

DEEP ROOTS BEARING FRUIT



JAN.-MAR. LESSONS YOUTH STUDENTS

ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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Lesson 1

LOST AND FOUND

Jan
3
2021

Lesson Story: Luke 2:41-52 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 2:7-8

OPENING

What does the title of our lesson, Lost and Found, mean to you?

LESSON STORY

Luke 2:41-52 (NIV)

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder if you agree with the title of this lesson, "Lost and Found". Explain your answer.
- I wonder what responsibilities adults have to support youth's thinking.

- I wonder what happens when youth are given the freedom to think for themselves.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Using 5 to 7 words, write the message for today's lesson. Explain your response.

Write a “Words of Wisdom” tweet or Instagram post for children and one for parents (20 characters max).

GOING OUT

In today’s lesson, we see that Jesus became disconnected from His earthly family as He spent

time in His Father’s house. During His time there, Jesus demonstrated great knowledge of the Word, even at a young age. Following this lesson, consider your own experiences in the church and if you feel you can speak like Jesus did in today’s story. Also, consider what would happen if all youth felt they could and did speak like Jesus did on today.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for the example of Jesus listening and speaking in the temple. Help me to use my voice for You in Your House and beyond. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Lesson 2:

GET READY

Jan
10
2021

Lesson Story: Luke 3:1-22 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 51:6-17

OPENING

Watch [Simone Biles Master Class](#)

How did Simone prepare to compete?

How did Olympic Medalist Simone Biles mature as an athlete from a young child athlete?

LESSON STORY

Luke 3:1-22 (NIV)

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracoinitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

¹⁹ But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, ²⁰ Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder how John's actions prepared the way for Jesus, and if there are any actions that can be taken out of the story and it still be complete.
- I wonder if you can think of some notable people in history who paved the way for you today, and what did these people do.
- I wonder what steps you feel compelled to take today to prepare the way for others.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

What event or goal are you anticipating? What actions are you taking to be prepared?

Write a Plan of Action including 3–5 action items and consider how this plan could assist someone who will come after you.

GOING OUT

As Christians we have a responsibility to be diligent in preparing for what God has in store for us. Also, we can prepare the way for others who come behind us. Today, we considered how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, even baptizing Jesus. Also, we reflected on notable people who prepared the way for us. Over the next week, consider ways you can continue the legacy of preparing the way for others.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for those who prepared the way for me. Help me to prepare the way for others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Lesson 3:

JESUS' SERMON AT NAZARETH

Jan
17
2021

Lesson Story: Luke 4:14-30 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 146

OPENING

Expect Much?

You all are talented and brilliant. What does it mean to you to be talented and brilliant?

Imagine that someone defined being talented and brilliant as being able to do all of the following:

1. Sing a song
2. Draw a caricature
3. Use this formula: $\sin^2 + \cos^2 = 1$
4. Cook a meal for your family
5. Shoot a three-pointer blindfolded

Do you think you would disappoint others by not being able to do all of these things?

Does your ability or inability to do these tasks impact your view of your talent and brilliance?

LESSON STORY LUKE 4:14-30 (NIV)

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [a]

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"

²⁴ "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy [b] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder what experiences you have had that are similar to Jesus being praised and rejected in Nazareth.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

- I wonder how and why Jesus fulfilling the scripture in Isaiah was different from agreeing to the requests from the crowd to perform wonders.
- I wonder if there is a time when you did not live up to someone else's expectation for you and how you responded. I wonder what Jesus' response can teach us about dealing with these situations.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Sometimes, we do not live up to other's expectations.

Divide into teams, with one describer and at least one drawer per team. An image will be shown only to the describer, who will detail the image to the drawer(s). Let's see if the drawer(s) can meet the expectation of recreating the image without seeing it.

