

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 13 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #13:** How do I come to the sort of obedience that glorifies God?

**Answer #13:** I come to this sort of obedience when I look to God for deliverance from sin and for power to do His will.

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Bible Story:** Luke 19:1-10

### Insight for the Teacher

In lesson 2, before beginning our look at the Ten Commandments, we taught that our obedience to God's laws brings glory to God by revealing His character. His character, we've seen, is displayed in the Ten Commandments: He's the one and only God, He's great and holy, He's our greatest delight, He is the source of all authority and life, He is faithful and loving and true, and He is our provider.

This week we ask the question: how do I come to this sort of obedience? In our flesh (our human works) we cannot glorify God at all! We are sinners who need a new nature in order to glorify God. God gives us a new nature through faith in Christ -- a faith that causes us to change or to repent (change our direction from our way to God's will). Through this faith we are delivered from our bondage to sin and filled with His Spirit who enables us to be obedient to God. Our story illustrates this transformation well.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector, one who had completely lived for himself and what he could get from others. He was known by all as a sinner and was shunned by many as too vile a person to associate with. But one day all that changed.

Zacchaeus had an encounter with Jesus. There was something about Jesus that caused him to really desire to see Him and to be with Him. But when invited to dine with Jesus (amidst the murmuring of those who knew his unworthiness of this invitation), Zacchaeus found himself confronted with his own sinfulness; his self-centered life.

Struck with his sin in the presence of Christ, Zacchaeus' repented. He turned from his sinful ways and publicly declared his change of plans (the fruit of his repentance). He gave up his self respect admitting that he cheated people; he gave up his present wealth promising to give away half his possessions and pay back four times what he'd taken illegally; he gave up future earnings committing to a new way of doing business. Jesus responded to Zacchaeus' declaration by saying, "Salvation has come to this house."

Zacchaeus was delivered from sin's hold and he began his life in God's power living for God's glory and for the service of others. None of us can live a life of obedience, which is pleasing to God until we have an encounter with God and until He changes our heart.

## Application Ideas

1. We need to come to Christ who alone can forgive us our sins and deliver us from our sinful nature.
2. Obedience will only come as we respond to Christ in repentance and faith and live under the control of God's Spirit.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ For the past ten weeks we have been studying the Ten Commandments. Who can tell me who the author is of these commandments? (Yes, God is the author of these commandments. He gave them to the people of Israel after they left the land of Egypt.)
- ◆ For the past ten weeks we have been saying that you can learn a lot about a king by looking at the commandments he gives to his people. What have we learned about our God, the King of kings, from looking at His commandments? (Allow for brief discussion.) Take a moment now and try to match on your worksheet what we learn about God with the commandment from which we learn it. (1. God is the one and only God. 2. God is great. 3. God is holy. 4. God is the greatest delight. 5. God reigns and gives authority to others. 6. God is the source of all physical and spiritual life. 7. God is a promise keeping God. 8. God is loving, giving His all for us. 9. God's words and ways are true. 10. God is a faithful provider.)
- ◆ In our lessons we have also suggested that when you obey the commandment, not only by not doing what it forbids, but also by doing what love requires, that you bring glory to God. You show the world what God is like. Take the first commandment for example. If you have no other gods before you – if nothing in your life is as important as God, you show the world that God is the one and only God. How about the fifth commandment. If you honor your father and mother by obeying them and showing them respect, what are you telling the world about your God? (He reigns and gives His authority to others.)
- ◆ How about the sixth commandment? What do you tell the world about God if you don't murder, but rather honor all life as precious and God-given? (We show the world that God is the source of all physical and spiritual life.)
- ◆ Our Bibles tell us that God created us to glorify Him, and one of the ways we do this is through our obedience to His commands. But we have a problem – this obedience does not come easy for us. If we are going to glorify God we are going to have to become obedient. How do we come to this obedience? That's the subject of our lesson today.

## 2. Opening illustration

How many of you are looking forward to driving a car some day? I am sure many of you can't wait until you are behind the wheel of a car. I am sure many of you eagerly await the day when you can put your foot on the gas pedal and let the car go.

In the early 70's there was a car named a Vega. It was a cute little car made by Chevrolet, but it had a basic problem. The car would run well for the first 30,000 – 35,000 miles, but then it would start pouring out blue smoke, running sluggishly, and burning lots of oil. If you put your foot on the gas pedal you wouldn't get the performance you had hoped.

What was wrong with the car? To simplify the matter let's just say it had a bad engine. Unless that engine was replaced the car would not perform as it was designed to perform. Many a Vega owner had to get the help of a master mechanic in order to change the engine so that the car would perform as designed.

Do you know that people are a lot like that Vega? God has a special design for us. Through our obedience we are to glorify God, but we have a problem. We aren't performing as God designed us because our --- heart is not right. Until we look to the Master Heart Surgeon we will not be able to live as God designed.

In our story today we want to look at the life of a man and see how he came to obtain a life of obedience, how he came to begin to truly glorify God with his life. His story is found in Luke 19. Please turn there with me.

### Body

#### 1. Zacchaeus' bad heart

Let's begin by finding out a bit about this man whose name is Zacchaeus. We will read the first 4 verses.

#### **Luke 19:1-4 (NIV)**

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

What is the first thing we learn about Zacchaeus? Yes, he was a chief tax collector. Write that down on your paper. In those days the Romans ruled the land of Israel, and men could contract with the Roman government to collect taxes in certain regions of the empire. That's what Zacchaeus' job was. He'd do everything possible to collect the taxes in the region to which he was assigned.

Now it must be said that those who collected taxes did not have a very good reputation. They were known for cheating the people. They would contract with the Roman government for one amount, and then they would charge the people a far higher amount. As a result, many of the tax collectors got rich, but they were despised by the people who felt cheated.

Do you think Zacchaeus was this kind of tax collector? How do you know? The fact is Zacchaeus was this kind of tax collector. The text describes him as wealthy, and we deduce from this that he was a pretty good cheater. As a result, he was also greatly despised by the people. Nobody wanted to have anything to do with a tax collector.

On your paper now write “wealthy” and “despised”. I suppose you can write the word “lonely” as well since no one wanted to associate with this cheater.

What else do we learn about Zacchaeus from these first verses? Yes, he was short. Write that on your paper. So short was Zacchaeus that when Jesus was coming down the road, he had to climb a sycamore tree in order to see. He probably had heard much about this Man who performed marvelous miracles and said some amazing things about God. Perhaps for this reason he wanted to get a look at him. Little did he know what God had in store for his life that day.

Before we go on let me summarize. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who has made himself wealthy by cheating others. As a result he was despised by the people and lived a lonely life. From what we know about Zacchaeus now, would you say that he was living the way God designed him? Was he glorifying God through his obedience? No, he was doing just the opposite. What would you say about his heart? It needs fixing. Write that on your papers.

## 2. Jesus' good invitation

Let's look what happened next starting with verse 5. Let's see how that heart got fixed.

### **Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)**

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

As Zacchaeus waited in the tree finally Jesus came by. To Zacchaeus 'astonishment Jesus looked up to him. What would he say? Would he condemn him like everybody else did? No, Jesus told Zacchaeus to get down from the tree because He wanted to stay at his house. Can you imagine that? What do you think Zacchaeus felt about this? Take a moment and circle the words on your paper that reflect what you think he felt.

Well, we can tell what he felt. The text says that he, *at once*, came down from that tree and welcomed Jesus gladly. He was amazed, maybe even shocked, for no one had anything to do with a tax collector, yet Jesus, the One who did great things and spoke mysteries of God, was coming to his house. I am sure Zacchaeus was both joyful and puzzled.

Now there were those in the crowd who observed this and were disgusted. According to verse 7 they said, “This man has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner’”. They couldn't understand why Jesus would have anything to do with this man, but Jesus had His reasons as we shall see. Let's look at what happened next.

## 3. Zacchaeus' change of heart

Look at verses 8-9.

**Luke 19:8-9 (NIV)** But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

What happened here? Zacchaeus was changed. This man who cheated people out of their money, who was a big time taker, who in no way glorified God, who had a heart that needed fixing, was transformed. He pledged to give half of his wealth to the poor, and promised to pay back four times the amount he had unlovingly taken from others.

But how had this happened? Jesus explained it by saying, “Today salvation has come to this house.” What did He mean by this? Zacchaeus had had an encounter with the love of Jesus. Everyone else in Zacchaeus’ world, who knew what he was really like, shunned him. They stayed away, but not Jesus. He looked at Zacchaeus in all his sin and told him He wanted to stay at his house. Such love melted Zacchaeus. Confronted with his sinfulness and its tragic consequences on one hand, and the accepting love of Jesus, who wanted to dwell with him on the other hand, Zacchaeus repented and chose love. To show the genuineness of his heart change he pledged to give his money to the poor, and make right all the tax deals he had slanted in his favor.

Do you suppose this is what Jesus had in mind when he walked down that road and stopped by Zacchaeus’ tree that day? Read verse 10 and fill in the blanks on your worksheet. This is exactly what Jesus desired. His whole reason to come to earth was to find those who were slaves to a sinful, selfish heart, and to bring them to know Him and the power of His Spirit. He came to find those who did not glorify God because of disobedience and transform them into obedient servants who do God’s will to His glory.

### **Application**

Children, Jesus is walking by your tree tonight. He stops and looks right at you. As you see Him looking at you, you know He knows all about you. He sees right through straight into your heart. He knows your tendency to be selfish, to go your own way, to neglect Him, but He looks at you anyway in love. Then he says, “I want to stay with you tonight. I want to dwell in your heart this very night.”

How will you respond? I pray you will be like Zacchaeus and come down from your tree and gladly welcome Him. I pray in prayer you will come to Jesus and say, “Cleanse my filthy heart. Make it a home suitable for you. Then come and live within and give me the power to live obediently to the Father’s glory.”

If you have never done that I encourage you to bow in prayer right now and tell the Lord your hearts desire. Let Jesus come in and fix your heart (really give you a new heart) so that you might live the way God designed you.

If you have done this before, thank the Lord for His gift, and ask Him to help you live obediently each day. The evidence you have a new heart will be seen in how you live.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 13

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 12. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Psalm 51:10** *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

- † What two things does the psalmist ask of the Lord in this verse? ( A pure heart and a steadfast spirit.)
- † What is a pure heart? (It is a heart that is clean, without impurity or flaw. It is one with undivided affection, loving God completely.)
- † What is a steadfast spirit? (A spirit that is firmly established, that is firm in its commitment to do the will of God.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Tape a verse - Work with the children memorizing the verse. After awhile have one child recite the verse on a tape recorder. Replay the verse and then have the child check his accuracy. Give each child a chance to recite and check his verse.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is one thing we can look at to learn what kind of God we serve? (We can look at God's commandments to learn what He is like. They show His character.)
2. From earlier lessons how did we say we can glorify God? (We show the world what God is like when we live obediently.)
3. What was Zacchaeus like? (He was a tax collector who became rich by cheating other people. He was despised by others and lonely. He was short in stature.)
4. Did Zacchaeus glorify God? Why or why not? (No, he lived for himself and was disobedient.)
5. What changed Zacchaeus? (He came face to face with the love of Jesus and saw his need to be changed.)
6. How do you know Zacchaeus' heart was changed? (His behavior showed it.)
7. Why did Jesus come to earth? (To seek and save the lost.)
8. What does Jesus want to see happen with your heart? (He wants to see it cleansed and inhabited by His Spirit.) Has it happened? Talk with your leader about this.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 14 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #14:** Is it through my own effort that I come to God for salvation and power?

**Answer #14:** No. None of us seeks God. God must draw us and give us faith to believe.

**Memory Verse: John 6:44** “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

**Bible Story:** Acts 9:1-22

### Insight for the Teacher

This lesson continues the look at our great salvation through Christ which frees us from the bondage of sin and delivers us to life in Christ; a life marked by the character of God we have seen through the Ten Commandments. To illustrate how we come to this life we'll look at Paul's conversion, specifically at God's choosing of Paul and making him His own.

As the story starts, Paul, with great zeal, is seeking to imprison Christians. Why was he doing this? From a superficial look at the text we might think that his motive is good. But in Philippians 3, Paul confesses his true motive. Paul tells us about his life without Christ; how he put confidence in the flesh; how he zealously persecuted the church in an effort to show God (and other religious men) how good he was. The truth was that he was going in the opposite direction God wanted him to go as he was seeking his own righteousness and glory.

But Jesus came to Paul, and shone His light on him. He convicted him of sin, and led him to see the helplessness and the spiritual blindness from which he suffered. After 3 days, Jesus sent Ananias to lovingly restore his sight and to somehow facilitate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Paul was then baptized; testifying to the great change that God had wrought in him. Evidence of that change can be seen in verse 20 where we see Paul preaching in the synagogues within days of his conversion.

Paul had not been seeking Christ and through all of his working he had not found Christ. God had to come to Paul, open his eyes, and give Him new life. Our conversion may not have been so dramatic, but God uses the same method to bring us to Himself. On our own, through our striving, we won't even seek Christ. But when God calls us to Himself, we will finally see our helplessness and sinfulness before God. God will implant new life in us, commencing a life of faith and service as God's chosen vessel.

## Application Ideas

1. Praise and thank the Lord if you are His; He brought you to a knowledge of Himself. Glory in the riches of His grace.
2. As you witness for Christ, trust God to be at work in the lives of others. Pray showing that you acknowledge salvation is all of God.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ For what purpose did God create man? (He created us that we might glorify Him.)
- ◆ What is one way we learned last week that we glorify God? (When we keep His commandments we reveal to the world what God is like.)
- ◆ Did Zacchaeus' life glorify God before he met Jesus? Why or why not? (No, he was not obedient to God. He was a taker at heart, stealing from those from whom he collected taxes.)
- ◆ How was it that Zacchaeus came to a life of obedience that glorified God? (When confronted with the love of Jesus, he saw his sin for what it was, turned from it, and looked to Jesus for power to live a new way.)

### 2. Opening illustration

A group of men had a plan. They would climb a most challenging mountain and then try to ski down. They knew it wouldn't be easy, but they thought they could do it. So they planned hard, prepared long, and trained rigorously with their eyes on the goal of conquering this mountain.

The day came for them to begin their adventure, and they all left with a sense of hopefulness. A challenge lay ahead, but they felt ready for it. The climb was difficult and at times they wondered if they could make it to the top, let alone ski down, but their hard work and perseverance paid off. They made it to the top! The mission was half accomplished.

But on the way down, disaster struck. Two of the men fell off the mountain to an untimely death. The other two found themselves in an impossible situation. They had miscalculated the difficulty of the mission, and now found themselves hopelessly trapped on the mountain. Were it not for the self-sacrificial bravery of a rescue team these men would have lost their lives as well. In their pride they had tried to do the impossible and nearly paid the ultimate price for it.

In our Bible there is a story of a man who also, in his pride, tried to do what was impossible on his own. Were it not for the heroic rescue effort of Another, he, too, would have lost not only his physical life, but his soul. His story is found in Acts 9. I invite you to turn there with me. His story will teach us much about something that we cannot attempt on our own.

## Body

### 1. Saul's old life

Let's look at the first two verses together.

**Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)** Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Our story is about a man named Saul, later renamed Paul. The incident that we just read about took place after Jesus had died, been buried and rose from the dead, commissioning His followers to go out into the world and share the Good News.

Saul had heard about these people, whom some called "The Way", who were teaching about Jesus, saying that this Crucified Man was the Messiah – the Lord. This upset Saul, so much so that he went to the high priest, the ruler of the Jews, and asked for permission to cast these people in prison wherever he found them. He could not conceive that a Crucified Man was the King of the Jews. The permission he sought, he received, so Saul set out to go to a town named Damascus intent on wiping out this sect.

Now to some Saul's behavior might seem noble (he was protecting the purity of his faith), but there was a real problem with him. He was full of pride. He thought he could get right with God on his own – by doing righteous things. That's why he persecuted Christians, because he thought this would be one more way he could impress God with his worthiness. The fact was, however, that Saul's pride blinded him. Instead of improving his standing with God, he was actually ruining it and was headed toward certain destruction. On his own, Saul was really messing things up.

Now before we go on take a moment and fill in the blanks under the first question. (After the children have written and shared their answers, proceed with the lesson.)

### 2. Saul's conversion

Let's see now what happened to Saul on his way to Damascus. Look at verses 3-9.

**Acts 9:3-9 (NIV)** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

As Saul traveled down the road trying to imprison people who followed Jesus, Jesus met him. In what two ways did Jesus try to get his attention? Yes, He used a bright light from heaven which was brighter than the sun, and He used a voice from heaven. Write these two things down on your worksheet.

Saul heard the voice from heaven say, "Why are you persecuting me?" By what name did Saul call the voice from heaven? Yes, he said, "Who are you, *Lord*?" Write "Lord" on

your sheet. You see Saul knew for sure that God had met him. A light brighter than the sun could only be the glory of God, and a voice from heaven could only be God as well. But what Saul didn't understand was that the One getting his attention right now was Jesus, the Son of God, the One Saul had been persecuting. He must have been shocked when he heard Jesus say, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Well, the Lord told Saul to get up and go into the city and find out what he must do. So, his traveling companions took Saul to Damascus. They had to lead him there because something had happened to Saul. What was it? Yes, he was blind. Write that on your paper. Perhaps Jesus made Saul blind to show him that he had been blinded by his pride thinking he could make himself right before God by his own effort.

As Saul sat in Damascus, fasting and praying to the Lord, the Lord was continuing his work. He visited a man named Ananias. Write his name in the next blank on your sheet. The Lord told Ananias that He wanted him to go to Saul, place his hands on him, and restore his sight.

Now if you were Ananias, a Christian, and you had heard of Saul's reputation, how thrilled would you be about doing what Jesus had just asked. Rate your enthusiasm index on your worksheet. Put a one if you are not eager at all – a ten if you are extremely eager, or any number in between if you think Ananias' enthusiasm was somewhere in the middle. (Allow students to write and share their numbers before continuing.)

