

Lesson 12

Call Upon God's Name

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Acts 3:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Psalm 103:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me. Psalm 50:15

CATECHISM:

The Second Commandment:

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- learn to call upon God in every time of need.
- understand that we worship God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The Second Commandment means we should love God's name but use it in good and holy ways. We obey this commandment when we use God's name in worship, prayer, or praise. The Bible tells about Peter and John meeting a beggar when they went to the temple to pray. The man had never been able to walk. Peter and John had no money to give him, but the Holy Spirit led Peter to say, "In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk!" He not only walked, but he ran and jumped, praising God. Praising and thanking God are more good ways to use God's name. There is power in the name of Jesus!

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: 1) What are some good and holy ways to use God's name? 2) What was the beggar asking from Peter and John? 3) What did Peter and John give to the beggar? 4) Whose name did Peter use when he spoke healing to the crippled man? 5) What did the beggar do? 6) What happened as a result of this event? 7) Do you remember what the message of salvation is? 8) Whose name has power?

ACTIVITY 1 A word choice activity that will complete the sentences correctly.

ACTIVITY 2 A thought box completion activity about the story in the lesson. The students may need some help with the center box.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that you will set an example to teach the children to pray “in Jesus’ name.”. Pray that God’s name will be glorified throughout this lesson.

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God in a child-like way about your personal needs.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class this year, and ask Him to bless these children.
- Pray that the students will understand that we can bring all our concerns to God in prayer, His name is powerful and worthy of all our praise
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

Acts 3:1-26 Call Upon God’s Name

God’s name is to be honored in all things, especially prayer. Prayer can take many forms, but it is often asking the Father for something according to His will. When the request is in the Father’s will, we can expect the right results.

In today’s lesson, the disciples, Peter and John, honored the name of Jesus. In His name, they asked God to heal a lame man. It was God’s will, the man was healed, and Jesus was lifted up.

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. As they go to prayer, they meet a beggar at the temple. This man is over 40 years old (Acts 4:22) and has been lame from infancy.

The disciples were sent out with power to be witnesses and in the name of Jesus, they did the works of God. When they did such works, it was because they were moved by the Spirit of God. The miracles were always signs attesting to His deity and were intended to produce faith in him leading to spiritual life (John 20:31). To pray “in the name of Jesus” is not just to invoke his authority or to act in His place. It is faith in Jesus and who He is, all He is, the power, grace and truth of God revealed in Him. The catechism asks(Q#269), “What is meant by praying in the name of Jesus?” The answer is “to pray in the name of Jesus is to ask on the strength of what He has already done for us, and His intercession with the Father.” We have access to God the Father through our faith in Jesus, His Son.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit Peter says to the man, “In the name of Jesus the Nazarene-walk!” God sends healing and the miracle becomes a seal of the gospel message. The man immediately began to leap up and praise God. This was noted by many people who were in the temple. This was a big deal and the people were drawn to Peter. Peter was ready to speak, to share the truth of Jesus and salvation (Acts 3:11-4:12).

True prayer is communication between our hearts and the Father’s heart. Praying is letting Jesus into your heart. We can say that prayer is knowing the heart of God so that we know how to pray and what to ask for. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us, and the Holy Spirit enables us to ask in Jesus’ name so that Jesus can answer. In this relationship, we can have confidence that God is prompting us to ask according to His will so He can answer and be glorified (John 14:13-14).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

vain: foolish, silly, empty of value or meaning

inappropriate: not proper or right

holy: pure, godly, sacred

appropriate: proper or right, fitting

temple: a building where God is worshipped

begging: asking or pleading for money to be given, usually because one is unable to work

healed: made well, made whole

praising: worshipping, saying good things about

faith: belief, trust

Amen: let it be so; spoken at the end of a prayer to express agreement

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive..

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like. Thank God that we can pray “in Jesus’ name.”

SHARING: What kinds of things do you talk to God about when you pray?

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalm 103:1*”

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you’ll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Second Commandment, the previous 2 lessons have focused on God’s name. How can we honor God’s name? How did Peter dishonor God’s name? Did Jesus forgive Peter? See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 2 lessons as this will wrap up the focus on the Second Commandment.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask the students what kind of things they talk to God about when they pray. **Do you think God wants to answer your prayers? Does He want to give you what you pray for?** God hears us when we pray when we pray believing in Jesus. Another way to say the same thing is to pray in Jesus' name.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the first two paragraphs. Sometimes we want something or some situation very much, so we pray and ask God for that. We finish our prayer with, "in Jesus' Name," just like we have learned. But, we don't get what we hoped for and asked for. This is hard and we may wonder whether prayer works or whether God is listening. God is listening, He has promised to hear our prayers but God may not answer right away and sometimes he does not answer as we asked him to. This is because God sees everything about us and our lives and He always sends what is best for us. God asks us to trust him when this happens. Remember how Abram had to trust God.

Help the students find Acts 3:1-16. Read the first three verses. **Who do we meet again in this story?** There is another man at the temple as well. **What do we learn about him?**

Move on and read verses 4-7. **How did Peter help him? Was it what the man asked for?** No it was much greater, He was healed, he could walk through the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is powerful.

