



# Walk As Jesus Did

A study for children on the life of Jesus

## Family Devotional (4/19/20)

**Key Point:** Jesus is stronger than death.

*Today, we want our kids to learn that Jesus cares for the poor and those in need. God is mindful of and compassionate toward the weak, poor, and vulnerable. We see this in how Jesus interacted with the lowly and how those who followed Jesus walked as He did – loving and caring for those in need.*

### What we want the kids to know:

- Know the content of **Matthew 25:31-46**
- God loves the poor and those in need. Jesus taught His disciples to care for those in need and to do so sincerely and generously.
- To follow Jesus and walk as He did means caring for those in need in every way: their physical needs of food, clothing, safe shelter; their emotional needs of friendship and kindness; their spiritual need of being forgiven for sin by trusting Jesus.
- Loving and giving to the poor and those in need honors God and is a way to show love for Him.
- The greatest need of all people is to be forgiven for sin.

### What we want the kids to do:

- Walk like Jesus did:
  - Minister to and care for the poor; seek ways to give generously and joyfully without looking to receive.
  - For those who live in abundance: to not be proud or look down on those with less; to realize that their need to trust the Lord every day is the same as someone with less.
  - For those who live in scarcity: to not be ashamed that they have less, but trust the Lord to provide everything they need every day.

**Text for Study: Matthew 25:31-46.** (Read it together)

Consider having your child/family draw the two types of people Jesus is talking to in the passage: (1) those who cared for Him by caring for those in need and (2) those who didn't.

**Create discipleship time:** As a family, spend time reading and talking about God's word.

1. What does it mean to be in need?  
*It means you don't have something you need and you aren't able to get it for yourself.*
2. What are some daily needs that we have?

**Make a list.** Answers might include: *water, food, shelter, friends, etc.*

3. How did Jesus treat the poor?  
*He loved them and cared for them. He showed them kindness and mercy.*
4. Did Jesus look down on the poor and those in need?



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No! He loved them.

5. What are some examples from the Bible of Jesus loving those in need and providing for them?  
Feeding the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21); healing the sick (Matthew 9:35); showing compassion to sinners who were hated by others (Matthew 9:10-13).
6. What is everyone's greatest need – whether they are rich or poor?  
Forgiveness from sin (our sick, disobedient hearts) so we can have a relationship with God.

**Circle this** in your list. **Add and circle it** if it isn't already there.

7. What is the greatest way Jesus showed care, compassion, and love to poor sinners like you and me?  
He left heaven and came to earth, lived as a human, died for sin and rose again so that we could be forgiven by trusting Him and turning away from sin.

As the kids open to the verse below, tell them that the book of 1 John was written by one of Jesus' disciples. His name was John. He knew Jesus very well. He heard Jesus teach about caring for the poor and he saw the way Jesus treated others with compassion (seeing their need, caring about it, and then acting to help them).

**Open to and read 1 John 3:16-18.**

(Read these verses one time through. Then, read it again replacing the "he" in v. 16 with "Jesus".)

1. How did Jesus show His love for God's children and the world?  
He laid down His life, dying for sinners in order to bring them to God.
2. What are God's children to do in response to Jesus' laying down His life for them?  
Lay down their lives for one another.

Explain that to "lay down their life" means making sure someone else has what they need even if it means giving up something you have or want. That is called sacrifice.

3. Why did Jesus sacrifice His life in order to bring sinners to God?  
Jesus laid down His life to show love for the Father and for God's children. His sacrifice came from love.
4. What are some things that might get in the way of helping other people when we see they have a need?  
Sometimes we are selfish and don't want to give up our things, time, or comfort in order to help someone else. Sometimes we just aren't sure what to do in order to help, so we do nothing.
5. Who can help God's children when it is hard to love those in need?  
God.
6. What should we do when it is hard to care for others or when we don't know how to help?  
Pray and ask God to help us. He can give us the desire to help and the knowledge to know



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how.

Consider having your kids answer the following questions **by drawing**.

7. What is a way your family could care for someone who doesn't have enough food to eat?
8. What is a way your family could care for someone who doesn't have any friends?
9. What is a way your family could care for someone who is sick and all alone?

**\*\*Additional passages for family study:** Luke 14:12-14; 2 Corinthians 8:8-9; James 2:1-5.

**Capture discipleship moments:** Recap by asking your kids what they learned.

1. What did we learn about Jesus today?  
*Jesus loves the poor and those in need.*
2. What did we learn about ourselves today?  
*I can walk as Jesus did by loving those in need.*

**Pray together as a family.** Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Assign someone to pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

## **This Month's Memory Verse**

*but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **John 20:31***