

Unit 25 • Session 3
Jesus' Hard Teachings

Bible Passage:
John 6

Story Point:
Many people did not understand
Jesus' teaching.

Key Passage:
Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us...and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Big Picture Question:
How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus' Hard Teachings
John 6

A crowd of people were looking for Jesus. They found Him on the other side of the sea.

Jesus said to them, "You are looking for Me because I gave you food not because you saw My miracles. Don't work for food that will go bad. The Son of Man will give you food that never goes bad."

The people asked, "What work does God want us to do?"

Jesus said, "Believe in the One whom He has sent."

The people said, "What will You do for us to make us believe? Will You do another miracle?" The people wanted bread from heaven like Moses and the Israelites got in the wilderness.

Jesus said, "God the Father gives true bread from heaven. I am the bread of life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again." Jesus said that the Father had sent Him to do God's plan. God's plan is that everyone who sees Jesus—God the Son—and believes in Him will have eternal life.

The people complained because Jesus said He came from heaven. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

Jesus said again, "I am the bread of life. I came from heaven. Moses and the Israelites ate bread in the wilderness, and they died. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever."

When Jesus said this, many of His followers said, "This teaching is hard. Who can believe it?"

Many of Jesus' followers decided not to follow Him anymore. Jesus asked His twelve disciples, "Do you want to go away too?"

Peter answered, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."

Christ Connection: Jesus did not come just to give people bread to eat, He came to give them true life. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. God the Father wants us to believe in His Son. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Follow an obstacle course

Set up an obstacle course for your child to move through. Use furniture on hand as well as cardboard boxes, pop up tunnels, foam blocks or mats, jump ropes, hula hoops, and so forth to provide plenty of physical challenges. Explain how to complete the course and offer assistance. Applaud all attempts.

Say • Following an obstacle course can be hard! Did you not even want to try it when I told you how hard it would be? Did you feel any different when I offered my help? In our Bible story today, some people thought Jesus' teaching was too hard to follow, but Jesus helps us do even really hard things when we trust Him!

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark in your Bible to John 6 and invite your child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

Say • Sometimes God's Word is hard to understand, but we know it is always true. All of God's words in the Bible are true. Today's Bible story is from the Book of John. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch the Bible story (go to anchorpalos.org, click on Ministries/Anchor Kids/Prek Resources)

Practice the key passage

Place a bookmark for the key passage Colossians 1:13. Invite your child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Toss a ball back and forth as you say each word of the key passage together.

Say • God the Father wants us to believe in His Son. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever. That's what it means to say God has rescued us and transferred us into His kingdom. Jesus came to give people true life in the kingdom of God!

Sing the key passage song, "He Has Rescued Us," (can be found under the Anchor Kids tab on the website)

Learn the big picture question

Say • Providing food and water is one way that God cares for everything He made. ***How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.*** Jesus came to do more than give people bread to eat; He came to give them true life. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever!

Missions moment

Say • We've been learning about Luis and Betty Soto who are missionaries in Salt Lake City, Utah. They started a new church where they teach people about Jesus from the Bible in Spanish and in English. Let's watch a video about the city where they live. **(Video will be posted on Facebook on Thursdays.)**

Show the video. Close in prayer for people in Utah to know, believe, and follow the true Jesus of the Bible.

Sing a song

Sing to the tune of "Three Blind Mice":

"Bread of life, bread of life,
Came from heaven, came from heaven.
He came to give us eternal life.
The people asked, 'What work should we do?'
'Believe in the One whom God has sent:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ.'"

Repeat several times and talk about the meaning.

Say • Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever.” **Many people did not understand Jesus’ teaching.** They didn’t understand what God wanted them to do. Jesus said, “Believe in the One whom He has sent.” God the Father wants us to believe in His Son. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Chart foods

Draw lines down the middle of a large piece of paper in both directions, dividing the paper into fourths. Label each section *Breakfast*, *Lunch*, *Snack*, and *Dinner* respectively. Invite preschoolers to cut out pictures of food from magazines or circulars. Guide a child to decide which category a food belongs in and glue it inside that quadrant. Some foods may have more than one answer; allow creativity as you select one together.

Say • Who provides all our food? God! That’s why it’s a great idea to pray every time we eat, to thank God for taking care of our needs. ***How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.*** Jesus did not come just to give people food to eat. They’ll only be hungry again later! He came to give us true life. Jesus meant that our spirit needs God just like our body needs food to live. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Mission Activity - Experiment with saltwater

Fill a clear cup with water. Ask your child what will happen when you put an egg in the water. Gently place the egg in water and watch it sink. Fill another clear cup halfway with water. Add four tablespoons of salt. Then stir. Fill the rest of the cup with water. Ask your child what will happen when you put an egg in the saltwater. Gently place the egg in the saltwater and watch it float. Experiment with different amounts of water and salt.

Say • The egg floated in the saltwater because of the salt. Salt Lake City, Utah gets its name from nearby Great Salt Lake. Great Salt Lake is one of the few lakes that is made of saltwater. Luis and Betty Soto are missionaries in Salt Lake City. Their city not only has lakes, but mountains and tall buildings. Christians in Salt Lake City are telling people about Jesus. We can tell people in our city about Jesus, too!

Snack and review

Serve bread for snack. Talk about how Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again.” Jesus said that the Father had sent Him to do God’s plan. God’s plan is that everyone who sees Jesus—God the Son—and believes in Him will have eternal life.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

What did the people want from Jesus? (*bread*)

Who is the bread of life? (*Jesus*)

Where did Jesus say He came from? (*heaven*)

Why did many of Jesus’ followers decide not to follow Him anymore? (**Many people did not understand Jesus’ teaching.**)

Did Jesus’ twelve disciples go away too? (*no*)

How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.