



To Be Like Jesus

Scope & Sequence

To Be Like Jesus is a study for children on following Jesus. The study answers important questions about salvation and sanctification by explaining elements of the Gospel message, its purpose, and promise. The study uses the order of salvation found in Romans 8:29-30, with particular emphasis on sanctification, to help children understand what the Christian life is all about and how this relates to salvation through faith alone.

Lesson 1: Created in God's Image for His Glory

Various Passages

We have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory.

- ▶ The curriculum begins by teaching students that because we have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory, we are to show the greatness and worth of God in all of our thoughts, desires, and actions. God is righteous and holy, therefore we must be righteous and holy to gain eternal life.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Lesson 2: All Have Sinned

The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19)

God's commands show us our failure to be perfectly righteous and holy.

- ▶ The previous lesson showed students that righteousness and holiness are needed for eternal life. This lesson brings to light that all have sinned and fail to measure up to God's commands. It is impossible to earn eternal life through obedience.

Memory Verses: Romans 7:12, Romans 3:20

Lesson 3: Jesus, God's Holy and Righteous Son

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus is without sin—He is holy and righteous and was the perfect law-keeper.

- ▶ The last lesson emphasized that no one is righteous and holy—we all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Therefore sinners can never earn eternal life. Instead they deserve death and hell. In this lesson, students will focus on the Person of Jesus—that He is fully God but also became fully human, and that He is without sin—a holy and righteous perfect law-keeper. Through a clue-discovery activity in this lesson, students will discover that God sent Jesus into the world to save the world through Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 1:14

Lesson 4: The Gospel of Jesus: Salvation in Jesus

Various New Testament Passages

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

- ▶ Now that a foundation has been laid whereby students understand the predicament of unrighteous sinners, and that the answer to their problem is Jesus, this begins a series of lessons that focus on the process of salvation. This first lesson is an overview of the Gospel message, in which children will review the Gospel and what it means for sinners.

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

Lesson 5: Salvation: Chosen by God

Various New Testament Passages

God alone chooses and predestines whom He will save.

- ▶ In this lesson, students will focus on the first step in the salvation process: Being chosen by God. They will see that God's choices are based on His good pleasure and not on any merit of our own. The lesson emphasizes that God foreknows all things and that salvation is a gift from God to undeserving sinners.

Memory Verses: Ephesians 1:4a; Ephesians 2:8-9

Lesson 6: Salvation: The Gospel Call

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus personally calls His chosen people to respond in belief.

- ▶ Building on the last lesson, this lesson reveals the next step in salvation—the gospel call. The Gospel of salvation in Jesus is to be preached to all people (general call), for faith comes through hearing the Gospel proclaimed. Students will also discover that Jesus personally calls His chosen people to respond in belief, and that all those whom Jesus calls will respond in belief (effective calling).

Memory Verses: Romans 10:17; Romans 8:30a

Lesson 7: Salvation: New Spiritual Life (Regeneration)

Various New Testament Passages

God gives new spiritual life through the work of the Spirit.

- ▶ Continuing through the *ordo salutis* (order of salvation), this lesson presents the third step in salvation—regeneration. God chooses people and then calls them through the message of the Gospel. Yet in our sinful nature, we are unable to respond to the Gospel in belief. We must be given new spiritual life in order to believe. It is God who gives this new spiritual life through the work of the Spirit, and all who have been given new spiritual life will believe in Jesus.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:4-5

Lesson 8: Salvation: Conversion

Various New Testament Passages

Belief in Jesus includes a basic understanding of the Gospel, an agreement of the facts, and a personal trust in Jesus.

- ▶ The next step in salvation is conversion. Simply believing things about God will not lead to salvation—faith is required. Students will learn that faith is trusting in Jesus alone for salvation, and faith must be accompanied by repentance. They will learn that repentance is a deep-felt sorrow for sin and a turning away from sin to Jesus.

Memory Verse: Acts 20:21

Lesson 9: Salvation: Justification

Various New Testament Passages

Justification is a legal act of God in which He forgives sin, gives to us Jesus' righteousness, and sees us as righteous in His sight.

- ▶ Justification is the next part of the salvation process. Students will review the truth that all sinners are guilty before God, and that their just punishment is death and hell. Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness and died as an atoning sacrifice for sin in order to satisfy the wrath of God. Students will learn what justification is and see that is obtained only through faith in Jesus. Everyone who is justified by Jesus will receive eternal life.

Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:1

Lesson 10: Salvation: Adoption

Various Passages

Everyone who is trusting in Jesus is given the right to become a child of God.

