

disciple
KIDS

3RD & 4TH GRADE
FALL 2013 | LEADER GUIDE



WATCH OUT!
GETTING ALONG

Disciple**Guide**



*A note from Cindy Williams,
Coordinator for DisciplePoints*

Who has the greatest influence in building the moral foundations and life principles of our children? Pastors? Youth pastors? Children’s pastors? Sunday school teachers? Of course not! Those who are actively rearing a child, whether parents, grandparents, foster parents, etc., have the greatest impact on what a child believes and how a child lives his or her life. In light of this, what can those in ministry do to support those who are raising today’s children?

DisciplePoints gives parents tools and ideas for introducing Bible stories to their children and provides follow-up activities for applying biblical

concepts to everyday life.

Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Training is the key. DisciplePoints is designed to be a partnership of parents, teachers and others to provide support and encouragement for parents as they train their children in the Lord.

I am looking forward to being on the same team with you.

THE ABCS

OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

One of the greatest joys of being a preteen’s Bible study leader is having the opportunity to be a part of leading a preteen or one of his parents to Christ. As Bible study leaders, knowing how to respond and being prepared to share is important. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian is a simple and effective way to share God’s plan of salvation.

Admit

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin. Read Romans 3:23; 6:23; Acts 3:19; and

Believe

1 John 1:9. Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and accept God’s gift of forgiveness from sin. Read John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8;

Confess

Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 1:11-13. Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Read Romans 10:9-10,13.



SESSION 1

Good Attitudes



SESSION 2

Resist Temptation



SESSION 3

Treat Others Right

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 4:1-11

John 4:1-30

LIFE VERSE Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
James 4:10

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well.
James 2:8

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
James 4:10

LIFE POINT Jesus taught His followers to keep a good attitude at all times.

Resist temptation by following Jesus' example.

Show love and care to all people.

CHRIST FOCUS God is for His people. When someone trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior, the person has peace with God. God works everything out for the good of Christians. God changes believers to become like Jesus.

Jesus was tempted in every way, but He never sinned. When Christians are tempted to sin, Jesus gives them grace to stand up to temptation. He also offers mercy, forgiving them when they give in to temptation.

Jesus treated Christians better than they deserve. He didn't give believers what they deserve—spiritual death. He gives Christ-followers what they don't deserve—eternal life. Christians can treat others better than they deserve.

DATE OF USE



SESSION 4

Speak kindly to All People

Mark 10:13-16

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
James 4:10

Reflect God's love by speaking to everyone with kindness.

What a person says can help people or hurt them. Jesus used His words to help people and give them life. As Jesus died on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them." Jesus' death and resurrection bring believers salvation.



SESSION 5

Loving the Unlovable

Luke 19:1-10

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well.
James 2:8

Love all people unconditionally.

Jesus loves those who don't deserve it, and He showed His love for sinners by dying on the cross in their place. God raised Jesus from the dead. Christians can love others because Jesus loved them first.



SESSION 6

It's Not Going to Be Easy

Matthew 26:17-30;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well.
James 2:8

Living for Christ will be difficult at times.

Jesus suffered to bring people back to God. Christians can endure suffering with joy as they follow in Jesus' steps, knowing that one day Jesus will make everything right.

*Good Attitudes***LEADER BIBLE STUDY****BIBLE PASSAGE**

Matthew 5:1-12

CHRIST FOCUS

God is for His people. When someone trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior, the person has peace with God. God works everything out for the good of Christians. God changes believers to become like Jesus.

LIFE ACTION

When you face a problem this week, ask yourself how that problem might help you be more like Jesus.

Currently, Christians are hailing one popular professional football player as a positive role model for kids. Any sports figure who stands as a moral example is commendable. We pray that more of them will speak up for Christ. Nonetheless, the greatest role model of all was Jesus. In this unit we will examine Jesus' example when He faced life's various situations.

