

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	The fruit of a changed heart
Bible Reading	Luke 6:17-49
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 6:17-49 Jesus continues his teaching on what true obedience to his law looks like. Verses 43-45 demonstrate that this kind of life can only come from a changed heart. We cannot manufacture fruit like this. Each of the examples of fruitful living are distinctives of the Christian, as they live out the new life they have in Christ. Looking for true happiness and satisfaction in the life to come rather than this life, loving our enemies, and recognising our failings more than the faults of others, are all fruits that come not merely from being “nice” people, they come from the life that we have from being united with God. The result is a life built on solid foundations, that won’t be shaken regardless of the storms that come along.</p> <p>Take home message: A changed heart results in a changed life, which reflects who God is and what he has done.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Get pictures of fruit trees (without fruit) and separate pictures of fruit.</p>
Getting Started	Try to match the tree to the fruit.
Finding Out 1. Living for now or for eternity? (Luke 6:17-26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did we learn last time about true obedience to God’s law? If we say we keep God’s law, but don’t show love to others, what might that mean?</i> ➤ Jesus goes on to teach what it looks like to live a life that shows we are truly trusting him and living for him. <p>Read Luke 6:43-45</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How can you tell different trees apart? How might that relate to our lives?</i> ➤ Jesus says it is not enough just to say you are a Christian. If we are genuinely trusting God, that will result in a changed heart, which will show itself as a changed life. He gives some specific examples to help us see what this looks like. <p>Read Luke 6:20-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How are the “blessed” people described in verses 20-22?</i> • <i>Q: How are people described in verses 24-26?</i> ➤ This doesn’t mean that everyone who is poor, hungry or sad is saved. Or that no rich or happy people are saved. Although, often it is people in hard situations that recognise more clearly that they need God. Sometimes if we have everything we need, it makes it hard to see that we need God more than anything else. • <i>Q: What would you say is a priority in life for the people in verses 24- 26 compared to the people in verse 20-22?</i> ➤ The people in verses 24-26 want riches, comfort and happiness in life. The danger is that is all they will get! The people in verses 20-22 know they will find true satisfaction and happiness in God’s kingdom, so are able to rejoice even if life is hard now. • <i>Q: Is this fruit that you see in your life?</i>

<p>2. Loving like the world or the like the Father? (Luke 6:27-36)</p> <p>3. Proud judgement or humble compassion? (Luke 6:37-42)</p>	<p>Read Luke 6:27-36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>Who are we told to love in these verses?</i> • Q: <i>How is that different to what “sinners” do (v.32-34)?</i> ➤ This probably doesn’t mean that we literally must turn our other cheek if someone slaps us. Jesus is using strong language to make us think. • Q: <i>What would that mean for a situation where someone has said something unkind to us?</i> ➤ It means we continue to love in a generous, gracious and forgiving way. Even when we have been hurt. • Q: <i>What reason for living this way is given in verse 36?</i> ➤ We show love to others, just as God showed mercy, love and forgiveness to us when we were his enemies and didn’t deserve it. (<i>Romans 5:6-8</i>) • Q: <i>Is this a fruit that you see in your life?</i> <p>Read Luke 6:37-42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What is the picture that Jesus uses in v.41? What is he trying to say?</i> ➤ Jesus deliberately uses a ludicrous situation to show the foolishness of acting this way. It is just as crazy to try and fix someone else’s life while failing to recognise the faults in our own life. • Q: <i>How would recognising your own failings, and the forgiveness that God has shown to you, change how you treat others?</i> • Q: <i>Is this a fruit that you see in your life?</i> <p>Read Luke 6:46-49</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>How does Jesus describe someone living the way we have looked at, compared to someone how does not live this way?</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All of these ways of living (living for reward in heaven rather than now, loving our enemies, and recognising our own faults more than the faults of others) are distinctive characteristics of Christians, rather than just “nice people”. They come from a changed heart that reflects what our Father is like. ➤ If you see evidence of this fruit growing in your life (not perfectly), then thank God that he has changed your heart and is working on changing your life. ➤ If there is no evidence of any of these fruits in your life, then come to God and ask him to work on your heart. You can’t just stick these fruits onto your life! They won’t last and won’t grow (like sticking fruit onto trees). They can only grow when they come from the tree itself – from a changed heart.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Micah 6:8</i> He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	The fruit of a changed heart
