

2.22 KNOWING JESUS CHANGES US

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: Knowing Jesus Changes Us

3A. Made New in Jesus Christ

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: Students will acknowledge that Jesus invites us to a new life in Him and receiving Him changes their behavior.

Attitude: Students will observe first hand how knowing Jesus changes them.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse and Exercise books

Ball point pens, cartridge refill, paper

Scripture:

References: Luke 19:1-10

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being." II Cor. 5:17

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. What made the jailer change his behavior toward Paul and Silas when they were in jail?

Bible Story:

2. Today we want to talk about another person whose behavior changed after meeting Jesus. Tell the story of Zacchaeus found in Luke 19:1-10.

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. What kind of a job did Zacchaeus have?
4. What did he do that made people angry with him?
5. Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly? What did he do to see Jesus?
6. When Jesus told him he wanted to go to his house for dinner, what did Zacchaeus say?
7. Why did Zacchaeus decide to make things right with people he had overtaxed?

Application:

8. Does Jesus want to make a difference in your life?
9. Have you witnessed persons' lives being changed when they met Jesus? Describe what you observed.

Evaluation:

10. What special feeling does one have when they give their lives to Jesus?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. He discovered Jesus whom he saw in the lives of Paul and Silas.

Bible Story:

2. Students will learn that Zacchaeus' behavior changed when he met Jesus.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. He collected taxes from people and was rich.
4. He took more money from people than he should have.
5. He probably was curious about Jesus and had heard good things. He climbed a tree so he could see Jesus.
6. He was surprised that Jesus would want to eat with him but knowing that, he immediately wanted to make things right with the people he had overtaxed.
7. He was tired of feeling guilty and not being liked. He wanted peace in his heart.

Application:

8. Let the students answer with the hope they will say Jesus wants to make a difference in their lives.
9. Listen for students' responses.

Evaluation:

10. One of the major changes is a known sense of peace in one's heart.

Extension Activities

1. In the Memory Verse Exercise book, have the students write their new memory verse: “Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being.” II Corinthians 5:17
2. In exercise book, have students write at the top “Living Out Our Faith”. Underneath write “Meeting Jesus changes our behavior”. Draw a picture that reminds you of the change that came into Zacchaeus’ life.
3. Change has to come from inside. **Materials needed: ballpoint pen that uses refill cartridges. One ballpoint pen that is out of ink and won’t write, Two or three other ballpoint pens with their caps, a refill cartridge, paper.** Tell students that you were trying to write an important letter but your pen wouldn’t write. Suggest to the students that maybe if they all talked nicely to the pen and told it to write for you, it would write. [Give time for students to do that.] Try writing on the paper again. It won’t write. Take the cap from one of the other pens and put it on the pen that won’t write. It won’t write. Take the cap from another pen and try it on the pen that won’t write. It still won’t write. So we have tried talking to the pen nicely. We have tried dressing it in other caps but doing something from the outside is not helping this pen write. Suppose I try changing the cartridge. Maybe it is out of ink and needs a new cartridge. Try writing with it now. Sure enough it writes because it had to be changed on the inside before it could improve its behavior. So it is with our lives. We can try to talk ourselves into being a better person but that is very hard and usually doesn’t last long. Only when we let Jesus change us from the inside do we find that we choose to live out a life of good behavior.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

In telling the story of Zacchaeus, mention how hard it is to look someone straight in the eye if you have stolen something from them.

1. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He regularly took more money from people than they actually owed so he could have money for himself. He probably walked down the street with his head down when he met those people he had taken money from.
2. He must have heard about Jesus from someone and was curious to meet this person who was so caring about others and lived such a fulfilled life. He wanted to be present when Jesus came to Jericho.
3. Because he was a little man he couldn’t see over the heads of so many tall people so he decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb a tree. He would be able to see Jesus from above.
4. How surprised he must have been when Jesus stopped under his tree. Maybe he was even a little bit embarrassed to be noticed in the tree. Jesus looked up and said, “Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today.”
5. Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him with great joy. People around though were concerned because they couldn’t imagine Jesus eating with a known sinner like Zacchaeus.
6. As Zacchaeus started talking with Jesus, he began to feel sorry for the bad things he had done. He wanted to change all of that. He told Jesus he was going to give half of

his money to people who were poor. And if he had taken more money from people than he should have, he was going to give them back four times as much! He was tired of carrying around the guilt of not treating others right. He wanted to be able to sleep at night with a clean conscience.

7. When Jesus saw that Zacchaeus really meant what he said, Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven and salvation had come to his house. He explained to those around Him that He came to save them from being punished for their sins.

Key Point

Living out our faith begins with becoming a new person in Jesus. “Made New in Jesus Christ” is one of the core values of this Peace Curriculum. When we let Jesus into our lives our attitudes and behaviors become more like Jesus.

Teacher Evaluation

Do the students see a behavior in me that is like Jesus? Have I experienced a change in my life such as was seen in Zacchaeus? Am I trying to act like someone better than I am without letting Jesus change my behavior? Would Jesus be happy to be in my company at all times?