

Aim of lesson

To appreciate Jesus' teaching on how we should treat people.

Bible background

Matthew 5:38-48; 7:1-5

Outline of lesson

But I say to you

Get the class to search through Matthew 5:38-42 and write in the boxes on the first page in the workbook. Write Jesus' words for each illustration.

Discuss the situations which follow and any other parallel situations which they may suggest. Encourage them to see that Jesus' way of thinking would mean that you would not just 'forget about it'. In the first situation, you would be prepared to lend him your jacket the next day. In the second you would tidy up your room as well!

Crossword

Ask someone in the class to read Matthew 5:43-48 and someone else Matthew 7:1-5. Then ask them to close their Bibles and do the crossword. If they find it hard, allow them to look up the Bible reference. The wording is taken from the NIV. (15 down is an extra 'ever')

Digging deeper

Role models

This section looks at other messages from the Sermon on the Mount, and how they are put into practice.

- Matthew 5:5 Jesus was meek before Pilate
- 5:7 Jesus had mercy on the widow
- 5:43-44 Jesus loved even those who wanted to kill him
- 6:2-4 Those who are unaware of their kindness will be rewarded
- 7:24-27 Peter had complete trust in Jesus, who was his rock.

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class to let you know of any situations during the week when they need to use the teaching in today's lesson. Remember to allow time next week to discuss how hard it was to put it into practice.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for giving us sunshine and rain, even when we do not deserve it. Help us to act as you would like us to.

Other suggestions for activities

The class could write a prayer that one of the disciples might have said after listening to Jesus teaching the section for this lesson.