Bible Reading	Luke 6:17-49
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 6:17-49 Jesus continues his teaching on what true obedience to his law looks like. Verses 43-45 demonstrate that this kind of life can only come from a changed heart. We cannot manufacture fruit like this. Each of the examples of fruitful living are distinctives of the Christian, as they live out the new life they have in Christ. Looking for true happiness and satisfaction in the life to come rather than this life, loving our enemies, and recognising our failings more than the faults of others, are all fruits that come not merely from being “nice” people, they come from the life that we have from being united with God. The result is a life built on solid foundations, that won’t be shaken regardless of the storms that come along.</p> <p>Take home message: A changed heart results in a changed life, which reflects who God is and what he has done.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Get pictures of fruit trees (with fruit on them) and separate pictures of the fruit by itself. Have pictures of a smiley face, a love heart and an open eye to use during the story.</p>
Getting Started	<p>Play memory – Turn all the pictures face down. Each child can turn over 2 pictures at a time. If they turn 2 pictures that match (tree and fruit) they keep the pair. Otherwise turn the pictures over again and the next person has a turn.</p>
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. Living for now or for eternity? (Luke 6:17-26)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Last time we learned that God is good, which means his rules are also good. • <i>Q: How does that mean we will treat other people if we want to obey God?</i> ➤ God tells us that if we want to obey him, then we need to love other people. If we say we obey God, but then are unkind to people, it’s like saying we are an apple tree, but then growing bananas! (Show pictures to illustrate). ➤ For people who are following God, their lives will show that they follow God. That’s how you can tell they follow God – just like you can tell that an apple tree is an apple tree because it has apples on it. ➤ Jesus tells us about 3 ways that we can tell if someone is following God ➤ The first thing is that we look forward to heaven (Show picture of a smiley face) <p>Read Luke 6:22-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How are the people being treated? How do they react?</i> ➤ The people are being treated unkindly, but they are rejoicing! How are they able to do that? ➤ People who are trusting Jesus know that they will be in heaven one day. That means that even if they have to face hard things, they can still rejoice, because one day they will be in heaven with God, and everything will be good.
<p>2. Loving like the world or the like the Father?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The second thing that people who are following Jesus do is love people differently. (Show picture of a love heart) • <i>Q: Who do you love? Why?</i>

<p>(Luke 6:27-36)</p> <p>3. Proud judgement or humble compassion? (Luke 6:37-42)</p>	<p>Read Luke 6:27-28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Who does God say that we should love?</i> ➤ God says that we should love our families and our friends, but we also need to love our enemies. That means we need to be kind to and forgive the people that have hurt us ➤ That's really hard to do! We can only do that if God changes our heart. ➤ Everybody loves and is kind to the people that are nice to them. Only people that have a changed heart and are following God can also love and be kind to people that have hurt them. ➤ Talk about examples – e.g. someone says something unkind to us. You don't want to be kind to them. But God can give you a heart that means you want to and are able to be kind to them. You might even say something nice to them in return! ➤ The third thing that people who are following Jesus do is see their own badness (Show a picture of an open eye) <p>Read Luke 6:41-42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describe the situation and how crazy it would be to try and remove a tiny piece of dust from someone's eye, while you have a huge plank in your own eye! ➤ Jesus uses this picture to show us what we are like. We are not very good and seeing our own faults – we are very good at seeing faults in others. We like to think that other people are bad, and we are always good! ➤ Give examples – e.g. complaining when your brother or sister took the last piece of cake, but not seeing that you are being selfish in wanting it for yourself. ➤ We need God's help to see our own faults. We need him to change our hearts, and open our eyes, so that we can see what we are really like, and that we need him to help us change so that we want to live like this instead.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What are the 3 things we can see when someone is following Jesus? (Use pictures to recap)</i> ➤ We need God's help for these things. We can't do these things ourselves. It would be like trying to sticky tape apples to a tree – would that work? We need God to change our heart first. ➤ Pray that God would give each one a new heart, so that they live differently and show that they are following God.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Micah 6:8</i></p> <p>He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	The fruit of a changed heart
