

Dust and wood



Bible verses:

Matthew 7:1-5

Be careful about judging others



Aim:

To see how Jesus got his message across



Today's fruit:

Self-control



In this session we are going to find out what Jesus taught about the way we should treat each other.

Jesus was an amazing teacher. The people would listen for hours as he taught them about God and how they should live their lives. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus took the time to help his followers to understand how they could love one another. This included treating each other fairly and not being judgemental.

Self-control is part of Jesus' life in us. But looking at our own faults before pointing out those of others might take some practice.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- *Judgemental Bible verses* handout - two copies per sheet (optional)
- A Bible (optional)
- Pipe cleaners and scissors
- A heart-shaped piece of paper - to write or draw on it
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To watch *DIY pipe cleaner heart shape goggles* by Kids Wow Collector (1:07)
- Today's fruit sign: *Self-control*



Start it

Say:

Think about all the lessons you have ever been taught at school.

Ask:

- What was your absolute favourite lesson of all time?
- Why did you love it so much?
- What did your teacher do to make it so memorable?

Divide the children into groups or pairs and give them paper and a pencil. Their job is to create the perfect teacher. They can label their drawing and write personality traits and characteristics to describe their teacher. When they have completed their creation, ask them to share it with the rest of the group. Discuss the common ideas the children have included.

Say:

Jesus was an amazing teacher. The people would listen for hours as he taught them about God and how they should live their lives. In today's session we are going to find out what Jesus taught about the way we should treat each other.

Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us of an important commandment given by Jesus to us, his followers.

Give each child a memory verse wristband and share the verse together.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 *ICB*)

Say:

Our song for today will help us learn the memory verse and, more importantly, remind us of the importance of showing love to each other.

Song

'EL Worship John 13:34' by Saddleback Kids (2:17)

Tell it

Say:

Jesus loved to teach people and share stories with them. He couldn't use a YouTube channel, social media, or go on the television to share his message. Instead, the people would gather around Jesus, and he would talk to them.

Say:

One of Jesus' most famous messages is called the Sermon on the Mount. Our Bible reading for today is part of that message. Let's watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Sermon on the Mount by Crossroads Kids (stop at 1:45 'Jesus spent the rest of the day helping everyone he met.')

Ask:

- How did Jesus teach the people?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to be on a mountain to share his message?

Say:

Today we are going to look at one small part of the Sermon on the Mount.

Read:

'Don't judge other people, and you will not be judged. You will be judged in the same way that you judge others. And the forgiveness you give to others will be given to you.'

'Why do you notice the little piece of dust that is in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own eye? Why do you say to your brother, "Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye"? Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. You are a hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly enough to take the dust out of your brother's eye.'

(Matthew 7:1-5 ICB)

Ask:

- What does it mean when we judge people?
- Is judging someone always a bad thing? If not, when is it a good thing?

Say:

If someone breaks the law, they will often have to go to court. At the court there is a judge who looks at all the evidence and, often with the help of a jury, decides whether the person has done something wrong.

Say:

This is not the kind of judgement that Jesus is talking about in the Sermon on the Mount. Recognising that something wrong has happened and speaking out about it is not what Jesus is talking about here.

Ask:

So, if Jesus doesn't see being judgemental as pointing out right from wrong, then what do you think he means?

Depending on your group, either share the following Bible verses together or ask the children to find them and read them out. Discuss what they tell us about being judgemental.

'Stop judging by the way things look! Be fair, and judge by what is really right.'

(John 7:24 *ICB*)

'If you think that you can judge others, then you are wrong. You too are guilty of sin. You judge people, but you do the same bad things they do. So when you judge them, you are really judging yourself guilty.'

(Romans 2:1 *ICB*)

**'A witness who lies will be punished.
An untruthful person will not be left unpunished.'**

(Proverbs 19:5 *ICB*)

Ask:

- In what ways can we be judgemental of others?
- Has anyone ever been judgemental of you? There's no need to share their name, but what did the situation feel like?
- How does Jesus' story about the big piece of wood help us to understand what it means to be judgemental?

Say:

Jesus calls us to judge others fairly. When we are judgemental, we only see another person's faults and can't see our own. We might judge someone on their appearance or decide something about them based on rumours we have heard. Jesus does not want us to live this way.

