drop I did earlier. Why did the egg break? (Because I ignored the law of gravity.) I thought I knew better! But if I hadn't ignored the law, I would still have my egg! Because I ignored the law of gravity, my egg broke; it was "condemned"! In the same way God's word tells us the "law" so that we will not get hurt, but if we choose to ignore it we will suffer the "consequences."*

This next passage shows the heart of Jesus and his desire to save us:

- Read John 8:1-11: *Were the Pharisees really concerned that this woman was sinning?* (No)
- *What do you think their true motives were?* (They wanted to trap Jesus.)

- Read John 8:7: *Did Jesus already know they all had sinned?* (Yes)
- *What point is he making when he said, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her"?* (He is saying that they were no better than the woman they brought to him because God sees all sin as equal. In God's eyes there are not different levels of sin.)
- *Jesus did not condemn the woman. What does that show you about him?* (Jesus had compassion on her and forgave her, just as he wants to forgive us.)
- *Jesus told her to "go now and leave your life of sin." Why?* (He loved her and wanted her to be free from sin and to have eternal life.)
- *The Bible does not tell us what the woman did. What would have happened if she had ignored Jesus and continued in her sinful life style?* (She would have been "judged by his word," and would have suffered the consequences of sin.)
- *What if she had left her life of sin like Jesus told her to?* (She would have been forgiven of her sin and have had eternal life!)
- *What part of God's word are you going to respect and obey more now that you understand God's love in commanding it?* (Help the students come up with a specific passage and discuss what they will do to be obedient to it. Some possible choices are Philippians 2:14; Ephesians 6:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:22, etc. Make sure it is something that they personally need to change.)





## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."  
John 12:48

### MATERIALS USED:

*For the teacher:*

- construction paper
- markers

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Split your class into two or three groups, depending on the size of your class, and give each student a copy of Reproducible Page B (the memory verse).
2. In their groups, have the students come up with a unique way of presenting the verse to the rest of the class. Encourage them to do something creative that uses their unique talents. For example, they may want to sing a song, do a rap, draw a cartoon, do a skit, or anything that gets all the students in the group involved.
3. Let them take turns showing each other their presentations.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you share with them the challenge for the week.

The students will identify a specific passage of the Bible that they will respect and obey more now that they understand God's love in commanding it! The three parts of the challenge are as follows:

- What specific passage of the Bible will they commit to respect and obey this week?
- How will they respect and obey this scripture?
- With whom will they share what they have learned?

## CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- What specific passage of the Bible will you commit to respect and obey this week?
- How will you respect and obey this scripture?
- With whom will you share what you have learned?

# HE IS JUDGE

## LESSON TEXT

Proverbs 6:16-19, 10:2, 16:25;  
John 12:48; James 3:13-18

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Using John 5:22 and John 5:30, the students will determine that Jesus is the authority for final judgment.
- The students will identify that God has given Jesus authority to judge because he is the Son of Man (John 5:27).
- The students will describe an episode during the week when they used Jesus' word to make the right choice.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

*For the teacher:*

- games: checkers, chess, cards, etc.
- extra Bibles
- concordance
- news articles of current events dealing with issues that move you to have an opinion. Examples would be articles concerning teen vandalism, drugs, fighting among friends, or the arrest/report of unfavorable behavior of a current sports figure, rock star or politician.

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for every 3 or 4 students

## LESSON PLAN

### *Getting Ready*

Faithful Instruction  
 Teacher Focus  
 Teacher Tips  
 Preclass Activity: Games Without Rules!  
 Starting Up  
 Welcome and Singing  
 Opening Prayer  
 Great News Sharing

### *Getting into God's Word*

Scripture Study  
 Activity: "Judgment by the Word"

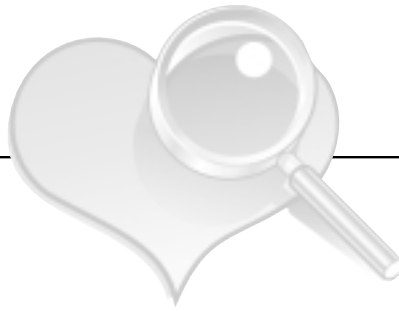
### *Getting It to Others*

Scripture Memory: John 12:48  
 Weekly Challenge and Snack Time  
 Conclusion

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

John 12:48



## FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

### TEACHER FOCUS

The conviction with which you teach this lesson will make the difference in their eternal destiny. Do you have the same convictions Jesus has in John 12:48?

### TEACHER TIPS

The goal of the preclass activity is to help the students see how necessary rules are even in simple games they play every day. Be sure to watch carefully so that there will not be conflict when the students make up their own rules in the games they are playing.