Needless to say, Ananias was none too thrilled. He had heard of Saul's reputation and was concerned he would end up in prison. But the Lord persisted. He told Ananias that Saul was *chosen* by God to share the message of Christ to the Gentiles, kings and the Jews. He also said Saul was *chosen* to suffer for the name of Christ.

When Ananias heard this he determined to obey. He went to the house where Saul was, placed his hands on him, and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately Saul's sight was restored, as the Holy Spirit came upon him. Saul got up, was baptized, and ate something since he was feeling a bit weak from his time of fasting.

### 3. Saul's new life

Let's see what Saul did next. Look at verse 20-22.

**Acts 9:20-22 (NIV)** At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. *21* All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" *22* Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Was there anything different about Saul now? Yes, his life was changed. Write that word in the blank on your sheet. He had been on the road to Damascus to find people who followed Jesus in order to put them in prison. But now he was in Damascus preaching about Jesus, proving that Jesus is indeed the One sent from heaven to save men from their sins.

Now who would you say was responsible for this change? Was it Saul? No, on his own he persecuted Jesus. On his own, he was headed to destruction, separation from God. But Jesus entered into his life, got his attention, showed him his blindness, and gave him new life by the Spirit. On your worksheet fill in the final blank.

### **Application**

Children, we are just like Saul. We have a blindness, a pride if you will, that keeps us from coming to Jesus, and if God does not intervene in our lives we will continue down a path that leads only to death and destruction. But thanks be to God, that He does intervene in our life – perhaps not as dramatically as with Saul – but with the voice from heaven found in His Word. God uses His Word to get our attention, show us our blindness – our sinfulness, and points us to life in Jesus alone. When God comes to us through His Word He removes the blinders and fills us with His Spirit who enables us to walk the way of life.

Has God drawn you to Jesus? Has He made you aware that apart from Him you are like a blind man unable to find your way? Has He removed your blindness, giving you sight through His Holy Spirit? Does your life show the difference? Does it show that you now have sight, that you have God's Spirit within you enabling you to walk in God's ways?

(As you close challenge those who do not know Christ to respond to Him, and those who are believers to thank God for opening their eyes.)

**LOGOS Kids Club**  
**Memory Instruction Time**  
**Lesson 14**

**1. Review**

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lessons 12 and 13. Give each child a chance to recite these lessons. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

**2. Explain the verse**

**John 6:44** *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

- † Who is the “Me” in this verse? Who is speaking? (Jesus)
- † What does Jesus say about those who come to Him? (None will come to Him unless the Father draws them to Him.)
- † When God draws us to Jesus in faith, what does Jesus promise to do? (He promises to raise us up.)

**3. Memorize the Verse**

Erase a word: Recite the whole verse with the children. If a child can say the verse let him erase one word. Then recite the verse with the group. Continue this procedure until all the words are erased and each child has mastered the verse. Be sure to say the reference before and after the verse.

**Lesson Review Questions**

1. What was Saul like before Jesus came into his life? (He was a proud man seeking to make himself right with God.)
2. What did Saul do with people of “the way”? Why? (He sought to imprison them. He thought this action would help him be right with God.)
3. Was Paul seeking Christ at this time? (No, he was persecuting Him.)
4. How did Jesus get Saul’s attention? (He came to him with a bright light and a voice from heaven.)
5. What happen to Saul as a result of Jesus’ visit? (He became blind.)
6. How did Saul have his sight restored? (Ananias was commissioned by God to go to Saul, lay his hands on him, and restore his sight.)
7. What did Saul receive as his sight was being restored? (The Holy Spirit.)
8. How did Saul’s life change? (Instead of persecuting Christ, he proclaimed Him.)
9. Will any person come to Christ on his own? (No. God must draw them.)
10. Has God drawn you to Christ? How do you know? Discuss this with your leader or your parents.

## Lesson 12 Review

Match the commandment with the characteristic of God by drawing a line between the two.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. You shall have no other gods before me.                 | God's words and ways are true.                        |
| 2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.                | God is a promise keeping God.                         |
| 3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.     | God reigns and gives authority to others.             |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy.                | God is holy.  |
| 5. Honor your father and mother.                           | God is the one and only God.                          |
| 6. You shall not murder.                                   | God is a faithful provider.                           |
| 7. You shall not commit adultery.                          | God is loving, giving His all for us.                 |
| 8. You shall not steal.                                    | God is the source of all physical and spiritual life. |
| 9. You shall not give false witness against your neighbor. | God is the greatest delight we will ever know.        |
| 10. You shall not covet.                                   | God is great – too great to be worshipped by an idol. |

Fill in the missing blanks of your Question and Answer and memory verse. See the word bank below if you need help.

**Question #12:** What does the tenth commandment teach us about the character of God?

**Answer #12:** The tenth commandment teaches us that God is our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ whom we can \_\_\_\_\_ to give us all we really \_\_\_\_\_.

**Memory Verse:** But seek \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_  
and all these \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you as well.

**Word Bank**

**given**

**kingdom**

**trust**

**things**

**first**

**provider**

**need**

**righteousness**

**faithful**

## Lesson 13 Review

Fill in the blanks of your lesson question by looking in the corresponding boxes for the correct words. Rewrite your lesson answer on the lines below the boxes.

**Question #13:** How do I come to this sort of obedience that glorifies God?

**Answer #13:** I come to this sort of obedience when I look to ( 1 )  
for ( 2 ) and for ( 3 ).

**Box 1**  
Myself  
God  
The world  
My parents

**Box 2**  
Courage  
Deliverance from sin  
Knowledge  
Self-confidence

**Box 3**  
Self – control  
Power to do His will  
Self – esteem  
Inner strength

Circle all the letters in the memory verse below that do not belong. Then unscramble them to find the name of the man you are supposed to draw in the tree below. Write his name on the line below the tree, then rewrite your verse on the lines provided. Don't forget to draw the man in the tree!

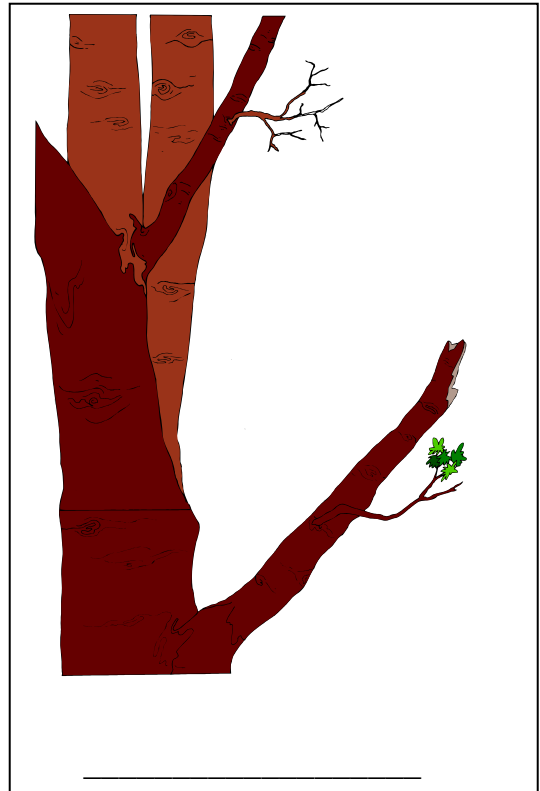
Psalm 51:10

Creccate hin me a purez heart, Os God  
Aand renecw aa steadfast spirit  
weithin meu.

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Psalm 51:10



## Lesson 14 Review

In your lesson answer below, cross out the words that do not belong. Then rewrite your answer.

**Question #14:** Is it through my own effort that I come to God for salvation and power?

**Answer #14:** (Yes, No). (None, all) of us (runs from, seeks) God. (God, I) must (pursue Him, draw us) and (give us, work up) faith to believe.

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From the three pictures below circle the picture(s) that best illustrates how we come to God. Think about this lesson before you make your choice. Tell your leader why you chose what you chose.



Verbs and nouns have been left out of your verse. Carefully fill them in. Use the word bank to help you. When finished mark your verse as directed.

John 6:44 \_\_\_\_\_ can come to \_\_\_\_\_ unless the \_\_\_\_\_ who sent \_\_\_\_\_ draws \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ will raise \_\_\_\_\_ up at the last day.

- Circle the words that tell what has to happen in order for us to come to Jesus.
- Draw a box around the words that tell what Jesus will do when the Father draws us to Jesus.
- Draw a line under the words that tell when Jesus will raise us up.
- Put an "X" through the words that tell how many people can come to Jesus without the Father drawing them.

### Word Bank

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Him    | me |
| Father | I  |
| No one |    |

## **True – False Review Game – Lessons 12-14**

One team is designated the “True” team, the other team is the “False” team. The teams line up at the center line facing each other. The leader makes a statement. If it is true, the “True” team must turn around and run towards its end line with the “False” team chasing. Any person from the “True” team that is caught before crossing the line must join the “False” team. If the statement is false, then the “False” team must run toward their end line with the “True” team chasing. Again any “False” player who is tagged before crossing his line must join the “True” team. After a set amount of time the team with the most players wins.

### **Questions**

1. True – the tenth commandment is “you shall not covet”.
2. False – God tells His children to worry about what they will eat, drink and wear.
3. True – To covet means to eagerly desire something for yourself.
4. True – We cannot be trusting God if we are coveting.
5. False – Since God is not able to care for all the people in the world, some of us will need to take care of ourselves.
6. False – Zacchaeus was a tall man.
7. True – Zacchaeus was changed by the love of Jesus.
8. True – Zacchaeus showed he had a new heart by repaying all the money he had unlovingly taken from others.
9. False – We can live obediently lives that glorify God on our own.
10. True – Jesus must change our hearts if we will be able to glorify God through our lives.
11. False – the Apostle Paul was seeking Jesus while on the road to Damascus.
12. True – Paul knew it was God who met with him on the road.
13. False – All men seek God.
14. True – If we are to come to Jesus, God must draw us.
15. True – Jesus promises to raise up those who are drawn to Him by God on the last day.

### **Other Questions**

1. False – All boys are smarter than girls.
2. True – LOGOS stands for Love of God our Savior.
3. False – Dogs always win in a fight against a cat.
4. False – Clouds are made of cotton candy.
5. False – A unicycle has 3 wheels.
6. True – God loved the world so much that He gave His Son to die for them.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 15 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #15:** Can anyone be saved who does not turn from his sinful ways to God in obedience?

**Answer #15:** The Bible teaches that no one living in sin will have part in God's Kingdom.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 25:31-46

### Insight for the Teacher

From our previous two lessons we have seen that no man on his own comes to God. We are all dead in trespasses and sins and without the work of God in our hearts we would all remain in darkness. When God does a work in our hearts, however, we respond by coming to God for deliverance from sin and power to do His will. Our life takes on a conformity to the perfect law of God. In this, God is glorified.

Since the above is true, then does it follow that someone who does not turn from his sinful ways cannot have a portion in the kingdom of God? Does it follow that someone who continues to live in sin cannot possibly have the life of God in him? Our Bible text for this lesson suggests that no one continuing to live in sin has a part in God's Kingdom. (Note: This above statement is not implying that a Christian never sins. We are not teaching perfectionism. It is suggesting that the true believer has died to sin and will not continue to live under its dominion.)

In the text for this lesson Christ has returned to His throne to judge the peoples. The sheep and the goats are separated. The sheep are those whose lives manifested a love of others. This was accounted to them as love to their Lord and they entered into the Kingdom of Heaven. The goats, on the other hand, are those whose lives manifested a neglect of others or a love of self. It was accounted to them that they were their own Lord and they were cast into the eternal fire.

Since men are saved by God's grace and not works, why did Christ look at the deeds of the people? The answer is that a man's deeds show what rules his heart. When God changes a man's heart, that man begins to love God with his all and his neighbor as himself. The man unchanged by God continues in his wicked, selfish ways. Certainly a man's deeds betray his heart condition. That is why our answer confirms that no one continuing in sin (marked by sin) has a place in God's Kingdom, for his deeds betray that he is without grace.

## Application Ideas

1. Respond to God's work in you with obedience.
2. Be diligent to have your life marked by love of God and others.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ We were made to glorify God? What have our lessons told us about how we do this? (One of the ways we glorify God is by keeping His commandments. For example when we refrain from lying we show the world that our God is a God of truth.)
- ◆ How do we come to this sort of obedience? Do we try really hard? (We must look to God who alone can forgive us our sins and give us power to obey. Trying really hard will not bring us to God-glorifying obedience.)
- ◆ Would we on our own look to God for salvation and power to do His will? (No. No man seeks God. God must do a work in our hearts, drawing us to Himself and giving us faith to believe.)
- ◆ Now the next question is not one of our lesson questions, but it is a very important one nonetheless. How would you know that God has drawn you to Himself and given you faith to believe? Take a moment and write your answer on your worksheet. (Allow children to write and share their answers. Do not comment on their responses.) Hopefully, in our lesson today we will learn the answer to this vital question.

### 2. Opening illustration

A young lady was swimming at a camp in Wisconsin. She seemed perfectly healthy, but she had been known to have epilepsy. That day the young lady dove into the water. Upon hitting the water she had a seizure and lost consciousness. She sank to the bottom where her head got lodged in the mud.

Fortunately the lifeguard was alert. He knew something was drastically wrong. How did he know that? All he had to do was observe her behavior. When the young lady did not surface, he knew there was a problem so he dove into the water to see if he could find her. Sure enough he found her at the bottom of the lake and immediately brought her up to the surface and then to the shore.

The young lady was not breathing and had no pulse. She was as close to dead as one could be. So the lifeguard got on his knees and administered CPR. He breathed into her and massaged her heart over and over again. Happily, she came back to life. She began coughing and spitting out mud. He had rescued her from certain death, and the young lady was very grateful for she knew that on her own she could do nothing.

Now as you think of this story, how did the lifeguard know that this girl had been revived? Yes, he could tell by her behavior. It was full of life again!

Did you know that spiritually we are like that young lady? The Bible says that we are dead in our sins and on our own we can do nothing about it. But God sees us in our sins. He sees by our unloving behavior that we are in great trouble and comes to rescue us. He breathes into us the breath of life – He places His Spirit within us – and we are revived. And how do we know that we have been revived? We know by our behavior which is no longer controlled by sin, but by love for God and others.

3. In our story today we will see both that a true evidence that we have been saved by God is shown in our loving behavior, and that a true evidence that we are not a true believer is that we continue in our sinful, unloving ways. Let's turn to our Bible passage and see how this truth is illustrated by Jesus. Turn to Matthew 25:31-33 to begin. .

## Body

1. The setting (25:31-33)

### **Matthew 25:31-33 (NIV)**

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

The scene we have just read is similar to a courtroom scene. The judge comes in and takes his seat in preparation of rendering his decision on the case. The difference with this scene is that this Judge is full of power and glory. He is accompanied by all His angels, and He will render His judgment on *all* the people.

As a first order of business the Judge gathers all the nations before Him. Note that no one will escape this event. As the people gather the Judge separates them, placing some on His right side and some on His left. This is similar to what a shepherd does with his sheep and goats. I am told that sheep can stand the cold, but goats must be gathered together to survive. So at night, a shepherd gathers his sheep and goats and separates them. On your worksheet take a moment and write sheep and goats on the first blanks of the chart.

Now, we must wonder why the Lord places some on His right side and some on His left. What is the basis of this separation? What is the basis of His judgment? Let's look together at the group on the right – the sheep - and learn what we can about them so that we can fill out the rest of the chart for them. To do this let's read together Matthew 25:34-40.

2. The sheep (25:34-40)

### **Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV)**

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a

stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Let's see if we can fill out the sheep side of the chart now. Who are the sheep? What group do they represent? Yes, they are the righteous. They were doing right in God's sight. Write "righteous" on your paper.

Who can tell me what characterized the behavior of the righteous? (Allow for discussion.) The righteous cared for those who were in need. They were full of love. When they saw someone hungry, they fed them. When they saw someone thirsty, they gave them drink, and so on. Take a moment and fill out the next box on the chart.

What was the promised reward for this group? Yes, the Lord said they could take their inheritance, which was to receive the Kingdom, that is, to live forever with the Lord, their King. Write that on your paper.

So, we have observed the first group. Now let's look at the other group - the goats. Let's see why they were put on the left. As we look at the goats try to fill out their side of the chart as well.

### 3. The goats (Matthew 25:41-46)

#### **Matthew 25:41-46 (NIV)**

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

From this passage who would we say the goats represent? Yes, they are those who are cursed. We could say "the wicked"; those not doing right. Write that on you chart.

What characterized the goats? (Allow for discussion.) When confronted with the needs of their brothers, those around them, they did not respond in love. You could say they were uncaring or unloving. Selfishness filled their hearts. When confronted with the hungry, they ignored them; likewise with the thirsty and so on. Take a moment and write your description in the blank provided.

Finally, what is the reward of the goats? Sadly, their reward is to be cast into an eternal fire where they will receive everlasting punishment.

### 4. The basis for separation

From what we have just read, what would you say was the basis for the Judge's separation? What did the Judge appear to be looking at that helped Him render His decision? (Allow for discussion.) It appears that the Judge looked at the behavior of the people. Those whose deeds were full of love for others were granted eternal life. Those whose deeds were not full of love for others were condemned to eternal punishment. Does

that mean that we are saved by our works? Actually, that cannot be the case for the Bible clearly tells us that we are not saved by our works or good deeds, but only by God's mercy.

Then why did the Judge look at their deeds? He looked at the behavior because "your behavior reflects your heart." Fill in the blanks on your worksheet. When love for Jesus fills your heart, your behavior will show that by loving others. When love for Jesus is absent, your behavior will show that as well. You will not be known for your loving ways.

And how is it that the love of Jesus can come to fill one's heart so that it will overflow in love toward others? It will only fill our hearts when God draws us to Himself and gives us a new heart. Only then will love for Jesus fill our hearts. Only then will our life be characterized by loving others. Only then can we face the coming Judge with confidence that we will gain our inheritance of eternal life.

