



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for January 31, 2010
Released on Wednesday, January 27, 2010

"Refusing to Believe Jesus"

Lesson Text: Matthew 13:54-58

Background Scripture: Matthew 11:20-24; 13:54-58; Luke 4:16-30

Memory Verse: "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58).

Matthew 13:54-58

54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house.

58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

TEACHER'S NOTES

This week we revisit truth the quarter emphasizes: who Jesus actually is. We shall also note again the importance God lays on believing Him. Faith is a theme carried through the Bible from the Garden to Revelation. God wants to be believed and has made faith in Jesus' Person and work the one requirement for our eternal salvation.

The lesson is based on a visit Jesus paid to His hometown and the refusal of the people there to accept Him for who He truly was. What we do with what God has revealed is a matter of eternal importance for adults and boys and girls alike.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God wants to be believed and has made believing in Jesus His requirement for salvation.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus gave reasons for people to believe He is the Son of God.
2. People who will not believe God miss receiving the good things He wants to do for them.
3. God has made believing in Jesus the way to receive eternal life.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, bring a picture of a Bible-time village and one of Jesus as a boy.

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of Jesus healing and Jesus in the synagogue. You will also use the village picture.

For Helping to Remember, each child will need a white paper plate, crayons, paste, and a red 4-inch cross.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Larry was in a restaurant with his father when he heard two men talking at the next table.

"Are you from around here?" one man asked.

The other man said, "I live here now, but my hometown is really New York." (Substitute a familiar nearby town.) What did he mean?

A hometown is where a person comes from. Most often it is the place where he lived when he was growing up.

Jesus' hometown was a little place called Nazareth. (Show village.) It was Joseph and Mary's hometown, and they went back there after Jesus was born in Bethlehem. So Jesus was living in Nazareth when He was a boy just your size. (Show Jesus as a boy.) He had younger brothers and sisters who lived there too. Everybody knew Jesus and Joseph and Mary. One day He went back to His hometown for a visit. Listen to what happened when He did.

TELLING THE LESSON

Jesus had been traveling to many towns, teaching and making sick people well. (Show Jesus healing.) People from all over were hearing about the wonderful things He could do. The people in Nazareth would have heard about Him too.

In Nazareth back then, every Saturday was a kind of church day. The people did not call what they did going to church, though. They would meet in a building called a synagogue and pray and listen to the Bible being read. Sometimes visitors were invited to say something. The day Jesus went into the Nazareth synagogue, He got to teach. (Show Jesus in synagogue.)

But the people listening to Him said, "How can he know so much? How can he teach such wonderful things? He is just Joseph's son. Mary is his mother. His brothers and sisters live right here in Nazareth. (Show village.) We know *him*. What makes *him* so special?"

The people in Nazareth really did not know who Jesus was. They did not think He was God's Son even if He did make blind eyes see and lame men walk. (Show Jesus healing.) They would not believe who He really was even if He did stop storms and do other wonderful things. They were just saying, *We know his mother. His brothers live right here. So do all his sisters. Why, he is no more special than we are.* Were they going to believe in Him? No, and that makes this very sad.

Something else makes it sad too. Somehow their not believing kept Jesus from doing many wonderful things for the people in Nazareth, good things that He would have done for them if they had only believed.

It is so important to believe what God says about Jesus. It is important to believe what God says about anything. Do you know that God is looking for people who will believe Him (John 20:31)? He is looking for people who will believe His news about Jesus. He is looking for people who will believe Jesus died for them. He is looking for men and women and boys and girls who will believe He sent Jesus to be their Saviour.

God does something wonderful for the people who do believe. He gives them the kind of life that will let them live forever in heaven.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Do you believe what God says about Jesus? If you do, you should pray, "Thank You, Father, for helping me see that I do not get to heaven by being good but by believing Jesus died for me. I do believe He died for me. Thank You."

Remember that when you believe in Jesus, He does something wonderful for you. He gives you the kind of life that lets you live with Him forever.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children print on the edge of their plates "God's Good News About Jesus" and paste the cross in the center. On the back edge they should print "Believe What God Says" and draw people in the center.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58).

The "mighty works" this verse talks about were all the special things Jesus was doing: making blind eyes see, making dead people alive. Because He could do things like that, many people believed He was the Saviour. But other people would not believe in Him.

The word "belief" means "believing." The "un" in front of "belief" makes it mean "not believing." Jesus could not do many special things in Nazareth because people would not believe who He was.

CONCLUSION (TEACHER'S STUDY):

Faith is the willingness to let God reveal more of Himself and the willingness to trust Him whether or not He does so on our timetable.

PRAYER (TEACHER'S STUDY):

Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to share His message with the world. Let us not become so familiar with Jesus that we take Him for granted, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson "A Mother's Trust in Jesus" tells us about a woman who begged Jesus to help her daughter, and He did. Study Matthew 15:21-28.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

Willie Ferrell

Jesus Is All Ministries

www.jesusisall.com

WORD SEARCH

“Refusing to Believe Jesus” (Matthew 13:54–58)
Find the following keywords from the lesson:

F G T L P Y U T Z U Y M H C O
E W S H W R F Y B P I H A J A
I S X S A O O D V G P R S O N
L D K P S N C P H M P D R X Y
E M E R T O F T H E S U S E J
B F A D O H Y Z N E W M U T P
N I H N N W K T N G T N O M I
U V M P I E E U G O G A N Y S
W T U H S R F S I S T E R S F
I W P Q H I M F E G K T W D I
S A T Z E W L S O N N P L B B
D E N J D Q U E H U Z D U J E
O R C Z G O D B O J L O D N B
M W Z W H R B C G Q X I A A Z
O A A B F N G L H E A C N G X

ASTONISHED

HONOR

MAN

PROPHET

SYNAGOGUE

WORKS

CARPENTER

HOUSE

MIGHTY

SISTERS

UNBELIEF

COUNTRY

JESUS

OFFENDED

SON

WISDOM

16 words were placed into the puzzle.

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"Refusing to Believe Jesus" (Matthew 13:54-58)

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F + + + P + + + + + M + C +
E + + + + R + + + + I + A + +
I S + + A O O + + G + R S O N
L D K + S N + P H + P + + + +
E M E R T O + T H E S U S E J
B + A D O H Y + N E + + + + +
N + + N N W + T + + T + + + +
U + + + I E E U G O G A N Y S
W + + + S R F S I S T E R S +
I + + + H + + F E + + T + + +
S + + + E + + S O + N + + + +
D + + + D + U + + U + + + + +
O + + + + O + + O + + + + + +
M + + + H + + C + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

ASTONISHED (5, 3, S)

CARPENTER (14, 1, SW)

COUNTRY (8, 14, NE)

HONOR (6, 6, N)

HOUSE (5, 14, NE)

JESUS (15, 5, W)

MAN (2, 5, SE)

MIGHTY (12, 1, SW)

OFFENDED (9, 11, NW)

PROPHET (5, 1, SE)

SISTERS (8, 9, E)

SON (13, 3, E)

SYNAGOGUE (15, 8, W)

UNBELIEF (1, 8, N)

WISDOM (1, 9, S)

WORKS (6, 7, NW)

WORKS CITED:

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books