

PRETEENS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

TM

PRETEEN

FALL 2013 | LEADER GUIDE
RONNIE FLOYD | GENERAL EDITOR



WATCH OUT!

GETTING ALONG



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USE THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING.

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Bible Studies for Life : Preteens Leader Guide is designed to provide Bible study for older children which is foundational to their spiritual awareness and growth and which is developmentally appropriate.

Bible Studies for Life : Preteens Leader Guide provides Bible study and teaching suggestions for workers who teach fifth and sixth graders (10- and 11-year-olds) in Sunday School. The Bible stories printed in this magazine are based on Scripture and are written in words children can understand.

We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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SESSION 1

Good Attitudes



SESSION 2

Resist Temptation



SESSION 3

Treat Others Right

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 4:1-11

John 4:1-30

LIFE VERSE Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.
James 4:10

If you keep the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
James 2:8

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.
James 4:10

LIFE POINT Jesus taught His followers to keep a good attitude at all times.

Resist temptation by following Jesus' example.

Show love and care to all people.

CHRIST FOCUS God is for His people. When someone trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior, the person has peace with God. God works everything out for the good of Christians. God changes believers to become like Jesus.

Jesus was tempted in every way, but He never sinned. When Christians are tempted to sin, Jesus gives them grace to stand up to temptation. He also offers mercy, forgiving them when they give in to temptation.

Jesus treated Christians better than they deserve. He didn't give believers what they deserve—spiritual death. He gives Christ-followers what they don't deserve—eternal life. Christians can treat others better than they deserve.

DATE OF USE _____

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING (LOBL): JESUS



SESSION 4

Speak Kindly to All People

Mark 10:13-16

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

James 4:10

Reflect God's love by speaking to everyone with kindness.

What a person says can help people or hurt them. Jesus used His words to help people and give them life. As Jesus died on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them." Jesus' death and resurrection bring believers salvation.



SESSION 5

Loving the Unlovable

Luke 19:1-10

If you keep the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

James 2:8

Love all people unconditionally.

Jesus loves those who don't deserve it, and He showed His love for sinners by dying on the cross in their place. God raised Jesus from the dead. Christians can love others because Jesus loved them first.



SESSION 6

It's Not Going to Be Easy

Matthew 26:17-30;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

If you keep the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

James 2:8

Living for Christ will be difficult at times.

Jesus suffered to bring people back to God. Christians can endure suffering with joy as they follow in Jesus' steps, knowing that one day Jesus will make everything right.

Good Attitudes

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 5:1-12

CHRIST FOCUS

God is for His people. When someone trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior, the person has peace with God. God works everything out for the good of Christians. God changes believers to become like Jesus.

LIFE ACTION

When you face a problem this week, ask yourself how that problem might help you be more like Jesus.

LOBL

Jesus

OPTIONAL LIFE VERSE

Proverbs 3:5a

Currently, Christians are hailing one popular professional football player as a positive role model for kids. Any sports figure who stands as a moral example is commendable. We pray that more of them will speak up for Christ. Nonetheless, the greatest role model of all was Jesus. In this unit we will examine Jesus' example when He faced life's various situations.

We start early in Jesus' ministry. Matthew's Gospel tells how He went to a hilltop to teach His disciples about the kingdom of God. We call this section of Matthew (chapters 5-7) the Sermon on the Mount. The first portion, Matthew 5:3-12, is known traditionally as the Beatitudes. (The word *beatitude* simply means "blessedness.") In this section, Jesus outlined nine important characteristics of His followers and the blessings promised by each one. Key qualities that He spotlighted include humility, caring for other people, courage in the face of opposition, and total dependence on God in all things.