### **Application**

On your sheet is a heart. It is your heart. As we close I want to ask you, "What fills your heart?" It will either be filled with the love of Jesus because God has changed your heart, or it will be filled with something else. And if it is filled with the love of Jesus know that your behavior will show it. You will know that you have been revived, made alive, by God if you truly love others. I want you ask you as well, "What does your behavior tell about your heart?" Is there enough evidence in your behavior to tell that God has made you new?

One day we shall all stand before the Son of Man, Jesus, in all His glory. On that day He will separate us, some to His right, some to His left. To which side will He separate you? Is there a growing body of evidence that God has given you a new heart? Do you find yourself loving others out of love for Christ? If so, rejoice, and ask the Lord to continue to fill your heart with the love of Christ. If not, then the answer is not trying to be more loving. The answer is to come to Christ, confessing your sinfulness, your selfishness, asking Him to give you a new heart.

Take time right now to express a prayer to God. Write your heart-felt prayer to God in the box on your sheet.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 15

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 14. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

***Ephesians 5:8*** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

- † What does Paul mean that we were once darkness? (We lived in darkness following our own desires, neglecting the God who made us.)
- † What does Paul mean that we are now light? How does someone become light? (To be light is to be one that God has drawn to Himself and given new life.)
- † How does someone live as a child of light? (It means to live showing our love for God and others.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Ping Pong: Divide your group into two teams. Use your finger to represent the ping pong ball. Point to each team -- that team will say one word (or two) each time the finger points to them. Continue to do this through the verse several times until the verse is memorized. If a team cannot say their word in a few seconds, award the other team a point.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What will the coming of the Son of Man be like and for what will He be coming? (He will come with glory, and with all His angels to judge the nations.)
2. What will the Judge do when the nations are gathered before Him? (He will separate them.)
3. What are the two groups and what characterizes each? (The righteous are those who have shown their love to the needy; the cursed or wicked are those who have neglected the needy.)
4. What reward awaits each group? (The righteous will inherit eternal life, but the wicked everlasting punishment.)
5. Are we saved by our works? Why or why not? (No, we are only saved by God's mercy. Our works will never gain the forgiveness we need.)
6. Why then does the Son of Man judge us based on our works? (Our works show what rules our hearts.)
7. What do your deeds tell about your heart? Have you asked God to give you a new heart? To which side will the Son of Man separate you on judgment day?

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 16 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #16:** What do we learn from the first beatitude (blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven)?

**Answer #16:** We learn that only those aware of their need for God will be part of the Kingdom of heaven.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Bible Story:** Luke 5:1-11

### Insight for the Teacher

The remaining lessons in this year’s curriculum will focus on the section of Scripture commonly known as the beatitudes. In a few short verses Christ portrays the essence of Kingdom living. As is true with the Ten Commandments, the standard of living held up here is so high, that apart from the regenerative work of the Spirit it would be an impossibility. Like the Ten Commandments, the beatitudes will show us our sinfulness and will lead us to Christ, who is our life.

In the first beatitude Jesus shows us that only those who are poor in spirit will be part of the Kingdom of heaven. In an age that promotes self-reliance, self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-expression, this instruction comes as quite a shock. Today we are told to believe in ourselves, to believe in our innate powers, to believe that knowledge is power, but Jesus’ words seem to be diametrically opposed to such advice. Jesus says that one must be emptied of self before being filled, convicted before being converted, wounded before being healed, condemned before being released.

This was a crucial lesson that Jesus wanted His disciples to learn early in His ministry. In the account in Luke 5 Jesus sets out to do just that. He chose to teach them after they had been confronted with their own weakness. They had toiled all night at something in which they were well trained, yet they had no fruit for their labor. Yet, in an instant, Jesus was able to produce enough fish to sink two boats. What a contrast!

This revelation of the person of Christ was too much for Peter. His eyes were enlightened to the majesty of Christ and to his own comparative emptiness. His response (Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord) showed that at that moment he recognized his poverty of spirit. Jesus had brought him to a very crucial point.

Thankfully Jesus did not leave him crushed in spirit and without hope. Quickly He assured Peter instructing him not to fear, for he would be used to fish for something greater than fish. With poverty of spirit and with the assurance of Jesus’ plan to use him, Peter forsook all and began to follow Christ. Having been brought to acknowledge his

personal poverty of spirit, Peter was now ready to enter the Kingdom program equipped with confidence in the One who had just awed him with a display of divine power.

## Application Ideas

To be part of the Kingdom of heaven we all must come to see our emptiness, our sinfulness, and our desperate need of Christ.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ How do we come to the sort of obedience that glorifies God? (We must look to God. He alone can forgive us and grant us power to do His will.)
- ◆ Is it through your own effort that you come to God for salvation and power? (No. None of us seek God. God must draw us and give us faith to believe.)
- ◆ Can anyone be saved who does not turn from his sinful ways to God in obedience? (No. No one living in sin will have part in God's Kingdom.)
- ◆ Why did God judge people by their works in Matthew 25? (Our deeds show what rules our hearts. If love for God rules our hearts, our deeds will show great love for God and others.)

### 2. Opening illustration

For the remainder of the year we are going to be studying a group of verses, the words of Jesus, known as the "beatitudes". In eight short phrases Jesus gives to us a portrait of Kingdom living. He gives us a picture of the attitudes or character of the person who is living with Jesus as their King.

The first beatitude Jesus shared was this: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. In this lesson we would like to explore what Jesus meant by "poor in spirit" and to see what comes when this attitude takes root in our lives.

To begin our study I'd like to ask a question. How many of your families have ever moved to a different house? (Allow for discussion.) Now you know that before you can move to that new house it must be emptied. The other family's furniture and all their belongings need to be removed. Additionally, it is often very desirable to have the house completely cleaned, even repainted. Then when all has been prepared you gladly come to live in the house, like a king in his castle.

Did you know that in some ways we are very much like a house, and that a very important person (a King) wants to live inside us? The fact is God wants to live inside us, so much so that He was willing to pay a very large price for us. Do you know what that price was? It was the precious blood of Christ shed on the cross. Now that's a very costly sum. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us so that He could come and live within us as our King. But before God can come live inside, He has to do the work of emptying us out and cleansing us. He has to do the work of making us "poor in spirit".

In our Bible story today we will see Jesus working on Simon Peter bringing him to the point of being “poor in spirit”. Let’s turn our Bibles to Luke 5 to see how Jesus did this and what it looked like in Simon’s life.

## Body

### 1. Simon –needing to be emptied

Simon was a fisherman. I imagine he was a pretty good one, too. Fishermen in those days knew their stuff. They knew when to fish and when not to fish. They knew how the weather affected fishing. They knew how to drag their nets. They were very confident in their ability to catch fish. That was their life! It was their job to be experts in this field.

Simon, a seasoned fisherman, was confident in his ability to fish, but He was also confident about life in general. Those who knew Simon knew Him to be bold. He was quick to speak and let others know what he thought. His friends might have described him as self-confident, self-assured, or to use a phrase from our day, one with high self-esteem. Simon felt pretty good about himself – that is, until the event recorded in Luke 5. Let’s see what happened. We’ll look first at verse 1-3.

### 2. Simon – learning to be “poor in spirit”

#### **Luke 5:1-3 (NIV)**

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2 he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

Our story begins with Jesus near the Lake of Gennesaret teaching the people about God. So large was the crowd that Jesus thought it best to get into a boat and push out a bit into the lake. From the water Jesus would have a little space and would be able to address the crowd more directly.

But Jesus was really interested in more than getting His space. He was interested in working on Simon’s heart. So Jesus got into *Simon’s* boat and asked him to move out a little from the shore. Little did Simon know what he was about to learn.

Well, when Jesus had finished speaking to the people He told Simon to put the boat out into deep water and to let out the nets in order to catch fish. This took Simon a bit by surprise. He explained to Jesus that he and the others had worked all night and didn’t catch a thing. Simon may have been wondering what made Jesus think He could tell a seasoned fisherman how to fish since Jesus was a carpenter, not a fisherman.

Nonetheless, because Simon respected Jesus he did what Jesus said. Then the fun began. Look at verses 6-7.

#### **Luke 5:6-7 (NIV)**

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

The guys who were the experts, who had worked so hard all night yet caught nothing, were now swamped with fish; so many fish that their nets began to break and their boats began to sink. The irony of this did not escape Simon. Look at the next verse that captures his response.

**Luke 5:8 (NIV)**

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

I submit to you, at this moment, Simon came to know poverty of spirit. He came to see himself as nothing in comparison to the One who stood before him, who had just let out a small glimpse of His glory. Before this event, Simon may have thought much of himself. He may have thought well of his fishing ability. He may have been self-confident, but in an instant Jesus changed all that. He showed Simon his littleness before a magnificent God. He showed Simon that he was a sinful man before a holy, almighty God.

Years ago when I lived in Wisconsin I was confronted with something quite awesome. A building, 50'X80', at the camp I worked at caught fire. The flames reached way up into the sky, the heat blasted everything around, the ground trembled. As I stood before this uncontrollable blaze I realized my littleness. Before me was such a great power, that any power I thought I had was seen to be nothing in light of this.

I think this is what Simon experienced. When confronted with a power and a greatness far beyond anything he could imagine, he realized he was nothing. He realized that he was but a sinful man. In essence he had begun to learn poverty of spirit.

This is exactly what Jesus had in mind that day. He desired to empty Simon of himself so that He, Jesus, could come into His life and fill him. Like the house we spoke of at the beginning of our time which had to be emptied first, before it could be lived in by the new owner, so was Simon in the sight of Jesus. Having emptied Simon, Jesus was free to bring His kingdom, His reign to work in his life.

That's why Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." Jesus knew that Simon would be useful to catch men only after he had learned poverty of spirit. It appeared that Simon and his friends were ready for that because they left everything and followed Jesus that day.

### **Application**

What about you? Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Has Jesus brought you to see your littleness, your nothingness, your sinfulness? Has He helped you see that He is a fearfully great and holy and powerful God, far beyond anything we can imagine? Has He emptied the home of your heart so that He could fill it with His kingdom, His presence, His power? If He has then you know that He wants to make you a fisher of men. He wants His power to work in you in such a way that others come to love and obey the Lord. If He hasn't then I urge you to pray that God opens your eyes to help you understand just how great He is and how little you are, but also that this Great One wants to inhabit the home of your heart, and use it as a base to expand His kingdom. Won't you pray to Him right now?

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 16

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 15. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:3** *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- † According to Jesus who are the blessed ones? (Those who are poor in spirit.)
- † What do you think it means to be poor in spirit? (It means to be emptied of your self so that Jesus can be all. Coming to see your sinfulness in light of God's glory.)
- † Why are the poor in spirit blessed? (Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Christ, the King, can find suitable residence in the heart that is poor in spirit.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Bean bag toss: Sit in a circle and give the first child a bean bag. He is to say the reference of the verse and then toss the bean bag to anyone else in the group. When that person catches the bean bag, he is to say the next word and then pass it on. Keep passing the bean bag until the verse is completely said. Try to make sure all children stay involved. To insure this you might want to say that once a person has caught the bean bag once, they can not catch it again until the next round.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. How would you describe Simon before he met Jesus by the lake? (He was self-confident, bold, very assured of himself.)
2. Why did Jesus come to the Lake that day? (Not only did Jesus want to teach the multitudes, He wanted to bring Simon to understand what it is to be poor in spirit.)
3. What did Jesus ask Simon to do? Why was this an unusual request? (He, a carpenter, asked Simon, a fisherman, to cast his nets out into the water.)
4. What amazing thing happened when Simon cast his net? (The boat and another boat were filled with fish.)
5. How did Simon respond to this and why? (He fell before Jesus and declared his sinfulness. Simon knew He was before a power he could not understand.)
6. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? (It means to be brought to see your nothingness, littleness, sinfulness before the great, might and holy God.)
7. Why does Jesus want us to be poor in spirit? (Only when we are poor in spirit can Jesus bring His kingdom, His reign, His presence into our life.)
8. Has Jesus come your way and taught you about being poor in spirit? Talk about this with your group.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 17 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #17:** What do we learn from the second beatitude (blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted)?

**Answer #17:** We learn that those who sorrow for their sins will be comforted with forgiveness and the hope of eternal life.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**Bible Story:** Luke 7:36-50

### Insight for the Teacher

The world in which we live is very uncomfortable with mourning. Its message would be that we should forget our troubles, be happy, be jovial and laugh. It even provides many modes of attaining such “happiness”. It offers a plethora of activities designed to entertain us and make us forget our sorrows. It even offers numerous substances - alcohol, drugs, ... - if entertainment alone cannot make us happy.

Such a message runs contrary to the second beatitude. In fact, this message is not only different from the second beatitude, it is the exact opposite, for Jesus says that the one who mourns is blessed. Jesus was promoting mourning, not saying we should shun it at all costs. Why would He give such instruction?

In Luke 7:36-50 we find a woman who had been shown the poverty of her spirit. In all likelihood she had been living in great sin. It is probable that she was a prostitute, but somehow she was shown the folly of her way. Confronted with her error she mourned. She sorrowed greatly for her sins, but such sorrow, instead of resulting in her demise, actually led to her healing and comfort.

Mourning for her sin she sought out the only One who could bring healing. She came to Jesus armed with perfume and the intention of worshipping Him. Having found Jesus in a place that would normally be hostile to her (the Pharisees would never have had anything to do with her), she anointed Jesus with her tears and the perfume. From the world's perspective this was a sight most to be pitied.

This, however, was not how Jesus viewed this scene. He saw in this woman's tears, in her mourning for her sin, a great beacon of hope. For her mourning led her to Jesus, who brought to her forgiveness and eternal life which would empower her for a new way of life. Her sorrow for sin brought her a comfort that nothing in the world could have given her - a comfort that comes only when one knows he is right with God.

Is the one who mourns to be pitied? According to Jesus he is not, because sorrow for one's sins is the entryway to full and lasting comfort - a comfort that comes from knowing you are forgiven and in possession of eternal life.

## Application Ideas

We must come to Christ aware of our inward poverty and mourning for our sins. With such a posture Christ is well pleased. It is sure to be rewarded with the comfort of knowing that one is forgiven and in possession of true life. Once redeemed, mourning for the sin of our world (and its consequences) is sure to provoke us to loving service to our needy world.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ Who can tell me what the first beatitude is? (Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)
- ◆ What does it mean to be poor in spirit? (It means to be brought to see your nothingness, littleness, sinfulness before the great, might and holy God.)
- ◆ How did Jesus bring Simon Peter to be poor in spirit? (He revealed a bit of His glory to Simon by producing a great catch of fish.)
- ◆ Why is it important to come to be poor in spirit? (It is only into an empty vessel that God can pour the presence of His kingdom.)

### 2. Opening Illustration

We can tell from the first beatitude that Jesus' teaching is a bit shocking. Who would have thought that being poor in any way would make a man blessed? Yet Jesus began His teaching by declaring that the man who is poor in spirit is blessed because his is the kingdom of heaven.

The second beatitude is equally surprising, even shocking. Jesus says that the person who mourns is blessed. To gain the full impact of this statement we must be sure we understand what it means to mourn. On your worksheet take a moment and write a definition for the word mourn. (Allow children to write then discuss their answers.) To mourn then is to be sad, or sorrowful, or full of grief about something. Does that seem to fit your definition of being blessed?

How many of you like to go to funerals? In fact, how many of you like funerals so much that every weekend you try to find one to which to go? The fact is we don't like to go to funerals because we don't like mourning. We live in a world that tells us mourning is something to be avoided. We live in a world that works hard to provide different kinds of entertainment so we won't have to think about the things that are truly sad in our world. We are given games, and sports, and movies, even alcohol and drugs so that we can ignore the things truly sorrowful in our world and even in our own lives.

Yet Jesus said that the person who mourns is blessed. How could he say that? What did He mean by that? In our Bible story today we will see a person who is mourning, and a person who is far from mourning, and we will see which one is truly blessed and why. Are you ready to see why Jesus said we are blessed if we mourn? If so, let's turn

together to Luke 7:36-39 so that we can be introduced to these people. As I read try to find out all you can about these two people.

## Body

1. Two persons in contrast (Luke 7:36-39)

### **Luke 7:36-39 (NIV)**

36 Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, 38 and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Take a moment now and write down on the blank lines the two people to which we were introduced and note below the line anything you learned about them. (Give students time to record then share their answers. As you discuss what they learned, the information below should be helpful.)

*The Pharisee* – A. His name was Simon (vs. 40) B. As a Pharisee he was a ruler of the Jews who sought to interpret the law and keep the faith pure. C. He was proud. We see this in the way he looked down at and spoke of the woman. Also many Pharisees were very proud of their law keeping. D. He was not a mourner. He was blind to his own sinfulness and his need of Jesus.

*The woman* – A. She was a sinner. This means that she had been living a very immoral life. B. She was humble. She kissed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. C. She was a mourner. She had a great sense of her sinfulness. She knew she needed Jesus to forgive her.

So we have a proud Pharisee, not one Jesus would describe as a mourner, who is bothered by Jesus' response to a sinful woman, who is definitely a mourner and showing it in a dramatic way. Let's read on to see what Jesus has to say to this Pharisee.

2. The reason for the contrast (7:40-50)

### **Luke 7:40-50 (NIV)**

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. 41 "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. 44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her

many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” 48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” 50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Jesus begins by telling a parable about two people who owed a debt. One owed a great debt and one owed a small debt. Why do you think Jesus talks about debts? The fact is the Bible speaks about our sin as a debt. It is almost as if every time we sin we stack up a greater debt against ourselves before God.

Now to whom do you think Jesus was referring when he mentioned one who owed a large debt and one who owed a small debt? On your worksheet write the name of the person under the debt you think belongs to them. (After students write and share their answers continue.) Yes, the greater debt belongs to the woman; the smaller debt to the Pharisee.

