

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2025

Class Curriculum - The Christian Life

Age - Senior Campers

Monday - God Is Our Source

Summary

1. Subject: God is the source of all truth and all goodness
2. Scripture: John 1:1-14, John 15:1-27, Matthew 7:17-20, 2 Timothy 3:16
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Realize that all “goodness” comes from God. His word is absolute truth and the only guide to living a truly moral life
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Lesson

Overview: This week's classes will focus on ethics, or in other words, “Christian Living”. This will be applied differently to every age group. Each class will begin by reading through select passages of scripture, with a guided commentary of each, as well as reading comprehension questions, then a discussion guide for the topic of the day.

Today's lesson will focus on the source of Christian living: God Himself. All truth and all goodness come from God and cannot be attained without a relationship with Him. For any campers who are not Christians, this lesson will be important in establishing the need to have a relationship with Christ through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism in order to live a truly “good” life.

Read through John 1:1-14

John 1:1-4

While not revealed until verse 14, “The Word” that is referenced in these verses is Jesus Christ. This passage tells us many important things about Jesus Christ. He is part of the Godhead and has always been present. He was a part of the creation of all things and is the essence of “light”. Scripturally, “light” refers to truth (the illumination of things unseen) and goodness.

John 1:9-14

These verses give us more information about the redeeming nature of Jesus Christ and His time spent in the form of a man. He gives His “light” to everyone by teaching the full truth of God and informing the world of spiritual truths. He offers

- God created everything
- Through sin, mankind has severed the once-perfect relationship with God
- Through His sacrifice, Jesus offers atonement for sin and the possibility to reconcile that relationship
- To have a healthy, eternal relationship with God, we need to “receive” Jesus. This means that we must believe in Him as the Son of God, commit our lives to His commandments, and allow His redeeming blood to wash away our sins in baptism

Reading Comprehension:

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus? (He is the Son of God, He is the embodiment of grace/forgiveness, He is the embodiment of truth, He came to earth as a man for His earthy ministry)
- How is this knowledge important as we decide to live Christian lives? (We would not know what to do without the teaching/example of Jesus.)

John 15:1-17, Matthew 7:17-20, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

John 15:1-17

This passage is a long metaphor where Jesus explains in depth the relationship between “Christian Living” and God Himself. We are supposed to be the “branches” to His “vine”. We are to be just like Jesus. He is to be the source of our knowledge and our behavior. This is primarily achieved through our love but also in everything we do in life.

Matthew 7:17-20

In this passage, we see the same metaphor of plant life, this time with an added concept. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. This means any attempt to be truly “good” outside of a Godly life will ultimately fall flat. Inversely, a sincere relationship with God will produce “good” Christian living.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

While we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of goodness and truth, it is also important to understand that every word of scripture comes from God Himself. The inspired words of each book of the Bible are just the same as the words of Christ in preparing us to have “complete” lifestyles that please God and allow for an eternal relationship with Him.

Reading Comprehension:

- What does it mean for Jesus to be our vine?
 - He is our nourishment and sustenance.
 - We are like Him and part of Him, just like a tree branch is like and part of the tree.
- What are some examples of “bad fruit” from “bad teachings” that you see today? It’s easy for the world to mask “bad teachings” so they seem good, but the “bad fruit” of these teachings is more clear.
- Is there a difference between viewing Jesus as our source of truth versus the Bible as our source of truth? (No. Every word of scripture is inspired by God. Jesus is God)

DISCUSSION

Remaining Time

Guided Discussion:

Ask, **“What do you think it means to be a good person?”**. This generation of adolescents typically equates goodness with being nice, kind, helpful, benevolent, or tolerant of others.

This isn't quite the full picture. Goodness, as it's defined by God, is being like God Himself. This includes loving behavior like niceness and kindness, but also includes things like self-control, sacrifice, righteousness, discernment, and teaching others about the gospel. There is a difference between the worldly definition of goodness and the true biblical definition.

Ask your campers, **“Can someone be a good person if they are not a Christian?”**. This is a difficult question that should be addressed at the age level of your campers. Obviously, many people do things we consider “good” even if they are not Christians. We don't want to minimize this fact. That said, how can anyone be “good” while denying (or not knowing) the source of goodness?

Another question to help understand this point is, **“Can goodness exist without God?”**. The answer is no; without a belief in God and His moral teaching, what reason does anyone have to say any kind of action/lifestyle is “more good” than another? There is an innate sense of right and wrong that every person shares, but scripturally, that is put in place by God. For someone to deny God but hold to the shared sense of morality every person has, they would have to explain where this moral framework comes from. When you understand that the truth of goodness is defined by God and comes from God, then it is clear that the only way to live a truly “good” life is by Christian living.

Ask, **“Is it possible for a Christian to be a bad person?”**. This might be harder to answer. In one sense, we have all sinned and are imperfect, so yes, every Christian is “bad”. With that in mind, one of the core concepts of Jesus' teaching is that once we become Christians, we are to have a lifestyle that reflects Jesus. The harshest words from Jesus were always given to the religious elite, whose lives did not reflect their faith.

This is why Christian living is so important for Christians. Like fruit growing from a vine, it should be a natural product of our faith: a sign and symptom of what we believe. If we try to be Christians without living like Christ, we are attempting to be bad fruit from a good tree.