



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for January 24, 2010
Released on Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

"Giving Thanks"

Lesson Text: Matthew 11:25-30

Background Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30

Memory Verse: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Matthew 11:25-30

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that Jesus invites people to come to Him rather than try to make themselves acceptable to God by the good things they do.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** A reason for thanksgiving: Jesus wants not just important people to come to Him but is pleased when the "less important" come too.
- 2.** A reason for thanksgiving: to people who will come to Jesus, He promises rest from trying to do enough good to earn God's favor.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, use a felt pen to make a large sign reading "COME."

For Telling the Lesson, make a second sign saying "Jesus" and another saying "Thank You." You will use the "COME" sign again. Find a picture of Jesus standing alone.

For Helping to Remember, use red yarn to make a small bow for each child. Provide paste, crayons, and white construction paper for each.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 28

Place: Galilee

Someone once beautifully commented, "Many great leaders have said many wise and good things. But only Jesus said, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'" (Matthew 11:28).

Jesus does give quietness and "rest" to the soul. He does give contentment apart from outward circumstances. He does lead beside still waters and into green pastures (Psalm 23:2).

Yet another message also sounds in His invitation. "You who are laboring to make yourselves acceptable to God, stop! It is not your effort but Mine that wins God's acceptance. Your part is just to come to Me."

This lesson may review truth some students already know, but it carries a wonderful message for any who are still trying to get to heaven by being good.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Judy came running into the house one day, waving an invitation. "Look, Mom! Emily's card says, 'Come to my birthday party.' (Show "COME.") Can I tell her yes?"

Mom smiled. "That sounds like a good invitation to say yes to."

Judy got to go to the party.

Jesus gave an invitation one day. (Point to "COME.") It was not to a party, but it was the best invitation for people to say yes to.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Jesus was doing many special things to show people He was God's Son from heaven. (Show "Jesus.") Most of the important leaders did not believe Him, though. They said, "You are just *saying* You are the Son."

One day when Jesus was praying, He said, "Thank You, Father. The wise and important people do not understand who I am, but many who are not important do believe in Me. And it was You who helped them believe. Thank You." (Show "Thank You.")

Then Jesus looked at the people. He knew many of them did want to know God, but they thought what would make them friends with God was just to keep doing many good things. They were trying hard to make themselves good enough for heaven.

First, Jesus told them again that, yes, God the Father *had* really sent Him. Then He let them know it was not working to be good but believing in *Him* that made a person a friend of God.

He gave them an invitation: "Come to Me, all you people who are working so hard doing good things. (Point to "COME.") Come to Me, all you who think it is doing good things that takes away sin and makes everything all right with God. Stop trying

to make yourself good enough to please Him, and come to Me instead. (Point to "COME.")

"Come to Me, and I will give you rest." (Point to "COME.") The rest Jesus meant was rest from working to make themselves good enough. Coming to Jesus, which means believing in Him - that is what makes you a friend of God.

Remember that it is always better to be good than to be bad, but doing good things is not what takes sins away. Doing good things can never make us friends with God. Only Jesus can do that. "Come," Jesus said. (Show picture of Jesus.)

Then He told them what to do after coming to Him. He said, "When you do believe in Me, *then* work. Do what I say, just because you belong to Me."

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

So have *you* come? (Point to "COME.") Have *you* stopped trying to be good enough to belong to God? Have you believed Jesus died for you? If you have done that, you belong to Jesus. Start obeying Him. He is good and kind. He will take care of you. He will give you what you need. Anything He tells you to do will be something good.

Jesus said thank you to God. (Point to "Thank You.") Let us thank Him too. Let us thank God that Jesus died for us, and we can rest from trying to make ourselves good enough for heaven. Let us thank God that Jesus says come. Let us thank Him that we do not have to be important people before we can believe in Jesus and be God's friends.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the children fold their papers to form a thank-you card for God. On the cover they should print "Thank You" and decorate it with flowers. On the inside left let them draw themselves and print "It is not what I do..." On the right side have them draw a cross and print the words "but what Jesus did." Have each attach a bow to the front of the card.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Jesus invites all who are weary and burdened to come to Him. Jesus is talking to people who think they will please God if they just do enough good things. But Jesus says, "Come to Me instead, and I will give you rest from all that trying."

CONCLUSION:

There are many burdens that people must carry in life, but the heaviest is the one caused by the weight of sin. Jesus' message and cure for this heavy burden is to come to Him and rest.

Because of His relationship with God the Father, Jesus was able to issue an invitation to His followers. Jesus invites us all to lay our burdens on Him. Only God can take away our burdens and that is what Jesus is offering to do. Won't you come to Him and rest!

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You that we are able to come to Jesus and to believe in Him. We thank You for taking care of us and giving us what we need, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week’s lesson is “Refusing to Believe Jesus” and teaches that God wants to be believed and has made believing in Jesus His requirement for salvation. Study Matthew 13:54-58.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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Jesus Is All Ministries

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WORD SEARCH

“Giving Thanks” (Matthew 11:25-30)

Find the following keywords from the lesson:

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| SOUL | LEARN | WISE | LIGHT |
| INVITATION | WORKING | EASY | FATHER |
| MATTHEW | IMPORTANT | REST | YOKE |
| PRAYER | COME | BELIEVE | JESUS |
| BABIES | THANKS | HEART | MEEK |

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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

"Giving Thanks" (Matthew 11:25-30)

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