

Limestone Bible Camp

Bible Class Lessons

Series 8

I Corinthians 13:1-3

**“... though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing ...”**

LESSON 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE AND ATTITUDE TOWARD SELF

I. The importance of attitude

- A. Begin a discussion with the question, “Is mankind basically evil or basically good?”
 1. (Give time for response. Don’t jump in too soon.)
 2. *Encourage students to respond in support of either view and try to help them think more deeply about this idea. Pick specific students and ask point blank. Ask why. Ask others if they agree or disagree and why. Let students discuss as long as discussion is worthwhile, then move on.*
 3. Help students arrive at the conclusion, “Man is neither inherently good or evil, but is a free moral agent able to choose his own direction. Joshua 24:15 shows that we make this choice.
- B. Continue the discussion asking, “Why did God create us with a free will?”
 1. *This time have each student write their answer on a card. After a couple of minutes, collect the cards and read some of the better responses (Be careful not to embarrass anyone.) If their ideas are not good, offer your own.*
 2. Help students reach the answer, “God wants us to serve him because we want to serve him, not because we have to.” John 14:15 indicates this. (Note: This explains why a loving God created a world and in that world we find all manner of sin.)
 3. If God was only concerned with the actions we do, he would have made robots. Elaborate to emphasize point.
 4. *Ask the class to name areas in which we do the same as God, i.e. we want a response because of how people feel about us, not because of what they have to do. (Mother’s Day, birthday present, girlfriend’s kiss, etc.) Therefore, we should be able to understand God (in this matter, at least.)*
 5. Ask the question, “When is baptism valid?” *Encourage discussion. Help students to see the act of baptism is only valid when the attitude of submission and repentance are in the heart. Same with Lord’s Supper. The value of the act depends on the attitude. I Pet. 3:21, Acts 8:37, I Cor. 11:26 – 29 6. We look at the act, God looks at the attitude. Luke 18:9 – 14.*

II. What attitude should we have toward ourselves? (*Encourage discussion.*)

- A. We are sinners. Ask, “How?” (action, lack of action, thoughts, life of non-submission to God, etc.) Romans 7.
- B. We are not self-sufficient. We can’t do anything to save ourselves. We need God’s help. Isaiah 59:1-2, Rom. 3:20, Rom. 7:24-25.
- C. We are unworthy but loved by God. Rom. 5:6-8, Rom. 8:1-2.
- D. We are pitiful creatures yet given high priority by the God of the universe.

LESSON 2: CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS

- I. Start by having students divide mankind into groups. (Those we like vs. those we don't, good vs. bad, etc.)
- II. Since God's principle message regarding attitude to others is love, John 15:12, the following apply.
 - A. We must differentiate between "love" and "like."
 1. Have students give their ideas of what the two are and how they differ.
 2. Love = willingness to sacrifice for the well-being of another
Like = desire to associate with another for companionship
 3. God's requirement is not that we like, but that we love.
What does that (attitude) mean in regard to our behavior?
 - B. Follow up by asking, "Now, did Paul have the right to say to us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me"? No boss could go further in doing the job he asks us to do. No boss could know more about what the instructions he gives us might mean for us. Our hats must be taken off to Paul. He definitely knew what he was talking about. If he could go through the things he went through, don't you know we can do what we must do for Christ.
- III. Ask, "What is God's major rule toward others?" (Golden Rule, Matthew 7:12) Ask, "How can we use the Golden Rule?" *Guide a student discussion towards the concept that it means we must put ourselves into the other person's shoes to understand 'what makes them tick'.*
- IV. Towards those you like, do you have a problem with this? *If students say, "yes", then discuss the problems. (They probably do not.)*
- V. Towards those you don't like, this is a hard job for many Christians.
 - A. What does it mean to love your enemy? I Cor. 13:4-7 Ask for and encourage class discussion. Guide to following answers:
 1. Want good things to happen to them.
 2. Want them to be saved (the best that could happen.)
 3. What will control our actions, then, whenever we're around them?
Ans: Desire to see them go to Heaven!
 - B. Rom. 12:21 "Don't be overcome of evil". How does that happen? *(Another class discussion waiting to happen.)* Students may offer many fine responses. Appropriate to our point here is that it happens when someone does something evil to us (insult, rumor, meanness, etc.) and we retaliate in kind. We have become just like them. We have been overcome of evil.
 - C. Have students suggest some thoughts they could have to help overcome temptation to be less than loving. (Think of Jesus' crucifixion – He didn't take it personally. Imitate his attitude. Don't let other small people cause you one moment of pitiful behavior. They are not worth it.)

VI. Examples for discussion (if time is left.)

Divide class into groups and allow one third of remaining time for each group to think of one or two examples (hypothetical or real) in which a person must react to a pitiful situation caused by someone else. Use two thirds of remaining time to have groups report their example to the class and guide the class in choosing the proper Christian method to resolve the situation.

