

Carved in Stone

Embracing God's Value System

Children's Lesson One

What Does a Christian Look Like?

PURPOSE

This first lesson is the foundational lesson for this series. The thrust of this lesson is to introduce the interconnectedness of our relationship with God to our relationship with others. There is a definite connection between who and how we are identified and the lifestyle we lead. Who we are determines what we do just as what we do reflects who we are. Because we are Christians, what we do should demonstrate the Christian lifestyle. The lesson introduces the children to a way of life that would exemplify the actions needed by Christians.



OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- Be introduced to the concept that actions reflect the heart condition.
- Understand that Christians act differently than non-Christians.
- Be introduced to The Commandment Kids, the main vehicle for instruction for the lessons.

SCRIPTURE

- Deuteronomy 6:1-12

WHAT YOU NEED

- Magazines
- Tin foil 6"x8" (one for each child)
- Construction paper 8½"x11"
- Glue
- Stickers
- Crayons/markers
- A copy of the story for each child
- Copies of What Does a Christian Look Like? activity sheet, both boys' and girls' versions
- "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love" song



SETTING THE SCENE

If you have access to magazines, find pictures of stereotypical people, such as an athlete, a ballerina, a politician, a preacher, a housewife, a mom, a dad, etc. Ask the children who the picture is and what do they think they are like. What physical characteristics, abilities, hobbies, likes, dislikes, etc., do the people in each of the pictures have? For example, say while holding up a picture of an athlete, **"What do you think he does to stay in shape? What kind of things might he do as hobbies? What do you think he wants to do?"** Go through several pictures. The goal is to have the children begin thinking that who people are determines what they do. The athlete probably spends time staying in shape, the preacher wants to witness to others, the ballerina likes to dance, etc.

Ask **"How should a Christian act?"** Answers could be Christians should act Christ-like, or be kind, or go to church, etc.

TRANSITION

Who we are determines how we act. Often our actions tell others who we really are. Today in our lesson we will be introduced to six children who will be with us for all of the other lessons. We will learn about the Ten Commandments from these kids. This lesson will tell us about who they are and how they want to act.

STORY

Distribute copies of the prepared story. Assign parts so that several children can read. Or you can tell the story to the children. After reading the story, discuss the main concepts using the discussion questions below.

QUESTIONS

1. **How did T.J. know Frankie, Geoffrey, and Charlotte were Christians?**
(Because of their actions.)
2. **Why is it important to have some friends that can help you be a Christian at school?** (They help you keep your faith active at school. You can talk to them and they can help you with any problems and understand what you should do and still be a Christian.)
3. **Why is it important to have all sorts of friends, Christian and non-Christian?**
(You can be good friends with non-Christians, but sometimes they may give you advice contrary to the Christian way of living, or they may want you to do things you know you shouldn't do. So you need to have some Christian friends to help you stay focused on what Jesus would want you to do.)
4. **What can you do at school or in your family or community to show others that you are a Christian?** (All sorts of answers can be given for this answer.)

ACTIVITIES

1. What exactly does a Christian look like or act like? Use the children forms to color in themselves, either boy or girl, and have them look up the different Bible verses for a clearer picture of what a Christian looks like.
2. A Christian looks like me. Give each child a piece of tin foil 6"x8". Glue the aluminum foil in the middle of the construction paper. Write at the top of the sheet, "A Christian looks like..." Then have the children decorate with markers or stickers the area around the aluminum foil to look like a picture frame.
3. Teach the children the song "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love."

As you bring the session to a close, reinforce the idea that our actions should be Christ-like; that others see us and judge us by our actions.

End with a prayer.

STORY

- Narrator: T.J. is new at Springdale Elementary School. He's never been the "new kid" before and is having trouble making friends. He sees all the different groups or cliques in his school, but doesn't really know where he fits in. T.J. is a Christian and wants his words and actions to show his devotion to God. And he wants some friends that share the same faith in God as he does.
- T.J.'s Mom: So, T.J., how was your day today?
- T.J.: It was okay, but I still haven't met anyone who is a Christian. Some of the kids act so mean to each other. I don't know if I'm going to like this school. Can't we move back to our old house so I can go to my old school? At least I had friends there.
- T.J.'s Mom: Now you know we can't move back to our old house. You know, what you can do is just start looking closely at those in your class to see if they do anything that might make you think they are Christians. See what your classmates do to show what is in their hearts. You might be surprised by what you observe.
- T.J.: Okay Mom, I'll try.
- Narrator: Over the next week T.J. observed Geoffrey pray before he ate his lunch, Charlotte read her Bible before school started, and Frankie stick up for a younger kid on the playground. He was impressed with what he saw. He decided to try to get to know these kids first. So the next day at school...
- T.J.: Hey Geoffrey I see you pray everyday before you eat your lunch. Why do you do that?
- Geoffrey: I do that because I have Jesus in my heart and I want to talk to him throughout the day and my family always prays before any meal.
- T.J.: That is so great to hear, because I am a Christian too. I have Jesus in my heart too.
- Geoffrey: That's wonderful. It's always nice to meet other kids who believe in Jesus. Have you met Frankie? He goes to my church. He is a Christian too.
- T.J.: Cool!
- Narrator: The next morning, T.J. had a little spring to his step as he walked to school. He has learned many people's names and made some friends, but felt a connection to Geoffrey and Frankie already because of their shared faith.
- T.J.: Charlotte, I saw you reading your Bible the other day before school, and I was wondering if we could have devotions before school sometimes. I brought my Bible today.
- Charlotte: Sure T.J. Are you new to school? I don't remember you from last year.

T.J.: Yes, I'm new.

Charlotte: Well, how is it going? Are you getting used to this school?

T.J.: Yes, I am, slowly. It was great to see you reading your Bible. I'm a Christian too and I had hoped to find some friends that would share my love for Jesus.

Charlotte: Yeah, I'm a Christian. I think it's important to have all sorts of friends, but I like to have several Christian friends that I can talk with to help me act like God wants me to.

T.J.: Me too.

Charlotte: Have you met Chelsea? She goes to my church and Kassy, the girl who sits next to me, goes to my church too.

T.J.: That's great. Maybe you can introduce me to them since I haven't met Chelsea or Kassy yet.

Narrator: T.J. left school that day happier than he had been since he moved from his old house and neighborhood.

T.J.: Hey Mom, you'll never guess what. I met a girl today who let me have devotions with her before school and she introduced me to some other friends that go to her church across town. Isn't that great? Maybe this school won't be so bad after all.

T.J.'s Mom: I'm so glad T.J. I have been praying that you would make some good friends that will help you keep your Christian faith at school. It is important to have all sorts of friends, Christian and non-Christian, but it is important to have some close friends that share your faith to help you live out your faith at school.

Narrator: T.J. felt better about going to school knowing he had made friends with others that would understand the Christian principles he tried to live by. He knew his new friends were Christians because of their actions. Their true hearts were seen in their actions lived everyday.



WHAT DOES A CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE? ACTIVITY SHEET (BOYS VERSION)



WHAT DOES A CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE? ACTIVITY SHEET (GIRLS VERSION)

