



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 35: The Disciples' Faith is Tested

Scripture

Matthew 15:29-39
Mark 8:1-10

Memory Verse

You have tested us,
O God; You have
purified us like
silver.
Psalm 66:10 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that
Jesus has the power
to heal.

Understand that
Jesus has the power
to multiply food.

Understand that
God wants us to be
more like Him.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

As a reminder of the last couple of lessons, we have seen Jesus feed more than five thousand with five loaves and two fish and we have seen Him walk on the Sea of Galilee to the boat where His disciples were. Because so much of Jesus' earthly life took place around or near the Sea of Galilee, it is not unusual to find Jesus there again.

We find Jesus walking along the Sea of Galilee. He went up the side of one of those many mountains that surrounds the sea and He sat down. Another large crowd gathered around Jesus. They came to Him and brought people who were blind and deaf and couldn't speak. They also brought people who were disabled and who couldn't walk. They brought many others, too. "They laid them at [Jesus] feet, and He healed them. (Matthew 15:30b NIV)

They were all amazed at what they saw and heard. The blind could see; the deaf could hear. People who had never spoken could now speak. The disabled were healed, and those who had been crippled could now walk! They all praised God for what He had done.

Then Jesus called His disciples over. Jesus shared with them that He was concerned about the crowd. They had been with Jesus for three days by then and they had eaten nothing! Jesus told His disciples, "If I send them away hungry, they will become too weak on their way home. Some of them have come from far away." (Mark 8:3 NIV)

Jesus was testing His disciples, just as He had tested Philip at the feeding of the huge crowd when He asked where they could buy enough bread. Jesus already knew what He was going to do. He wanted His disciples to see it as well.

The disciples had just seen Jesus feed 5,000 men, plus women and children and they still weren't getting it. They answered Jesus, "We don't have anything here. Where in the world could we get enough for all of these people to eat?"

Where, indeed! Jesus asked them how many loaves they had. There were seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. So Jesus had the people sit down. And just as He had done before, "He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks. Then He broke them and gave them to the disciples. And the disciples passed them out to the people." (Matthew 15:36 NIV)

Application

Our memory verse says, "You have tested us, O God; you have purified us like silver." (Psalm 66:10 NLT)

To purify silver, it is heated until all of the impurities are burned off.

Trials and testing are like that in our lives. God allows things in our lives to grow us and strengthen our faith.

The disciples should have been learning something new each time Jesus taught them or performed a miracle. When Jesus asked about feeding the 4,000 they should have been ready.

Do you feel like that many times? Will you commit to reviewing God's lessons in your life to see what He is trying to teach you? Will you be ready for the next lesson?

Maybe you are confused by all of this talk of testing faith and purifying silver. Maybe you have never trusted God, believing in faith that He rose from the dead and is the One who can change your life. If you would like to know more, let's talk.

And just as had happened before, everyone ate until they were satisfied and there were leftovers! This crowd had been a bit smaller than the previous crowd. This time there were only about 4,000 men along with women and children. And once the disciples had picked up everything, there were seven baskets of leftovers.

After everyone had eaten and everything had been picked up, Jesus sent the crowd away. They went back to their homes. Jesus and His disciples got into their boat and again headed across the Sea of Galilee.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Peter's Confession



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring seven baskets.

In our lesson today, we find Jesus walking along the Sea of Galilee again. He went up the side of one of those many mountains that surrounds the sea and He sat down. Another large crowd gathered around Jesus. They came to Him and brought people who were blind and deaf and couldn't speak. They also brought people who were disabled and who couldn't walk. They brought many others, too. Jesus healed them all.

The people were all amazed at what they saw and heard. The blind could see. The deaf could hear. People who had never spoken could now speak. The disabled were healed, and those who had been crippled could now walk! They all praised God for what He had done.

Then Jesus called His disciples over. Jesus shared with them that He cared about the crowd. They had been with Jesus for three days and they had eaten nothing! Jesus told His disciples, "If I send them away hungry, they will become too weak on their way home. Some of them have come from far away." (Mark 8:3 NIRV)

They answered Jesus, "We don't have anything here. Where in the world could we get enough for all of these people to eat?"