Now it must be understood that the debt to which Jesus referred was the debt they *felt*, not their actual debt. Both of them were great sinners before God. Both, in reality, had a great debt, but the woman *felt* her debt deeply. She felt its weight. She mourned for her sins and because she mourned for her sins Jesus said she would love much when she was forgiven. He then went on to show how this was true.

In the days when Jesus walked the earth, it was very important to show hospitality to one another in some very specific ways. Those ways included bowing to the person, washing the person’s feet which would have been soiled by the dusty roads, greeting them with a kiss on the cheek, and anointing them upon the head with oil. This treatment given to a guest at your home would be an expression of love for them and honor to them.

When Jesus entered the home of Simon he received none of these things. His feet were not washed. He received no reverential bow, nor a kiss, nor was His head anointed with oil. Simon, the proud Pharisee unaware of his sin, showed Jesus very little love.

But the woman who was a sinner, who felt her sins deeply, who mourned for them was different. She threw herself at Jesus’ feet (the reverential bow). She kissed his feet over and over. She washed His feet with her tears and wiped them off with her hair. Then she anointed His feet with perfume that was likely to be very costly.

Why the difference in treatment? Because she was a mourner. She was very aware of her sinfulness and it grieved her much. It saddened her so much, that when she learned of Jesus and saw that she might have hope in Him, she came and humbled herself before Him.

And what was the result for the woman? Fill in the first blank under number 3 on your paper. (After children complete the blank continue.) And what was the result? She was forgiven. She walked away that day forgiven. Is it true that the one who mourns is blessed? Was she comforted? Indeed she was. Because she mourned, because she was broken for her sins, she came to Jesus and found forgiven. Her sins (her debt) was cancelled and she found great comfort. She was truly blessed.

And what of the Pharisee? He did not mourn for his sins. Though they were many, he was not aware of them. He was blind to them and as a result did not humble himself

before Jesus, nor did he find forgiveness. He was did not mourn was not blessed indeed. He was, in fact, in a very dangerous position, still lost in his sins.

## Application

1. Do you see now why Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn”. Those who mourn for their sins, who are saddened by their rebellion before God, are those likely to humble themselves before Jesus and find forgiveness. They are those who are likely to be comforted as they come to know they are clean before God.

Does that describe you? Are you a mourner? Are you saddened by your sin, by your rebellion before God? And has that sadness led you to come humbly before Jesus, the One who is exceedingly able to wipe away your sin and comfort your soul?

How I encourage you today – don’t hide from your sin. Stop hiding from its reality. Don’t be like the Pharisee who worked hard to make himself seem alright, when, in fact, he was not. Allow God to show you your sinfulness. Be saddened over your sin – but don’t remain there. Allow your grief to propel you to Christ where you will find comfort in God’s forgiveness. How I pray that each of you will know the blessedness of being a mourner.

2. As we close I want you to take a moment and fill in the blanks of your application exercise. Then take a moment and write out how you think this lesson should be applied to your life.

(Note to teacher: After the children fill in their application box you may want them to share what they wrote. Then help them to understand that another way we mourn is by mourning over the sins of others. As we look at how sin damages the lives of others around us we will come to mourn or be saddened over that sin, and this should drive us who have been forgiven to love those around us who are yet slaves to sin.)

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 17

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 15 and 16. Give each child a chance to recite these lessons. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:4** *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

- ✠ What does it mean to be blessed? (It means to be happy, content, full due to God's gifts to us.)
- ✠ What does it mean to mourn? (It means to be saddened by something often greatly.)
- ✠ What does Jesus say will be true about those who mourn? (They will be comforted.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Flip a coin. Divide your group into two groups. Assign one group to be the "heads" group and the other the "tails". Practice saying the verse together several times then flip a coin. If it lands on heads, let the heads group recite the verse. If it lands on tails let the tails group say the verse. Repeat this until everyone has the verse memorized well.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is the first beatitude? (Blessed are the poor in spirit for there is the kingdom of heaven.)
2. What is the 2<sup>nd</sup> beatitude? (Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.)
3. Why does the 2<sup>nd</sup> beatitude seem odd to us? (We live in a world they does much to run away from those things that might sadden us.)
4. Who was a mourner in our Bible story? (The woman who was a sinner.)
5. Over what did she mourn? (She was saddened by her sin.)
6. What did her mourning cause her to do? (She came humbly to Christ for forgiveness.)
7. What did she receive from Christ? (Forgiveness)
8. How was the woman comforted? (Her burden of sin was lifted.)
9. Why didn't the Pharisee mourn? (He thought he was righteous in himself.)
10. Have you come to mourn for your sin? Talk with your leader / parent.
11. Have you ever mourned because of sin in our world? What might God call you to do about that sin?

## Lesson 15 Review



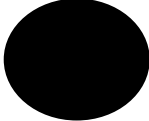
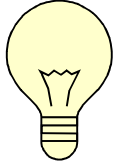
Fill in the missing blanks for your lesson answer.

Question #15: Can anyone be saved who does not turn from his sinful ways to God in obedience?

Answer #15: The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

will have \_\_\_\_\_ in God's \_\_\_\_\_.

In the box below connect with a line the things that go together.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
|  |   |   |
| <b>Children of Light</b>  |   | <b>Children of Darkness</b>   |

In the box below circle the words that describe how a "sheep" lives.

|                                   |                                     |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fed the hungry                    | Ignored the sick                    | Didn't visit the imprisoned |
| Did not give drink to the thirsty | Clothed those who needed clothing   |                             |
| Visited the sick                  | Did not invite the stranger in      |                             |
| Didn't give food to the hungry    | Came to those imprisoned            |                             |
| Gave drink to the thirsty         | Invited the stranger into your home |                             |
| Ignored those needing clothes     |                                     |                             |

Write out your memory verse below by replacing the symbol with the correct word. Then on the back of this paper draw an example of how you are living as a child of light.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once  but now you are  in the .

 as  of .

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## Lesson 16 Review

Use words in your word bank to replace the underlined words in the lesson answer that have been changed by an enemy. Write the correct version of the answer on the lines provided, then answer the T/F questions that follow.

Question #16: What do we learn from the first beatitude?

Answer #16: We teach that all those insensible of their need for money will be part of the state of Arizona.

| Word Bank |       |        |     |       |      |
|-----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|------|
| Kingdom   | learn | heaven | God | aware | only |

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T F The first beatitude is “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

T F The beatitudes are a group of 8 phrases spoken by the Apostle Paul.

T F The beatitudes tell us how to live with Christ as our King.

T F Only those who have a new heart will be able to live according to the beatitudes.

T F To be poor in spirit means the same as having good self-esteem.

Unscramble the words of your memory verse and then write it two times on the lines provided. Then draw a picture in the box provided that shows what it means to be “poor in spirit”. You might want to draw the picture from the Bible story we used to teach this verse.

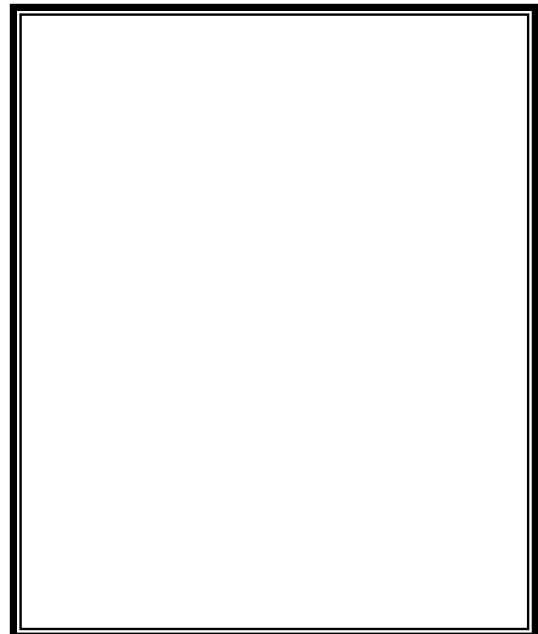
Heaven blessed of are Matthew 5:3 kingdom  
the the poor is in theirs spirit for.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 18 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #18:** What do we learn from the third beatitude (Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth)?

**Answer #18:** We learn that those who rest in God's care will be content now and abundantly blessed when Christ returns.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Bible Story:** Genesis 13

### Insight for the Teacher

In the third beatitude Jesus declares that the one who is meek is blessed. In His day such a message would have been ridiculed. The Jews were under Roman oppression and believed their Messiah would come in power and great glory and win back all their rights. It was power and might that made a person blessed, not meekness.

In our day the response would be the same. We are told to fight for our rights, to assert ourselves, to look out for #1, to strive for power through education and other means. Meekness is seen as something weak, a defect in one's character. It is certainly not an avenue of blessing.

Abraham, however, found the opposite to be true. He had been sojourning with his nephew, Lot, in a land that was becoming increasingly cramped for their peaceful coexistence. He had every reason to assert himself at this time. He was, after all, the oldest and in that culture, age meant something. He also had been promised land from God. Could this be it? Such reasoning, however, had no part with Abraham who gave his nephew the option of which part of the land to choose.

Why would Abraham act in this way? The reason is that Abraham was meek. He had learned to rest in God and completely leave to Him his rights, his cause, his future, his very life. He did not do this because he was flawed in character, but actually because he was strong in character. Only the strong in faith, those who truly rest and trust in God, would do what Abraham did.

How was his meekness rewarded? As the story shows, God came to him and declared the land as far as he could see would be his, and he would have descendants, numbered like the sands of the sea, to fill the land. Armed with meekness, that implicit trust in God for all that concerned him, Abraham became the recipient of great blessing. He was greatly rewarded.

It should be noted the result of Lot's choice. He chose to take care of himself and look out for his own needs and rights. The result could not have been more tragic. Seeking his own he came to lose all. He inherited the wind.

## Application Ideas

We must all cultivate a deep trust in God. We must rest in Him for all that concerns us. All our needs, our rights, our cause, our very life must be placed in his hands. The fact is those who entrust their life completely to God will have all they really need. They will indeed inherit the earth. They will be “as having nothing, yet possessing all”.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What is the first beatitude? (Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)
- ◆ What does it mean to be poor in spirit? (When face to face with God’s greatness we see that we are nothing before Him.)
- ◆ What does we learn from the first beatitude? (Only those aware of their need for God will be part of the Kingdom of heaven.)
- ◆ What is the second beatitude? (Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.)
- ◆ What does it mean to mourn? (To sorrow for one’s sins and the effect sin has in our world.)
- ◆ How will mourners be comforted? (They will receive forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. One day sin and all its effects will be gone.)

### 2. Opening illustration

Our third beatitude is “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” In order to understand this statement it is necessary to have a definition for the word “meek”. Take a moment and on your worksheet write a definition. (Give the children time to write and share their definitions.) According to Webster’s dictionary the word “meek” means gentle, or enduring injury with patience and without resentment.

If we take this definition we understand then that Jesus is saying that it is the gentle, or those who endure injury with patience and without resentment who will inherit the earth. Does that sound right to you? As was the case with the first two beatitudes, Jesus, with this third beatitude, says something that does not seem to square with our understanding of things. He turns our world up-side-down.

Who is going to inherit or gain the earth? Our world will tell us it is the powerful. It is the one who assembles all his powers, perhaps his army and tanks and planes, and asserts all his rights against his opponent. That’s who is going to inherit the earth.

The people who heard Jesus talk about the meek inheriting the earth for the first time certainly were taken back by Jesus’ statement. The Jews of the day were under Roman rule which was at times, at least from their perspective, oppressive. They longed for the day their Messiah would come in power and great glory and win back all their rights.

They believed it was asserting one's rights with power that led to blessedness, not meekness.

But Jesus' teaching is radical. He declares that when God is our King we live and think differently from the world. This is definitely true in the area of meekness. In our story today we are going to look at two relatives. As we look at this story I want you to determine which person is meek, and which ends up inheriting the earth, or being blessed the most.

Turn with me to Genesis 13. Let's look first at Abraham's conflict.

## Body

### 1. Abraham's Conflict (13:1-7)

#### **Genesis 13:1-7 (NIV)**

1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. 2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. 3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier 4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

- ◆ From the passage we just read, who are the two main characters in this story? Write their names on the lines provided on your worksheet. (Abraham, Lot)
- ◆ Now take a moment and write what you learn about each man in the space below each man's name. Focus especially on what you find in the first 5 verses. (Help the children see that Abraham was very wealthy, married and was a godly man. Lot had substantial flocks and herds and tents. He also was Abraham's nephew – Gen. 11:31.)
- ◆ What problem or conflict do we see happening in verses 6-7? Take a moment and write down what you observe. (Again help the children see that their large amounts of livestock were creating a problem of space which, in turn, was creating conflict between their respective herdsmen.)

So we see Abraham and his nephew in conflict. How would this conflict be resolved? Would Abraham assemble his army and pursue his right to the land? Let's read on in our passage to find out. As we read I want you to discover which person is showing meekness. Let's start reading at verse 8.

### 2. Abraham's meekness

#### **Genesis 13:8-13 (NIV)**

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." 10 Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like

the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

You will notice on your worksheet a line before the word meekness. Take a moment and write the name of the man who showed meekness. (Give students time to do this, then proceed.) Who showed meekness? Yes, it was Abraham. Now take a moment and write on your paper how you think he showed meekness. (After children write and share their answers, proceed.)

Now it is important to realize that Abraham was the uncle of Lot, and as uncle he would have held a place of honor. Because of this it was certainly within his rights to choose the land he desired and to give Lot what was left over. In addition, we learn in chapter 12 that God had already promised to give Abraham this whole land. Again it seemed that Abraham had the right to send Lot away.

But Abraham didn't do that. Instead of demanding his rights, Abraham chose to display meekness. Take a moment and fill in the blanks on your paper (right, meekness). Abraham let Lot choose instead of himself. And what kind of land did Lot choose? He chose the best for himself. He looked at the land and decided to take the land that was well watered, leaving the less desirable land for his uncle.

Now why would Abraham choose to be meek instead of standing up for his rights? He had a lot to lose, didn't he? Was it because Abraham was weak and wimpy and couldn't stand up to his nephew? Not at all. Abraham chose the way of meekness because he was strong in faith. He trusted God to take care of him, and believed that God would keep his promise to give him a great land in the end. His meekness was rooted in his absolute trust in God. Abraham deposited all his rights, all of his needs, even his very life in the hands of the Lord.

Was that a wise thing to do? Let's see what happens next? Let's see what inheritance each man received. Look at verse 14 and following with me.

### 3. Abraham's inheritance (13:14-18)

#### **Genesis 13:14-18 (NIV)**

14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. 17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." 18 So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

Was Abraham wise to trust the Lord for his all? Was he right to walk the way of meekness? He certainly was. His inheritance was grand. Take a moment and write on your worksheets exactly what Abraham inherited. (Give the students time to write and share their answers.) Yes, Abraham was wise. His inheritance included all the land he could see and descendants like the dust of the earth.

What about Lot? Though this passage does not tell us what happened to him, we know from latter passages that Lot and his family got drawn into the evil ways of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and that Lot and his family barely escaped when God brought judgment upon those cities. In fact, his wife was so drawn to these evil cities that in their escape from them she looked back and turned to salt. Take a moment and in your own words write down what Lot inherited.

It definitely was true in this passage that the meek one was blessed the most.

### **Application**

Did you know that there is another meek One in our Bible? In fact, this One was the meekest of all. It is not because he was weakest of all. In fact, He was the strongest of all. Of course, you know by now I am talking about the Lord Jesus.

He, who was the strongest, the mightiest, the most powerful of all patiently submitted Himself to the cruelty of man. He let man spit at him, beat him with a rod, whip His back to shreds, and pound nails through His hands. Yet all of this He took without a word. He merely entrusted Himself to His Father whom He knew does all things well.

This meek One now calls His followers to be meek like Him. He says blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. It sound very strange to us. We think we have to assert our rights, and fight back, and kick and scream, but our Lord bids us to trust Him for all things.

The other day I spoke with a boy who said that others were making fun of him and giving him a hard time. I asked him what he did about it. His answer: he tried not to react to it, but instead to trust God. Do you know what this boy was showing? He was showing meekness, and according to Jesus, he and others like him are truly blessed.

I like the words of Alexander MacLaren who said that meekness is accepting whatever God allows to come our way, no matter how much it hurts, without murmuring, without sulking, without rebellion, and without resistance.

The only way we will do that is if we have entrusted our lives completely to God. Have you done that? Are you growing in meekness? You will know by how you respond to difficult situations. Take a moment and talk with God. If you haven't ever entrusted your life to God, talk to Him about that. If you need to grow in meekness tell God of your need of Him in order to live the way He says is most blessed.

After you have prayed take a moment and draw a picture of a way you can be meek.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 18

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 17. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:5** *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

- † What does it mean to be meek? (To be gentle, to patiently endure injury or difficulty without resentment.)
- † Can you think of a Bible character that was meek? (Answers vary.)
- † What does Jesus promise the meek? What does this mean? (He promised that they would inherit the earth. It is not the strong and powerful who will have what they need, but those who trust God.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Add a word: Divide the team into two groups. Have one group say the first word only - then the other team should say that word plus the next word. Each time the team has a turn, they repeat all that has been said previously and add **one word**. Do this several times until the verse is learned.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is the third beatitude? (Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.)
2. What does it mean to be meek? Give an example. (To be gentle. To patiently endure injury or difficulty without resentment or rebellion. Not asserting your rights even though you might, but instead trusting God to take care of you.)
3. What was the conflict between Abraham and Lot? (They had too much livestock to share the land. The herdsmen were in conflict because of this.)
4. What rights did Abraham have that he could have asserted in this conflict? (He was the uncle and God had already promised him the land.)
5. How did Abraham show meekness in resolving the conflict? (Though he had the right to choose the land he wanted, instead he allowed Lot to choose.)
6. Why did Abraham choose the way of meekness? (He trusted God. One does not have to assert his rights when he believes he is in God's care.)
7. How did the inheritance of each man differ? (Abraham inherited much land and descendants. Lot inherited the wind. He lost his wife and nearly his daughters.)
8. How and why did Jesus display His meekness? (Though full of power He patiently endured the cross and all its tortures because He trusted His Father completely.) Are you growing in meekness? Discuss this with your leader.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 19 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #19:** What do we learn from the fourth beatitude (Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled)?

