

## Lesson Eight

# Jesus Preaches On A Mountain

**Scripture Reference:** Matthew 5, 6, 7

**Aim:** To help the children fill their hearts with the beautiful lessons that Jesus taught on the mountain.

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

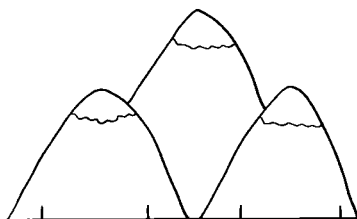
**Preparation:** Have today's apostle square — Matthew — already removed from the student workbooks and ready to be attached to the attendance charts at the proper time.

For the Pocket Poster, you will need construction paper strips for these key words: hypocrites, seek.

Since today's lesson is about Jesus' teachings from the mountain top, you might want to consider making some large cardboard mountains for one end of your classroom. Children learn so much by doing, and they would find it a real adventure to be able to "climb up the mountain" like Jesus did.

To create this scene, you will need some heavy cardboard. A large refrigerator box opened up would be ideal. Cut the cardboard to resemble several mountains (see sketch) and color as desired.

To make the mountains stand up, use a large version of paper dolls' stands. Cut a few slots along the base of the mountains, then slide in small pieces of cardboard perpendicular to these slots. Back behind the mountains, set up a small step ladder so that the children can "climb" the mountain. At the top of the step ladder, you may want to have the pictures which illustrate the lessons Jesus taught on the mountain. These can be found in the Visual Aid Packet. Let each child climb the mountain and bring back one lesson that Jesus taught. These visuals may then be displayed on the clothesline as you tell the Bible story.



For the lesson, you will also need a candle and candle holder, a waxed paper cup, and some matches.

For today's handwork, you will need styrofoam cups, birthday candles and markers.

**Welcome:** Be sure, as always, to be in your classroom and greet your students when they first arrive. Doubtless their attention will be drawn immediately to the "mountains" at one end of the classroom. Explain that they will have a chance to "climb" the mountains a little later on.

You may wish to have a small display set up featuring various kinds of light — flashlights, candles, kerosene lamps, etc. Let the children examine these as their fellow classmates are arriving.

Check to see if anyone has earned the right to add a boy or girl figure to their *Fisher of Men* chart.

**Attendance Charts:** Distribute today's apostle square — Matthew — and assist the children as they glue the square on their attendance chart clocks in the 8:00 position.

**Period of Praise:** Sing with your students "*The Worship Song*" from Lesson 2. Use the flip chart that the students prepared that week.

Remind students that we don't have to be in a church building to be able to praise God. We can do that anywhere. Tell the children that today they will study about a group of people who learned some important lessons from Jesus outside, sitting at the foot of a mountain.

**Introduction:** Explain to the children that the lessons they will study today come from one of Jesus' most important teachings, often known as the Sermon on the Mount. At this time, introduce them to your own "mountain" which is located at the end of your classroom, and let each child have a turn to scale the mountain and bring back a visual aid picture from the top of the step ladder. You may want to have mounted these pictures on pieces of construction paper earlier.

**Bible Story:** (As you mention the various teachings of Jesus, illustrate them by adding the visuals to the clothesline, extended across the classroom from one wall to another.)

Jesus' sermon was full of wonderful teachings to help God's people. First of all, He said that He didn't want any of us to worry. He said not to worry about what we eat or what we drink or what

we wear. Jesus also said to put His kingdom first and then He promised that He would provide us all of the things we need. Isn't it wonderful to know that we have someone who takes such good care of us?

Next, Jesus said the beautiful words in our memory verse for today. What do you think Jesus meant by this? Did He mean we are to carry a flashlight around with us all of the time? No, Jesus meant that He wants us to set a good example for others.