- ▶ Adoption is the next step in the process of salvation. In this lesson, students will learn that adoption is an act of God in which He makes us members of His family. They will see that through adoption, God's children enjoy a special and intimate relationship with Him and are heirs to all of His good promises.

Memory Verses: John 1:12; Ephesians 1:4b-5a

Lesson 11: Salvation: Sanctification

Various New Testament Passages

God expects that His children grow in their salvation.

- ▶ Lesson 11 focuses on sanctification as the next part of the salvation plan. Students will be taught that sanctification is the progressive work of God in His children, in which believers become more like Jesus. Students will see the importance of sanctification in salvation, and this lesson will serve as an introduction to the next several lessons, which focus on specific ways that we can grow to be more like Christ.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:29a

Lesson 12: Becoming Like Jesus Through Life in the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5)

A believer is sanctified through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ Sanctification is the evidence of justification and a necessary part of salvation. Students will see that in sanctification a believer becomes more and more free from the power of sin and becomes more and more like Jesus. This happens by the work of the Holy Spirit, who is God and who lives inside every believer.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:16b, 22-23a

Lesson 13: Becoming Like Jesus Through Treasuring His Word

Various New Testament Passages

The Holy Spirit and the Word of God show believers the greatness and worth of Jesus.

- ▶ As learned in the previous lesson, Christians are sanctified through the work of the Holy Spirit. This lesson adds to that by highlighting the Holy Spirit's role in conjunction with the Word of God. Students will learn that Christians are to treasure God's Word by reading it, meditating on it, delighting in it, doing what it says, and using it to fight sin.

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

Lesson 14: Becoming Like Jesus Through the Power of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6)

Prayer is the means by which God's children come into His presence and speak to Him.

- ▶ This lesson teaches that God desires to have an intimate relationship with His children. Prayer is one way this is accomplished. In the Bible, Jesus teaches us how we to pray, and that in our prayers we should acknowledge who God is, express honor and love toward Him, seek His plans, ask Him to meet our needs, confess our sins, and ask for power against sin. Prayer should be done with an attitude of thanksgiving toward God.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:9b-13

Lesson 15: Becoming Like Jesus by Submitting to Him

Jesus Calls the Disciples (Luke 5)

Sanctification happens through a Christian's submission to the commands of Jesus.

- ▶ Students will discover that God has designed roles of authority and submission. Jesus is Lord of all and all people should submit to Him. They will see that Christians must acknowledge Jesus as their Lord, and that God has given all Christians the Holy Spirit and the Bible to equip them for obedience to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:3, 6

Lesson 16: The Most Important Command: Loving God Most of All**Jesus commands us to love God most of all.**

The Greatest Commandment (Mark 12)

- ▶ The emphasis of this lesson is the greatest commandment from Mark 12:30. Children will study that Jesus is Lord and His children are to imitate His life and walk in obedience to Him. Jesus loves and treasures God most of all, and so should we. Obedience to Jesus is evidence of our love for Him, for God's commands are to be our duty and our delight, and true, lasting happiness is found in God alone.

Memory Verse: Mark 12:30

Lesson 17: Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth

The Israelites Praise God for Deliverance (Exodus 15)

Worship is gladly expressing to God that He is your greatest treasure and delight.

- ▶ This is the first in a series of lessons examining ways in which Christians can follow the greatest commandment—to love God most of all. This particular lesson focuses on worship. In it, students will see that true love for God will be expressed as worship. They will learn that worship must be done in spirit and truth by treasuring Jesus for who He is and what He has done. The lesson concludes by revealing that all of life is to be an act of worship.

Memory Verse: John 4:24

Lesson 18: Hungering for Righteousness

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus promises happiness to those who hunger for His righteousness.

- ▶ Continuing through lessons that show how we can love God most of all, Lesson 18 emphasizes that God wants His children to become righteous and holy and that Christians are to have a strong desire for Jesus' righteousness in their daily lives. We must find out what thoughts, words, and actions please God. In this lesson, children will see that the Bible provides us with God's righteous commands for every situation.

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:6

Lesson 19: Trusting God in All Circumstances

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus wants us to trust Him daily, in every circumstance.

- ▶ This lesson is another in the series that teaches us to love God most of all, and its focus is on our attitude during hardships. Students will examine how God has done the hardest thing of all for His people—giving Jesus to die on the cross in order to save sinners. Students will see that God is a loving heavenly Father who desires and is able to care for all of the needs of His children, because He is sovereign over all things.

Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7

Lesson 20: Being Content

Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20)

Jesus commands us to be content with what we have.

- ▶ The previous lessons demonstrated that God is sovereign over all things and that He can be trusted. This lesson focuses on the concept of contentment. Everything that we have is a gift from a good and generous heavenly Father, but we are often not content with what we have and are envious of what others have. This lesson uses the word “content” to make an acronym to help children remember why we are to be content in all things.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5

Lesson 21: Using Your Abilities for God

Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25)

Christians are to use their gifts and abilities in service to God.

- ▶ In this lesson, students will discover that another way to show that you love God most of all is through the use of your abilities and gifts. Students will learn that God has given all Christians special gifts and abilities and that when Jesus returns, all Christians will have to give account for how they have used those abilities. The lesson emphasizes that all service to others that is done in loving obedience to Jesus is service to God.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:23

Lesson 22: Laying Up Treasures in Heaven

Various New Testament Passages

What we treasure shows what we love.

- ▶ If we show what we love by what we treasure, then we must treasure God if we love Him most of all. This lesson reminds children that God provides for all of our needs and that earthly things are only temporary. Christians are not to lay up earthly treasures but rather lay up heavenly treasures or eternal rewards. Students will discover that everything a Christian does in obedience to Christ will reap a heavenly reward.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:20-21

Lesson 23: Guarding Your Heart

Peter Confesses Jesus as Christ (Matthew 16)

Christians are to guard their hearts above all things.

- ▶ Lesson 23 shows students that our hearts are the source of our desires, emotions, attitudes, motives, and thoughts. Christians are not to let sin rule in their bodies. In order to guard their hearts, Christians must train their hearts for godliness. Throughout this lesson students will study the difference between a heart where sin reigns and a heart where the Spirit reigns.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23

Lesson 24: Honoring Your Parents

Various New Testament Passages

Parents are called to represent God to their children.

- ▶ The importance of honoring your parents is the focus of this lesson. Through good and godly parents, we learn to better understand who God is, what He is like, and how we are to act toward Him. We are to honor our parents by recognizing and respecting their authority, loving them, trusting their decisions, obeying them, and going above and beyond what is expected.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:1-3

Lesson 25: Loving Your Neighbor

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

The second most important command is to love your neighbor as yourself.

- ▶ Since Lesson 17 students have been focusing on the greatest commandment—loving God most of all. This lesson shifts focus to the second greatest commandment—loving your neighbor as yourself. Students will see that obeying the command to love others is part of obeying the greatest commandment. Students will learn that God is a compassionate heavenly Father, and in an effort to become more like Jesus, we must be compassionate as well.

Memory Verse: Mark 12:31b

Lesson 26: Loving Your Enemies

Love Your Enemies (Luke 6)

Jesus commands us to love others—including our enemies.

- ▶ In the previous lesson, students learned that we are commanded to love others as ourselves. This lesson reveals to students that loving others includes loving our enemies. In the Bible students will learn that we can love our enemies by forgiving them, praying for them, and by doing good to them. The story of Corrie Ten Boom is also used as an example in this lesson.

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:44-45a

Lesson 27: Forgiving Others

The Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18)

Christians are to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven them.

- ▶ Last week's lesson emphasized for students the importance of loving our enemies. This lesson hones in on one way to love our enemies—by forgiving them. Students will be taught that we have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin, but God forgives all those who trust in Jesus alone. They will discover what it means to forgive others as Christ has forgiven them.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32

Lesson 28: Being a Humble Servant

Christ's Example of Humility (Philippians 2)

Jesus commands us to consider others better than ourselves and serve them.

- ▶ Continuing the series on loving others, this lesson explains the importance of humility. Jesus is fully God, yet He became human to serve us. Jesus commands believers to follow His example of true humility. Students will discover that in Jesus' eyes, true greatness is found in humility.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3

Lesson 29: Showing Mercy

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar (Luke 18)

God is merciful and wants His children to be merciful to others.

- ▶ Students will learn that mercy sees people in distress, feels compassion for them, and acts to help them. They will see that Jesus demonstrated what mercy is like.

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Lesson 30: Giving Generously and Cheerfully

The Widow's Offering (Mark 12)

God promises overflowing blessings for those who give generously and cheerfully.

- ▶ Building on previous lessons, this lesson demonstrates that one way to love others is through humility and mercy in how they give. Students will learn that God established tithing in the Old Testament in order to meet the needs of vocational ministers. They will also realize that it is not the amount that counts when giving. What counts is the heart—a generous and cheerful heart.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Lesson 31: Caring for One Another

One Body with Many Members (1 Corinthians 12)

God wants His people to help each other.

- ▶ This lesson takes the focus of loving others and emphasizes the way that Christians are to love each other. The lesson teaches that the church is one body in Christ. The church is the community of Christians—each member being important, and each member needing the others. The lesson explains that Jesus commands Christians—His church—to care for one another in special ways. God wants His people to help each other so that as a church and as individuals, we will grow to become more and more like Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 13:34-35

Lesson 32: Seeking Lost Sinners

The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin (Luke 10)

Christians are to follow Jesus' example and seek after lost sinners.

- ▶ Part of loving God most and loving others is to follow Christ's example in seeking lost sinners. Students will study how Jesus seeks to save lost sinners. Lost sinners need to hear the Gospel of Jesus. Students will discover how all of heaven rejoices over the salvation of one lost sinner, and how God uses Christians to seek after those who belong to Him.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15

Lesson 33: Going into All the World

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus wants His Gospel spread throughout the world to every tongue, tribe, and nation.

- ▶ The previous lesson taught students to follow Christ's example in seeking for lost sinners. This lesson shows students that seeking for lost sinners includes sinners all around the world. Students are encouraged to be involved in worldwide missions by either going or sending.

Memory Verse: Mark 16:15b

Lesson 34: Letting Your Light Shine

Various New Testament Passages

Christians are to be prepared and take every opportunity to show Jesus to the world.

- ▶ If you love God most of all, and if you love others you will want to show the greatness and worth of Jesus to all you meet, for Jesus is the light of the world. The lesson helps children to overcome common fears that Christians have in sharing the Gospel with others.

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:16

Lesson 35: Rejoicing in Suffering

Various New Testament Passages

Suffering is only temporary for a Christian and cannot compare to the great, everlasting joy we will someday experience in heaven.

- ▶ The aim of this lesson is to show students that if you are walking in obedience to Jesus, you will suffer. Jesus commands Christians to rejoice in suffering, for a greater reward awaits them. Students will study Paul's life to learn from his example as he rejoiced in suffering for the glory of Christ.

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:11-12a

Lesson 36: Losing Your Life for Jesus

Various New Testament Passages

The only way to gain eternal life is to give up your life totally to Jesus' control.

- ▶ This lesson shows students that when they become a Christian they must totally surrender their lives to Christ. Students will discover what it means for a Christian to deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Jesus wherever He leads. This lesson uses various Scripture passages along with the stories of Jim Elliot and Eric Liddell.

Memory Verse: Luke 9:23b-24

Lesson 37: Salvation: The Perseverance of Believers

The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8)

All true Christians will be kept by God's power and will persevere in faith to the end of their lives.

- ▶ This lesson takes students back to the order of salvation to discover what happens after sanctification. As students study the meaning of the perseverance of believers, they will see that only those who persevere in faith to the end are truly Christians. Students will be encouraged by learning ways in which God equips believers to persevere.

Memory Verses: 1 Corinthians 1:8

Lesson 38: Salvation: We Will Be Like Jesus (Death and Glorification)

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus will make all Christians to be like Him so that they may live with and enjoy Him forever in heaven.

- ▶ The final part of the salvation process is highlighted in this lesson on death and glorification. Students will see that for a Christian, death is the means by which we go to be with the Lord forever. Glorification is the final step of our salvation and will happen when Jesus returns, raises believers from the dead, and gives us new bodies like His own. It is through this process that, at last, believers are made like Christ.

Memory Verse: Philippians 3:20-21

Lesson 39: Making Much of Jesus Forever

Various New Testament Passages

The main purpose of salvation is that people may see Jesus clearly, to enable them to be amazed by and enjoy the greatness and worth of Jesus forever.

- ▶ Now that students have finished studying the order of salvation, this lesson shows them the purpose of salvation: That they might see, enjoy, and share with others the greatness and worth of Jesus forever. Children will see that this is the purpose for which they were created and that salvation allows them to fully accomplish this purpose.

Memory Verse: Psalm 27:4

Lesson 40: Come to Jesus

Various New Testament Passages

Christians are people who come to Jesus, look to Jesus, and remain in Jesus.

- ▶ The final lesson encourages each student to examine their own spiritual state by teaching that not everyone who says he is a Christian is truly a Christian. Students will see that the evidence of true belief is a life that is growing in obedience to Jesus, and that being a Christian is about loving and trusting Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and truest Friend.

Memory Verses: Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 12:2a; John 15:5