

NO ORDINARY MAN

Bible Basis: Matthew 5:2–12; 6:5–15; 14:22–32; Mark 4:30–41; 6:30–44; Luke 10:25–37; 15:1–7; John 6:66–71

Key Verse: We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God. —John 6:69 NIV

Bible Point: Jesus teaches his friends and the crowds. I can learn from Jesus.

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 24: “No Ordinary Man”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Stuff You Need: pictures of recognizable logos

Ahead of time, collect several examples of recognizable logos with international meaning. (A simple Internet search for images will yield results.) Some ideas are: the recycle logo, the “no” image (circle with line across it), handicapped access, school crossing sign, hospital, library, airport, food signs (McDonalds, Pizza Hut, KFC, etc.), a cross. As you gather, ask what the symbols mean. Then ask the class to tell you how they learned the meaning of the images. Some children may have specific memories of particular symbols. Many may say they “just know” or “everybody knows.” Ask:

- If you want to learn something new, what do you do?
- What’s your favorite way to learn something new?

Say, **Our Bible story today is all about learning. Let’s see what we can learn about learning.**

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Stuff You Need: copies of *The Story for Children*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 24*, cell phone

Tell the story from *The Story for Children*, Chapter 24. You can also have children find Matthew 6 and mark it in their Bibles. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passage listed in the story.

STORIES FROM JESUS

As you tell the story, children will make the sound of a phone ringing. Practice the sound ahead of time, and make sure the children know which signal means to start making the sound and which signal means to stop. As you begin telling the story, fidget with your phone.

I hope this phone has a lot of battery power left in it because I’m sure getting a lot of calls. Everyone seems to have a question about this Jesus fellow and the stories he’s telling. As soon as I put the phone down, it rings again. Give the signal for kids to make ringing sound.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... Could you repeat your question, please? ... Your question is, "What is a parable?" Yes, I can help you with that. A parable is a story that teaches an important truth. Jesus used parables to teach people truths about the kingdom of God. ... Yes, parables were often about everyday things that the people knew well, like sheep, or mustard seeds. For instance, if a shepherd has 100 sheep and one of them gets lost, the shepherd goes to look for it and celebrates when he finds it. God celebrates when a lost sinner comes home like lost sheep. Jesus' friends and the crowds learned from these kinds of stories. Thank you for your call. Put the phone down. Give the signal for the phone to ring again.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... I see. You want to know about the discussions Jesus had with some of the smartest people around. ... One time a young lawyer tried to trick Jesus. He asked, "What must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus wasn't about to be tricked. He said, "What does the law say?" He made the lawyer answer his own question. The man said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as you love yourself." But the lawyer caught on that Jesus was trying to trick him back and said, "But who is my neighbor?" Jesus told another story, and the whole crowd listened in. He told about a man who was robbed and beaten up along the road. Two religious leaders saw him and walked by on the other side of the road so they wouldn't have to help him. But a man from another country saw the man and took care of him. Then Jesus asked that smart lawyer, "Who was the neighbor?" ... Yes, that's right! The one who took care of the wounded man was the neighbor. Neighbors who need love are not hard to find. The people learned from hearing these discussions. Thank you for your call. Put the phone down. Give the signal for the phone to ring again.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... That's right, Jesus didn't always tell stories. Sometimes he preached sermons. ... Oh, yes, they were quite long, but the people didn't mind. Crowds would gather and spread out over the mountainside to listen to Jesus preach. ... No, he didn't have to be finished by a certain time. He could preach as long as he wanted, and the people stayed and listened. ... What's that? What's his most famous sermon? ... I guess I'd have to say the Sermon on the Mount was the most famous one. Jesus talked about his favorite topic, the kingdom of God. He let the people know what the kingdom of God would be like and how they could live in this great kingdom. The people who need God the most are the ones who live in his kingdom. The people learned from sermons. Thank you for your call. Put down the phone. Give the signal for the phone to ring.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... Your question is about prayer? Yes, Jesus had a lot to say about prayer. He told the people not to brag when they prayed, but to be humble and pray in private. Prayer is not a way to show off that you know a bunch of fancy words. Prayer is about what's going on in your heart. ... Did Jesus say to pray a certain way? Well, when his disciples said, "Teach us to pray," he taught them to say, Read Matthew 6:9-13 ... Yes, that's right. Jesus' prayer is called the Lord's Prayer, and Christians all over the world pray this prayer. The people learned when Jesus answered questions. Thank you for your call. Put the phone down. Give the signal for the phone to ring.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... Your question is about large groups and small groups? Yes, it's true that Jesus often taught to very large groups of people. Crowds followed him everywhere. But he also took time to be alone with his special group of disciples and teach them privately. Jesus' friends learned when he spent time with them. Thank you for your call. Put the phone down. Give the signal for the phone to ring.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... Ah, that's a very interesting question. Did Jesus ever use active learning techniques? Yes, he did. One time he took a boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish and used it to feed more than five thousand people. Everyone participated in active learning that day! Another time, Jesus' disciples saw him walking on the water—yes, walking on the water! Peter decided to try. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, Peter walked on water, too. But when Peter got scared, he sank. Jesus saved him, of course. But I'd have to say that was an active lesson for Peter. The people learned from seeing what Jesus did. Thank you for your call. Put the phone down. Give the signal for the phone to ring.