Let's look at a candle and see if we can understand what Jesus was talking about. (Hold up candle.) We will let this candle represent a person who lives in the world. When this person becomes a child of God, his light should start burning (light candle). And since the Bible tells us many times that this world is like darkness, let's show that by turning out the lights (turn out all lights and try to darken windows, also). Now, even though the world is dark, do you see how much light a Christian can put out? He helps make this old, sinful world a better place to live. But will his light shine always? Here I have a paper cup that will be sin (hold up cup). When sin gets too close to a Christian, it can cause his light to flicker. In fact, it can eventually cause his light to go out altogether. (Place cup over candle, shutting out the flame.) Once the light goes out, the world is in darkness once again. (Turn lights on once more.) See how important it is for a Christian to let his light shine? Jesus was very wise and said many important things in this special sermon.

Next, Jesus talked about praying. He said some people, called hypocrites, liked to go out into the streets and pray just so other men could see them. Jesus said that this kind of prayer did not please God. Instead, Jesus said for us to go into our closet — meaning a quiet place — and talk to God.

Jesus continued His lessons by saying that if we ask for something, it will be given to us. If we seek something, He said, we will find it, and if we knock on a door, it will be opened for us. Jesus is telling us that we can be sure that God hears and will answer our prayers. How thankful we should be for this great blessing!

Jesus used an example to illustrate what He was teaching. He said that if a son asks his father for bread, will his father give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will his father give him a snake to eat? No, of course not. Fathers give good things to their children.

Even so, God, our heavenly Father, will give us good things when we ask of Him.

Finally, Jesus talked in this sermon about two men who built a house. I think you know a song about these men. (Sing the following song.)

### **The Builder's Song**

The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
And the rain came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
And the house on the rock stood fast!

The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
And the rain came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
And the house on the sand went crash!

Jesus used this story to teach an important truth. He said if we do the things He says, then we will be like the wise man, but if we don't obey Him, we will be like the foolish man. I want to be wise, don't you?

**Memory Verse:** At this point in the class, see how many of the students are able to quote this week's memory verse. Let those who can, fill in "Matthew 5:16" on their memory verse clock. Review with the class again the meaning of this verse.

**Workbooks:** Now have the children turn to the activity pages for Lesson 8. Point out that Jesus' Sermon on the Mount takes up three chapters in the gospel account of Matthew. How many important things He had to say!

The activity on the first page deals with what Jesus had to say about worry. Have the children read over the phrase listing the things we are not to worry about. Let them draw in a picture of something to eat, something to drink, and something to wear. Then have them look up Matthew 6:33 in their Bibles (have some extras on hand in case not all students brought their Bibles) and fill in the missing words. Answers: first, God.

Move now to the second activity. Have the children read over the list of words at the top of the page and then choose the correct words to fill in the blanks on statements 1 through 10. Answers: 1. light; 2. bushel; 3. street; 4. closet; 5. ask; 6. seek; 7. knock; 8. bread, stone; 9. fish, serpent; 10. Father, good.

At the bottom of the page, let the children draw the wise man's house and the foolish man's house as they looked once the rain had begun to fall.

**Landmark Diagram:** Have the children turn now to this page in their workbooks and choose the location of today's lesson. They should write the number 8 in the circle by the mountain. Review some of the other places where Jesus did good. You may wish to sing "*The Do-Good Song*."

**Handwork:** To help student's remember today's lesson, have them make a candle holder to take home with them. Give each child a styrofoam cup. Have them turn the cup bottom side up and write "Let your light so shine" with markers on the cup. Then make a hole in the bottom of the cup and insert the candle in this hole. You may also wish to have a ribbon for them to tie around the base of the candle.



**Homework:** Give each child one of the memory verse slips which you have removed earlier from the list in the student workbooks. Encourage everyone to study the verse at home during the upcoming week.

**Closing:** If time permits, sing "*This Little Christian Light Of Mine*" since it illustrates so well a part of today's lesson. End with a prayer.

Encourage everyone to return next week. Remind them to try to bring someone with them so that they can be a *Fisher of Men*.