

The Challenge of His Sayings



Teacher's Guide

Materials

paper; markers or chalk; cardboard; blackboard, whiteboard or flipchart; pens or pencils

Surveying the Source

Matt. 5:48; 24:35; John 7:46.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Reevaluate their response to the teachings of Jesus.
- ▶ Find relevance for today's living in

the words of Christ.

- ▶ Renew their faith in God's provision, which allows us to walk in His Word.

Preparing to Lead

Mahatma Gandhi, Gautama Buddha, Muhammad, Jesus. All are men hailed by the world as spiritual leaders whose words still stir the hearts of millions today. What makes Jesus different, and His words truth? Are His sayings still applicable to our fast-paced, technologically

savvy, modern world? Can His standards for living be attained? Jesus—the Son of God, a revolutionary, a pacifist, the Savior of our fallen race—left us the power of His words to challenge the way we think and to shape the way we live.

Getting Started

A. Ask the students to form a circle. Have each student repeat aloud a saying of Jesus. As they say them, write them on a chalkboard (flipchart or whiteboard). If a student can't remember a saying, have them step out of the circle until only one student is left.

B. In advance, write each the following sayings on a piece of paper: “ ‘Be perfect’ ” (Matt. 5:48, NIV); “ ‘Here is your

mother’ ” (John 19:27, NIV); “ ‘Not seven times, but seventy-seven times’ ” (Matt. 18:22, NIV); “ ‘What God has joined together, let no one separate’ ” (Matt. 19:6, NRSV); “ ‘Sell your possessions and give to the poor’ ” (Luke 12:33, NIV). Divide the class into two teams. Each team will send a representative to act out a saying for the rest of the team to figure out. Read the verse at the end of each pantomime.

Delving Into the Word

A. Ask students to read the following verses: Psalm 12:6; 119:103; 119:105; 119:160; Matthew 24:35; John 6:68. Next, have the students write a newspaper promotional advertisement for the Word of God using the adjectives which appear in these verses.

B. Make a copy of the reproducible

activity for each student (see p. 36). After the students fill out their sheets, ask them to share their paraphrases with the class. Then ask the following questions: ●How is the Word of God relevant in our daily lives? ●How can we live up to God's standard for us?

Discussing the Ideas

1. If we don't follow Jesus' sayings, then who are we following?
2. What does it mean to have Jesus' words in your heart? How do we get them there?
3. Why is it important to continue to

refer to Jesus' teachings?

4. How do we know we are following the truth?

5. Are Jesus' statements to be taken literally? How much room is there for interpretation?

Closing the Activity

Say: "Every time Jesus made a statement, He described His own character. His words light up the path we should walk if we want to mold our character in His likeness and one day be a part of His kingdom."

Ask students to form a circle. Each one will say one thing about Jesus' character that they want to emulate. Close with prayer, requesting that all students might commit to hiding God's words in their hearts.

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His Word Is For Us TODAY!

Read each situation in the chart below. Then read the adjoining Bible verse to find Jesus' response. Finally, paraphrase the verse in today's language in the text portion of the chart.

Everyone is copying CDs and DVDs. I'm not going to sell them, so I don't think there's anything wrong with that.	Romans 13:9, 10
I love to go to the gym or the beach and watch beautiful women who take good care of their bodies.	Matthew 5:27-30
I'm too messed up. This Jesus thing is not for me.	Mark 2:17
There's nothing wrong with wanting financial freedom. I want to work hard and make a lot of money. That's my goal in life.	Luke 16:13
What I watch or read doesn't define who I am. I am much more than my choices of entertainment.	Luke 11:34-36