GOING OUT

When Jesus came to Nazareth, He fulfilled the scripture for Isaiah. However, He was eventually rejected in His hometown. In this lesson, we observed that even Jesus did not always meet the expectations of others and considered how this may also happen in our lives. For next week, consider how you can mirror Jesus in doing what you should do even when it may disappoint others.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for giving me purpose. Help me to follow You, even when I may not meet the expectation of others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Lesson 4:

FISH FOR PEOPLE

Jan
24
2021

OPENING EXERCISE

Draw an image of what comes to mind when you hear the word evangelism.

LESSON STORY

Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)

¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, [a] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I

will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder if there is a time where you have been positively surprised after being obedient to a request that did not make sense.
- I wonder why evangelism is a pillar and key ministry of ASBC; I wonder if this story influences evangelism being a pillar and key ministry.
- I wonder how you can be fisher of people in your own life.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

The core group of the Evangelism Ministry trains other members of the church to be evangelists by

using the “Sharing Jesus Without Fear” curriculum. You have been asked to submit how you would share Jesus with others without fear. What would you share with the team?

GOING OUT

In today’s lesson, we heard the story of Jesus calling the first disciples. In the story, Simon and his partners were obedient in casting out and lowering their nets at the instruction of Jesus. Their obedience allowed them to see a miracle and set off in their journey as followers of Christ. In following Christ, the disciples become fisher of people. At ASBC, this work of bringing others to Christ is recognized by evangelism as being a core pillar and the work of the Evangelism Ministry. Over this week, consider ways you can bring others to Christ in your life.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for calling us to follow You. Help us to be obedient to Your voice, and thank You for allowing us to see Your work in our lives. Give us the words and actions to be fishers of people for You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Lesson 5:

HEALING ON
THE SABBATH

OPENING

What is the Sabbath? Do you think the Sabbath is a specific day, and why or why not?

How is your observance of Sabbath different from Shabbat?

LESSON STORY

Luke 6:1-16 (NIV)

¹ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

³ Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand

was shriveled. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder how you have observed the Sabbath and how this story does or does not support your activities.
- I wonder how you have seen ASBC observe the Sabbath, and how does it relate to today's story.
- I wonder what lessons we can learn from Jesus' calling of the 12 disciples.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Observing the Sabbath can be challenging. Make a plan detailing how you can observe the Sabbath.

GOING OUT

In today's lesson, we heard two stories where Jesus and His disciples met their needs and the needs of others on the Sabbath. Over this week, consider how and why you observe the Sabbath. Further, we read how Jesus called the 12 disciples after prayer, even calling a traitor. Reflect on the calling of the 12 disciples and what we can learn from Jesus about selecting one's inner circle.

PRAYER

Lord God, You are Lord of the Sabbath. Help us to observe the Sabbath in a way that pleases You while we also meet the needs of Your people. Help us to be wise in selecting our inner circle. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Lesson 6:

RAISING THE
WIDOW'S SON

OPENING

Video: <https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/how-the-grinch-stole-christmas/the-book-says>

Questions:

1. What is character and what determines character?
2. What is compassion?
3. What does it mean to revere someone?

LESSON STORY

Luke 7:1-17 (NRSV)

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

¹ After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³ When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." ⁶ And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof;

⁷ therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ⁹ When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰ When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Jesus Raises the Widow's Son at Nain

¹¹ Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹² As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" ¹⁷ This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder what caused the centurion to have such great faith and belief in Jesus' willingness to heal his servant.
- I wonder what caused our ancestors and ASBC founders to have so much faith in God's ability.
- I wonder how you can display compassion and a servant's heart.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Reflect upon someone you revere and honor, and consider why. Visit the Miro link and create a sticky note sharing your story. Share with the class, if you would like. Consider sharing your thoughts with the person that you honor and about whom you wrote.

GOING OUT

From this week's lesson, we learned about what it means to have reverence and compassion for others. Consider how your actions can flow from what is in your heart. Following Jesus' example in the story today, having a heart of compassion prepares you to meet the needs you see of those you encounter. Over this week, reflect upon the ways you can develop a servant's heart.