Action it

Say:

In our memory verse we are reminded of Jesus' commandment to love one another. We've shared it once, but let's try again to see if you can remember it.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

Ask:

How does our memory verse help us to check if we are looking at the right or wrong in a situation instead of being judgemental?

Say:

If we hear rumours about someone and say nasty things based on what we have heard, then we are being judgemental. If we're not careful, then we only see the faults in other people and can't recognise when we are making mistakes. This is what Jesus meant when he said that we should deal with the piece of wood in our own eye.

Ask:

Do you know what the word 'hypocrite' means?

Say:

Here is an example of being hypocritical. Let's say you arrived late to school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday you were on time but made fun of one of your classmates for being late to school; then you would be a hypocrite.

Say:

Again, Jesus does not want us to live like this. If we love someone and we see them making the wrong choice, then we might share with them that we are concerned. The difference is we are doing it because we care.

Craft

The children are going to make heart-shaped pipe cleaner glasses. Watch the instruction video in advance; you can also share it with the group. Encourage the children to wear their glasses for the rest of the session.

Video

DIY pipe cleaner heart shape goggles by Kids Wow Collector (1:07)

Explain to the children that Jesus wants us to see people the way he does – and he loves every person on this planet very much. As the children go about their usual activities, ask them to imagine they are wearing their heart-shaped glasses, seeing everyone with love, just as Jesus did.

Display the *Self-control sign*.

Say:

As we choose not to be judgemental of others, we will need the Holy Spirit's help. He will guide us and help us to show self-control if we ask him. As you go through your week, imagine you

are wearing your heart-shaped glasses; and when loving someone is difficult, ask God to help you to show self-control.

Pray it

Say:

In our Bible story today, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shares how everyone is important to God and that we should treat each other with respect. Jesus asks us to forgive others.

Ask:

What does it mean to forgive someone?

Say:

Let's watch the clip to find out more about forgiveness.

Video

What is forgiveness? by Crossroads Kids' Club (0:52)

Say:

In our prayer time today, we are going to spend time asking God to forgive us for the times we have been judgemental of others. We may want to ask God for help to show self-control when we are tempted to judge other people. We can also take a moment to forgive those who have been judgemental to us.

Give each child a heart-shaped piece of paper to write or draw a forgiveness prayer. When they have had time to write or draw their prayer, they can share them with the rest of the group if they feel comfortable.

Bring the session to a close with a song all about loving one another.

Song

'Love One Another' official music video Yancy & Little Praise Party by YancynotNancy (2:43)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Dust and wood

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Matthew 7:1-5

Be careful about judging others



Aim:

To see how Jesus got his message across



Today's fruit:

Self-control



Pray

In our session this week, we had an opportunity to ask God to help us to show self-control. This isn't a one-time request! It can be so tempting to judge other people and so hard to stand out from the crowd by showing love and self-control.

Every day this week, ask God to help you to show love to others both at home and at your school.



Share

Read Matthew 7:1-5 and create a picture that illustrates Jesus' story about the big piece of wood in our eye. Share it with someone at home and discuss what Jesus meant when he asked us to not be judgemental towards others.

In what ways could your family show love towards one another, as Jesus commanded?



Song for the week

'EL Worship John 13:34' by Saddleback Kids (2:17)



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

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Bible verses:

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Aim:

To learn that Jesus teaches us to forgive



Today's fruit:

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Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 *ICB*)



Start it

Who can tell me something they know about Jesus?

Today we are going to hear a story about Jesus, where he is teaching us to forgive.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 7:1-5.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- How do we forgive somebody?
- Think of something big and heavy, then something small and light.
- Have you ever seen a piece of dust?
- Think of something heavy made from wood.
- What is the difference between dust and wood?

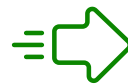
- What helps us to see clearly? (eg wearing glasses, using a torch ...)



Sing It

'If I were a butterfly' (lyrics and music)
'The butterfly song' by Brian Howard,
uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Lay a piece of string or tape along the floor and get children to 'walk the plank'.
- Pretend to build something from heavy planks of wood.
- Close your eyes and follow an adult's instructions to hit a target – it's hard when we cannot see clearly.
- Contrast big and small by acting as an elephant then as an ant.