Put the phone to your ear. Jesus Tells It Call Center; how may I help you? ... What did the crowds think of Jesus' teaching? Great question! Jesus was no ordinary man. The people who listened to him teach were amazed at what he had to say, and they said, "We believe and know that you are the Holy One from God." Thank you for your call. Put the phone down and look at your watch or a clock.

Well, I see my shift is over. The questions just never seem to stop. I guess that's because people never get tired of learning from Jesus, even two thousand years later.

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 24*. Ask children to look at the picture and tell you about what Jesus is doing in the picture. Then ask them to tell you other things Jesus did. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- **Name some of the ways that people learned from Jesus.**
- **Name some ways that you can learn from Jesus.**

Say, **We learn all kinds of stuff every day. Let's not forget to learn from Jesus, too.**

Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home with the children later.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: EGG PAINTS

Stuff You Need: bowls, egg yolks, powdered drink mix, heavy paper, paintbrushes, clean-up supplies

Caution: Remind children that the “paint” is not edible.

Stir one egg yolk and a little bit of powdered drink mix together for a fun finger paint. Make several colors and make sure children all have access to some variety. Say, **Jesus taught the people in lots of different ways. Let’s see how many different ways we can come up with.** Encourage them to paint a picture of how we learn from Jesus. As they work, ask:

- What was your favorite part of the Bible story?
- Tell me about something you would like to learn from Jesus.

When the pictures are finished, have children tell about what they painted. Say, **The people in the Bible story learned from Jesus, and we can learn from Jesus, too.**

OPTION 2: LEARNING LISTS

Stuff You Need: butcher paper or large newsprint pad, markers

Label one sheet of paper “Everything we believe about Jesus,” and label a second sheet, “What I’d like to learn from Jesus.” Say, **Our Bible verse says, “We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:69).** Take a minute to have children repeat the verse with you. **Let’s make a list of everything we believe about God.** Act as a scribe and write down everything children say (unless it’s blatantly inappropriate). Then say, **Now, let’s make a list of things we’d like to learn from Jesus.** Make a second list. Put up both lists on the classroom wall where you can look at them again over the next few weeks as you study more stories about Jesus. Ask:

- We can’t sit on the hillside and listen to Jesus talk, so how do we learn from Jesus today?
- If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be?

Say, **Jesus has as much to teach us as he did the people two thousand years ago. The question is: are we willing to learn?**

OPTION 3: JESUS IS MY TEACHER

Stuff You Need: Jesus Is My Teacher Activity Sheet, Bible, markers, decorating supplies

Give an activity sheet and a Bible to each child. Explain that we all learn things from Jesus just as the people long ago did. Direct the children to the New Testament and if you want, you can direct them to specific chapters and verses of Jesus teaching. Have the students read through the verses or read

them together and find a statement that Jesus says to the people. Write in neat handwriting and decorate as a wall hanging.

Option 4: Jesus Calming the Storm

Boat

Stuff You Need: construction paper, hole punch, straws, markers, clay, wide plastic lid (like from a tub of butter or a lid from a disposable cup), decorating supplies

Ahead of time, cut triangles out of the construction paper. Then punch three holes along one side of the triangle.

1. Give each child a sail to decorate using whatever available materials you have.
2. Weave a drinking straw through the three holes.
3. Put a small ball of clay on the lid.
4. Push the end of the straw into the clay so the sail stays standing up.

Optional: Bring in a large tub and fill it with water so children can watch their boats float. Let them create waves to see how afraid the apostles were of the storm.

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Pray in small groups thanking God that we can learn from Jesus. Encourage children to choose a specific way they can learn from Jesus this week. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 24*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.