**Answer #19:** We learn that only those who seek Christ above all will be truly satisfied.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**Bible Story:** Philippians 3 (also refer to John 4:1-42)

### Insight for the Teacher

Every human, from birth on, experiences a sense that something is wrong. There is a gnawing pain within that reminds him that all is not right. Many seek to deal with this emptiness by pursuing the happiness or public recognition that comes from this world and its offerings.

The woman at the well is a perfect example of this. To deal with the pain that she felt within, she pursued relationships with men. In fact she had had 5 husbands and was now working on a sixth. It must be admitted, however, that these pursuits were like drinking water, which satisfies for a moment but brings no lasting satisfaction. The pursuit of happiness in things this world offers does not take away the sense of pain within.

The Apostle Paul as well, gives us an example of this. Instead of seeking happiness in relationships, he pursued the approval of men. He sought to be recognized as the premier religious leader of his day. He had all the credentials. This pursuit, however, would not take away his pain either. In fact he considered all those things as worthless in comparison to the one thing that truly satisfies.

What pursuit then brings us needy humans the fulfillment our souls' desire? Jesus pointed the woman to Himself. He was living water, a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. Having Jesus resident in our lives is the sole remedy for the pain that lies within.

Paul declared the same message. He pursued a righteousness (a right standing and a right walk with God) that came only through having Christ and being found in him. He counted all other pursuits worthless in comparison and spent his life pressing toward the goal of laying hold of that to which Christ had called him. He had found the one thing that brought a great measure of satisfaction in this life and the hope of full satisfaction when Christ returned.

## Application Ideas

We must forsake the pursuit of happiness in the things this world has to offer. Such a happiness will never be found. Instead we must pursue Jesus Christ, who is our righteousness. In His life and death He has won for us a right standing with God and a power to live in a manner pleasing to God. His presence in our life brings in a peace which overcomes the pain which once resided within. Those who hunger and thirst for the righteousness found only in Christ will truly be filled.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What is the second beatitude? (Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.)
- ◆ What does it mean to mourn? (To sorrow for one's sins and the effect sin has in our world.)
- ◆ How will those who mourn be comforted? (God promises forgiveness of sins, and eventually to be completely freed from sin's power and presence in heaven.)
- ◆ What is the third beatitude? (Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.)
- ◆ In our lesson last week how and why did Abraham show meekness? (He let Lot choose which land he wanted though he had the right to choose. Abraham's meekness was rooted in his trust of God.)
- ◆ Was Abraham rewarded for his meekness? (Yes, the Lord promised him a great land and innumerable descendants.)
- ◆ How did Jesus show meekness? (He submitted Himself to the cross though He could have called 10,000 angels to His aid. His meekness was rooted in His trust in the Father and commitment to His will.)

### 2. Opening

A. Though we may be unaware there are people in our world who suffer great hunger and thirst. I read of one group of people in Ethiopia, a strong, hardworking, resilient people who are suffering greatly. A drought hit their land and as a result their livestock have died (their sole source for milk) and the crops have not grown (their sole source of bread). Each day their struggle to survive gets harder and harder.

One day a relief worker from World Vision visited these people. He witnessed many children crying. When he asked why they were crying, the people answered, "because they are hungry". Then the people began to shout, "Give us milk. Please give us milk."

The little children in that land cried very much. Their mothers, amidst the shedding of their own tears sought to satisfy them, but they could not produce enough milk. The children live each day with a gnawing hunger within, knowing something is missing.

B. Did you know that our Bible speaks of another kind of hunger and thirst that affects not just part of our world population, but actually all of it? It is not a hunger or thirst of

body, but rather it is a hunger and thirst of soul. It is a gnawing sense within that something is missing; that life is incomplete; that something is wrong.

Many people who sense this, who feel this inner pain, try to cover it up. Some try to drown it with alcohol, some with drugs, some with violence, some with pleasure or excitement or entertainment, but in the end none of these things helps. The pain always returns because these things were never suited to satisfy the hunger of the soul.

C. Are you aware of your hunger or thirst of soul? Do you sense that all is not right, that something is missing or has gone wrong? And if you sense your need, how have you gone about trying to satisfy it?

D. In our lesson today we are going to look at a man who sensed his inner hunger and sought to do something about it. At first he tried to cover it up, but when he finally met Jesus, he came to know the one thing that alone could satisfy the hunger of his soul. Let's look at his story by turning to Philippians 3.

## Body

### 1. Paul B.C. (before coming to Christ)

The man we want to talk about is Paul, later known as the Apostle Paul. Paul was unlike many other men, in that, he was aware of the thirst of his soul and was somewhat aware of its cause. You see Paul knew that this inner thirst was caused by his being separated from God. Paul knew there was something missing, something wrong in his relationship with God. Do you know what was causing this problem? Yes, it was sin.

But Paul, like so many others, took the wrong approach to satisfying that thirst. He thought if he could amass all of his credentials and accomplishments, that this would satisfy his soul. This would remove the problem in his relationship with God. Besides, it would certainly make him appear very religious before the other rulers with which he associated. That possibly could help cover the sense of something being wrong.

Let's look together at some of the things Paul thought he had going for him. Read verses 4-6 and then write out what credentials and accomplishments Paul mentions.

### ***Philippians 3:4-6 (NIV)***

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

What did you find? (Allow children to share what they found. Share the following information as needed.)

Paul was circumcised on the eighth day, like any good Jew who wanted to be part of God's covenant family. He was born in Israel, specifically in the tribe of Benjamin, which was the tribe, among other things, that produced the first king. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews which may have meant that both his parents were true Jews. Furthermore, Paul was a Pharisee, one of the strictest groups who prided themselves in following the law. Paul was zealous in that he went out persecuting Christians. Finally, he was very

careful to follow the law. He claimed to be faultless. With all of these credentials Paul thought he could take care of the thirst of his soul.

Do you think he was successful? Let's continue his story.

## 2. Paul's conversion

You may remember several weeks ago we told you the story of Paul while he was on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians. Here was a man working hard at trying to satisfy his soul on his own, but one day God really got his attention.

While on the road to Damascus God came to Paul with a great light and a voice from heaven. Paul fell to the ground knowing that God was meeting with him, but not sure why. When Jesus asked him why he was persecuting Him, Paul asked who He was. When the answer came back, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" Paul was crushed. He realized all his efforts to make himself right with God, to quench the thirst of his soul, had been futile. He was going about it in wrong way.

Look at what Paul says in the next verses about all those things in which he once had confidence. Look at verses 7-9 with me.

### ***Philippians 3:7-9 (NIV)***

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

After Paul came to faith in Christ how did he look at all his accomplishments and credentials? Yes, he considered them as loss or as he says later as rubbish / garbage. They were of no value in curing the needs of his soul. Complete the first question under number 2 on your worksheet.

And what now did Paul consider to be of utmost value? Write on your paper what you see in verses 7-9. (Allow children to write and share their response.) Now Paul found knowing Christ of utmost value, for Paul realized that the only One who could satisfy his soul and take care of his sin problem was Jesus. Jesus alone could make Paul right before God and ease the gnawing pain caused by being separated from God.

When Paul discovered this, his whole world changed. Instead of trying to promote himself, he now sought to know more and more of Jesus. This became the pursuit of His life. Look at how he speaks about this in verses 10-14. As I read these verses look for words that show that Paul has a really, really, really strong desire to know Jesus.

## 3. Paul C.E. (in his Christian era)

### ***Philippians 3:10-14 (NIV)***

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do:

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Before we discuss these verses, take a moment and write down the words you saw that showed that Paul had a strong desire to know Jesus. (After the children write and share their answers, continue.) Yes, Paul said that he pressed on. He strained like an athlete toward the finish line for the prize which was to possess all that God had in store for him in Jesus Christ. Paul had found the only true cure for the pain in his soul – Jesus – and he wanted to get all of Jesus that he could. He knew that knowing Jesus would increasingly rid him of the sin that plagued his soul, and was the only true answer to his inner hunger and thirst.

Paul had indeed learned what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Take a moment and fill in the blanks in the sentence at the end of your worksheet. Note: if time permits, briefly share the story in John 4 showing how the woman at the well came to find Jesus as the living water that was able to satisfy her soul's thirst.

### Application

As we close, children, I want to ask you, "Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness?" When you read the words of Paul do you find yourself saying, "That's what I want!" I know that's what happens to me. When I read Paul saying that He wants to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering, my heart leaps. That's what I want. I know the sin that lives in my heart. I know I can be selfish and unloving. I know that I can have idols in my heart, and I know I want to be free of them. I want to be rightly related to God, living for Him, experiencing the power of the resurrection. What about you? Do you know this hunger and thirst?

To see if there is this hungering and thirsting for righteousness I want you to take the test on your worksheet. Answer the questions honestly and then score your test. See if you are one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness. Take a moment now and take your test. (Give students time to take and score their tests.)

At the beginning of our lesson we spoke of the children in Ethiopia who were crying because they were hungry. Daily they feel the gnawing pains within and know that something is missing. Sadly, many of these children will die. Even if they sought very hard to satisfy their hunger, many of them would not find the nourishment they needed.

Fortunately, that is not true of our soul's hunger. Jesus says if you hunger and thirst for righteousness, you will be filled. Notice that it says, "you will **be** filled". It does not say that you will fill yourself, but it does promise as you seek to know Jesus and the life He came to give, God will bless your efforts and fully satisfy your need. Are you hungering and thirsting for righteousness? If you are, you are blessed and will be filled.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 19

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 18. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:6** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

- † What is righteousness? (It is being right with God; being in right standing with God; being clean before God.)
- † What do you think it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness? (It means to greatly desire to be right with God.)
- † What promise is given to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? (They will be filled. They will come to know the satisfaction of being right with God.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Echo (Echo) - Divide your group into two teams and tell them you are going to play the echo game. Have one team begin by reciting part of the verse and then have the other side "echo" what they heard. Have the first team make their way all the way through the verse and then switch roles.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is the fourth beatitude? (Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.)
2. How did Paul seek to satisfy the thirst of his soul before he came to faith in Christ? (He sought to promote his credentials and accomplishments thinking these would make him right in God's eyes.)
3. What did Paul think about his credentials and accomplishments after he came to faith in Christ? (He counted them as loss, or as worth nothing in satisfying the thirst of his soul.)
4. What did Paul come to believe was of supreme value in satisfying his soul's need? (Jesus – knowing Jesus.)
5. How do some people try to satisfy their soul's need apart from Jesus? (They try to cover their need through alcohol, drugs, pleasure, entertainment,...)
6. What are some things that would be true of the person who is truly hungering and thirsting for righteousness? (Eager to read the Word, to pray, to fellowship with other believers. Diligently striving to conquer known sin in their life.)
7. Are you hungering and thirsting for righteousness? Talk about this with your leader.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 20 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #20:** What do we learn from the fifth beatitude (blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy)?

**Answer #20:** We learn that those who show mercy (showing compassion to the undeserving) are assured of mercy from God.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**Bible Story:** Acts 6:8 - 7:60

### Insight for the Teacher

It seems that in Scripture what a man becomes transformed by determines how a man lives out his life. Transformed by love, a man becomes loving; by truth, he becomes truthful; by forgiveness, he becomes forgiving. To this list we can add the quality of mercy. Transformed by mercy, a man becomes merciful.

The above is true because when God converts (transforms) a man, He gives him a new disposition that is created in the likeness of his Creator. God, who is love, truth, forgiving and merciful, implants that very nature in His children. Evidence of that transaction between God and man comes out in a man's style of life.

The children of Israel had never come to grips with the mercy of God. They had indeed been shown a great mercy throughout their history, but they never came to know it in their experience. God had shown a wonderful mercy to their father, Abraham. God called Abraham in his weakness and performed a miracle in giving him a son. When Israel showed their weakness by forsaking the Lord, God continued faithful to His covenant. When Israel was in bondage in Egypt, God in mercy delivered them and brought them into the promised land. Over and over God found Israel in their weakness and unworthiness, yet He acted on their behalf to make them His special people. Such favors, however, did not penetrate this people.

The current generation of Israelites in Stephen's day were no different. They had not experienced the mercy of God and thus were unmerciful in their actions. Confronted with their true nature through the preaching of Stephen, the people refused to repent and instead killed God's messenger. Untouched by God's mercy, the people of Israel showed no mercy.

Stephen, on the other hand, had been changed by God's mercy. He had come to know this merciful God of Israel. He had experienced God's mercy when God reached out to him in his sinful estate and brought true life to him. Even in the midst of this difficult situation, God had shown Stephen mercy by opening his eyes to the glory of God. This high Majestic One was willing to reach out to Stephen in his helplessness. As a result of this, Stephen could not help but be merciful himself. Thus in the midst of being stoned

he asked God not to hold this evil to their charge. Transformed by mercy, Stephen could not help being merciful. It was evidence that he had been changed by God.

## Application Ideas

It is imperative that we have compassion on the undeserving, for this shows that we have seen ourselves before God in the same light and have been changed by the mercy of God. This should assure us of God's continuing work and mercy in our life.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What is the third beatitude? (Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.)
- ◆ What are the benefits of being meek, that is, resting in God's care? (Contentment now and abundant blessing when Christ returns.)
- ◆ What is the fourth beatitude? (Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.)
- ◆ According to the fourth beatitude from where does true satisfaction come? (From seeking to know Christ above all.)

### 2. Opening illustration

One evening President Coolidge (our 30<sup>th</sup> President, 1923-1929) was sleeping in his hotel room. In those days the President was protected by the Secret Service but not as carefully as he is today. Because of that, a burglar was able to enter the President's room through a window. Once in the room the burglar began to go through the pockets of the President's clothing looking for money and valuables. Fortunately, the President awoke. When he realized what was happening he decided to speak to the thief. He calmly asked the thief not to take his watch chain because it contained an engraved charm he wanted to keep. Then Coolidge decided to engage the thief in quiet conversation. As he spoke with the thief Coolidge learned that this invader was a college student who had no money to pay his hotel bill, or to purchase a ticket back to the campus. Upon hearing the thief's story Coolidge proceeded to count \$32 out of his wallet – which, by the way, he had persuaded the thief to give back – and declared it a loan, giving it to the thief and telling him to leave the way he came in, so as to avoid the Secret Service.

As you think of this story what character quality did you see President Coolidge display in an amazing way. (Allow children to share their ideas, then direct them to write the word 'mercy' in the blank on their worksheet.) Among other qualities like courage, the President, above all, displayed mercy. Take a minute now and write your definition of mercy. (Give the children time to write and share their ideas. Then continue.) There are a lot of ways we could write our definition, but let's use the definition that states that mercy is "showing compassion for the undeserving."

With that definition in mind, let's look again at the story. Who, in this story, was the undeserving? Yes, the thief. What, in fact, did he deserve? He deserved judgment or

punishment. The President had every right to have the man arrested. But what did the President do instead? He showed compassion. He gave the young man \$32 and told him to leave in a way that would ensure his not getting caught. Was the President foolish to have been merciful with the man? It seems not, because the young man actually did repay the President. Quite possibly the young man was changed by the mercy shown to him.

Through our story today we are going to explore this idea of mercy in order to help us understand the fifth beatitude – Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. As we look at the story we are going to look at numerous examples of God's mercy and see the sometimes very different responses people have had to it. We hope to learn that God's mercy is designed to change us in a way that will not only bless us but those around us. I invite you to turn with me to Acts 6 as we begin.

## Body

### 1. Background

Our story takes place after the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus, and after His sending the Holy Spirit upon His people. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter and others went out proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, and many came to believe. The church was formed and was growing!

One of the very special people God raised up during those exciting days was Stephen. He is described as a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, full of grace and power, and one who was performing great wonders and signs. God had especially blessed and gifted Stephen to further the growth of the church.

Some men rose up, however, and argued with Stephen, trying to discredit his message, but they were unable to match his wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Since they were unable to overcome him with argument they tried another tactic. They dragged him before the religious rulers and brought false witnesses to testify against him. They accused him of speaking against the temple and the law (two things very dear to the Jewish leaders) and speaking about Jesus who was intent on seeing the temple destroyed and the customs of Moses changed.

Having the charges before them, the religious rulers looked now to Stephen to answer them. The high priest asked, "Are these things so?" Stephen then stood before them and gave his defense, tracing the history of Israel as part of his argument. What I would like you to do now is to read Stephen's defense. As you read his defense I want you to be looking for examples of God's mercy. Every place you find God showing compassion on the undeserving or the weak or the needy I want you to jot down that example on your worksheet. Take about 5 minutes to do this. Feel free to complete this with a friend.

### 2. Stephen's Defense and God's mercy

(After giving the children time to explore this text for examples of God's mercy, allow children to share what they found. The list below should aid your discussion. As you go through each example emphasize God's great compassion for those who are not deserving of it.)

Examples of God's mercy:

- ◆ From his pagan roots God called Abraham to give him a land of his own.
- ◆ God's mercy granted Abraham a son, though he was weak in his body.
- ◆ God mercifully rescued Joseph from his affliction and raised him up to be second in command next to Pharaoh.
- ◆ During the famine God provided for Jacob and his family.
- ◆ God in mercy, heard the cry of the people of Israel in their bondage to Egypt, and sent Moses to deliver them.
- ◆ Though the people rebelled in the wilderness, God's mercy saw them through into the Promised Land, which they possessed.

After Stephen related God's merciful dealings with Israel and Israel's often rebellious response, Stephen then brought his challenge before his accusers. This is found in verses 51-52. Look at them with me.

