

**NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH**

**CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS**

**HONORING GOD**

**MARCH 2020**

## **PRELUDE**

### **Lesson 1 – Single-Minded Obedience, Matthew 4:1-11**

People are tempted in many ways to turn aside from what they know is right. How can we resist such temptations? Jesus resisted the devil's temptations by quoting the Scriptures, thus demonstrating His single-minded obedience to God.

### **Lesson 2 – Piety That Honors God, Matthew 6:1-8**

Eager to be well thought of people are pulled in a multitude of contradictory directions. How can we be true to the highest principles that we have been taught? In Matthew 5, Jesus taught the disciples the Beatitudes and in Matthew 6, He warned them against practicing their piety in order to be praised by others.

### **Lesson 3 – The Prayer of Jesus, Matthew 6:9-15**

We are often discouraged in the face of negative circumstances over which we seem to have no control. How can we experience the positive transformations we long for? Jesus taught the disciples to pray for God's kingdom to be manifested in their lives and in all creation.

THEME: "Honoring God"

LESSON: <b>Single-Minded Obedience</b>
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SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: "Then saith Jesus unto him, /get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy god, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matthew 4:1-11)

LESSON AIM: EXPLORE the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness; ASPIRE to obey god as Jesus demonstrated, and DEVELOP spiritual habits that can strengthen them in times of temptation.

LEADING INTO THE LESSON:

The Gospel of Matthew makes numerous references to old Testament Scriptures that foretell the coming of the Messiah. The Jews were anticipating the arrival of the Messiah in the midst of Roman occupation. Matthew writes to provide evidence to Jews that Jesus o Nazareth is the Son of God, the Messiah. In Matthew 3, John the Baptist, as the forerunner for Christ, called for the Children of Israel to repent. In doing that, he fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Isiah 40:3). Jesus makes his public appearance and asks John to baptize Him in the Jordan River. John does, and at that moment the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove to bear witness to this truth and God makes an audible public statement identifying Jesus as His beloved Son.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus met every temptation from the devil by remaining true to His purpose. What Scriptures did He use in His responses?
2. What Scripture did the devil misuse in his attempt to persuade Jesus?

THEME: “Honoring God”

LESSON: <b>Piety That Honors God</b>
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SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:1-8

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:1)

LESSON AIM: UNDERSTAND Jesus’ teachings about not practicing one’s piety in order to be noticed by others,  
REPENT of making a show of religiosity in order to receive praise from others, and  
PRACTICE simplicity and humility in our devotional lives.

LEADING INTO THE LESSON:

The Gospel according to Matthew emphasizes the authoritative teaching ministry of Jesus Christ and records five sermons. These are found in chapters 5-7;10;13;18-20; and 24-25. There are more sermons recorded in Matthew than any of the other Gospels. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew uses terminology and references that would be well-known to Jews because he is writing to prove to them that Jesus is their Messiah, and the promised King.

The first Sermon is frequently referred as the Sermon on the Mount. The multitudes followed Jesus “from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond Jordan.” They were witnesses as Jesus healed the sick, the paralyzed, the demon-possessed, and the diseased. After they gathered, Jesus began to teach His disciples in the presence of the multitudes. Teaching regarding a new view of life was necessary because these followers, mostly Jewish, would have been largely familiar with and influenced by the Pharisees, who were well-learned, religious experts, but legalistic and hypocritical, far from the heart of God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What contrasts about attitudes and actions are made in these verses?
2. What does Jesus say the Father will do as a result of the proper attitude in giving and in praying?
3. What words are repeated in Matthew 6:1-8?

THEME: "Honoring God"

LESSON: <b>The Prayer of Jesus</b>
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SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:9-15

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

LESSON AIM: IDENTIFY the place of the Lord's Prayer in the life of the church; LONG for the kingdom of God described in the Lord's Prayer to be manifested in our lives; and PRAY the Lord's prayer with deeper appreciation for its meaning.

LEADING INTO THE LESSON:

Jesus taught that the true righteousness of the kingdom must be applied in the everyday activities of life. He cautioned against practicing piety to impress other people. Almsgiving was designed to be a display of mercy, but the Pharisees had distorted it to demonstrate their devotion to religious duties in almsgiving and prayer. Giving without fanfare and quietly praying will receive its rewards. Just as the Pharisees made a public display in giving, so they did in praying. They prayed in public places to be seen and heard by men. Jesus says they got their reward in the applause of the people. Instead of condemning prayer in general, though, the Lord purified the practice by directing us into a private place to be alone and pray to our Father. Jesus went on to give us an example of how to pray with certain guidelines.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How is forgiveness connected to prayer?
2. What does v13 mean in light of Matthew 4:1-11? What does verse 11 mean in light of Matthew 6:2-4?

## **Lessons for April 2020**

God's Just Servant

Isaiah 42:1-9

Resurrection Hope

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

Injustice Will Be Punished

Esther 7:1-10

## **Lessons for May 2020**

A Vision of Restoration

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Peace and Justice Reign

Zephaniah 8:1-8, 11-17

Practice Justice

Jeremiah 21:8-14