## PRECLASS ACTIVITY

### GAMES WITHOUT RULES!

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

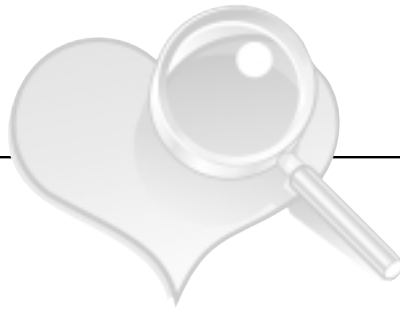
- games: checkers, chess, cards, etc.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set up groups playing different simple games with six or less students in a group. (They will not be finishing the games, so it doesn't matter how long they would normally take to play.)
2. Instruct the students: Don't use the normal rules for the games. Play the games by any rules you want to use. You don't have to agree on the rules—everybody goes by his or her own rules.
3. After about ten or more minutes of chaos, you can stop the games.
4. Tell the students that you will be talking about their experience playing these games later in the class.







## STARTING UP

### WELCOME AND SINGING

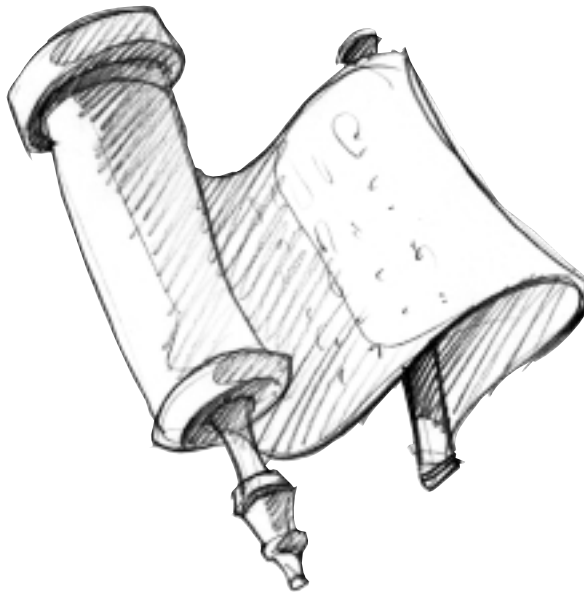
Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

### OPENING PRAYER

- Open with one of the students praying for one to two minutes about how they can imitate Jesus and have his heart when making decisions.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: John 12:48.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

### GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief, so that as many as possible can share.





## SCRIPTURE STUDY

Let's talk a little more about the games we played at the beginning of the class. Was it more fun not playing by the rules, or is it more fun playing by the rules? Why is it really more fun playing by the rules? (you know what to expect / it settles arguments / you can know that you are doing it right / it is fair for everyone, etc.)

Emphasize how important it is to have a standard to live by, because otherwise, everyone just "plays by his own rules," and it doesn't work out well.

Select some volunteers to read the passages.

- Read John 5:16-20: *Why is Jesus able to tell us what we need to follow to make God happy?* (Because the Father shows him everything. He is the only one with God.)
- Read John 5:20-23: *Who is going to judge us if we have followed what God wants us to do?* (Jesus will judge us according to his word.)
- Read John 5:27: *Why did God give Jesus authority?* (because Jesus is the Son of Man—he became human and died for our sins)
- Read: John 5:24-29: *How will we be judged?* (by whether we do good or evil)
- *How do we know what is good versus evil?* (by the Bible)
- *What are some things people use as their standard to judge good from evil besides the Bible?* (Open to discussion—for example, your own opinion, what is popular, television, etc.)
- *Are these standards always right and true?* (no)
- *Why does Jesus say his judgment is just?* (He does not go by his opinion or what is popular but by what pleases his Father.)

Make sure you help the students understand that Jesus was willing to be persecuted by men to please his Father. Because he always pleased God, he is a just judge and we should obey his word.

## ACTIVITY

### "JUDGMENT BY THE WORD"

#### MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles
- concordance
- news articles of current events dealing with issues that move you to have an opinion. Examples would be articles concerning teen vandalism, drugs, fighting among friends, or the arrest/report of unfavorable behavior of a current sports figure, rock star or politician.

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for every 3 or 4 students

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have the students break up into groups of three or four. Give each a news article to read.
2. Give them the instructions to make a "judgment" on the article. They must use God's word and they must all be in agreement on what that judgment should be.
3. Have the group choose a spokesperson. He or she is to take notes on their group's copy of Reproducible Page C.
4. After ten to fifteen minutes, have the spokesperson from each group give the highlights of the story, the group's judgment and the scripture they chose to use to make the judgment.
5. You can use the sample scriptures to help the students understand what they are looking for in the concordance.
6. As the groups present their articles, encourage class discussion. Here are some questions that can be used:
  - What law(s) of God were broken?
  - What was the main conflict?
  - What were the consequences suffered?
  - Why would a loving God judge us? (We choose our judgment: We either obey God and are rewarded or disobey God and suffer the consequences.)
7. **IMPORTANT:** Remember that the word of God will help us make the right choices, the choices that are pleasing to him.
8. The following sample scriptures, including the memory verse will be helpful to the students as they seek a scripture that speaks to the situation in their articles:



**Proverbs 6:16-19** - "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers."

**Proverbs 10:2** - "Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death."

**Proverbs 16:25** - "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

**James 3:13-18** - "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

**John 5:27-30** - "And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."

**John 12:48** - "There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."  
John 12:48

### INSTRUCTIONS

Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous lesson. Practice the verse together with the class, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you remind them of the challenge this week.

