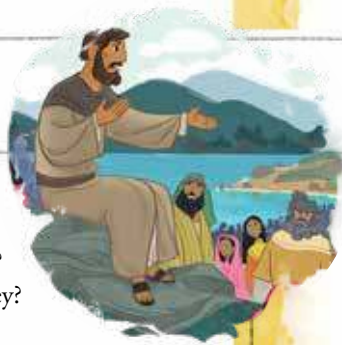


Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Is it hard or easy to follow rules? Why?
- Who needs Jesus—rule-followers or rule-breakers? Why?
- What surprises you about Jesus' teachings?

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5–7

STORY POINT: JESUS TAUGHT PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

One day, Jesus began to teach about the kingdom of God. First, Jesus taught about the blessings that come to those who follow Him. He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

Then Jesus taught how believers should live. He taught about God's law. Jesus said that to enter heaven, a person can't just look righteous on the outside. A person must be righteous on the inside too. Jesus said, “Love your enemies, and pray for them.” He also said, “Forgive others. If you forgive those who sin against you, God will forgive you too. But if you don't forgive them, God will not forgive you.”

Jesus said, “Do not collect treasures on earth, which can be destroyed or stolen. Collect treasures in heaven instead. For where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be also.” The crowds were amazed because He taught them like one who had authority.

Christ Connection: Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.



FOLD

Mountain Teachings

Use the picture clues to fill in the blanks.

“Let your _____ shine.” (Matthew 5:16)



“_____ your enemies and _____ for them.”
(Matthew 5:44)



“_____ others.” (Matthew 6:14)

4



“Do not collect treasures on _____.”
(Matthew 6:19)



Beatitude Match

Match each sentence with its correct ending. Find and read Matthew 5:3-10 to check your work.

Blessed are ...

for ...

- the poor in spirit,
- those who mourn,
- the humble,
- those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- the merciful,
- the pure in heart,
- the peacemakers,
- those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

- they will be shown mercy.
- the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
- the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
- they will be filled.
- they will be comforted.
- they will be called sons of God.
- they will inherit the earth.
- they will see God.

Journal Page



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What are some reasons people might hesitate to follow Jesus?
- Share about a time you did something hard because you knew it was worth it.
- How is Jesus better than anything the world offers?

The Cost of Following Jesus

Matthew 8; 16; Luke 9; 14

STORY POINT: FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT EASY, BUT HE IS WORTH IT.

Large crowds traveled with Jesus. One man said, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." Jesus told the man, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."

Another disciple said, "Lord, I will follow You, but first let me go and bury my father."

Jesus replied, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Jesus told the people that following Him wouldn't be easy.

"Anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be My disciple," Jesus said.

He told them a story: "If you wanted to build a tower, you would first sit down and figure out what it would take to complete the tower. Otherwise, you would build the foundation and be unable to finish. People would laugh at you."

Jesus wanted the people to consider the cost. "If you are not willing to give up everything you have, you cannot follow Me," Jesus said.

Jesus said, "Whoever gives up his life for Me will find true life. What good is it to have everything you want in the world if you give up life with God forever?"

Christ Connection: Jesus taught that following Him is not easy. It requires commitment and sacrifice. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. True life is found in Jesus, who gave up His life to rescue us from sin and death. He is worth it.



FOLD

What Will It Take? | For each scenario, describe what it would take to accomplish the task.



Earn a good grade on the math test.



Grow the largest pumpkin in the state.



Follow Jesus.

Story Point Shapes

Color in the shapes according to the key to finish the story point.

“Following Jesus is not easy, but He is ...”



Journal Page



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Discuss a time your family can pray together (mealtimes, bedtime, and so on). Commit to praying regularly.
- What keeps you from praying?
- How do you feel knowing God hears us when we pray?

Jesus Taught About Prayer

Luke 11: 18

STORY POINT: JESUS TAUGHT PEOPLE HOW TO PRAY.

Jesus had just finished praying when one of His disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray." So Jesus told them, "When you pray, say, 'Father, Your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into temptation.'"

Then Jesus told a story. "Imagine one of you goes to a friend at midnight and says, 'Let me borrow three loaves of bread because a friend of mine has traveled to visit me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' Even though the man does not want to help his friend, he will get up and give his friend what he needs because he asked boldly."

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you."

Jesus told another story. "In a town was a judge who did not care about God or people. Over and over, a widow went to the judge and asked him to protect her from wrongdoing. The judge did not want to help, but after awhile he said, 'I will give this widow what she wants so she does not keep bothering me.'"