How do the promises in Matthew 5:3 and Matthew 5:10 resemble each other? What is meant by "the kingdom of heaven"? _____

Soon after Jesus delivered this sermon, He selected and commissioned the Twelve to be His closest disciples (Matt. 10:1-4). He charged them to carry His message and equipped them to minister in His name. In what ways does God call us, star athletes or not, to be role models in our world today? _____

CONNECT TO FAMILY

This week families will learn about attitudes. While the kids learn that they can have attitudes like Jesus, students and adults will be learning that life will not always be easy. In good times and bad, we all can have joyful attitudes of trust and surrender.

DATE OF USE _____

LIFE VERSE

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

JAMES 4:10

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

Notes

► "Follow"

1. Explain to the group that many of Jesus' teachings are known by common names. Give the Bible references of three passages and the common name of each: Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Beatitudes*); Matthew 6:9-13 (*The Model Prayer*); Matthew 28:19-20 (*The Great Commission*).
2. Lead the preteens to form a circle and play "Follow" (track 1). Hand the beanbag to a preteen and direct him to pass it around the circle until the music stops. As kids pass the beanbag, pause the music. Allow the preteen holding the beanbag to draw a reference from your hand.
3. Ask the preteen to respond with the passage's common name. If the preteen doesn't know the passage name, provide a Bible and allow him to look it up. Restart the music and continue in the same way for two more turns.

► CD

► beanbag

► Write the references from step 1 on strips of paper.

Option: "Follow Passages" (CD)

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

► Paper Plate Faces

1. Distribute paper plates and markers. Announce that you have an artistic challenge for the group. Make paper plate faces. Lead the preteens to silently read the words you printed on the back of each plate.
2. Direct preteens to hold the plate in front of their faces like masks. Instruct them to draw a face with the attitude while they're wearing their masks.
3. When the preteens finish, direct each one to display his mask and lead the rest of the group to guess the attitude or emotion he illustrated.
4. Call attention to the "Watch Out! Title Banner" (Pack Item 1). Direct the preteens to place the plates under their seats until later.
5. Comment that once they learn to watch out for good and bad attitudes, they will know how to adjust theirs to please God.

► Pack Item 1

► markers

► paper plates—Lightly write 1 of the following words on the back of separate plates (provide 1 plate per preteen): *depressed, exhausted, frustrated, jealous, lonely, worried, frightened, confused, excited, disgusted*. Make multiple plates if your group is large.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Notes

- ▶ Pack Items 2 and 7
- ▶ Teaching Picture 1
- ▶ CD
- ▶ DVD
- ▶ Bibles
- ▶ markers
- ▶ sticky notes or construction paper strips of various colors

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GETTING TO THE POINT

▶ Sermon on the Mount Scavenger Hunt

- Explain that today's session comes from Matthew 5–7, a passage known as the Sermon on the Mount.
- Invite preteens to explore those chapters to discover traits that Jesus tells us to like or not like. (For example: *Matthew 5:22 tells us we should not like name-calling.*) Challenge the group to work together to create a single list of “likes” and “dislikes.”
- Play the “Good Attitudes: Introduction” video. Comment that attitudes are so important that Jesus taught His disciples about them.

LOOK IN THE BOOK

▶ “Beatitudes Match” (Pack Item 7)

- Give a card to each preteen (double up if your group is small). Lead the preteens to work together to assemble sets of three cards: the name of a Beatitude, its meaning, and its opposite.
- When the preteens have finished, lead them to examine Matthew 5:1-12 one more time. Call attention to the rewards Jesus promised to those who demonstrate right attitudes; they might not receive worldly recognition, but they will certainly receive God's pleasure, which results in feeling truly blessed.

▶ “Blessed”

- Without prompting them with the Scripture reference, guide preteens to find the Beatitudes in their Bibles. Point out that this sermon was Jesus' first major teaching and contains a great deal of information about how Jesus wants us to live. Lead them to name a word that is common in nearly every verse in the passage. (*blessed*)
- Define *blessed* as “happiness that comes from being right with God.” Explain that being blessed is deeper and stronger than worldly happiness because one can feel blessed and joyful even during difficult circumstances.

