



Elementary

Week 1:

Together We Can Take the Gospel to Every Home.

Lesson Overview:

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-38; John 10:14

Key Passage to Memorize: “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.’” Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Main Point: Following Jesus means to tell others about Jesus and to love like Jesus.

Who does Jesus love? Everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Who can follow Jesus? Everyone can follow Jesus.

Lesson time: 45 Minutes

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes while students arrive.

Introduction: 5 minutes to get students attention and to introduce topic.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes to read verses from the Bible, and explain how to find them.

Application Activity: 10 minutes

Review and Pray: 10 minutes

Closing Activity: 5 minutes

Items Needed:

Ice Breaker: Sheep activity sheet, cotton balls, glue, and crayons.

Application Activity: Paper wads (can be recycled or old paper) about 10 per child.

Review and Pray: *Who Can I Tell About Jesus* activity sheet, pencil, and crayons.

Closing Activity: A ball preferably a beach ball.

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes: *Designed to get kids ready to learn, to get their attention, and to focus them in while others are arriving.*

Before children arrive, put out a sheep activity sheet at each seat along with some glue sticks, crayons, and cotton balls in the center of each table. As children arrive, greet them and ask them to find a spot at each table. Have them choose a place to sit and have them begin coloring their sheep.

After about 5-6 minutes of coloring say: **Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me.” Isn’t it neat that we belong to Jesus? We are His sheep and He is our Shepherd. Let’s make our sheep fluffy and soft! Take your glue sticks and rub glue on the sheep. Next take your cotton balls and pull them apart a little and press them into the glue. Keep doing that until your sheep is fluffy and soft and all the glue is covered up.** Let kids work to finish their sheep. Then move the sheep out of the way to dry.

Say: **You all did a great job working on your sheep. Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. We follow Jesus. Who can follow Jesus? Everyone can follow Jesus.**

Introduction: 5 minutes: *The introduction is designed to lay the foundation for what you will be teaching and where you will be in Scripture.*

Say: **Following Jesus means to tell others about Jesus and to love like Jesus. Today we are going to read in the book of Matthew about how Jesus said, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.”**

Ask: **What do you think Jesus meant by the harvest? What is abundant? What is a worker, and why do we need them for the harvest?**

Allow kids to answer. Explain that when you plant seeds, the harvest is when those seeds grow and you have lots of fruits or vegetables ready to pick. Abundant means a lot! There is a lot of fruit to pick and that is a lot of work. Too much for one person. We need workers, which are helpers, to join in and help pick or harvest the fruits or vegetables.

Ask: **Do you think Jesus was talking about fruit and vegetables or do you think He was talking about something else?**

Let’s read from the Bible, God’s special book, and see what it says.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes

Hold your Bible and say: **This is God's special book, the Bible. When we read from it we get to hear what God is saying to us. Today we are reading from John 10:14 and Matthew 9:35-38. The Bible is divided up into two parts. The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books and the New testament has 27 books. The Bible is made up of 66 books that tell one big story about how Jesus came to save people. John and Matthew are two books in the New Testament. They are a part of the Gospels, the four books at the beginning of the New Testament, that tell us about Jesus' life on earth, His death, and resurrection.**

Find John in your Bible and explain how 10 is the chapter. It is the big number. After you find the big 10, you go and read the verse. The verse is after the little 14. Read John 10:14.

Next, find Matthew in your Bible and explain how 9 is the chapter. It is the big number. After you find the big 9, read the verse. The verse is the little 35. Read until you get to the little 39. Then you stop reading. Read Matthew 9:35-38.

Say: **When Jesus was talking about the harvest, He was talking about people who were ready to hear about Him and people who were ready to follow Him. The workers are people like you and me and our families. People who love Jesus and want to tell others about Him. It is our job to tell everyone about Jesus. Following Jesus means to tell others about Jesus and to love like Jesus. Who does Jesus love? Everyone. Jesus loves everyone. Who can follow Jesus? Everyone can follow Jesus.**

Application Activity: 10 minutes *Designed to get your kids moving and to drive home the main point.*

The workers are few. Supplies needed: lots paper wads, about 10 per kid. Feel free to use old, discarded paper or paper from the recycling bin.

This game can be played like the game *Clean My Garage*, but with a twist. Have every child but one stand on one side of the room and the other child stand on the opposite side of the room. Explain to the child who is alone that they will

try to make sure no paper wads stay on his side of the room. He is to throw them back to the other kids as soon as they land. Have the kids on the other side of the room put their paper wads on the floor in front of them until you say, “Go!” Once you say, “Go!” they can begin throwing their paper wads.

Once the child playing alone starts accumulating a lot of paper wads stop the game.

Say: **This job is too big for one person! Our friend needs some workers to come and join them.** Send two more kids to join the child who was alone and play again.

Once the three children playing alone start accumulating a lot of paper wads, stop the game.

Say: **This job is too big for three people! Our friends need some more workers to come and join them.** Split the group in half and play again.

Play a few more rounds if time allows.

Review and Pray: 10 Minutes

Say: **Jesus said, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.” The game was very hard and frustrating when it was just one person doing the work. It felt impossible! When a few people came to help it was a little better, but still hard. When everyone stopped and split and shared the work, each side was able to play and lots of work got done!**

That is the way it is when we follow Jesus. We could wait on others to tell people about Jesus, but then it would be like in our game when only one person was cleaning. We all need to tell people about Jesus. It is our job, it is our family’s job, and it is our church’s job. We all are workers for the harvest.

Ask each of your kids: **When in the game was it easier to play? When was it harder?**

Jesus said the harvest is abundant. What is a harvest? What did Jesus mean by harvest? Did he mean fruits and vegetables?

What does “abundant” mean?

What is a worker?

Can anyone who follows Jesus tell others about Him?

Following Jesus means to tell others about Jesus and to love like Jesus.

Who does Jesus love? Everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Who can follow Jesus? Everyone can follow Jesus.

Give each child the *Who Can I Tell About Jesus* activity sheet, a pencil, and some crayons. Ask them to draw a friend they can tell about Jesus and to write the friend's name.

After children are finished drawing, have them take a few minutes and pray over the people they drew. After they pray alone, they can team up with a friend and share who they want to tell about Jesus and take turns praying for the people they wrote down.

Dear God, thank You that everyone can follow Jesus. Thank You that Jesus loves everyone. Help us to tell others about you Jesus. Please help us to tell your good news to our friends. Give us the right time to share your gospel, give us the words, and let your Holy Spirit be working in their hearts to hear. In Jesus name, Amen.

Closing Activity: 5 minutes

As children are preparing to be picked up, have them sit in a circle and pass the ball to each other. You will throw the ball to a child and say, “The,” then the child who catches the ball will say, “Harvest,” then they will throw it and the next child who catches it will say, “Abundant,” then continue on and say the verse a few times in a row word by word until everyone is picked up.

“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Copy the front and back of the take home page and give to each child. Point out the memory verse to their parents.