We start early in Jesus' ministry. Matthew's Gospel tells how He went to a hilltop to teach His disciples about the kingdom of God. We call this section of the Book of Matthew (chapters 5–7) the Sermon on the Mount. The first portion, Matthew 5:3-12, is known traditionally as the Beatitudes. (The word *beatitude* simply means "blessedness.") In this section, Jesus outlined nine important personal characteristics of His followers and the blessings promised by each one. Key qualities that He spotlighted include humility, caring for other people, courage in the face of opposition, and total dependence on God in all things.

How do the promises in Matthew 5:3 and Matthew 5:10 resemble each other? _____

What is meant by the "kingdom of heaven"? _____

Soon after Jesus delivered this sermon, He selected and commissioned the Twelve to be His closest disciples (see Matt. 10:1-4). He charged them to carry His message and equipped them to minister in His name. In what ways does God call us, star athletes or not, to be role models in our world today? _____

DATE OF USE _____

STUDY THE BIBLE

Notes

- ▶ Pack Items 1–5:
“Unit 1 Title Banner,”
“Follow,” “James 4:10,”
“James 2:8,” and “Unit 1
Review Questions”
- ▶ Teaching Picture 1
- ▶ CD
- ▶ DVD
- ▶ A foam noodle or
a yardstick to use as
a “limbo” pole



INTRODUCE AND TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask what *attitude* means. Ask what a bad attitude is. Ask what a good attitude is. Suggest that attitudes have to do with our feelings and opinions about things.
- ▶ **Show the Teaching Picture.**
 - Ask what the kids see and what they think is happening in the picture.
 - Open your Bible to Matthew 5, and tell the story in your own words.
 - Option:** Show the Teaching Picture on the DVD as you tell the story.

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT ATTITUDES

Jesus realized that a crowd of people had gathered around Him. He sat down on the mountain slope and began to teach them along with the disciples.

As He began to teach, Jesus said, “Happy are the poor in spirit because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.” (*The poor in spirit* are people who are humble and depend on God to supply what they need. The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who understand that what they need most is God.)

Jesus continued, “Happy are those who mourn because they will be comforted. (People who are sorry because of their sins will be comforted by God.)

“Happy are the gentle because they will inherit the earth. (*Gentle* does not mean cowardly. A gentle person trusts God instead of himself.)

“Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness because they will be filled. (*Righteousness* is God’s justice or fairness.)

“Happy are the merciful because they will be shown mercy. (Other words for mercy are *compassion*, *sympathy*, and *deep caring*. People who show mercy for other people will be shown compassion, sympathy, and deep caring.)

“Happy are the pure in heart because they will see God. (Someone who is pure in heart serves God completely.)

“Happy are the peacemakers because they will be called sons of God. (People can work with God to bring about peace.)

“Happy are those who are persecuted for righteousness because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.” (Sometimes when people live for God, others may insult, persecute, and blame them falsely. God promises that heaven belongs to those who work to bring about righteousness. They can be glad because their reward in heaven is great.)

— BASED ON MATTHEW 5:1-12

LIVE IT OUT

Notes

CHOICE 1

- ▶ Kids Activity Page
- ▶ Large beads with holes, 10-inch lengths of leather lacing or yarn, and fine-point permanent markers

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CHOICE 2

- ▶ Pack Items 5 and 6: “Unit 1 Review Questions” and “Twisting Trails”
- ▶ Kids Activity Page
- ▶ 3 craft sticks, 2 coins, a brown paper bag, and a marker
- ▶ Print 1, 2, and 3 on separate craft sticks. Place the sticks in the brown paper bag.

