



Unit 4, Lesson 15

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: SERMON ON THE MOUNT MATTHEW 5—7

THE STORY HOME

The Sermon on the Mount, today's Bible story, tells how Jesus went to a mountain and sat down to teach. His relaxed posture is normal for teachers. The crowds hush as Jesus speaks in a loud, loving voice. He tells how those who live in right relationship with God have joy and God's help in this life. He teaches the people to make a positive difference by being a spiritual light in a dark world bent on disobeying God. His lesson ends with reminding the crowd about making smart choices. He cautions that nobody is perfect and instructs people to avoid judging others if they think they are better, nicer, richer, or smarter. God's love is extended equally to everyone. Reexamine these powerful chapters, Matthew 5—7.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- I wonder how the kids in the crowd behaved when Jesus was talking?
- Jesus relies on us to spread His love and teachings about God. Can you think of a time when you told someone about the benefits of being a Christian?
- Who helps you to make good choices?
- It's OK to have opinions, likes, and dislikes but, what does it mean to judge others?

TOGETHER HOME

Membership has its benefits. To foster an understanding of the privileges and joys of Christians, write a benefit of being in your family on an index card. Ask younger tots to tell you what they love about being in your family and you write it down. Older children can each write their family-membership benefit. Be sure each one contributes a positive thought. Place all the membership benefit cards in a hat or other container. Each week day, draw one card from the hat. Read it aloud to acknowledge the writer and encourage your hearers. Use this teachable moment to remind your children of the joy they have when they live in right relationship with God and others.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets," (Matthew 7:12) is an important memory verse. Repeat this verse together as a family. Then talk about doing kind and loving things to others, because kindness is contagious and returns to the giver, but especially because it is how God commands His people to live.

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