Jesus pointed out that the unjust judge did what was right because the widow did not give up. "When people cry out to God day and night, will He ignore them?" Jesus asked. "No! He will quickly make things right."

Christ Connection: Jesus taught us to pray. Because of Jesus, we can pray to God as a Father and ask for what we need. We can trust that God is good and loving, and we can count on Him to do what is right.




FOLD


Making Connections


Number the ways to communicate in order from oldest to newest.


← Oldest —————→ Newest


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8


 television


 drawing


 email

 writing

 telephone

 radio

 prayer

 Internet/
social media

Prayer Time | Use this outline to help you organize your prayers.

God, I Confess...

God, I Praise You Because You are...

God, thank you for...

God, Please help...

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- How have you seen God provide for your family?
- How do you know if something is a want or a need?
- What current needs does your family have? Pray and ask God to provide.

Jesus Taught About Possessions

Luke 12

STORY POINT: JESUS TAUGHT PEOPLE NOT TO WORRY BECAUSE GOD PROVIDES FOR OUR NEEDS.

Thousands of people came together to listen to Jesus' teaching. Jesus said, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed. True life is not found in what you own."

Then Jesus told the people a parable: "A rich man owned land that produced many crops. He didn't have anywhere to store all of his crops, so he said to himself, 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then, I'll have so much stored up that I can stop working and relax.' But God told the man, 'You are a fool! You will die this very night, and then what good is everything you have stored up?'"

Then Jesus told His disciples, "Do not worry about your life or your body. Think about the birds: They do not plant or collect grain, yet God feeds them. Aren't you worth more than birds?"

Jesus also said, "Think about the wildflowers. They don't work or make clothing, yet they are lovelier than a great and rich king in his fancy clothes. If that is how God takes care of grass, how much more will He do for you?"

"Seek God's kingdom," He said, "and God will provide what you need." Finally Jesus said, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. A thief can take away treasure on earth, but treasure stored in heaven lasts forever. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Christ Connection: Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need.



FOLD

Treasure Box

For each letter, list something you treasure—or value very much.

A-
C-
D-
E-
F-
G-
H-
I-
L-
M-
N-
O-
R-
T-



Bible Story Blanks

Fill in each blank with the correct word from the word box.



Jesus said, “True life is not found in what you _____.” Then Jesus told His disciples, “Do not worry about your _____ or your body—what you will eat or what you will wear. Think about the _____: They do not plant or collect grain, yet God _____ them. Aren’t you worth more than birds?”

Jesus also said, “Think about the _____. They don’t work or make _____, yet they are lovelier than a great and rich _____ in his fancy clothes. If that is how _____ takes care of grass—which grows today and is cut down tomorrow—how much more will He do for you?”

Jesus told His disciples not to worry about _____ or drink. “Seek God’s _____,” He said, “and God will _____ what you need.” God is _____ to give His children the kingdom.

Finally Jesus said, “Sell your _____ and give to the _____. A thief can take away treasure on earth, but treasure stored in _____ lasts forever. For where your treasure is, there your _____ will be also.”

Christ Connection: _____ is our greatest _____. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and _____ God to provide everything we _____.

Journal Page



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- In what ways are people like sheep?
- Do you go your own way or follow Jesus? Why?
- How have you seen or experienced Jesus' care for your family?

The Good Shepherd

John 10

STORY POINT: JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE.

Jesus told a story to the Jewish leaders: "If a person climbs into a sheep pen, he is not the shepherd; he is a thief. A shepherd enters the pen through the gate. When the sheep hear the shepherd's voice, they recognize him and follow him. A shepherd calls his sheep by name, and he leads them." The people did not understand Jesus' story. Jesus was talking about God's people as sheep. Jesus is the Shepherd.

Jesus said, "I am the gate for the sheep. They come in through Me and are saved." Jesus warned, "A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." Jesus said, "I have come so that they may have life."

"I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep," Jesus said. "I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me."

The Jews argued with one another. Many said, "Don't listen to Him; He has a demon. He's crazy." Others said, "That's not true. How can a demon give sight to the blind?"

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "Are You really the Messiah? Just tell us."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand."