Continue to read verses 8-11. **What happened as everyone around recognized what had happened to this man?** This man was praising and thanking God for the healing. This powerful miracle gave Peter an opportunity to tell all the people that gathered about Jesus.

Read verses 12-16. It is important to note that this had nothing to do with Peter and John but everything to do with the power of the name of Jesus.

Peter was able to tell the people about Jesus. **What did Jesus do for us?** He came to earth to die for us so that we could be forgiven. He tells all the people to pray to Jesus for forgiveness. He has promised to forgive us. He also gives us a home in heaven.

Read the last paragraph.

When we praise God and when we pray to God we are using God's name in the right way.

ASK: Whose name did Peter use when he spoke healing to the man who couldn't walk?

The name of Jesus.

ASK: Whose name has power?

Again and always, Jesus

Read the Catechism: As this is the last lesson on the Second Commandment see if the students can recite this from memory.

Repeat the Memory Verse

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. *Psalm 103:1*"

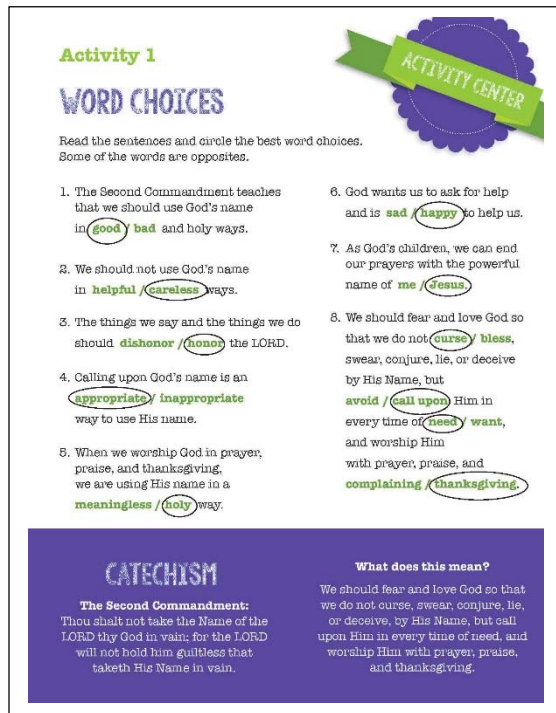
APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Word Choices

Activity 1

A word choice activity that will complete the sentences correctly.



Activity 1
WORD CHOICES

Read the sentences and circle the best word choices. Some of the words are opposites.

- The Second Commandment teaches that we should use God's name in good / bad and holy ways.
- We should not use God's name in helpful / careless ways.
- The things we say and the things we do should dishonor / honor the LORD.
- Calling upon God's name is an appropriate / inappropriate way to use His name.
- When we worship God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, we are using His name in a meaningless / holy way.
- God wants us to ask for help and is sad / happy to help us.
- As God's children, we can end our prayers with the powerful name of me / Jesus.
- We should fear and love God so that we do not curse / bless, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive by His Name, but avoid / call upon Him in every time of need / want, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and complaining / thanksgiving.

CATECHISM

The Second Commandment:
Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

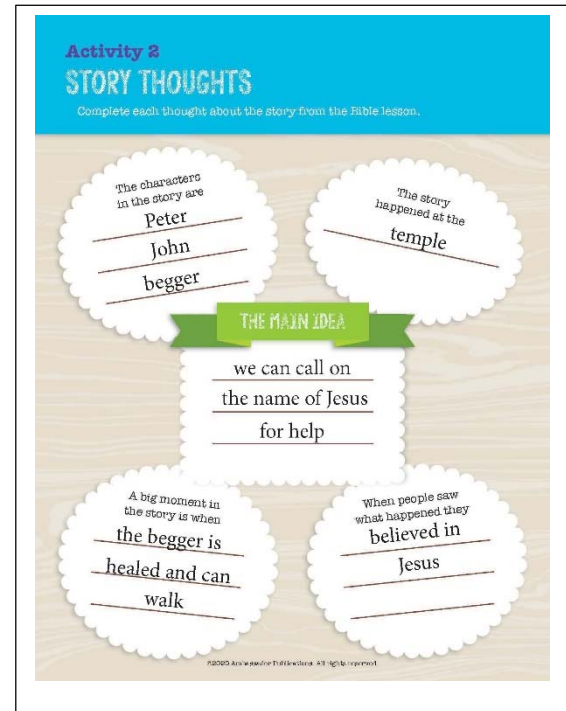
What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Story Thoughts

Activity 2

A thought box completion activity about the story in the lesson. The students may need some help with the center box.



Activity 2
STORY THOUGHTS

Complete each thought about the story from the Bible lesson.

The characters in the story are
Peter
John
begger

The story happened at the
temple

THE MAIN IDEA
we can call on
the name of Jesus
for help

A big moment in the story is when
the begger is
healed and can
walk

When people saw what happened they
believed in
Jesus

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Silver and Gold Have I None (Wee Sing Bible Songs; Price, Stern, Sloan; 1988 p. 16)

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

#1 This may work well for students to act out.