Jesus asked them how many loaves they had. There were seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. So Jesus had the people sit down. And just as He had done before, "He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks. Then He broke them and gave them to the disciples. And the disciples passed them out to the people." (Matthew 15:36 NIRV)

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Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on black card stock or construction paper with a silver crayon or marker. Be sure to include the reference. Decorate with silver glitter.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring goldfish crackers for a snack today.
- Reenact the lesson.
- Sing “I Will,” “Have Faith in God,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Listen to “Refiner’s Fire,” by Sonic Flood or “The Refiner’s Fire,” by Steve Green.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel. Find a topographical map, if possible.
- Dig Deeper: Our memory verse says, “You have tested us, O God; you have purified us like silver.” (Psalm 66:10 NLT) Silver is purified by heating it until all of the impurities are burned off. Trials and testing are like that in our lives. Read James 1:2-4 and discuss.
- “[God] is a refiner's fire, and that makes all the difference. A refiner's fire does not destroy indiscriminately like a forest fire. A refiner's fire does not consume completely like the fire of an incinerator. A refiner's fire refines. It purifies. It melts down the bar of silver or gold, separates out the impurities that ruin its value, burns them up, and leaves the silver and gold intact. He is like a refiner's fire. . . .And therefore this is not merely a word of warning, but a tremendous word of hope. The furnace of affliction in the family of God is always for refinement, never for destruction.”* Discuss the previous quote in light of this lesson and memory verse.

* Piper, John. November 29, 1987 (Morning). Bethlehem Baptist Church.

You have
tested us,
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Psalm 66:10

Trace the letters.

PURE

LIKE

SILVER

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

K Y O D R W O S U L W N R F M
C H J E N S O F S H A L E O Y
E E E I O H E N N E N I R R T
V W S F L I I C S A D K V E N
G L U I C S U D E T S E T K Y
E I S R C O G O T E A S R A L
S T V U S O R G M N S I Y M P
R S T P I K Y O L A U L D E I
U O I E T U C E V N O V A H T
O D T V P P R E R D H E Y T L
Y P S A L M A R F E T R E S U
L S I H K R E N M A H F L I M
T T H U L O R D K R V W E E L
O G S O L I H E H T I A D H W
M L O Y V E P L E H Y M S H F

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

You have tested us, O God;
You have purified us like silver.
Psalm 66:10



Word Search

K	Y	O	<u>D</u>	R	W	O	S	U	L	W	N	R	F	M
C	H	J	<u>E</u>	N	S	O	F	S	H	A	<u>L</u>	E	O	Y
E	E	E	<u>I</u>	O	H	E	N	N	E	N	<u>I</u>	R	R	T
V	W	S	<u>F</u>	L	I	I	C	S	A	D	<u>K</u>	V	E	N
G	L	U	<u>I</u>	C	<u>S</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>T</u>	K	Y
E	I	S	<u>R</u>	C	O	G	<u>O</u>	T	E	A	<u>S</u>	R	A	L
S	T	V	<u>U</u>	S	O	R	<u>G</u>	M	N	S	<u>I</u>	Y	M	P
R	S	T	<u>P</u>	I	K	Y	<u>O</u>	L	A	U	<u>L</u>	D	E	I
U	O	I	<u>E</u>	T	U	C	E	V	N	O	<u>V</u>	A	H	T
O	D	T	<u>V</u>	P	P	R	E	R	D	H	<u>E</u>	Y	T	L
Y	<u>P</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>	A	R	F	E	T	<u>R</u>	E	S	U
L	S	I	<u>H</u>	K	R	E	N	M	A	H	F	L	I	M
T	T	H	<u>U</u>	L	O	R	D	K	R	V	W	E	E	L
O	G	S	<u>O</u>	L	I	H	E	H	T	I	A	D	H	W
M	L	O	<u>Y</u>	V	E	P	L	E	H	Y	M	S	H	F

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Preschool Word Search

R D I H U N G R Y S R E
E I V A T S O Y S C N D
H A P E M E N N T E W S
B O A T I S H J E S U S
J E W O M H E A S Y L S
E V E R Y O N E A T E S
S T R U L T I F L Y R E
D W A L B I G C R O W D
M D I L T W E T E R T S
D S E V E N T E R R B N
L C H E L P E N E R S J
H E D I S C I P L E S T

JESUS

DISCIPLES

BIG CROWD

HUNGRY

SEVEN

EVERYONE ATE



Preschool Word Search

R D I H U N G R Y S R E
E I V A T S O Y S C N D
H A P E M E N N T E W S
B O A T I S H J E S U S
J E W O M H E A S Y L S
E V E R Y O N E A T E S
S T R U L T I F L Y R E
D W A L B I G C R O W D
M D I L T W E T E R T S
D S E V E N T E R R B N
L C H E L P E N E R S J
H E D I S C I P L E S T

JESUS

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