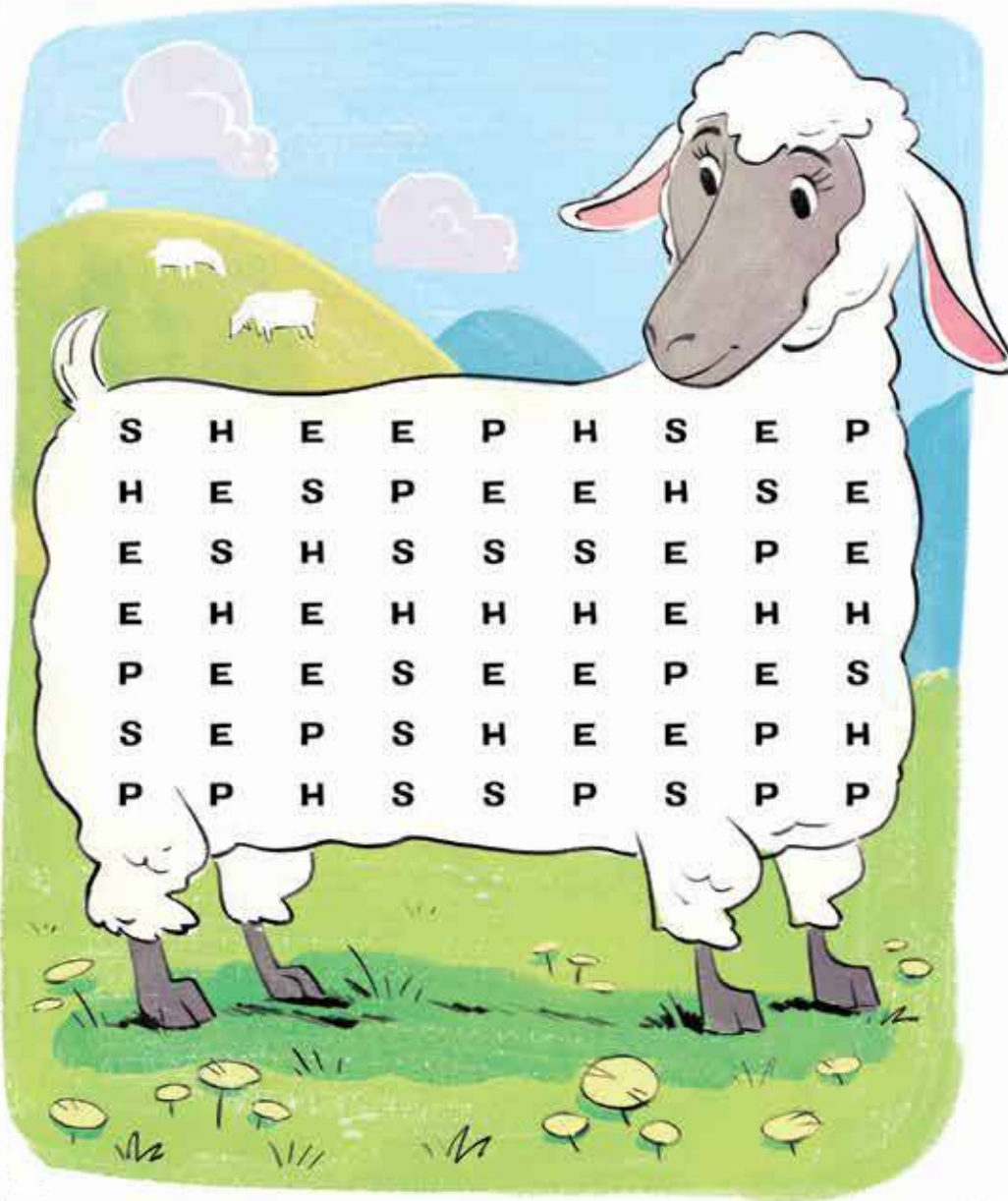
Christ Connection: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. God sent Him to rescue sinners. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep so they could have forgiveness and eternal life. When we trust in Jesus, we are His sheep who listen to, follow, and obey Him.



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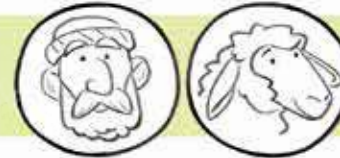
Sheep Search

How many times can you find the word *SHEEP* in the word search?



Sheep or Shepherd?

Color the icon for each statement to indicate which is described. Then fill in the blanks with *sheep* or *shepherd*.



Enters the pen by the gate (John 10:2)



Call his own by name (John 10:3)



Follows the voice they know (John 10:4)



Runs from a stranger (John 10:5)



Comes so they may have life (John 10:10)



Lays down his life (John 10:11)



Part of the flock (John 10:16)

Jesus said, "I am the Good _____ who lays down His life for the _____. I know My _____, and My _____ know Me."