LESSON 3: OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD:
LESSONS FROM DAVID, “MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART”

- I. Ask students, “What do you think about when you think of God?”
Encourage discussion and difference of opinion. Notice whether God frightens them or comforts them. Bring discussion from this point to the following attitudes.
- II. We should appreciate God (the Bible uses the word “fear”, or respect).
Ask students for reasons why and discuss at least these two.
 - A. For his power – think of what he has done, and what he can do
(Psalms 145:1 – 6, 11, 12)
 - B. For his goodness – ask “If you had a lot of power, what would you do with it?”
Encourage discussion. Note how God does not use his power frivolously but always for the cause of good. Psalms 145:7 – 9, 14 - 19
- III. We should be humble before God.
 - A. We must recognize our insufficiency. Psalms 109:22 – 27
 - B. We should submit ourselves to him. Psalms 51: esp 16 – 17.
Ask, “What does it mean to submit yourself to God?” To better understand humility ask, “How does a person act if they are humble?” If you were introduced to (insert famous person) would you be humble? How would you act.” *Lead discussion towards the idea of yielding our desires to the desires of God, or His will for us.*
- IV. We should love God, Matt. 22:37 – 38.
 - A. This is the supreme Christian attitude.
 - B. Place all that has been discussed in terms of an earthly personality. (If we knew a person who was very powerful and very good, loving, and kind, etc., how would we feel toward them?) Why should we love God? It is the correct response to his love for us. I John 4:19. Ask, “When you want a girl/boy to love you, what do you do?” *(Go out of your way to do things you wouldn’t ordinarily do. Sacrifice.) What has God done for us? This discussion is for the purpose of helping the student to understand how right and natural it is for us to love God simply because of his goodness, and how that should cause us to act.*
 - C. God wants most of all for us to love him. I John 4:10
- V. *Divide the class into groups for one third of the remaining time. Each group should come up with their own answer to these questions.*
 - A. How do we display our attitude God?
 - B. How can we improve our attitude toward God?
 - C. What can we do to show a good attitude?*Use two thirds of the remaining class time to have the groups report their answers and to discuss answers if needed.*

LESSON 4: CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE IN GENERAL

- I. *Start by asking the class, “What do you think ought to be some of the attitudes seen in any Christian? When the people in the world look at a Christian, what attitudes should they see displayed?” Go around the class and make a list, or have everyone make their own list while you wait, then compare/compile to see what the most common choices are. Be complimentary of all good ideas, but especially discuss these.*
- A. Optimistic: (cheerful, happy, etc.) I Thess. 5:16 Why should Christians be optimistic?
1. Because of the values they hold. (That which is important to Christians can't be taken away. The values of Christianity would make the world better, if accepted by all.)
 2. Because of the future Christians have. Rom. 8:37 – 39
- B. Loving
1. Loving respect for God
 2. Care and concern for others (includes respect for the things that belong to others – (Stress this to help children understand.))
 3. Love for all God's creation Matt.6:26
- C. Humble
1. Not proud and puffed up Proverbs 6:16 -17
 2. Ask, “How did you get to be who you are? What did you do to keep from being born in Ethiopia? or from having a birth defect? etc. What provisions did you make for your salvation?” Help students to see that we have every reason to be humble and none to be proud.
- II. Ask the class, “How could people in the world see these attitudes displayed by a Christian?”
- Since all the class are in school, they should be able to think of examples at school where a Christian attitude demands a certain behavior. Remember, we are discussing attitudes here, not morals. (Although, the proper attitude will lead to certain moral behavior.) Use specific examples to get specific responses. Some examples are:*
1. *Respect for others would not allow you to write on desks because it is destructive of what others have paid for and it detracts from the room.*
 2. *You would not litter the highway (or anywhere) because it takes away from the enjoyment of others who must pass by.*
 3. *You would not be loud and boisterous in a public place because it interferes with the pleasure of others and, as a Christian, you care about them.*
 4. *You would not talk and joke with friends in church because you have an opportunity to praise God and you love God.*
- These are just a few examples in an attempt to make it hit home with the students. They should be able to think of others, but may need your help.*
- III. Encourage the class as they go back to their homes to demonstrate a Christian attitude with all those around them and with God on a day by day basis.

Lessons For Evening Speakers.

Please note that the following outlines are provided to suggest a way of presenting the topic. If you have other ideas that are more meaningful to you, then by all means use them. We only ask that you attempt to stay within the general area of the outline so that the various ideas we are hoping to present for the students consideration will be covered and so that there will be a minimum of repetition. Thank you so much for helping us.

Sunday – (to introduce the topic for the week)
Preview of the weekly lessons

Monday – (to compliment lesson 1 above)
Who Do You Think You Are?
1. Demise of Herod due to inflated opinion of self (Acts 12:20-23)
2. “Attitude adjustment” of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:19-37)
3. Triumph of Gideon (Judges 6:15, 7:2-8, and through 8:22-23)

Tuesday – (to compliment lesson 2 above)
Who Do You Love?
1. Christians answer to a high standard (Matt. 5:43 – 48)
2. How do you show your love for them?
 a. Matt. 7:12
 b. I Cor. 13:4 – 7
3. It’s not about “Me”, it’s about the other person

Wednesday – (to compliment lesson 3 above)
Who/What Controls Your Life?
1. It’s either God or something else (Luke 16:13)
2. God gives us the choice, but holds us accountable (Ecc. 11:9)
3. Only God is worthy of our worship

Thursday – (to compliment lesson 4 and summarize class objective)
What Shall We Do?
1. Talk (at camp (or anywhere)) is cheap (Matt. 21:28 – 31)
2. Determine in our hearts to persevere (I Pet. 5:8)
 Devil wants to defeat us. We must be prepared.
3. Be God’s person on a daily basis.