▶ Teaching Picture 1

Call attention to the teaching picture and lead the preteens to describe what Jesus was doing. (*teaching His followers*)

LIVE IT OUT

Notes

CHOICE 1

▶ Activity Page

▶ Bibles

▶ light-colored scrapbook or construction paper, unused pencils, washable markers

▶ Answers to “Like Items Attract”: 1.a, 2.e, 3.c, 4.f, 5.g, 6.b, 7.d, 8.h

CHOICE 2

▶ Activity Page

▶ Bibles, pencils, markers, paper clips, small sticky notes or adhesive page markers

▶ ruler

CHOICE 1 (GIRLS)

▶ “Like Items Attract” (Activity Page)

1. Reinforce the idea that recalling the Beatitudes can help preteens adjust their thoughts and behavior when unkind attitudes attack.
2. Explain that the entire Bible, not just the Sermon on the Mount, teaches the message Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Assign each girl one or two Bible verses in the activity and lead her to read them aloud to the group. Then lead girls to find the corresponding Beatitude.

▶ Polka Dot Posters

1. Place art supplies on the table and explain the activity.
2. Direct girls to choose a piece of scrapbook paper. Explain that they will then make posters using the different words from the Beatitudes. Each girl may choose the word that means the most to her. Everyone should have access to the pencils and markers.
3. Direct girls to color on the tip of the pencil eraser. This will make a round stamp for the paper. Preteens may choose to write out their words first in pencil and then stamp the edge and outline in marker. They may choose to stamp all along the pencil lines.
4. Guide girls to choose key words from the verse and stamp those words. Write the rest of the verse using a decorative font.
5. Encourage girls to hang their posters in their rooms as a reminder to live the Beatitudes following Jesus’ example.

CHOICE 2 (BOYS)

▶ Priority Living

1. Distribute Activity Pages and sticky notes. Lead boys to complete “Like Items Attract” on the Activity Page. Briefly discuss each of the Beatitudes.
2. Point out “Long and Short of It” on the Activity Page. Attach the ruler to a focal wall. Give each boy a paper clip and a couple of sticky notes. Instruct each boy to place a paper clip on his page to answer. Invite a volunteer to place a sticky note on the ruler to rate his response to one of the statements that follow. Comment that the number 1 represents “always” and the number 12 represents “never.” Explain that they may choose any location in between the two levels, according to how they choose to respond. Invite three other volunteers to respond to the remaining statements. If your group is small, a boy may respond to more than

one statement.

- * I am kind and gentle to everyone.
- * I am merciful only when adults are watching.
- * I am willing to be teased because of my faith in Jesus.
- * I want to follow Jesus whether anyone notices or not.

3. Look at the responses and comment positively about the responses. Use this activity to encourage boys to stick together to make living by the Beatitudes a priority.



Notes

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CHOICE 3 (BOYS AND GIRLS)

▶ **“Like Items Attract” (Activity Page)**

1. Assign each preteen one or two Bible verses in the activity and lead him to read them aloud to the group. Then lead preteens to find the corresponding Beatitude.
2. Distribute blank 4-by-6-inch index cards.
3. Lead preteens to print the name of a Beatitude on one card and a practical example on another. For example: *I ask God to help me with things I can't manage on my own.* (poor in spirit) Assign Beatitudes to ensure each one is used.
4. Collect the Beatitude cards and randomly distribute them to preteens. Do the same with the example cards. If your group is small, preteens may have more than one card.
5. Challenge preteens to match their “example” card with the correct “Beatitude” card. Play “Follow (remix)” (track 2) while preteens work.

WRAP UP

- Call the groups back together.
- Play the “Good Attitudes: Wrap Up” video.
- Comment that Jesus taught His followers to keep a good attitude at all times. This applies to His followers today as it did to His disciples then.
- Remind the kids to give their One Conversation™ pages to their parents.

CHOICE 3

- ▶ Activity Page
- ▶ CD
- ▶ index cards
- ▶ Bibles

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WRAP UP

- ▶ DVD

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