

Lesson Summaries

Winter 2021-22 Sunday School

Jesus Saves the World

DECEMBER 12

Today, we begin a new unit with “A Welcome Truth.” Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord’s feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing.

DECEMBER 19

This week’s lesson is “Lost-and-Found Wonders.” Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father’s concern for the lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to seek one that was lost. A woman sweeps the house to find one of ten silver coins. In the parable of the lost son, a young man squanders his inheritance, ending up in squalor. Determined to plead for his father’s mercy and beg to return as a servant, the son instead receives a celebration. Angered at his father’s welcome for the prodigal, the older son confronts his father. The father’s gentle response reassures the young man of the father’s everlasting love and care.

JANUARY 02

“The Seeing Sign” is the title for this week’s lesson. When Jesus encounters a man born blind, His disciples wrongly assume the man’s sin or his parents’ sin is the cause of the blindness. Jesus corrects their assumption, telling them the man’s blindness was so the works of God might be displayed in him. Sight restored, the man and then his parents find themselves before the Pharisees, who try to claim the man was never blind. When the man asserts the truth of his healing, the Pharisees cast him out. Encountering Jesus once again, the man confesses his faith in the Son of Man.

JANUARY 09

Jesus performs an amazing miracle in “A Resurrection Sign.” Mary and Martha’s brother, Lazarus, falls seriously ill. When word of his illness comes to Jesus, He delays two days, assuring His disciples the disease would not lead to death but to God’s glory. Despite death threats, Jesus reassures the disciples when deciding to return to Judea. They set out for Bethany, arriving four days after Lazarus is placed in the tomb. Jesus tells Martha that He is the resurrection and the life, as she boldly confesses, “I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God” (John 11:27). Deeply moved by their grief, Jesus calls Lazarus back to life.

JANUARY 16

This week, we study “The Thankful One.” Encountering ten lepers on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus has mercy on them and sends them to show themselves to the priests. As they go, the lepers are healed; but only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus.

JANUARY 23

“The Kingdom of Children” is this week’s lesson. The disciples try to prevent the people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus rebukes the disciples and draws the children near to Himself, using a child as an example of how believers receive the kingdom of God.

JANUARY 30

This week, we study “The Passion Prediction.” In the week before His crucifixion, Jesus goes to dinner in Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus, whom He had just raised from the dead. Martha serves as Jesus and Lazarus recline at table. Meanwhile, Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with expensive ointment while wiping them with her hair, preparing Him for burial. When Judas voices his objections, Jesus tells him to leave her alone and points to His upcoming death.

FEBRUARY 06

“The King Arrives” serves as the theme for this week’s lesson. Following Jesus’ unusual directions, two disciples bring a donkey and her young colt to transport Jesus into Jerusalem. Throwing their cloaks upon the colt, they proceed into the city. There, the crowds spread their cloaks on the road and cut palm branches to line the way as they shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9).

FEBRUARY 13

This week’s Bible lesson is “A Trusting Widow.” Jesus sits in the temple, observing people depositing money into the offering box. But one offering stands out: a widow brings two small copper coins. Jesus commends this offering to His disciples because He knows her offering is everything she has to live on.

FEBRUARY 20

Students will study “Forever Food” this week. Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare the Passover for Himself and the others. They follow a man carrying water to a home with a furnished upper room, where they prepare the Passover meal. During the meal, Jesus institutes what we now call the Lord’s Supper. Through the bread and wine, Jesus lovingly gives them, and us, His very body and blood.

FEBRUARY 27

Today, students will study “Betrayed and Arrested.” Knowing His final hours are drawing close, Jesus goes with His disciples to Gethsemane. Taking Peter, James, and John deeper into the garden, Jesus goes off alone three times to pray. His prayer reflects His willingness to fulfill the Father’s plan despite the suffering that lies ahead. The armed mob arrives to arrest Jesus, whom Judas betrays with a kiss. Peter brashly tries to defend Jesus with a sword but only manages to injure the high priest’s servant. Jesus allows Himself to be taken by the armed mob to fulfill the Scripture.

MARCH 06

The Bible lesson for this week is “Standing Trial.” Jesus faces a farce of a trial before the high priest and the Council. Despite a parade of accusers, no two witnesses can manage to make their testimonies agree. Frustrated, the high priest asks, “Are you the Christ?” (Mark 14:61). Jesus’ response, “I am” (v. 62), enrages the high priest, who tears his clothing. Meanwhile, Peter faces his challengers in the courtyard. When bystanders accuse Peter of being a follower of the Nazarene, he denies Jesus three times, just as was foretold.

MARCH 13

“The Living Wonder” is the title of this week’s Bible lesson. After mocking and beating Jesus, the Roman guards take Him to be crucified. As Jesus hangs on the cross, the crowds continue to hurl insults. As Jesus gives up His life, the curtain of the temple splits from top to bottom. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph see Joseph of Arimathea lay Jesus’ body in the tomb. When the two Marys and Salome come to the tomb on Sunday morning, they find it empty except for a young man in white, who tells them Jesus has risen from the dead.

MARCH 20

This week, we will study “The Proof Room.” With the words “Peace be with you” (John 20:19), the risen Lord appears among His disciples gathered in hiding from the Jews. Thomas, who is not among the disciples that evening, doubts their report of Jesus’ resurrection. Eight days later, while Thomas and the disciples gather in the locked room, Jesus appears among them once again. Thomas witnesses the physical truth of the resurrection as he touches Christ’s wounds. Jesus concludes by telling Thomas and us, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (v. 29).