PRAYER

Your word, Lord, is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105–107). Through Your word, You provide me guidance and direction. Lord, help me to develop character like Yours. When I struggle, get tired, or my faith starts to waiver, Lord, revive my hope, help my unbelief, and restore me according to Your word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Lesson 7:

TRANSFIGURATION



Lesson Story: Luke 9:28-45 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 36:5-10

OPENING

Opening Video:

War Room (Prayer Scene)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpfkFyG5qQ>

Questions:

1. What is power?
2. What is dominion?
3. What does it mean to have faith?

Draw an image representing each term in the boxes below:

Power	Dominion	Faith

LESSON STORY

Luke 9:28-45 (NKJV)

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

²⁸ Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. ³⁰ And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. ³³ Then it happened, as they were parting from

Him, that Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” ³⁶ When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

A Boy Is Healed

³⁷ Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude

met Him. ³⁸ Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, “Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. ⁴⁰ So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

⁴¹ Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and

gave him back to his father.

Jesus Again Predicts His Death

⁴³ And they were all amazed at the majesty of God.

But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, ⁴⁴ “Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.” ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder what role do you think faith plays in being able to operate in dominion and power.
- I wonder what are some examples of people with great faith.
- I wonder how you can exercise faith in your life in God’s ability to heal and to deliver.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

God has all power and dominion.

Is there a habit, attitude, unforgiveness, or something you want Jesus to help you change in your heart or character? Write a prayer about it and invite Jesus to help you with it.

Over two weeks, note any changes you have observed and why you think they occurred. Consider a trusted person with whom you can share your testimony.

GOING OUT

This week we learned about the ability (power) and authority (dominion) that Jesus

has and we have to impact true change. We discovered having confident trust (faith) in God’s ability and participating through obedience are essential to healing and deliverance.

Also, we considered a man in the crowd that had complete faith in Jesus’ ability to exercise His power and dominion, rebuke the unclean spirit, and heal the man’s son. The man showed his faith by inviting Jesus into the situation and showed his obedience by doing whatever Jesus asked of him. As a result, the man received the answers to his prayer and request.

Consider what you would like God to do in your life and how you can demonstrate faith in God’s ability.

PRAYER

Lord God, You are great and powerful. You are faithful and merciful to those who love You (Psalm 36:5–10). I invite You, Lord, into my heart and ask You to change anything that is not pleasing in Your sight. Please create your character in me and fill me with your love. Thank You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Feb
21
2021

Lesson 8:

GOOD SAMARITAN

OPENING

Video: Good Samaritan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knuijQ81iWjk>

Questions:

1. What is love?
2. Does the image below reflect love as outlined in Matthew 22:36–40?



LESSON STORY

Luke 10:25–42 (NIV)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder who is considered a neighbor and how can you recognize him or her.
- I wonder what are some ways ASBC has demonstrated love for others and acted as a good neighbor.
- I wonder what are some ways you can be a good neighbor to those in your life and that you may encounter.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Identify three separate activities to demonstrate your love for:

God:

Yourself:

A neighbor:

Over the next week, complete the three activities you identified.

After completing the activities, return to your list and write 2–3 sentences about each experience. How did the experience impact you? How did you feel? What can you do to continue building love for God, self, and others?

GOING OUT

This week we learned about who is considered a neighbor. We understand our neighbor does not have to think like us, believe like us, or look like us. We are responsible for showing God's love to others by helping them, even strangers. We are to love God with our whole mind, heart, and soul and practice the attributes of 1 Corinthians 13. This week, consider how you can love others to maintain healthy relationships, establish healthy boundaries, and find proper balance in your service to others.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for teaching me about love (Psalm 15). Please help me to grow in each attribute of love, and help me to better love You, myself, and others. Thank You for Your grace and peace as I grow in these truths. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Feb
28
2021

Lesson 9:

LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM

Lesson Story: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 122

OPENING

Video: Muhammad Ali: Purpose

<https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/i-am-ali/everything-has-a-purpose>

Questions:

1. What does it mean to have purpose?

LESSON STORY

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (NIV)

¹ Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the

man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

³² He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’”

³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder what lessons we can learn about purpose from the parable of the fig tree.
- I wonder what are some examples of people living purposeful lives and what are some of their characteristics.
- I wonder how you can live a life of purpose.

e. What you would fix in society if you could; what your ideal world looks like.