**Acts 7:51-53 (NIV)**

51 "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— "

3. Stephen's merciful response

When the religious leaders and others heard Stephen's words, they were angered. The Bible says they gnashed their teeth at him, that is, they were so upset that their whole face tensed up with rage. At that moment Stephen looked up to heaven, and God gave him a glimpse of His glory. He saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Upon seeing this, Stephen said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God". For the religious rulers this was the "last straw". Hearing these words, they rushed upon him, grabbed him, took him outside the city and began stoning him.

And how did Stephen respond to this. Did he shake his hands at these wicked men and tell them God would judge them? No. Stephen's response is absolutely amazing. Look at verse 60.

**Acts 7:60 (NIV)** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

What characterized Stephen's response? Yes, it was mercy. The men before him were most undeserving. They had taken an innocent man and were stoning him because they were jealous of him. They were the one's who deserved such punishment. But instead of wishing judgment upon them, Stephen asked God to forgive them; to not hold this against them. Now that's mercy!

Now why do you think Stephen was so full of mercy? Take a moment and write down on your worksheet what you think. (After the children write and share their answers, continue.) The text does not say why Stephen was so merciful, but I do think it gives us a hint. There was another man, just a few years earlier, who was severely mistreated by

others. In fact, they nailed Him unjustly to a cross. But do you know what this man said while hanging from that cross? He said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." And though Stephen probably was not in the crowd who mistreated Jesus on that day, he knew that it was his sins that made it necessary for Jesus to experience such a horrid death. He knew himself to be an undeserved sinner, but he also knew the mercy of God that brought forgiveness through the compassion of Jesus on the cross. Being a recipient of such mercy, Stephen could not help but pass it on to others. He had been changed by mercy. His merciful behavior confirmed this.

## Application

In the movie version of the story *Les Miserables*, a man named Jean Valjean is released from prison. Upon his release, with few resources to his name, Valjean makes his way to the home of a priest hoping to receive some food and a temporary place to rest himself. After mercifully being received by the priest and refreshed with a meal, that night Valjean arises in the night and attempts to steal the priest's costly silver candlesticks. Awakened by the noise Valjean was making the priest rises and confronts Valjean. Valjean strikes the priest, knocking him over, and escapes with some of the priest's valuables.

The next morning while the priest is working in the garden the police arrive with Valjean in tow. He had been caught. When the police inquire if Valjean indeed had stolen the candlesticks from the priest, the priest surprises everyone. Again in mercy, he looks at Valjean and says, "Why did you not also take the silver goblet?" He then orders his housekeeper to fetch the goblet and when it arrives he gives it to Valjean.

Needless to say Valjean is stunned by this mercy. He knew himself to be worthy of prison. He had received great hospitality from the priest, but in return had stolen from him. He knew he deserved no kindness from the priest. But the priest extended uncommon mercy to Valjean, a mercy that was to transform Valjean. For from that day on, Valjean sought to use his life to extend mercy to others.

You know in many ways we are like Valjean. God has been so good to us. He daily gives us our breath, our food, a roof over our heads and many other kindnesses. But in return, we rebel. We live our lives for ourselves, going our own way, neglecting the God who made us. And what does God do? He offers to us His Son who died upon a horrible cross so that we don't have to be punished, but instead have eternal.

Such mercy is designed to change us the same way it changed Valjean. It is designed to make us people who desire to pass on this mercy to others.

As we close this lesson I want to ask a few questions:

- ◆ Have you experienced the mercy of God?
- ◆ Have you seen yourself as a sinner who rebels against a heavenly Father who so tenderly cares for you?
- ◆ Have you seen the merciful hand of God extended to you encouraging you to come and find forgiveness and new life from His Son?

- ◆ Have you seen the merciful Son of God willing to take your punishment so that you could be freed from sin's penalty and power?

If you have not experienced God's mercy in this way, I encourage you to come to Jesus. Don't be like the people of Israel who spurned the mercy of their God. Come to Christ today and be changed by His mercy.

If you have experienced God's mercy then I want to ask you:

- ◆ Are you extending God's mercy to others around you?
- ◆ Are you passing on the mercy to God?

If you are a Christian that needs to be true of you, and if it is true of you then the fifth beatitude has a promise for you. Blessed are those who are merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Those who have been changed by God's mercy, and now extend mercy to others, are assured of God's mercy until He takes you home to be with Him forever.

(As time permits encourage the children to compose a prayer to God and to write down a way they might extend mercy to someone in the near future.)

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 20

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lessons 18 & 19. Give each child a chance to recite these lessons. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:7** *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

- † What does it mean to be merciful? (It means to show compassion on the undeserving.)
- † What is promised to those who are merciful? (They will receive mercy.)
- † In what way do you think the merciful will receive mercy? (They will continue to be blessed of God's life though, in themselves, they are unworthy.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Group response - Divide your team into two groups. Divide the verse into two sections and assign a section to each group. Have each group then read their part in sequence. Read through the verse this way covering up one section at a time. Then repeat the process switching the lines to be read. Finally have the whole group recite the entire verse.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is the fifth beatitude? (Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.)
2. What is mercy? (It is showing compassion on the undeserving.)
3. How did President Coolidge show mercy? (He loaned the thief \$32 and provided a safe escape.)
4. How did God show mercy to the people of Israel? (See examples under #2 above.)
5. How did the people of Israel respond to God's mercy? (Many did not respond well.)
6. How did Stephen show mercy? (He asked that those who stoned him be forgiven.)
7. Why did Stephen respond in mercy? (He had received the mercy of God and was changed by it.)
8. In what ways can you extend mercy to those around you? (Answers vary.)
9. Have you received the mercy of God? Have you been changed by that mercy? Talk with your parents or your leader about this.

## Lesson 18 Review

Fill in the missing blanks for your lesson question with words from the word bank, then complete the directions that follow.

### Word Bank

Man's rest God's content unhappy blessed returns dies trust

Question #18: What do we learn from the third beatitude?

Answer #18: We learn that those who \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ care will be \_\_\_\_\_ now and abundantly \_\_\_\_\_ when Christ \_\_\_\_\_.

- ◆ Circle the words in your lesson answer that mean the same as meek.
- ◆ Underline the two phrases that explain what it means to inherit the earth.
- ◆ Color in red what the meek can experience now.
- ◆ Color in green what the meek will experience in the future.

In the box below cross out all the words that have the opposite meaning to the word 'meek'.

### The Meek Box

|        |            |         |                |               |            |
|--------|------------|---------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Humble | Weak       | Timid   | Forceful       | Pushy         | Submissive |
| Mild   | Aggressive | Forward | Self-confident | God-confident |            |

Unscramble your memory verse. Write it on the line provided. Then write the first two beatitudes on the lines that follow.

Matthew 5:5 earth inherit they meek are Blessed the for will the

3<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

On the back of this sheet draw a picture that shows how Abraham displayed meekness with his nephew, Lot.

## Lesson 19 Review

Fill in the blanks to complete your lesson answer. Then in the lines below write the words of the 4<sup>th</sup> beatitude that mean the same as the words you wrote.

Question #19: What do we learn from the fourth beatitude?

Answer #19: We learn that only those who (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
will be (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

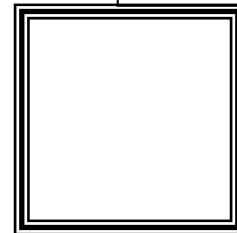
(1): \_\_\_\_\_ (2): \_\_\_\_\_

On the lines below write things that men seek that will not satisfy them. The pictures on the right will help you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



In the box on the right draw the one and only thing that can truly satisfy you. To simplify your drawing use a symbol if you wish.



Someone was sleeping while writing your memory verse. Take out all the “z” to find your verse. Write it on the line below.

Mazzzthzzewz 5z:5z Bzzleszzszzed azzzre tzhzzzse wzzhzzo huznzzgezr azznd  
thzzzirszzt zzfozr rzzighzzztezouszzznezss, fozzr thzzey wizzzll bzze fizzlzzlezd.



On the back of your paper write out or draw 1-2 things people tend to do who are truly hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Are you seeking Christ this way?

## Lesson 20 Review

The underlined words in your lesson answer have been put in the wrong place. Put them in the correct position by writing your lesson answer on the lines provided. Then answer the questions that follow.

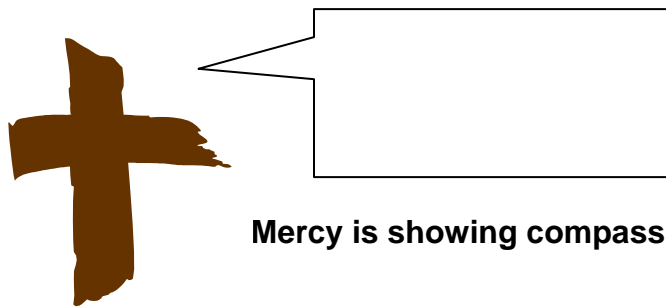
Question #20: What do we learn from the fifth beatitude?

Answer #20: We learn that those who show God (showing assured to the mercy) are compassion of mercy from undeserving.

1. What words give a definition for mercy? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What words tell the reward for the merciful? \_\_\_\_\_

In the bubble below write out the 'merciful' words that Jesus spoke while on the cross. Then answer the questions that follow/



Mercy is showing compassion to the undeserving.

◆ Who are the undeserving? \_\_\_\_\_

◆ How was compassion shown to them? \_\_\_\_\_

Decode the message below. Write the message on the lines provided.

☹️ ☹️ 💧 ❖ ❖ 💧 📖    ⚔️ ☒ 💧    🔔 ✝️ 💧  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ? 💧 ☒ 🖐️ ➔ ☒ ⌚ ☹️    ☒ ▽ ☒    🔔 ✝️ 💧 🖐️  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ❄️ ➔ ☹️ ☹️    ☹️ 💧    ❖ ✝️ ▽ ❄️ ↓    ? 💧 ☒ 🖐️ 🖐️

If you have time try to recite the first 5 beatitudes that you have memorized.

| Key    |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| A - ⚔️ | H - ✝️ | R - ☒  |
| B - ☹️ | I - ➔  | S - ❖  |
| C - 🖐️ | L - ☹️ | T - 🔔  |
| D - 📖  | M - ?  | U - ⌚  |
| E - 💧  | N - ↓  | W - ❄️ |
| F - ☒  | O - ▽  | Y - 🖐️ |

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 21 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #21:** What do we learn from the sixth beatitude (Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God)?

**Answer #21:** We learn that those who have undivided love for God will enjoy His presence now and in eternity.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**Bible Story:** Hebrews 11:23-29, Exodus 33:7-23 (refer also to Acts 7:20-44)

### Insight for the Teacher

The Christian religion is a heart religion. God is not just interested in externals - conduct, ethics, behavior, though it cannot be denied externals are important. Nor is He interested in merely an intellectual faith, though again the faith has an essential intellectual component. God is concerned with the heart, for out of the heart comes forth all the issues of life.

The sixth beatitude focuses on the heart and the necessity of its purity. By purity is meant its sincerity, or singleness. A pure heart is an undivided heart, a heart “without folds”. It is a heart where nothing is hidden, where unrivaled devotion to Christ can be found. Where such a heart is found, the beatitude offers great promise.

The life of Moses offers a great example of the truth contained in this beatitude. According to the plan of God, Moses found himself in Egypt receiving the best that this empire could offer. He received the finest education, enjoyed the power and prestige that came with being part of Pharaoh’s household, and certainly was able to enjoy the finest clothing, drink, food, etc... known in those days.

Such blessings could have captured the affections of his heart, but Moses maintained a pure heart. Instead of choosing to enjoy the numerous pleasures that Egypt offered, he chose instead to suffer the reproach of Christ with the people of God. This was an enormous decision which greatly affected the rest of his life, but it showed the purity of his heart. Moses had an undivided loyalty to his Lord God.

Though this sacrifice was enormous, Moses received in return a huge reward. Unlike any other man in the history of Israel, Moses enjoyed a special relationship with God. It was he who received the law from God while others could not even touch the mountain. It was he who was able to enter into the tabernacle to meet with God in a pillar of cloud while others stood outside their tents and observed from a distance. And if this were not enough, Moses was also able to experience the glory of God passing by him. Such were the special rewards of the one who manifested such purity of heart.

This, then, is the focus of this beatitude. Those who are pure or undivided in heart will be favored with a great measure of God's presence, and they will find in that presence all their soul truly desires.

## Application Ideas

Seek, by God's grace, to have undivided loyalty and love to God. Forsake, as Moses did, those things which seek to take captive your heart, and look to enjoy the presence of God both now and forever.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What is the third beatitude? (Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.)
- ◆ How did Abraham show meekness to his nephew Lot? (He gave him the choice of land because he (Abraham) was resting in God's care.)
- ◆ What is the fourth beatitude? (Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.)
- ◆ What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? (To seek Christ above all.)
- ◆ What is the fifth beatitude? (Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.)
- ◆ How do you define merciful? (Showing compassion for the undeserving.)

### 2. Opening illustration

The sixth beatitude which Jesus shared says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God". To understand what this means we must first understand the word 'pure'. Take a moment and write down what you think the word 'pure' means. (Give students time to write and share their definitions.) The word 'pure' means single, undivided, unmixed, clean. To help us understand let's take a few examples.

Take the idea of 'pure water' for example. Is pure water part good water and part bad? Of course not! Is it mixed with, let's say, vinegar, or soda, or something else? Of course not! Pure water means water that is unmixed, undivided in any way, ...clean.

Let's think about 'pure gold'. Is pure gold part gold and part something else? Is it a mixture of gold and silver? Does it contain impurities? Absolutely not! Pure gold is unmixed, undivided in any way, perfectly clean.

Now let's apply this to today's beatitude. Jesus talks about being pure in heart. What do you think it means to be pure in heart? Before we discuss this, take a moment and write on your worksheet what you think it means. (Allow children to write and share their ideas.) To be pure in heart means to be undivided in heart; unmixed in heart; clean in heart. To put it another way it means that we are not partly in love with God and partly in love with the world. It means that we are not a mixture of affection for God and affection for the things of the world.

In our Bible story today we will learn of a man who was pure in heart. We will see how that heart purity was displayed and what tremendous reward he received for it. If you have your Bible I'd encourage you to turn with me to Hebrews 11:23.

## Body

### 1. An example of purity of heart

Our story concerns a man named Moses. Have you ever heard of him? Of course, you have. He was born during a very dangerous time. God's people were slaves in the land of Egypt but were growing greatly in numbers. The Pharaoh feared what might happen if the people grew too big, so he ordered all the baby boys to be drowned in the Nile River. Look at verse 23 to see how Moses' parents responded.

#### **Hebrews 11:23 (NIV)**

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

So Moses' parents feared the Lord instead of the king and hid their son for three months. The time came, however, when they could no longer hide him. So, they took him, placed him in a basket of reeds and floated him down the river. Moses' sister Miriam watched on from a distance.

As many of us know Moses was picked up by Pharaoh's daughter. Do you suppose this was a coincidence? Absolutely not! God was working His perfect plan to deliver his people. That explains why Pharaoh's daughter drew Moses from the water and decided to take care of him.

The next years of Moses life were filled with good things. He received the finest education, being trained in all the wisdom and learning of a great civilization. He also received the finest clothing, and the finest drink, and the best food. No "son" of Pharaoh would receive anything but the best.

But a day did come when Moses had to make a huge choice; a choice, which showed much about his heart. Take a moment and read verses 24-26. Then on your paper write those things that were battling for control of his heart. Put those in the first heart. Then write only those things that won out in the second heart.

#### **Hebrews 11:24-26 (NIV)**

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

What was battling for his heart? According to verse 25 it was choosing to be mistreated along with the people of God on the one hand, and enjoying the pleasures of sin (and they were many) on the other hand. According to verse 26 it was choosing between disgrace for the sake of Christ on the one hand and all the treasures in Egypt on the other hand. Do you think this was an easy choice? Pleasures and treasures on one side, and mistreatment and disgrace on the other. But what won the affection of Moses'

heart? Yes, it was, in a word love for God and His purposes. He chose to suffer mistreatment and disgrace because His heart was full of love and reverence for the Lord God. His heart was not mixed trying to hold onto to both. He willingly forsook the pleasures and treasures and chose God and His ways.

This choice became evident one day when Moses saw an Israelite man being mistreated by an Egyptian. Moses stepped in and in trying to defend the Israelite killed the Egyptian. This led to Moses' eventual exile in the land of Midian, but it truly showed that his heart was pure – undivided, unmixed, clean, wholly devoted to God and Him alone.

## 2. The reward for purity of heart

Now it may seem that Moses' choice cost him a lot. By choosing God and His ways, Moses rejected all the treasures and pleasures that would have been his had he chosen the other way. Was this a wise thing to do?

As with every beatitude there is always a blessing attached. This beatitude is no different for it says that the one who is pure in heart will see God. What does it mean that we will see God? Let it be sufficient it to say that to see God is to know and experience God in a deeper and more wonderful way. Was this true of Moses? Did he come to know and experience God in deeper and more wonderful ways? I believe the answer is that he clearly did.

After Moses spent 40 years in his exile in Midian, God came to him in a burning bush. This is the first way he was privileged to see God. Write this on your paper. While tending his flocks Moses saw a bush that was burning, but was not being burnt up. Upon approaching this bush Moses was spoken to by God, being told that he had been chosen to deliver the Israelites. Can you imagine what it must have been like to be able to speak with God in this way?

Later, after God used Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, he met with Moses at Mt. Sinai. God called Moses up to the mountain, gave him the Ten Commandments, and spoke with him for 40 days. No one else was allowed to come up the mountain. In fact, they were warned not even to touch the mountain lest they should die. Yet, Moses was able to converse with God in this marvelous way. Write "Moses on Mt. Sinai" on your worksheet in the second space.

