
THE CHARACTER OF JESUS

UNIT OVERVIEW

In this unit, the students will examine five different aspects of Jesus' character. Each lesson shows clearly that Jesus' heart was truly God's heart, and that Jesus' characteristics were God's as well. The students will come to understand the character of Jesus, and to begin to imitate these traits in their own lives.

UNIT GOALS

- The students will come to understand more about the character of Jesus.
- The students will learn to appreciate and imitate the character of Jesus.
- The students will understand that Jesus' character reveals to us the character of his Father.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 – COMPASSION

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MARK 1:41

Jesus' compassion for the lost, the poor and needy, and for all sinners was evident in all that he did and said. This lesson will help the students to begin to see those around them with the eyes of Jesus, and to imitate the compassion and love he showed to all.

LESSON 2 – SELF-CONTROL

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

GALATIANS 5:22-23

Jesus was a man who was always in control of his emotions, regardless of the situation. However, when we look at the world around us, we realize that self-control is a character trait that is lacking in many. This lesson will teach the students that self-control comes from God, and our obedience to God helps us to grow in this area.

LESSON 3 – PATIENCE

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 12:12

Character training in patience is a great need in the lives of both preteens and adults. We each endure many situations every day that test the level of our patience. This lesson will show the students that patience is a daily struggle, but we can follow Jesus' example of crying out to God for strength and endurance. When we do, God will grant us great victories in our lives.

LESSON 4 – ANGER

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

JAMES 1:19-20

Uncontrolled anger can be a destructive emotion with serious consequences. When we look at Jesus' life, we realize he had many encounters that could have caused him to lash out in anger. Yet, because of his righteous attitude and relationship with God, Jesus was always in control of his emotions, and his anger was always righteous.

LESSON 5 – THANKFULNESS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 1:3

Our level of thankfulness is always apparent in our attitudes and on our faces. As they study the example of Jesus, the students will come to understand that he was always grateful, in every circumstance, for all that God did. This lesson is meant to inspire an "attitude of gratitude" in the students as they begin to see how just much they have been blessed by God.



Preteens



Preteens

Dear Parent,

On the reverse side of this page you will find an outline and description of the lessons which comprise this unit. The weekly Scripture Memory Verse is listed with each lesson synopsis.

As part of the class experience, students are given a weekly challenge. Below is a list of the challenges given with the lessons:

LESSON 1 COMPASSION

Weekly Challenge: Think of someone who is going through a difficult time. Make a plan for how you will show compassion to that person, and follow through with the plan.

LESSON 2 SELF-CONTROL

Weekly Challenge: Write down one area of your life in which you would like to be more self-controlled. Then, write down one or two ways in which you can be more like Jesus in this area. Share this plan with your parents, and ask them to help you carry it out during the week.

LESSON 3 PATIENCE

Weekly Challenge: Throughout this week, keep a "Patience Journal." Every day, write down a situation that tested your patience, and how you responded to the situation. If you gave in to frustration, what was the result? If you were victorious, how were you able to be so? Bring your journal to class next week to share your victories.

LESSON 4 ANGER

Weekly Challenge: Early in the week, work with your parents to determine two types of situations in your life, either at home or at school, that cause you to get angry. Work with your parents to develop a plan to deal with each situation in a way that makes a positive difference. Pray about it, then put these plans into action during the rest of the week. Share your victories in class next week.

LESSON 5 THANKFULNESS

Weekly Challenge: (1) Write in your "Gratitude Journal" at the end of every day, listing at least three things for which you are grateful. Look for new things to be thankful for each day. (2) Do something special for one or both of your parents this week, showing them just how thankful you are for them and for all they do for you.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways for you to reinforce these lessons at home:

- Share with your child which of the character traits of Jesus you most want to imitate.
- Ask your child to share some of his or her "Gratitude Journal" with the family (Lesson 5).
- Review the memory verse before bedtime, at dinner or while riding in the car.
- While eating dinner, talk about something that your child really enjoyed about Bible class this week.
- Ask your child to share with you how he or she is doing with the weekly challenge. Give encouragement or direction as needed.
- Have a family devotional using the memory verse (or parallel verses) this week.
- Don't forget to encourage your child as he or she uses the Preteen Quiet Time Book that gives daily support for the lesson of the week.
- Allow your child to share with younger siblings what he or she is learning in class.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

We look forward to being partners with you as we help *Generation Next* to be zealous and effective as they move forward the kingdom of our God.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers