



Seeing the Good in Others

Choose to look for the light in every person you meet.

Object Lesson

Plus Lesson - Jesus Teaches the People - (Judging People/Prejudice)

Object Lesson

For this object lesson, you will need:
One inflated balloon per child. All balloons should be the same color.

One piece of cardstock per child.
Punch a hole in the top center of each cardstock before class begins.

Black sharpies...one per child.

Large trash bags to put the balloons in.

Object Lesson

Give each child a balloon.

Instruct the children to secretly draw a picture of themselves on the balloon.

When they finish the picture, secretly place it in a large trash bag.

Continue to collect all balloons and place them in the large trash bag.

After all balloons have been gathered, seat the children in a large circle, pull out one balloon at a time, and let the children guess who the picture is of.

As they guess, lay the balloon in front of the correct child.

When all the balloons have been passed out, give each child a piece of card stock.

Instruct the children to thread the end of their balloon through the hole and tape it on the bottom side to secure.

Have the child write their name on the card stock.

Each child will now go around the circle and write something POSITIVE, NICE about each person on their card stock.

Teach the children that we are to look for the good in a person, not the bad. We are not to judge.

We are each individual people. God has created each of us unique and special.

We are to be concerned with our inside, not our outside.

If someone judges you by outward appearances, we are to remember that God judges from the inside out.

If someone passes judgment on you by commenting on your outward appearance, do not reply with a comment. This will make your inside ugly, just like their comment is.

**Jesus Teaches the People
(Judging People/Prejudice)**

(Print out and then pass out the 5 verses to 5 different children)

When Jesus began His ministry, one of His favorite things to do was to teach people.

Many times, we read how Jesus would sit down on a hill side and just talk to the people and teach them about how they should live their lives.

Jesus loved all of the people, not just some of the people, but ALL. It didn't matter what color they were; it didn't matter where they came from, it didn't matter if they were rich or if they were poor. Jesus loved ALL people.

And most importantly, He loved them all the same.

He didn't look at a person and judge them by their outward appearance. Instead, He judged them by their inward appearance, their heart.

Jesus didn't look at a group of poor people and think "Oh, these people are poor because they are too lazy to work, they are all worthless and lazy and they deserve to starve."

Now it is true that SOME poor people are lazy, and they don't want to work, BUT not all poor people are poor because they are lazy.

There are many circumstances that could cause a person to be poor.

He didn't look at a group of sick people and think "Oh, all of these people have been living in sin, they are sick because they have been doing the wrong things."

Now it is true that SOME sick people have been living wrong lives and they have caught illnesses because of the way that they are living. But not ALL sick people have been living wrong lives and have caught illnesses.

There are many circumstances that cause a person to be sick.

Jesus NEVER looked at the outward appearance of a person. Jesus looked inside of EACH person, to their hearts and that is how He knew what kind of a person they were.

Not only did Jesus treat people fairly and individually, but He also taught the people that they were to do the same.

WE are to do the same as well.

Jesus taught that no one is perfect. We all have imperfections. We all have bad habits, we all mess up sometimes, we all get angry sometimes, we all go through hard times sometimes, we all sin.

BUT when we see someone messing up or going through hard times, we are not to judge them; we are to lift them up.

When you see someone with their hair all a mess and wearing ragged clothes, what kind of judgment COULD you make if you were to look at outward appearances only?

Perhaps you think they are too lazy to work, or you may think they are worthless.

But if you did not judge them, and instead, you took the time to get to know them, perhaps you would find that your “outward appearance” judgment is all wrong.

If you spoke with them, perhaps you would find that their father had recently died.

Perhaps you would learn that their mother was working as hard as she could, but it was just not enough money to make ends meet.

Perhaps you would learn that she is paying their bills and feeding the children, but there is just nothing left over for new clothing.

Do you think your opinion of them would change? Of course, it would.

You would probably feel sympathy for them. Perhaps you would go through your closets and look for clothing that would fit each of them.

Maybe you would give them a few dollars to help with their struggles.

And that is exactly what Jesus would want you to do.

Let us try a harder one.

What if you see someone who has a different color of skin than you have, would you instantly make a judgment because they are white or brown or black or any other color?

No, of course not. Just like the poor people we spoke about or the sick people that we spoke about. Just because ONE person might be poor because they are lazy, the next person might be poor because they have had a lot of illnesses in their family.

Their money has gone to pay doctor bills. There is nothing left over to pay for clothing or things like that.

I have a short story about a little boy named Joseph to help you understand how sometimes, people are judged just because they are a different color than we are.

Joseph watched from his living room as the “For Sale” sign was taken down from the house next door.

“Oh boy” he thought; “a new family is moving in next door, perhaps they will have children.”

Soon a big moving van pulled up and he watched as a swing set was being unloaded.

“Yes,” he thought, “I knew there would be some new kids moving in. Perhaps I can go over and make friends with them.”

But as Joseph was walking across his back yard, he noticed strange sounds coming from the children.

Joseph peeked through the cracks of the wooden fence.

To his amazement there were three children who looked like they were from... Japan.

Their faces were different; their clothes were different; even their words were different.

Oh no, Joseph thought, I have heard about these kinds of people. They are all the same. They are all unfriendly, they don’t speak our language, they are all rude, they eat weird food.

He decided he was NOT going to greet his new neighbors after all. Instead, he was going to... avoid his new neighbors.

The next day at school the teacher introduced a new student to the class: “Class, this is Kazoo” she said.

“Kazoo is from a country called Japan. Each day, for the next week, I will ask one of you to be his guide. Show him around the school, teach him how we do things and introduce him to some of your friends.”

“Joseph” she continued “will you be Kazoo’s guide for today?”

Joseph was shocked. Kazoo was one of the children from next door!

Swallowing hard, he walked over and introduced himself.

(SPEAK LOUDLY) “Hi, my name is Joseph,” he said slowly and LOUDLY.

The boy laughed. Joseph was afraid he had offended the newcomer.

“Hey, I’m not hard of hearing,” Kazoo said with a smile. “If you tell me your favorite sports team, I’ll tell you mine.”

Joseph learned that being friends with Kazoo was easy.

Joseph was ashamed of himself; he had learned in Sunday School that Jesus treated ALL people the same and that he wanted us to do the same. Jesus judged from the inside not the outside.

Here he was, judging Kazoo from the outside before he had even taken the time to know what he was like on the inside.

When they got off the school bus together at the end of the day, Kazoo said, “Thanks for showing me around, Joseph. I miss my friends back home, but today I have found a new friend.”

Joseph decided that he would never judge someone by their outward appearances ever again.

**Who has Matthew 7:1? Could you read it out loud?
(Explain after each verse)**

Matthew 7:1 “Don’t judge other people, or you will be judged.”

Matthew 7:2 You will be judged in the same way that you judge others, and the amount you give to others will be given to you.

Matthew 7:3 “Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in you own eye?”

Matthew 7:4 How can you say to your friend, ‘Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye?’ Look at yourself! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye.

Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.

We are very quick to judge other people, but Jesus tells us that if we want to judge someone, judge ourselves. Look at ourselves, there is plenty to judge about ourselves.

If we are busy looking at ourselves, improving ourselves, working on our weaknesses then we do not have time to look and judge others.

Jesus tells us that before we can look at others and judge them, we need to look at ourselves and take care of our imperfections first.

If we spend our time on making ourselves better, then we will NEVER have time to look at others and judge them.