

The Harvest is Great

This Bible lesson for children teaches the value of telling others about Jesus. It's based on the passage in Matthew 9 that talks about the great harvest waiting for workers.

Memory Verse: "Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:38

Gospel Connection: This lesson challenges children to think about the world around them. There are many people in the world who have never heard about Jesus. As Christians, it is our responsibility to tell these people about Jesus and pray that God would send people into the world to tell others about Jesus.

Learning Aim:

1. Children will learn that there are many people in the world who have never heard about Jesus.
2. They will be challenged to pray for more workers to be sent to tell these people about Jesus.

Introduction: Begin by asking the children what a harvest is. Use picture books to ask the children to identify different kinds of fruits and vegetables. Talk about wheat and how it grows in the field, and eventually becomes the bread that sits on the table beside you. Now ask the children who likes rain. Tell them that the rain is God helping to provide food. The seeds (show the seeds) need water into which to grow into the produce on the table. Explain that we should always remember to thank God when the rain comes. *The harvest is the time of year when farmers gather their crops before the winter. All year long they work to grow their crops and the harvest is especially exciting because their hard work has finally paid off and they can enjoy the food they grew.*

Now, tell them that people are like the harvest as well. Say, *Because we are Christians, we are like farmers. Jesus wants us to go out in the world, but instead of collecting crops, we are to collect people. God's field is the whole world. The world is full of people who need to hear about Jesus and we need to go and tell them!*

Biblical Evidence: Begin by reading, or having a child read, Matthew 9:35.

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.^[a]

Say, In this verse we learn something about Jesus. What do we learn about Jesus? (That he is traveling and telling people the good news about salvation. He keeps moving and telling as many people as he can.) Say, We should want to be like Jesus, and that means that we tell others about Him so that they can become Christians too.

Next, read Matthew 9:36. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary^[a] and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." *Say, Now we learn something else about Jesus. Jesus loves people. He feels sorry for them because they are lost in life. They do not know that they need Jesus in their lives and they need someone to tell them how to live their lives for Him. How do you think that you can help people know who Jesus is?*

Next, read Matthew 9:37-38. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." *Say, The world is full of people that do not know who Jesus and we need to tell them. Jesus teaches us that the world is like a harvest field, full of people who are ready to hear the good news about Jesus. But there are not enough Christians to go and tell all these people. We need to pray that God would send more people into the world to tell others about Jesus. A person who goes and tells people about Jesus is a Missionary. So let's pray that God will send more Missionaries into the world.*

Encourage a Missionary: Have your class write letters or create cards to send to missionaries to encourage them in their work. Explain to the class that missionary work can be very difficult, even though it is very important. You will have to talk to your church leaders or association to see what missionaries you can write too.

Conclusion: Close the lesson by praying with the class. Ask God to send workers out into the world to collect the people who need to know him. Pray that God would lead your students to be missionaries in their school and neighborhoods as they tell their friends about Jesus.