

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 35
Conclusion: What the Lord Accomplished

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord came into the world when there was no longer any good, and consequently, no truth.
- B. If the Lord had not come into the world, mankind would have destroyed itself.
- C. Redemption itself was the subjugation of the hells, the orderly arrangement of the heavens, and thus the preparation for a new spiritual church. (TCR 115)
- D. The Lord's birth on earth was the beginning of His work on earth, and His resurrection marked the completion of this work.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. All this year we've been learning about the Lord's life on earth— about the things He did and said, and about the people He helped, healed, taught, criticized, and most of all, loved. Let's talk about what we've learned this year.
 - 2. The Lord made the world and everything in it. [Show globe or map of world; see "IV. Teaching Aids," below.] He made the people, the animals, the plants, and everything else that people need. And He gave people the Word so they could learn how to be good. He wanted everyone to be able to go to heaven and be happy forever.
 - 3. But the Lord doesn't make people be good. He lets us choose whether to be good or bad. For a long time many people chose to be good and to go to heaven. But then more and more people began to be selfish and to do bad things. Finally, people didn't now what was true any more, and they forgot how to be good.
 - 4. The Lord knew He was going to have to do something very special to help people. Do you know what He did? (He was born on earth.)

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B. Ideas to Discuss

1. Let's think of the Lord's birth on earth as a wonderful present that He gave to people. [Show unopened beautiful box.]
2. People knew the Lord was going to give them this wonderful present, and they were looking forward to it. How did they know about this present, the Lord coming to earth? (Because of prophecies, messages from the Lord given to people by His messengers, called prophets)
3. Then the Lord gave people the wonderful present – Himself, born on earth as a tiny baby! [Show picture of baby Lord.] We like to read about His birth in the Word. And we're glad that Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and other good people welcomed Him.
4. But people didn't really understand the Lord's present. What if someone gave you a beautiful box, but you didn't know what was inside? You would probably be happy to have a present, but you wouldn't understand what it was for until you saw what was inside the box. Well, people didn't really understand who the Lord was or what He planned to do while He was on earth.
 - a. Did Mary and Joseph understand why Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem when He was 12 years old, talking about ideas from the Word with the scholars at the temple? (No; Jesus had to remind them that "He must be about His Father's business.")
 - b. On Palm Sunday, many people thought Jesus was going to be their king on earth, and they welcomed Him with songs and palm branches. What was wrong with the idea they had? (Jesus was king of heaven, but He wasn't going to be a king - a ruler – on earth.)
 - c. Even the disciples were confused about the Lord's work, and He had to remind them many times in hidden ways about why He had come.
 - d.
5. Let's see if we can understand the Lord's present to people. What did He do while He was on earth?
 - a. He healed people. Can you remember some examples? (The leper, Jairus' daughter, Lazarus, the blind man, the man at the pool of Bethesda)
 - b. He did other miracles. Can you remember some of these? (Feeding the 5,000; walking on the sea; turning water into wine)
 - c. He taught people. Can you think of some of the parables He used to teach people? (The sower, the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, the parable of the vine)

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- d. Who helped the Lord to do His work on earth? (His 12 disciples) See how many of them you can name. (Simon, Andrew, Bartholomew, Judas Iscariot, James, Philip, Matthew, Simon (called Peter), John, Thomas, Thaddeus James [son of Alphaeus])
6. Who was the Lord's present for? (For everyone; but the Lord could help only the people who wanted to be helped.)
7. Who couldn't receive the Lord's present? (People who were selfish and who did not want to change— people like the scribes and Pharisees)
8. The Lord also did some work in the spiritual world while He was on earth. There were some evil spirits He had to put back into hell, and He helped some good spirits to find their way to heaven.

C. Conclusion

1. Do you understand what the Lord's present to people was? Let's look inside the box and see. [Open box and "find" a copy of the Word.]
 - a. Even though we didn't see the Lord on earth, we have a better picture of Him in our minds because He was born on earth.
 - b. Even though we didn't hear the Lord teaching on earth, we can read His teachings in the New Testament of the Word.
 - c. Even though we weren't with the Lord on earth, we have a good idea of what He is like.
 - Just before the Lord came to earth, many people thought He was a stern Father who was angry with them when they did bad things. But when He came to earth, people could see what He is really like. Let's try to name some of the qualities the Lord has. [Explain what "qualities" are, and perhaps give an example or two; then see how many the children can come up with that describe the Lord: gentle, forgiving, loving, kind, good, wise, patient, fair, etc.]
 - Let's read a prophecy from the Old Testament about the Lord's birth. It is from the book of Isaiah (9:6). Listen to all the Lord's names in this prophecy:

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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2. What were His names? (Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) The Lord's many names are like His many good qualities.
3. The Lord came to earth to give us a better idea of Who He is and of how to be good. He made it much easier for us to love Him and to follow Him so we can live in heaven someday. That's a wonderful present!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "When I'm happy, I like to sing," FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, page 2.
2. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," HYMNAL #246 (Hebrew version of #245).
4. "See the Savior In the temple," HYMNAL #166.

B. Activities

C. Project: A BEAUTIFUL PRESENT

- Decorate a box (wrapping paper, ribbon, stickers, stars, lace) to represent the present the Lord gave to us, and put three things inside it:
1. A picture of the Lord (our clearer picture of Him in our minds). The children could draw their own; or you could purchase small pictures of Jesus from any Christian bookstore.
 2. Something to represent the *Word* (the teachings of the New Testament). You could make a red cover from construction paper and staple a white page inside on which the teacher or the child could write a single quotation from the New Testament, such as, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5); "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12); or "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14).
 3. A list of some of the Lord's qualities (our fuller idea of what He is like). You could provide a small piece of lined paper on which the children could copy from the blackboard the list of qualities that the group suggests during discussion; or they may simply write their own lists.
 4. [Optional] You could include some representation of the Lord's restoration of the balance between heaven and hell, such as a square piece of paper with two colors mixed on one side and clearly separated on the other.

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IV. Teaching Aids

Various props to use during the discussion to help the children focus their attention:

- A. Introduction: a globe or pictorial representation of the earth, a copy of the Word, a happy face, a sad face.
- B. Ideas to Discuss: a picture of the baby Lord, a beautiful box, a crown or picture of a crown, some pictures of the Lord on earth healing and teaching people
- C. Conclusion: a picture of the Lord, a copy of the Word, a list of some of the Lord's qualities

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's tell BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 4, "The Visit of the Wise Men" (Matthew 2), pp. 257-272; "Easter" (Matthew 28), pp. 399-413.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. IV, Matthew 28.
- C. TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, Chapter II, "The Lord the Redeemer."