

# Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2025

## Class Curriculum - The Christian Life

Age - Junior Campers

# Monday - Goodness Comes From God

## Summary

1. Subject: God is the source of all goodness and truth
2. Scripture: John 15:1-17, Luke 10:25-37
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Help campers learn that everything we know about goodness and truth comes from God. God gives us this wisdom through the Bible
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.

## Overview

This week's classes will focus on ethics, or in other words, "Christian Living". This will be applied differently to every age group. For Junior Campers, each class will begin with a story from the Bible, which can be read from scripture, read aloud from a children's bible storybook, or told by the teacher. Then, there will be a brief lesson/discussion to reiterate the main points from the story, followed by games and activities.

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. Today's scripture is John 15:1-8, which says that people who love Jesus will live like He did. The story is the Good Samaritan: when we are good, we please God; we cannot please God if we are not good.

## Story

10-15 minutes

### The Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan is a parable found in Luke 10:25-37. A parable is a story told by Jesus to convey certain spiritual truths, often called “An earthly story with a heavenly meaning”. In this parable, Jesus is making the point that Christians please God by doing good things (living a “Christian Life”), not just by being religious. Tell the story of the Good Samaritan to your class at an age-appropriate level. A brief summary is below:

- A man was traveling from one city to another, and some robbers hurt him badly and took all that he had, leaving him alone on the side of the road.
- A religious person (a priest) walked past the man, but did not stop to help and left him behind.
- Another religious person (a Levite) saw the man and also did not stop to help.
- A third man, a Samaritan, saw the man and helped.
  - For older Junior campers, it can be helpful to learn the context of Samaritans. Samaritans were half Jewish and half Gentile and had ill will with Jewish people at the time of Christ. They predominantly lived in a separate area, Samaria, and had no dealings with Jews. While the first two people that passed the man “should” have helped him, a Samaritan would be expected not to.
  - Explain this dynamic using possible comparisons to their life (an Ohio State fan passing by a Michigan fan, a dog passing by a cat, etc).
- The Samaritan didn’t just stop to help the hurt man. He helped tend to the man’s wounds, then put him in an inn and paid for the man to stay as long as it took to heal.
- Jesus tells us that we should be like the Good Samaritan. We cannot call ourselves Christians if we do not live like Christians. Living like Christ is pleasing to God.

Jesus tells this parable after someone asks him, “What do I do to inherit eternal life?”. Jesus first tells the man to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, then tells the man to love our neighbor as ourselves. God tells us what true love looks like in many ways, and one example is the kindness shown by the Good Samaritan. Goodness and Love come from God, and we can learn how to have both of these things in our lives by reading about the examples He gives us.

## Lesson/Discussion

15 Minutes

**Guided Discussion:** Along the same lines as the Good Samaritan, Jesus uses another parable to explain that goodness comes from God in John 15:1-8. He says that He is the vine, and we are the branches that grow out of Him. An apple tree will always grow apples, and Christians that grow from the word of God will always show God's love and goodness in their lives. Here are a few discussion questions that can help your campers understand the concept that goodness comes from God and apply the story of the Good Samaritan to their lives.

Ask, **"In the story of the Good Samaritan, how did the Samaritan show goodness to the hurt man?"** The Samaritan obviously shows love by helping the man off the road, taking care of him, and paying for him to rest until he is fully healed. Even more than that, he shows the love and goodness of God by overcoming the differences that Jews and Samaritans had and treating this man well despite their differences. What does this tell us about how we should treat others, especially those who are different or in need?

**"Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. What do you think it means to be the branches of Jesus?"** It means that we will grow up to look and be like Him in many ways. The reason He came to earth to teach us is so that we will be like Him. A Christian doesn't just call themselves a Christian: they have to live like it!

**"How does the Samaritan's kindness reflect the kind of goodness that comes from God?"** God shows us love and kindness in the same way that the Good Samaritan did. God loves us, no matter what. He heals us of our sins and takes care of us in many ways. We do not deserve everything He does for us, but He does it anyway out of love.

**"What are some specific ways we can be like the Good Samaritan in our own lives?"** At an age-appropriate level, some answers may be treating our siblings well, listening to our parents, being a good friend, and more.

Goodness comes from God. If we try to "be good" without God, we end up like the priest and the Levite. People may think we look good, but God will know if we aren't truly good. When we're good in the way that God tells us to be, we are the "branches" growing out of Jesus, looking and acting just like Him.



## Activity/Illustration

Remaining Time

Songs

Two songs illustrate these points that you can sing with your class. The lyrics to both are below.

### The B-I-B-L-E

Goodness comes from God, and we learn all about God and His goodness from the Bible. It's the book that God wrote to tell us how we should live and how to have a relationship with Him. To the tune of the "Bingo" song,

*In my hand, I have a book, a book that's called the Bible!*

*B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, a book that's called the Bible!*

Sing through the song five times, first replacing the letter "B" with a hum, then the letters "B-I", etc.

### He's the Peach of My Cheek

A song that comes from the vine and branches parable of John 15 is called, "He's the Peach of My Cheek". To the tune of The Battle Hymn of the Republic (also known as "Glory Glory Hallelujah"), the lyrics are

*He's the peach of my cheek, He's the apple of my eye*

*He's the pruner of my branches when my branches get too high*

*He showers me with blessings, and His love will never die,*

*And that's why I'm bananas for the Lord!*

*He's the vine, and I'm the branches*

*He's the vine, and I'm the branches*

*He's the vine, and I'm the branches*

*And that's why I'm bananas for the Lord!*



## Activity

### “Robbers and Samaritans”

This game is a variant of freeze tag. Set up an area where the campers can run, and establish a “home base”. Designate one camper as the “Robber” and another as the “Samaritan”. The “Robber” will try to tag as many campers as they can. Anyone tagged by the “Robber” has to sit down in place and cannot move. The “Samaritan” has to find campers who have been tagged, help them up, and walk them back to home base; once they have done this, the camper is free to run again. The “Samaritan” cannot be tagged by the “Robber”.

Set a time limit, and restart the game with a new Robber and a new Samaritan.

For added fun:

- Play the game like Sharks and Minnows, where the campers have to travel from one side of a room or field to another without being tagged. The Samaritan has to bring campers back to the start.
- Have one Robber and let everyone else help each other. The Robber can win if everyone is tagged.