2. Share your responses with your group.
3. Reflecting upon your responses, write 3–5 ways you can live a life of purpose.
4. Over this week, pray over these and ask God to reveal to you His purpose and missions He has for you. Record any thoughts that come to your heart.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Make a list of:
 - a. Things you are naturally passionate about,
 - b. Your talents,
 - c. Issues in society or pet peeves that truly upset or bother you,
 - d. What you would do if you never got paid for it, and

GOING OUT

This week we learned that God created each of us with an identity and unique missions. We are all called with the purpose to be disciples of Christ and to seek the Kingdom of God first. We can do this by nurturing our personal relationship with God and doing our best to daily apply the Word of God to our lives, while showing special attention to how we treat our fellow man. We discovered that our experiences, good and bad, present opportunities for us to live lives of purpose. This week, consider ways you can continue to live a repentant life of purpose.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your love and for Your word. We invite you into our situations, into our hearts, and into our minds; we ask that You help us to become Your disciples, growing in and applying Your love and Your word daily (Psalm 122). Please grow us in our identities in You and reveal to each of us Your purpose for us and our unique missions. We thank You for Your grace and peace as we grow in Your righteousness towards others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Mar
7
2021

Lesson 10:

LOST SHEEP, COIN, SON

Lesson Story: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 122

OPENING

How do our efforts to locate and find things relate to the way God and we (His disciples) should seek the “lost”?

LESSON STORY

Luke 15:1-32 (NIV)

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹ Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear Him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them. ¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So, they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to

go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with

prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder which character(s) you most and least identify with in the story.
- If these parables were first told in 2021, I wonder what examples would be presented.
- I wonder how this story relates to our responsibility as disciples to seek out the lost and to rejoice when the lost are found.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

How have you seen ASBC seek the lost?

Group Activity: In 280 characters or less, write and design a post to seek the "lost".

GOING OUT

This week, we heard three parables of how the lost were found. Whether a sheep owner with 100 sheep, a woman with 10 coins, or a father with two sons, the lost are pursued and there is rejoicing in heaven and on earth when the lost are found. From this lesson, continue to consider which character and role that you find most relatable and which character you would like to model.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for seeking me when I was/am lost. Help me to stay in the fold with You and equip me to seek others when they are lost. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Mar
14
2021

Lesson 11:

RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Lesson Story: Luke 16:19-31 | Old Testament Reading: Psalm 41:1-3

OPENING

That's Not My Job: <http://www.storydose.com/2013/05/story-of-everybody-somebody-anybody-and.html>

Read the text, and reflect on some examples in society where someone was in need, but everybody thought somebody else would meet the need but no one did.

LESSON STORY

Luke 16:19-31 (KJV)

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder how you identify with Lazarus and/or the rich man in this story.
- I wonder what this story conveys about whose job it is to care for others.
- I wonder how we can personally and collectively care for others around us.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

How have you seen this lesson applied during the prior week?

Group Activity: What are 3–5 criteria you consider regarding who we have a responsibility to care for or what organizations we have a responsibility to support?

GOING OUT

This week, we began by discussing who should be compassionate. Our story this week shows how a rich man, who lived a life of luxury, did not meet the needs of Lazarus, a beggar in dire straits. The rich man's failure to meet the needs of Lazarus had dire consequences. Also, Lazarus's condition on earth did not prevent him from being comforted in heaven. After this lesson, ponder what means you have and how these means can be used to care for others.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for Your generosity towards us. Help me to see and use my abilities to care for others as You care for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Mar
21
2021

Lesson 12:

ZACCHAEUS

OPENING

How do you feel about being a part of a church that has the Tithe-the-Tithe Initiative?

How do you feel challenged to show generosity?