Bible Reading	Luke 6:17-49
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 6:17-49 Jesus continues his teaching on what true obedience to his law looks like. Verses 43-45 demonstrate that this kind of life can only come from a changed heart. We cannot manufacture fruit like this. Each of the examples of fruitful living are distinctives of the Christian, as they live out the new life they have in Christ. Looking for true happiness and satisfaction in the life to come rather than this life, loving our enemies, and recognising our failings more than the faults of others, are all fruits that come not merely from being “nice” people, they come from the life that we have from being united with God. The result is a life built on solid foundations, that won’t be shaken regardless of the storms that come along.</p> <p>Take home message: A changed heart results in a changed life, which reflects who God is and what he has done.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Get pictures of fruit trees (with fruit on them) and separate pictures of the fruit by itself. Have pictures of a smiley face, a love heart and an open eye to use during the story.</p>
Getting Started	<p>Play memory – Turn all the pictures face down. Each child can turn over 2 pictures at a time. If they turn 2 pictures that match (tree and fruit) they keep the pair. Otherwise turn the pictures over again and the next person has a turn.</p>
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. Living for now or for eternity? (Luke 6:17-26)</p> <p>2. Loving like the world or the like the Father? (Luke 6:27-36)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Last time we learned that God is good, which means his rules are also good. • <i>Q: If we say we want to obey God, but don’t love other people, are we really obeying God?</i> ➤ God tells us that if we want to obey him, then we need to love other people. If we say we obey God, but then are unkind to people, its like saying we are an apple tree, but then growing bananas! (Show pictures to illustrate). ➤ For people who are following God, their lives will show that they follow God. That’s how you can tell they follow God – just like you can tell that an apple tree is an apple tree because it has apples on it. ➤ Jesus tells us about 3 ways that we can see if someone is following God ➤ The first thing is that we look forward to heaven (Show picture of a smiley face) • <i>Q: Is everything always easy, or sometimes do things happen that you don’t like?</i> • <i>Q: What do you think heaven will be like?</i> ➤ People who are trusting Jesus know that know that they will be in heaven one day. That means that even if they have things that are sad now, that’s ok because one day they will get to be in heaven with God, and everything will be good. ➤ The second thing that people who are following Jesus do is love people differently. (Show picture of a love heart) • <i>Q: Who do you love? Why?</i> <p>Read Luke 6:27</p>

<p>3. Proud judgement or humble compassion? (Luke 6:37-42)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Who does God say that we should love?</i> ➤ God says that we should love our families and our friends, but we also need to love our enemies. That means we need to be kind to and forgive the people that have hurt us ➤ That's really hard to do! We can only do that if God changes our heart. ➤ Everybody loves and is kind to the people that are nice to them. Only people that have a changed heart and are following God can also love and be kind to people that have hurt them. ➤ Talk about examples – e.g. someone takes the toy you were playing with. You don't want to be kind to them. God can give you a heart that means you want to and are able to be kind to them. You might even give them another toy! ➤ The third thing that people who are following Jesus do is see their own badness (Show a picture of an open eye) ➤ We don't like to see our badness. We like to think that other people are bad, and we are always good! ➤ But God says that isn't true. We do bad things too – like fight with our brothers and sisters, disobey our parents, and not sharing our toys. ➤ We need God's help to see that we are bad. We need him to change our hearts, and open our eyes, so that we can see that we are bad, and we need him to help us change so that we want to do good things instead.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What are the 3 things we can see when someone is following Jesus? (Use pictures to recap)</i> ➤ We need God's help for these things. We can't do these things ourselves. ➤ Pray that God would give each one a new heart, so that they live differently and show that they are following God.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Micah 6:8</i> He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</p>