

OVERVIEW OF LESSONS FOR THIS TERM

Overall Theme: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

The lessons for this term are developed around **Strand 3: Core Values** of the Topics for this Peace in a Community course. It is written at the very beginning level of understanding that we live out our faith because we are given basic truths as a foundation for our faith. Each lesson is developed from a Bible story that provides a basis for the core value we are discussing.

In addition to the basic **Teacher and Student Activities**, you are encouraged to utilize the information found in the **Notes for Teachers** which are written to give you more background for the Bible story or helps that you may want to incorporate in the lesson with the students.

There are **Extension Activities** included. In all lessons, students will be encouraged to write their new memory verse in their *Memory Verse Exercise book*. Committing Bible verses to memory is so important especially at this age. God will bring back these verses at times in our lives when they especially fill our need. For students who may not have their own Bibles, these Memory Verse Exercise books may be especially valuable and appreciated through the years. In all lessons, students will also be encouraged to write in their *other exercise book* a brief reminder of the lesson for that day. It is intended to give these lessons a bird's eye view of what has been covered during this term. Again in years to come, this may serve as a helpful reminder.

In most of the lessons, there are optional activities which may be in the form of a game, an object lesson, a guided discussion, an exercise related to the lesson, a scripture search or other suggestions for expanding the teaching of this lesson. You may have a better way of helping your students understand this lesson and you are free to use what is most helpful in planting these concepts in the minds and hearts of your students.

Here is a brief outline of the ten lessons for this course.

LEARNING TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH

Lesson 2.21: Jesus Gives Us New Life

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

Core Value: Made New in Jesus Christ

Scripture: Acts 16:19-34 Paul and Silas in Jail

Key Point: Peacemaking begins with finding peace in our hearts, when our hearts are made new in Jesus Christ

Special Emphasis: Five Basic Truths that Lead to New Life in Christ

Lesson 2.22: Knowing Jesus Changes Us

"Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being." II Corinthians 5:17

Core Value: Made New in Jesus Christ

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus is changed when he meets Jesus

Key Point: When we are made new in Christ, our attitudes and behaviors become more like Jesus

Special Emphasis: We are changed from the inside out as demonstrated with the object lesson using a ballpoint pen that requires a new refill

Lesson 2.23 Jesus Teaches Us to Do Right

"Be holy because I am holy." I Peter 1:16

Core Value: Be Holy

Scripture: Luke 10:30-37 The Good Samaritan

Key Point: When we are made new in Christ, our attitudes and behavior are to reflect Christ. We are called to be holy. This is often seen as being countercultural to those with whom we live but Christ will help us be holy.

Special Emphasis: Staging life situations that make the teachings of this lesson relevant to the students in their daily living.

Lesson 2.24 We Are All Valued By God

"Don't do anything from selfish ambition...but be humble toward one another." Philippians 2:3

Core Value: All are Equal and Valued

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52 Blind Bartimaeus

Key Point: We are made in God's image; therefore, God values each of us and we are to recognize the value and worth of every person.

Special Emphasis: Building Self-Esteem in each other

Lesson 2.25 We Can Know the Will of God for Our Lives

"You are my God; teach me to do your will." Psalm 143:10

Core Value: Living Christ Enlightens Us

Scripture: Acts 9:1-9 Saul's Conversion

Key Point: God has a purpose for each of us. He will reveal that plan to us through prayer, Bible reading, listening to teachings from committed Christians etc.

Special Emphasis: Foundational understanding of the term Discernment of God's Will. Finding in Scripture ways that God revealed His will to others

Lesson 2.26 God Reveals Task for Ananias

"...with all your heart, do what God wants." Ephesians 6:6

Core Value: Living Christ Enlightens Us

Scripture: Acts 9:10-21 Ananias Used by God to Restore Saul's Sight

Key Point: The Living Christ through the Holy Spirit may lead us one task at a time to fulfill His purposes through our lives.

Special Emphasis: We can trust God to help us fulfill His purpose in our lives. An object lesson demonstrating that we can trust God may help students see the relevance of following through with what God is calling us to do. This is very important in developing peacemaking skills.

Lesson 2.27 A Son is Reconciled to his Father

"All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends." II Corinthians 5:18

Core Value: Reconciliation and Peacemaking

Scripture: Luke 15:11-24 The Prodigal Son

Key Point: Reconciliation is vital if we are going to live peacefully with one another or if we are going to be peacemakers. That means we are about the business of turning enemies into friends.

Special Emphasis: Role Playing using real life situations and how we react to one another is we are friends or if we are enemies.

Lesson 2.28 God's Children are Called to be Peacemakers

"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!" Matthew 5:9

Core Value: Reconciliation and Peacemaking

Scripture: Genesis 13:1-12 Abram and Lot Resolve Problem Peacefully

Key Point: Peacemaking becomes essentially in many areas of life but maybe the one most foundational area to all of them is problem solving

Special Emphasis: Teaching basic techniques for solving problems peacefully

Lesson 2.29 Sharing God-Given Gifts/Abilities

"...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40

Core Value: Spiritual Gifts: Evangelism and Service

Scripture: John 6:1-13 Feeding the Five Thousand

Key Point: God gives us special gifts/talents/abilities for us to share with those in need. Sometimes we are to share the Gospel message and sometimes we are to use those abilities to meet needs of others. We are to do it willingly.

Special Emphasis: Helping students think of the needs of others and what they may be able to give now to help others

Lesson 2.30 Speak Truth

"Do not accuse anyone falsely." Exodus 20:16

Core Value: Integrity, Honesty, and Justice

Scripture: Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira Lied

Key Point: Always speaking truth prevents conflicts and violence and gives you peace in your heart.

Special Emphasis: Important tips to help students live up to a commitment to speaking truth at all times

May you be a willing follower of Christ whom God can use to guide the students you have been given to choose to be true children of God available to do His will. God bless you in your preparation and teaching.