After Moses came down from the mountain and before he actually led the people toward the Promised Land, Moses "saw" God in another unique way. Our Bible tells us in Exodus 33 that Moses would often set up a tent outside the camp of Israel. When he would enter the tent the Lord would come in a pillar of cloud to meet with him. While Moses was in the tent God would speak with him "face to face, as a man speaks with his friend". Again, can you imagine the privilege of speaking with the God who created all things in this way? Take a moment and write down on your paper "meeting with God in the tent".

Now on one of these occasions while Moses was in the tent he made a request of God. It was a bold request. He asked God to show him His glory. With this request Moses was asking for a very intimate acquaintance with God. He was asking to see God in a brilliant way. Well, God granted his request. He took Moses, put him in the cleft of a rock and covered him with his hand. Then he passed by and allowed Moses to see Him

in a very special way. Again can you imagine what it must have been for Moses to “see” God in this way?

Moses, a man pure in heart, wholly devoted to the Lord, was indeed privileged to see God.

## Application

1. What about you? Are you pure in heart or is there a mixture of love for God and love for the things of the world? Or to put it another way: does God have your undivided loyalties or are you equally drawn to the things of the world?

I want you to take a moment and evaluate. On your worksheet you will see two hearts. In the first heart I want you to write those things that battle for your heart’s affection. Is it popularity, possessions, personal fame or glory, or what? Take a moment – be honest – and write those things which battle to be your greatest love. Then in the second heart I want you to write down what you want to fill your heart. (Give children time to think and write their response. You may also wish to have some share what they wrote.)

2. If you are one who wants to be pure in heart, let me ask you, “How can you come to have a pure heart?” Can you come to have a pure heart on your own, by trying really hard? The fact is on our own we will never have a pure heart. Try as we might we will never escape a mixture in our heart. But Jesus can help us. In fact, in the first beatitudes He gave us the key to purity in heart. He said blessed are the poor in spirit and blessed are those who mourn. When we come to Him recognizing and mourning over our neediness, our sinfulness, He is delighted to enter our life and cleanse (make pure) our hearts. Then He continues to live in our hearts to root our false loves and build a strong devotion to God, our Creator.

Is that what you desire? Then talk with the Lord. Tell him that you have an impure heart, a divided heart. Be specific with those things that share the affections of your heart. Then tell the Lord that you want Him and His ways to be your sole love. Ask him to enter you life, to make you pure, and to help you to live in a way that brings honor to Him.

Do you know what will happen if you talk to God that way? You will see God. No, you probably won’t see God from a burning bush, or from a mountain, or from a tent of meeting, but you will begin to understand His presence in your life, and you will begin to experience the joy and delight that comes with that.

If you want to be pure of heart, take a moment and talk to the Lord in prayer.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 21

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 20. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:8** *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

- † What does it mean to be pure? (To be clean, undivided, not mixed.)
- † What does it mean to be pure in heart? (Completely devoted to God.)
- † What reward is promised those who are pure in heart? Tell what that means. (They will see God, that is, they will come to know and experience God in a deeper way.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Cover a word - Write the verse on the chalkboard. Recite it a couple of times together. Then take 2 pieces of tag board and cover two of the words in the verse. Have a child recite the verse. If he recites it correctly allow him to cover two new words and repeat the process. Give several children a chance to do this. Work on the verse until everyone has it mastered.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is the sixth beatitude? (Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.)
2. What does it mean to be pure in heart? (It means to be unmixed in heart, undivided in our loyalty to God, clean in heart.)
3. How did Moses show his purity of heart? (He chose to endure mistreatment and shame for God instead of enjoy the pleasures and treasures of Egypt.)
4. In what unique ways did Moses see God? (A. God spoke to him in the burning bush. B. He spoke with God at Mt. Sinai. C. He spoke with God at the tent of meeting.)
5. What are some specific things that battle for the attention and affection of your heart? (Answers will vary: sports, popularity, games, pleasure, fame, and possessions.)
6. How can anyone come to have a pure heart? (God must do a work in them. He will cleanse those who come to him poor in spirit, mourning for their sins.)
7. Are you pure in spirit? What is hindering your growth in this way? Talk to your leader or parents about this.
8. In what way will the pure in heart “see” God today? (We will come to know God more deeply, and experience His blessed presence in our lives.)

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 22 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #22:** What do we learn from the seventh beatitude (Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God)?

**Answer #22:** We learn that true sons of God encourage others to be at peace with God and with one another.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

**Bible Story:** Peace with God - Romans 5:1-11, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Peace with others - Genesis 13.

### Insight for the Teacher

God is a peacemaker. According to Romans 5, when we were without strength, sinners, even enemies of God, God moved on our behalf through Jesus Christ to make peace. We had gone our own way declaring our enmity with God, but He in mercy sent His Son to die that we might be reconciled (be made friends again). Those who in faith embrace this truth are made right with God. They enjoy peace with God, that is, knowing that they are once again rightly related to their Creator.

Such a realization, brought forth by faith in Christ, is life transforming. Having seen the peacemaking character of our Creator in His rescuing us from our enmity causes us to be peacemakers as well. This peacemaking moves in two very important directions.

The first direction is expressed well by Paul in 2 Corinthians 5. He states that believers are made new by the reconciling effort of God. Part of that newness is in taking on a new commission. Since we have been made friends again with God through the death of Christ, we are called on to encourage others to be reconciled to God. That is our commission. Paul says that we are ambassadors for Christ, sent into our world, to implore others to regain that right relationship with God which sin has destroyed. Those transformed by God's peacemaking effort will have a passion to be about this ministry as well.

The second direction of our peacemaking has to do with promoting peace between men. Sin not only destroyed our relationship with God, bringing enmity, but it also tore down our relationship with others. Instead of loving one another and fostering the good of others, we tend to be self-absorbed and divisive. The one, however, who has been made right with God can no longer live this way. He is given the Spirit who manifests in us a completely different disposition.

Abraham acts as a fine example of this sort of behavior. Confronted by strife between himself and Lot, his concern is not his personal gain, but the establishing of peace between brothers. Such is the focus of those who have been made new. They are

concerned not only to promote peace between man and God, but also between man and man.

## Application Ideas

Since we have been made friends with Christ through the love of God, we ought to give our life to promoting reconciliation between God and man, and between brothers.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What is the fourth beatitude? (Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.)
- ◆ How is the person filled who seeks Christ above all? (We will be abundantly satisfied with Jesus.)
- ◆ What is the fifth beatitude? (Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.)
- ◆ What does it mean to be merciful? (To show compassion to the undeserving.)
- ◆ What is the sixth beatitude? (Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.)
- ◆ What does it mean to be “pure” in heart? (It means to have unmixed, undivided loyalty to and love for God.)

### 2. Opening illustration

The seventh beatitude is “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” From a quick look we can immediately tell that this principle of living given to us by Jesus has to do with peace. Take a moment and write on your paper a definition for the word “peace”. (Allow children to write and share their answers before continuing.) According to the dictionary one definition of peace is “a state or period of mutual harmony between governments.”

From your knowledge of history or current events would you say that nations are always at peace? Sadly that is not the case. Take a moment and write on your paper what you know about a current war going on. Note the countries involved and what you believe to be the cause. (Allow children to write and discuss their answers.)

Not only can countries be at war or in conflict with each other, but so can people. In fact, it is likely that many of us have known conflict or lack of peace. Perhaps you have known conflict in your family. Maybe it has been with a sibling, or maybe your parents have not been at peace with each other. Maybe you’ve known conflict at school, or on the baseball field or in your neighborhood. The fact is all of us have been in situations where there was no peace; where people were at odds with each other.

Since this is true, it is no surprise that the Bible speaks much about conflict. Today we are going to look at a couple of passages that speak about God’s efforts to bring peace to every place where there is conflict. As we begin, turn with me to Romans 5 as we

look at a conflict in which every one of us has been involved. As I read verses 8-10 see if you can determine the parties involved and the reason for the conflict.

## Body

### 1. Making peace with God

#### ***Romans 5:8-10 (NIV)***

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

From this passage can you tell between who the conflict is? Yes, it is between God and every human being, including everyone in this room. Write that on your paper. And what is the reason for the conflict? What verse alludes to the reason? Yes, verse 8 suggests that we were sinners. That is the cause of the conflict. That is the reason God and man are enemies. Write that on your papers as well.

But how is it that men are sinners? Let's think about that for a moment. If we know our Bible we understand that God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in them. Because God made all things, He owns them and has a right to rule over them. But man ignores this fact. Even though God, as loving Ruler, is the one who gives life, even though He is the One who sustains life, even though God is the source of every gift that man enjoys, men still go their own way and do their own thing. In essence they "bite the hand that feeds them".

And how does God respond to this? What does the end of verse 9 suggest? He is angered by it. After creating people, and providing for them and blessing them abundantly, God sees these same people turn their backs on Him. Wouldn't that anger you?

Yet that is not the whole story, and it is definitely not the main point of Romans 5. Though God has every right to destroy such ungrateful people, He responds in love. As verse 8-10 says: God demonstrates His own love for us by sending Christ to die for us so that we might be saved from God's anger and judgment, and might be reconciled or made friends again. Now those who by faith embrace Christ can know peace with God. There can be no more war – no more being enemies. Now that's good news!

Do you know this peace? Have you seen yourself as a sinner, as one who is an enemy of God who is under His wrath? And have you looked to Jesus as your only hope for being reconciled, that is, made friends again with God?

If you haven't made your peace, then this should be your first concern. Come in faith to Christ and have Him remove the enmity of your sin by His blood. Come to know God's peace. Come and be restored to your Maker.

Now if you have made peace with God through Christ, then you must know that God have given you the calling of peacemaker. Let's look at that for a moment. Turn with me to 2 Corinthians 5.

## 2. Promoting peace with God

Lets' read verses 17-20. As we read try to find out what our peacemaking mission is called and what it entails.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV)**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

As we can see from verse 17 Paul says that when we are in Christ, that is, when we have by faith in Christ made peace with God, everything changes. We are made new. The old life of enmity with God is gone; a new life of peace with God has come. And part of that new life of peace is a mission or ministry. What does Paul call it? Write your answer on your worksheet. (Allow children to write and share their answer.) Yes, he calls it a ministry of reconciliation.

Now what is this ministry of reconciliation to which all Christians are called? In verse 20 Paul likens it to being an ambassador. Do you know what an ambassador is? An ambassador is a representative of one government who goes to another country to deliver a message. He speaks on behalf of his ruler to the people of another land. What Paul is suggesting is that all Christians are to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ. He, Christ, is our Ruler, and He sends us to all the nations to deliver a message. And what is that message? Fill in the blanks on your worksheet. (Allow children to write and share their answer.) Yes, we are to go out to all people and beg them on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God.

If you were dying of a terrible disease and could do nothing about it, but then a doctor came along and made you well – wouldn't you want to go out and tell others where they could find healing? In like manner, each of us were in a terrible situation – we were enemies of God, and we could do nothing about it. But Jesus came along, and through His death, brought us back to God. Wouldn't all who have experienced the joy of this change want to go out and help others with the same problem come to find joy as well?

That is exactly the ministry to which God has called us. Those who have found peace with God are to go out and urge others to make peace with God. But we are also given a further peacemaking mission. That leads us to our final point.

## 3. Promoting peace among men

Not only are we to go out and urge others to be reconciled to God, but we are also to go out and urge others to be reconciled to one another. Anywhere we go and see conflict, war, fighting we are to do what we can to promote peace.

Several weeks ago we talked about Abraham and Lot. Do you remember the conflict they were having? The land they were on was too small for all of their flocks. As a result, Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen were fighting with each other. Do you remember what Abraham did in that situation? He went to Lot and said, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are

brothers.” Then he told Lot to choose the land he wanted, and even when Lot chose the best land, Abraham did not change his ways. He did all he could to promote peace, all the time trusting God to provide for him as He had promised.

## Application

1. Two years after the Civil War a man went to the mountains of North Carolina to spend his summer vacation. While on vacation he climbed one mountain and as he descended on the other side was surprised to see a little cottage that obviously was inhabited. Upon coming to the cottage he found that the door was barred to all visitors. He appealed to the two men who lived in the cottage and after persisting for some time was finally allowed to enter.

He learned from the men that they had been part of the Confederate army. Three years ago they had deserted from the army and found this isolated spot where they built the cottage and cultivated the land enough to provide for themselves. While there they were constantly on the lookout for other soldiers. They thought they had much to fear, but little had they realized (under this man showed up) that the war had been over for two years. Peace had been declared but they had not heard nor had they experienced the benefits.

Children, God has declared peace through His Son, Jesus Christ. Have you heard? Have you entered into that peace by coming in faith to Jesus Christ? Don't live a day longer without knowing that you have been reconciled, made friends with your Maker.

2. Those who have made peace with God, remember that you have been given a calling. You have been given the ministry of reconciliation – to go out and urge men to be reconciled to God. You have also been called to promote peace in any way possible between those around you. Does that describe you? Are you known for urging others to get right with God? Are you known for your peacemaking among men?

To help you remember I want you to look at the cross on your worksheet. A cross has two parts. It has a vertical crosspiece and a horizontal crosspiece. Let the whole cross remind you first that through Jesus' death you obtained peace with God. Next, let the vertical crosspiece remind you that you are called to urge people to make peace with God. Finally, let the horizontal crosspiece remind you that you are called to promote peace among the people of the world. Take a moment and write those things on your sheet.

Do you know if you live this way – urging men to be reconciled to God and to one another – you will be acting just like the Son of God. That's why the beatitude ends with “for they shall be called sons of God”. Your behavior will be so much like your Savior that you will be able to bear His name, and that's a great privilege!

**LOGOS Kids Club**  
**Memory Instruction Time**  
**Lesson 22**

**1. Review**

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 21. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

**2. Explain the verse**

**Matthew 5:9** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

- † What is a peacemaker? (Someone who promotes peace between man and man, and between man and God.)
- † What is the result of being a peacemaker? (You'll be called a son of God.)
- † What does it mean to be a son of God? (It means that we will be imitating the original: the Son of God.)

**3. Memorize the Verse**

Contrast - Divide the verse into phrases. Have the class say the first phrase loudly, the second phrase softly. Keep alternating all through the verse. Then try a new contrast. Alternate between having the children sit for a phrase and stand for a phrase. If you wish try the contrast between quickly and slowly. Caution: be sure children exercise respect for the Word of God as they participate in this exercise.

**Lesson Review Questions**

1. What is the seventh beatitude? (Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.)
2. With whom were we all enemies and why? (Because of our sin we have all become enemies with God.)
3. What does it mean to be "reconciled"? (Making enemies friends again.)
4. What was needed for us to be reconciled to God? (Jesus had to die on the cross for us. This alone had power to bring us back to God. )
5. Have you been reconciled to God? How do you know? (Answers vary.)
6. If you have peace with God to what ministry are you called? (The ministry of reconciliation.)
7. What is the message of minister of reconciliation? (We urge you on behalf of Christ be reconciled to God.)
8. To what other peacemaking mission are we called? (We are called to promote peace among men as well.)
9. Are you known for your peacemaking? Talk to your leader or parents about this.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 23 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #23:** What do we learn from the eighth beatitude (Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven)?

**Answer #23:** We learn that God's children will be persecuted when they live for Christ.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Bible Story:** Acts 5:12-42

### Insight for the Teacher

People may be persecuted for many reasons. It may be that they are obnoxious and are deserving of harsh treatment. It may be that they have connected themselves to some political or social cause and are now experiencing some difficulty for their stand. Persecution comes in many shapes and sizes.

Such persecutions, though real, are not the sort to which this beatitude refers. The persecutions pointed to in this beatitude are those, which come as a result of being a follower of Christ. These are hardships, which come from living out our profession of faith in Christ.

This is exactly what Peter and the other apostles were doing. Having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit, they were out doing the work of God. Through divine enablement they were performing many signs and wonders, healing many people of their diseases. They were also making a bold proclamation of Jesus Christ. Their lives were surely promoting the glory of God and the good of men, just as their Savior's had been.

Such truly righteous speech and behavior wrought by the Spirit was convicting for those who had pretended so long. Confronted by the apostle's deeds and words, the true nature of the high priest and other religious leaders became apparent. Their concern for their religion was only on the surface. Their true interest was in the following, which they had enjoyed and all the power and respect associated with it.

To protect their domain the religious leaders had to do something. They began by throwing Peter and the other apostles into prison. Later they reluctantly let them go, but not without threatening and beating them. Thus the common response, of those who do not know God, to righteous words and deeds is to persecute. Darkness is never comfortable in the light.

On the side of the apostles, however, it can be seen that this persecution did not set them back. In fact they rejoiced that they had been considered worthy to suffer for the name of Christ. They believed that suffering for the sake of righteousness, that is, for

the name of Christ, was evidence that the Kingdom of God had indeed come to their hearts. Such is true for all believers throughout the ages.

## Application Ideas

Do not be surprised when you are confronted with persecution when living out your faith. Jesus was persecuted and those who have His life working in them will be also. In fact being persecuted for righteousness shows the Kingdom has come to your heart.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What is the fifth beatitude? (Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.)
- ◆ What does it mean to be merciful? (It means to show compassion to the undeserving.)
- ◆ What is the sixth beatitude? (Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.)
- ◆ What does it mean to be pure in heart? (Unmixed in our affections, wholly devoted to the Lord, having undivided love for our Lord.)
- ◆ What is the seventh beatitude? (Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.)
- ◆ In what two ways does every son of God promote peace in the world? (We encourage others to make peace with God and with one another.)

### 2. Opening illustration

Do any of you have security lights at your home - you know, those lights that are always on, usually outside your home? Do you know why people install such lights? Yes, they install them because it provides a measure of safety for them. If, at night, someone comes on their property without being invited, the lights will expose their presence.

Now suppose that you are a burglar. You intend to enter someone's backyard in order to steal something like a bicycle. Upon entering the backyard you notice the security lights are on. As a thief do you like this? Obviously not! With the lights on you are likely to get caught and you don't want to be found out to be a thief. When you see the lights what are you likely to do? Probably you will try another yard – one that is dark, but another tactic is to knock out the light. If the light is exposing you for who you are, get rid of the light.