The challenge they were given is as follows: The students will identify a specific passage of the Bible that they will respect and obey more now that they understand God's love in commanding it! The three parts of the challenge are as follows:

- What specific passage of the Bible will they commit to respect and obey this week?
- How will they respect and obey this scripture?
- With whom will they share what they have learned?

## CONCLUSION

End the class with prayer. Pray for the students to share Jesus with their friends so their friends will not be condemned, but will have eternal life.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- What specific passage of the Bible will you commit to respect and obey this week?
- How will you respect and obey this scripture?
- With whom will you share what you have learned?

## THE MEANING OF MERCY

One of the rules at the Laura Winters Middle School was not to run in the halls. Jonathan knew the rule, but he was eager to tell his best buddy Ian about the soccer practice after school. He started running down the hall, trying to find Ian before he went to lunch. He knew he was in trouble when Mr. Sampson rounded the corner. He tried to put on his brakes, but he was not able to stop. WHAM! He slid right into Mr. Sampson's rounded tummy, knocking him onto the floor.

Jonathan said over and over, "I'm so sorry, Mr Sampson. I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to."

Mr. Sampson got up from the slippery hall floor with some difficulty, and looked at Jonathan over his glasses, which had slipped down on his nose. "Jonathan," he said very slowly in his deep voice, "what is the rule about running in the hall?"

"You're not supposed to," said Jonathan, hanging his head. His classmates passed him and laughed and pointed. They were enjoying his situation, but he was not.

"What do you think should happen?" Mr Sampson asked.

"The rule says that if you are caught running in the hall, you have to stay after school that day. But, Mr. Sampson, today is soccer practice, and they are picking the team. I have to go!"

"The main thing is that you learn a lesson, Jonathan. Do you know why it is not good to run in the hall? Do you realize that I could have been hurt, or you, or someone else?"

"Yes, sir, I do realize that. I will try very, very hard to remember not to run again in the hall."

"Okay, son, I can see that you are genuinely sorry. This time I am going to give you mercy. Please be careful in the future."

"Whew," thought Jonathan. "That was close. Mercy, that's a good thing. I'm sure glad that God gives us mercy too when we are sorry." Then he walked slowly down the hall to lunch.

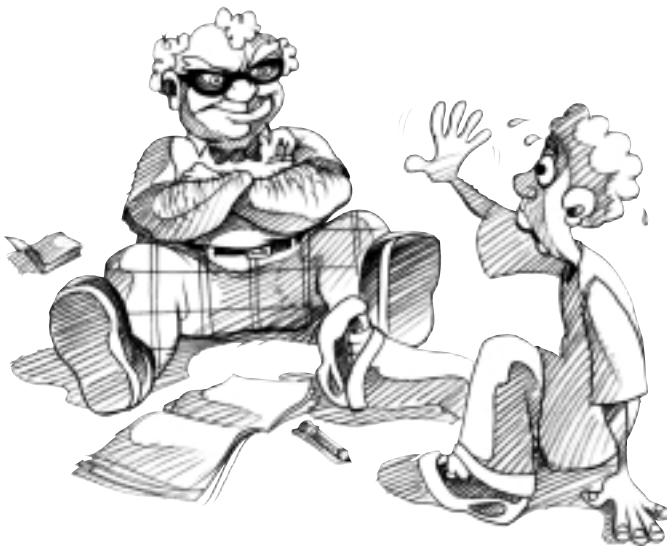
## QUESTIONS

Have you ever broken a rule at school and been given mercy?

If so, how did you feel?

Did you try very hard not to break the rule again?

How do you think Mr. Sampson would have responded if Jonathan had not been sorry and if he had laughed at Mr. Sampson when he was on the floor?



Core/Getting Ready/1 copy for each student

**GENERATION**  
Preteens

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

JOHN 12:48

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- What specific passage of the Bible will you commit to respect and obey this week?
- How will you respect and obey this scripture?
- With whom will you share what you have learned?

## GOD'S JUDGMENT

Have someone in your group read the current events article aloud.  
Choose someone to write the group's answers on this sheet and someone to be the spokesperson.

**Highlights  
of the Story**

**The Group's  
Judgment**

**Scripture That Shows  
the Judgment**