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CHOICE 1

▶ Camping Beads

1. Kids Activity Page: Complete “Camp-o-rama” and “Blessed Are”
2. Guide the kids to find Matthew 5 in their Bibles. Ask volunteers to each choose and read one of the Beatitudes.
3. Ask if each of the following actions would be easy or hard to do: hating evil, loving God, being humble, being gentle, being merciful, being a peacemaker, or being insulted or made fun of for what you believe about God. Invite volunteers to name good attitudes and tell why God wants people to have those attitudes.
4. Make bead bracelets:
 - * On each of five beads, print a different letter from the word *happy*. Tie a knot in the lacing or yarn several inches from the end.
 - * String and knot the beads, being sure to put them on in the correct order. After the last bead is in place, tie another knot.
 - * Work with a partner to tie the bracelets loosely on each other’s wrists.

CHOICE 2

▶ Twisting Trails Game

1. Kids Activity Page: Complete “Camp-o-rama” and “Blessed Are”
2. Guide the kids to find Matthew 5 in their Bibles. Ask volunteers to each choose and read one of the Beatitudes.
3. Ask if each of the following actions would be easy or hard to do: hating evil, loving God, being humble, being gentle, being merciful, being a peacemaker, or being insulted or made fun of for what you believe about God. Invite volunteers to name good attitudes and tell why God wants people to have those attitudes.
4. Ask what attitudes Jesus showed in the way He lived His life. Ask how the kids can have similar attitudes. Explain that people need to learn how to have right attitudes by studying the Bible.
5. Form two teams, and play the game as explained on the Pack Item.

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Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

— JAMES 4:10

CAMP-O-RAMA

Hidden in this picture are 10 attitudes. Circle all 10. Then put an X on the bad attitudes and a smiling face on the good attitudes.



BLESSED ARE ...

Check each box beside a meaning of the word *blessed*.

- having hope and joy no matter what happens
- fortunate
- made happy by God
- all of the above



DisciplePoints

empowering parents

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.



JAMES 1:1-4

Concept: Good Attitudes

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Life is filled with struggles. Maybe you've heard the saying, "When life gives you a lemon, just make lemonade," but that's a lot easier said than done. When you're going through a trial in your life, the last thing you want to hear is a cheesy saying. You need real help and a real understanding of God's purpose for your struggle. In the book of James, we discover how, through Christ, we can overcome our trials and turn them into joy.

PRESCHOOL



MATTHEW 5:1-12

LIFE POINT: We can trust God.

- What are some ways that Jesus showed kindness to people?
- Who is kind to you?
- How can you show kindness to other people?

LIVE IT OUT: Think of different reactions to scenarios your child has faced. Tell those reactions to your preschooler, and ask him to say whether each action shows a good attitude or a bad attitude. Help your child think about how Jesus was kind. Talk together about one person he can show kindness to. Help him think of a way to show kindness to someone and to carry it out.

KIDS



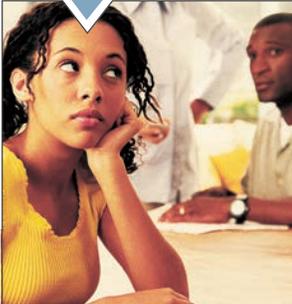
MATTHEW 5:1-12

LIFE POINT: Keep a good attitude at all times.

- Why did Jesus say you should be blessed when people persecute you?
- Are you ever teased because of your Christian beliefs?

LIVE IT OUT: Sit down with your child, and make a list of attitudes, both good and bad. Ask your child to draw a facial expression that a person with each of those attitudes might have. Remind your child this week that when he faces a problem to ask himself what he thinks Jesus' attitude would be when dealing with that problem.

PARENTS



Parent Challenge: Now that you've followed up on this week's lesson with your child, why not introduce them to next week's lesson?

Think about it. Of all the people who come into contact with your child — pastors, children's pastors, and Sunday school teachers — none of them has a greater impact than you on your child's beliefs, moral foundations and life principles.

DisciplePoints will give you the tools and ideas for introducing Bible stories to your child and provide follow-up activities for applying biblical concepts to everyday life.

Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Training is the key. As you lead your child to the Lord, consider DisciplePoints a partner to support and encourage you and the ministry of your church.

COMING UP: MATTHEW 5:1-3; 6:25-34