When Jesus walked the earth He called Himself the light of the world, and just as in the security light example He often exposed the evil heart and intentions of others. When they came under His teaching and lifestyle (His light) they were exposed in their wickedness. Many of them wanted to stay as far as possible from Jesus while numbers of them sought to "put His light out", that is, to kill Him.

Did you know that Jesus has called us to be lights in our world? Since this is true, it is also likely that God will use us, as He did Jesus, to expose the evil in other's hearts. As a result of this, people may not want to be around us, or even may want to harm us.

That's what today's beatitude is about. Jesus' final principle of kingdom living - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven" – deals with the reality that there is a cost for living under King Jesus' rule. Let's explore this final beatitude together.

## Body

### 1. Defining persecution

In order to understand Jesus' words it is important to define the word "persecution". Please take a moment and write your definition on the worksheet. (Allow time for children to write and share their ideas.) To persecute means, "to harass or annoy another person for the purpose of causing injury, grief or pain". Another definition that we Christians might be more aware of is "to cause to suffer for one's belief".

Now it must be noted that we can be persecuted for a lot of reasons. We might strike out in a baseball game and get persecuted by the other players. We might say something stupid to a friend or foe and get harassed for it. We might even get harassed because we are good at something. When I was in high school I was a good basketball player, but I was persecuted by the players of the other team because they wanted to harm me so they could win the game.

But Jesus isn't talking about this kind of persecution. He said we are blessed if we are persecuted for the *sake of righteousness*. That means we are blessed if we have to endure persecution because we truly live like Christians – like "lights" in our world.

Let's take a look at a story of a group of people who were persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Let's try to learn why Jesus said they were blessed. Turn with me to Acts 5:12. Let's read verses 12-18 to begin. As I read let's think about how we might fill out the chart on our worksheet.

### 2. The Persecution of the Righteous

#### **Acts 5:12-18 (NIV)**

12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. 13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. 14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. 17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

As you look at this story that describes some amazing happenings in the early church, what do you observe to be the righteous deeds of the apostles? Take a moment and

write down what you observed. (After children have written their responses continue.) Yes, by God's power the apostles performed miracles, healing sick people and curing others of evil spirits. Are these righteous deeds? Without a doubt they are. They are just the things that Jesus did when He walked the earth. But how did the religious rulers respond to these things. Take a moment and write your answer. (Allow time for writing and sharing answers.) Yes, they put the apostles in jail. Why? The text says that the rulers were jealous. These rulers had been enjoying a great following and all the power and prestige that go with it, but they weren't really interested in advancing God's kingdom. When the apostles came around truly doing the work of the kingdom, causing many to believe in the Lord, the rulers were exposed for the hypocrites they were. They responded by trying to put these "lights" out.

Let's continue reading. Let's look at verses 19-28. Again be thinking how you would fill out the chart on your worksheet.

### **Acts 5:19-28 (NIV)**

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. 20 "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." 21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. 22 But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, 23 "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." 24 On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. 25 Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." 26 At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. 27 Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

In this section of the story what did you observe the righteous deeds of the apostles to be? Again write your observations on your worksheet. (Allow children to write and share their answers.) The apostles boldly taught the Word of God. The angel told them to go tell the full message of new life and they did just as they were instructed. They followed the will of their God perfectly. And what was the response of the rulers? They brought them in for questioning. Write this on your worksheet.

Now before we go to the last section I want you to look for a clue in verse 28 that shows that the apostles were being a light that reveals the evil of others. What do you see there? (Allow children to respond.) When the rulers talk about the apostle's teaching causing them to look guilty of the blood of Jesus (which they were) they show that the apostle's teaching was bringing to light the evil of their ways. The rulers did not like that as we will see later in the story. Let's continue reading to find out what happens next.

### **Acts 5:29-42 (NIV)**

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on

a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” 33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. 34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. 35 Then he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. 36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. 37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. 38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” 40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Before we discuss this last section, take a minute and fill in the rest of your chart. (Give students time to write their answers.) From this final section what did you observe the righteous deeds of the apostles to be? Yes, again they boldly proclaimed the truth about Jesus. At the end of the passage they kept on teaching even after being threatened and flogged. And how did the rulers react? The passage said they were so angry that they wanted to kill the apostles. Were it not for the words of Gamaliel the apostles would have met their death. As it was they ordered the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and had them flogged, that is, whipped with a cat-of-nine-tails.

Again we see strong evidence from the apostle’s words that they acted as lights. They fearlessly said in verse 30 that these men, the religious rulers, were responsible for killing the Prince and Savior of the world. These were strong, but very true words. In ways like this the apostles, filled with God’s Spirit, proclaimed the good news in word and in deed, convicting those who saw and heard, bringing upon themselves often-great persecution.

### Application

Children, if you will live for Christ – if you will, by His Spirit, live for what is right and good – if you will stand for God and His ways – if you will lovingly serve those around you, not caring for yourself – if you will boldly proclaimed the name of Jesus, you will be persecuted. Your words and deeds will convict others around you and they will either shun you, or they will try to make your life miserable. But in the midst of standing strong in persecution, know that you are blessed, because such treatment shows that God’s kingdom has come to your heart. This is the way they treat our Lord, and Jesus promised that it would be the way they will treat His children. If you suffer for the sake of righteousness – rejoice, for this shows that you are a child of the king, and your

momentary affliction will one day be replaced with an eternity of joy in the presence of your king.

I close with this story: The power to control a certain village of Indians in Mexico was in the hands of the Council of Elders. When Antonio Reyes became a Christian, he was so eager to tell his neighbors of his newfound Savior that the Council called him to appear before them one dark night. He appeared, and found several Indians armed with guns, sitting by the side of the judge. No time was wasted, for the judge told him that the time had come for him to make a decision: either he must give up his new religion or leave the village. Then the judge ordered the men to shoot Antonio if he did not do one or the other. With a smile Antonio told them that he could not give up Christ. For the first time in his life, he said, he had found One who had filled his heart with joy. Nor could he leave the village until they had come to know Him, too. Months passed filled with persecutions and dangers, yet Antonio stood his ground. Today a little chapel built by a group of believers of that village stands as a monument to the fidelity of an Indian who had come to love Christ more than life.

Do you love Christ in this way – so much that you are willing to endure persecution, even to part with this life? Take a moment and work through the application questions on the back of your worksheet. Let God guide your thinking and be honest with yourself.

(After children have worked through the questions, lead them in a time of prayer.)

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 23

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 22. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:10** *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- † What does it mean to be persecuted? (To be harassed or made to suffer for one's faith.)
- † What does it mean to be persecuted because of righteousness? (It is to suffer for standing up for and living one's faith.)
- † What is the blessing of those who are persecuted for righteousness? What does this mean? (Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. This means that God's kingdom has come to reign in their hearts. )

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Fill in the blank - Write the complete verse on the board and recite it several times with the children. Next erase 3-4 words and recite the verse again. Replace the erased words and erase 3-4 new words and recite the verse again. Do this until all students have mastered the verse.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What is the eighth beatitude? (Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)
2. Are people who are persecuted always persecuted for the sake of righteousness? (No. We can be persecuted for our own stupidity and for many other reasons.)
3. For what reasons were the apostles persecuted? (They were harassed for their healings as well as their bold proclamation of the truth.)
4. How were the apostles persecuted for their righteous deeds? (They were jailed, brought before the Council, threatened and flogged.)
5. Why did the religious rulers react in the way they did to the apostles? (They were jealous and felt convicted by their words and deeds. They were exposed for being wicked at heart.)
6. What might it say about a Christian if he was not suffering persecution? (Perhaps he is not living for God. He is not living righteously.)
7. Why should a Christian consider himself blessed if he is persecuted? (Because this shows they he is truly a child of the King.)

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Year 2 – Lesson 24 - Grades 5-6

### Lesson Focus

**Question #24:** What purpose does a Christian's life serve?

**Answer #24:** The purpose of a Christian's life is to live so that men may see our good works and glorify God.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:16** "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 5:13-16

### Insight for the Teacher

Since the fall of Adam and Eve the whole world has been subjected to darkness and decay. Men go their own way and that way often leads to destruction. One only needs to look around and see the dreadful consequences of that departure. Our world is full of war, pain, broken relationships, murder, cursing, stealing, adultery, and more. This certainly is not the world God intended when He created it long ago.

Gratefully, God has not left us to our downward spiral. Since the foundation of the world He has had a plan to renew this fallen world. That plan was centered and inaugurated in His Son, the ultimate redeemer (deliverer, preserver) and Light of the world. Those who are indwelt by Him through the Holy Spirit now carry it on.

When Jesus talked with his followers He made this very clear. He said that believers were the salt and light of the world. As salt they must keep themselves from the corruption of the world so that they might be an agent working to prevent that corruption. He also said that they must be the light of the world. They must show the world the way of God, the Creator, and His Son, Jesus Christ. It was for this very reason that they had been renewed by the Father. In sum, Jesus told them that they must not leave the world nor do anything to extinguish their light, but must also not be so immersed in the world that they do not influence it for good.

According to Jesus such living has as its final purpose the glory of God. Living as salt and light in a world stained by decay and darkness is a marvelous way of magnifying the recreating God. To see recreated humanity living according to God's design has the potential of turning many to acknowledge the Source of all true light.

This admonition is fittingly placed after the beatitudes because as one lives out his new life (seen in living out the beatitudes) a world looking on can glorify God. As all believers manifest humility before God (poor in spirit), mourn for their rebellion against God, show forth meekness, a hunger for righteousness, purity in heart, a desire to make peace, and a patient rejoicing in the midst of suffering, the world is likely to take note and acknowledge that only a majestic God could effect such transformation.

## Application Ideas

We have been made new for a purpose. That purpose is to live so that others see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Those good works include curbing the decaying influences in our world and promoting all that is good and truthful.

## Introduction

### 1. Review

- ◆ What are the Beatitudes? (A series of sayings spoken by Jesus that described the life of the person that has come under the reign of God.)
- ◆ Were the Beatitudes shocking in any way for those who heard them? (Absolutely. The life and attitudes Jesus spoke of were so uncommon that people would have been shocked. I.E.: Is the person who is persecuted really blessed?)
- ◆ What is the seventh beatitude? (Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.)
- ◆ What do we learn from the seventh beatitude? (True sons of God encourage others to be at peace with God and with one another.)
- ◆ What is the eighth beatitude? (Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)
- ◆ What do we learn from the eighth beatitude? (God's children will be persecuted when they live for Christ.)

### 2. Opening illustration

On your worksheet you will find three pictures. I want you to take a moment and write out next to the picture for what purpose each was created. (Allow children to write and share their answers. Sample answers are – the axe was made to chop down trees or to cut up kindling; the clock was made to help us tell time; the hammer was made to drive nails or to knock stakes in the ground.)

(Next, take one of the children from the class and place them before the rest. Choose a child who has definitely made a commitment to Christ.) (To the child) Are you a Christian? (Wait for the child's affirmative response.) (To the class) What do you think the purpose of a Christian is? God makes us His children for a very specific purpose. What is it? (Allow children to response. Do not comment on their answers.)

In the verses that immediately follow the beatitudes, Jesus answers this very question. In four short verses Jesus tells His followers the reason for which they exist on the earth. I invite you to turn with me to Matthew 5:13-16 as we explore our lesson question today, "What purpose does a Christian's life serve?" To answer the question Jesus uses two illustrations. Let's look at them and see what we can learn.

(Read the passage.)

### **Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)**

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by

men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

## Body

### 1. The salt of the earth

The first thing that Jesus says is that Christians *are* the salt of the earth. Note that He did not say they are supposed to be, but that they *are* the salt of the earth. To understand what Jesus meant we must think for a moment what purpose salt serves. Take a moment and write down what purposes or what uses we make of salt. (Give children time to write and share their answers.)

Two very important purposes of salt are to flavor food and to preserve it from decay. All of us probably know what salt does when we place it on our food. It gives it an extra good taste. What we may not know is that salt can also preserve food. Before the days of refrigerators it was quite common to rub salt into meat, thereby slowing the process of decay.

Now knowing this about salt, what do you think Jesus had in mind by calling us the salt of the earth? (Give children an opportunity to respond before continuing.) He was saying that Christians are to add “good flavor” to life and that we are to slow the decay of our world around us. But how do we do this? We can’t be rubbed into meat, can we?

To understand this better let’s talk about the decay in our world. What evidences do you see that our world is decaying, deteriorating, getting worse or becoming less like God intended it? Take a moment and write on your paper some of your ideas. (Allow children to write and share their answers.) It is true that there are many evidences of decay in our world. We see wars and rumors of new wars every month. We see much pain, murder, stealing, lying, adultery, coveting, broken relationships, rebellion against parents, and more. Each of these things is like rotting flesh.

Now how is the Christian supposed to be salt in such a world? We are to do all we can to slow the decay. First of all, we must by God’s grace not participate in such activities. Secondly, we must show people a different way by the way we live. When all your friends at school are making fun or cutting down another student, you stand up and be different. When other children are lying to their parents, you encourage them to tell the truth. When others are being selfish and causing conflict, you be a loving peacemaker. In each of these ways you would be salt in the world, adding a good flavor to life instead of adding to its ruin and sadness.

### 2. The light of the world

Now Jesus uses a second illustration. He says that we are the light of the world. Again He does not say that we are supposed to be light, but that as Christians, we *are* light. That defines who we are.

Again to understand what Jesus meant we need to think about the purpose of light. Take a moment and write on your paper what you think the main purpose of light is.

(Allow children to write and share their answers.) One way of answering this question is to say that the purpose of light is to drive away darkness so that we can see more clearly.

When you arrive at your home at night, what is one of the first things you do? You turn on a light. You don't want to walk in the darkness because you know you might trip over something and get hurt. Now wouldn't it be silly if someone went to every light in your house and wrapped it up with some kind of cloth so that none of the light could get out? We would all say that is very dumb, because light is made to shine not be covered up. It can't drive away darkness if it's hidden.

That was the point of Jesus' illustrations. He said, "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden". It was made to shine out in the darkness. A weary traveler looking in the distance is encouraged by the light this city puts forth. Similarly, one does not take a light, perhaps a candle and put it in a sack, or hide it under a bushel. That's not what it is made for. It is made to shine out and chase away the darkness.

Now if Jesus said we are to be light in the world that must mean we should shine and chase away the darkness. What darkness do you think Jesus had in mind, which He desires us to chase away in our world? Take a moment and put your answer on your worksheet. (Allow children time to write and discuss their answers.) I suppose the darkness Jesus thought of had to do with anything that represents sin, man's rebellion against God. It could include many things like selfishness, unkindness, hateful words, harming the weak and helpless, cheating people of what's coming to them, and so on.

But how are we, as Christians, to be light in our world? How do we chase away the darkness? If we are going to be light that means we have to be in our world, we have to be in among the darkness, not hiding from it. It also means that while we are among the darkness we have the light of Jesus shining through us. When Jesus walked the earth He was the Light of the world. He showed the world how God wants all humans to live. Now those who have placed their trust in Christ have that light in them, and that light will enable them to live in a completely different way from the world.

In fact, the beatitudes describe, in part, what that light looks like. It includes being humble before God, mourning for sins, showing meekness, hungering for righteousness, being undivided or pure in heart, pursuing peace with God and others, and being patient when suffering. It also includes self-sacrificial love, the kind of love that Jesus displayed on the cross. When the world sees these "good works" it will know that light has come into their dark world, and will result in God being glorified.

## Application

Children, if you are a son of God, know that God has made you His child for a purpose. You are not to go on living the same way you did before you came to Christ. You are to live now to glorify God, and the way that you do this is by being salt and light in this world.

Are you doing that? Is God working in you to preserve our world from decaying more and more, and is He using you to bring light everywhere there is darkness? Are you known in your school and in your neighborhood as someone in whom God's light is shining? Are you known for having the "beatitude" attitudes, and are you known for your selfless love?

As we close I want you to consider how you can be salt and light in your world. Take a moment and prayerfully consider your home, school, and neighborhood. Are there ways you can begin to be salt and light? Are there ways you can stop any sinful decay or chase away any evil darkness? Take a moment and write out what God brings to your mind. Then share your answers in a group and pray for one another.

# LOGOS Kids Club

## Memory Instruction Time

### Lesson 24

#### 1. Review

Take time to review Q&A and memory verse for lesson 23. Give each child a chance to recite this lesson. Be sure to leave ample time for the new memory verse.

#### 2. Explain the verse

**Matthew 5:16** *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

- † What is the light that we are to let shine? (It is our life – the way we live.)
- † What are the “good works” that we are to let men see? (As we live obediently to the Father, and lovingly to our brother, we will show forth good works.)
- † Why does God want the world to see our good works – our shining light? (He wants to be glorified. As God’s grace causes us to live in a new manner, God will be glorified because He is responsible for our change.)

#### 3. Memorize the Verse

Puzzle - Write the verse on an 8-1/2 X 11-1/2 piece of paper. Cut the paper into pieces forming a puzzle. Mix the pieces up and then have children put them in order. Then recite the verse together many times. Each time you recite the verse take away one piece of the puzzle. When all pieces have been taken children should have memorized the verse.

#### Lesson Review Questions

1. What purpose does salt serve? (It provides flavor and preserves from decay.)
2. In what way(s) can Christians be the “salt of the earth”? (They can work to stop the decay in their world.)
3. What evidence do you see of decay in your world? (Answers vary but may include: pain, selfishness, theft, hurtful conversation, wars, broken relationships, neglect of the poor...)
4. What purpose does light serve? (It drives away the darkness.)
5. How can Christians serve as light in the world? (Any where we see the forces of darkness or the effects of sin, we can bring proclaim the gospel in word and deed.)
6. According to this passage, what is God’s purpose for every Christian? (We are to be salt and light in our world.)
7. Name one specific way you will be salt and light in your world. (Be sure the children give specific answers.)