LESSON STORY

Luke 18:31-19:10 (KJV)

Luke 18:31-43

³¹ Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

³² For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:

³³ And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

³⁴ And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

³⁵ And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

³⁶ And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

³⁷ And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

³⁸ And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

³⁹ And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

⁴⁰ And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

⁴¹ Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

⁴² And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

⁴³ And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

Luke 19:1-10

¹ And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

² And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

³ And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

⁴ And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

⁶ And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

⁷ And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

⁸ And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

⁹ And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder how God views the beggar's response of praising God and following Jesus in contrast to Zacchaeus giving away half of his possessions and repaying those he defrauded.
- I wonder how this story relates to the generosity of ASBC.
- I wonder how you feel driven to respond to Jesus.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Group Activity: Using the criteria from last week, begin to create a short presentation recommending an organization that ASBC should support in the Tithe-the-Tithe initiative. The presentation should include the organization's name and mission, how the organization meets the criteria outlined, and how supporting this organization responds to encountering Jesus.

GOING OUT

Our story this week shows two men encountered Jesus, a beggar and Zacchaeus. Both men responded by giving of themselves, whether following Jesus, praising God, or sharing possessions. Following this lesson, recall how you have responded to encountering Jesus in the past and consider ways to respond to Jesus over the next week.

PRAYER

God our Savior and Provider, thank You for all you do in our lives. Lord, help me to mirror You and respond to You by following You, praising You, and sharing the blessings You have given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

Mar
28
2021

Lesson 13:

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

OPENING

Video: The Triumphal Entry

How does the story, article, post, picture, or video, you located on last week impact your view of this story?

LESSON STORY

Luke 19:29-44 (KJV)

²⁹ And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,

³⁰ Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.

³¹ And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him.

³² And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.

³³ And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?

³⁴ And they said, The Lord hath need of him.

³⁵ And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

³⁶ And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.

³⁷ And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

³⁸ Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

³⁹ And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

⁴⁰ And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

⁴¹ And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

⁴² Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

⁴³ For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

⁴⁴ And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Re-create the story through an outline, image, poem, lyrics, or any other medium inspired.

WONDERING QUESTIONS

- I wonder why the people praised Jesus during His triumphal entry.
- I wonder if you would have reacted similar to the crowd or have reacted similar to the crowd at the triumphal entry.
- I wonder how we can and should use our voices to praise and edify God.

LIFE APPLICATION GROUP ACTIVITY

In your group, present your recommendation for an organization that ASBC should support in the Tithe-the-Tithe initiative. The presentation should include the organization's name and mission, how the organization meets the criteria outlined, and how supporting this organization responds to encountering Jesus.

GOING OUT

Upon Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He rode a donkey and was received as a conquering king. The people praised Him because they expected Him to liberate them on earth, resulting in Jesus' weeping. We are challenged to use our voices to praise God for who He is. Reflect on how you can use your voice through praise, testimonials, and advocacy, for Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord God, You gave us our voices; help us to use our voices for You. Help us to use our voices to bring people closer to You and share in Your purpose on earth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Bible story for next week and find a related story, article, post, picture, or video.

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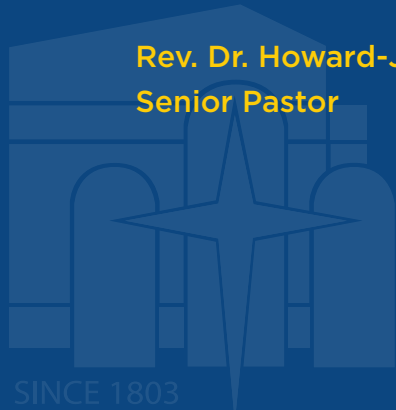
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Alfred
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BAPTIST CHURCH

parents went to Jerusalem every year at the
five years old, they went up to Jerusalem accord
shed the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus
mother did not know it; ⁴⁴ but supposing Him
ery, and sought Him among their relatives and
, returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶ Now so
the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers
And all who heard Him were astonished at His
, they were amazed; and His mother said to He
father and I have sought You anxiously." His
st of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve
the custom of the feast. ⁴³ When they had finish