

# Lesson Nine

## *Jesus Made God's Word Clear*



### Growing as a Teacher

#### Scripture

Matthew 4:23  
Luke 24:13-32  
Mark 16:15

#### Bible Truth

Jesus preached and taught God's Word, and he commands his church to continue this task.

#### Lesson Aim

To listen attentively to those in the church who preach and teach God's Word, and to remember to pray for them.

There were several aspects to the ministry of Jesus. He chose disciples and taught them God's Word. He preached the good news of God's kingdom to all who would listen. He cared for the sick, ministered to children and performed amazing miracles. He died on the cross for the sins of his people. He rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples, explaining the Scriptures to them some more.

Indeed, the Word of God was at the center of the life of Jesus. Teaching and preaching were priorities throughout his ministry, including after his resurrection. Before leaving his followers, he gave them a final charge to take the good news to all nations, preaching and teaching God's Word.

Jesus has given you the privilege and responsibility to impart the good news to your Younger Elementary students. Week by week, you have a wonderful opportunity to open up the Bible and explain God's truths to them. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open their understanding so that they will understand and embrace the Lord's "Wonderful Words of Life."

#### Bible Background

On the Sabbath, Jesus taught in the synagogues; during the week, he did his preaching and teaching outdoors. Sometimes Jesus taught in parables; sometimes he spoke plainly. He preached to small and large groups of hearers, proclaiming and explaining the Word of God.

Help your children understand that the Lord has given his church the task of continuing to preach and teach the Word of God. Just as people listened closely to what Jesus

had to say, you want your children to listen attentively to God's Word and pray for those who teach it to them, particularly pastors and Sunday school teachers.

**The Lord has given his church the task to continue to preach and teach the Word of God.**

#### Memory Verses

##### REVIEW:

PSALM 119:9-11  
JOHN 1:14

## Lesson Nine at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
<b>1</b> Welcome	5–10	Play <i>Listen Closely</i> to get ready for Bible Time.	○ <i>Optional</i> : paper, ball, stapler, balloon
<b>2</b> Bible Time	15–20	Listen to God's Word and learn how Jesus made it clear.	○ Bible ○ TA 9 Disciple/Pastor* ○ <i>Optional</i> : photos of pastor and Sunday school teachers
<b>3</b> Memory Verse	5–10	Review Psalm 119:9–11 and John 1:14.	○ TA 1c Memory Work* ○ <i>Optional</i> : Bible stickers
<b>4</b> Activities	10–15	Do the <i>At Home 9</i> activities. If time, color the prayer mini-poster.	○ <i>At Home 9</i> ** ○ Pencils ○ Crayons or markers ○ SA 9 mini-poster**
<b>5</b> Final Focus	5	Say a closing response prayer.	

Total time: 40–60 minutes

\*Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack  
\*\*Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack



## Practical Preparation



### Teaching Tip

Ask available parents, senior citizens or teenagers to help you in the classroom. They can listen to memory verses, take up the offering and assist with activities and enrichment. The children will benefit from their involvement, and your volunteers will be blessed by interacting with the children.

Set aside Teaching Aids and Student Activities needed for the lesson. Have TA 1a *What's in the Bible?* poster and TA 1c *Memory Work* clearly displayed for reference.

For *Welcome*, use an assortment of objects with which you can make recognizable sounds—you can tear paper, bounce a ball, click a stapler and so forth. Use the items listed or make your own selections to bring to class (instructions on page 65).

Study the Scripture passages listed, pray and get ready to teach *Bible Time*. Use your own words to teach the lesson. The manual is primarily meant to guide your preparation and help you focus on the *Bible Truth* and *Lesson Aim*. If you took photos of your pastor and other Sunday school teachers, bring them to class (see sidebar, p. 67).

Review suggestions have been supplied for Psalm 119:9–11 and John 1:14 during *Memory Verse*. Be prepared to do one of them.

During *Activities*, do *At Home 9* exercises. Complete SA 9 mini-poster if time. Have the necessary supplies ready to use. Prepare to lead the class in a response prayer during *Final Focus*.



## Welcome

5–10 minutes

Welcome your students. Tell them that they are going to play a game called *Listen Closely*. **Say I want you to use your ears to play this game.** Have the children sit in a circle with their eyes closed. If it is too hard for them to keep their eyes closed, you may prefer to have them sit or stand away from you so they cannot see what you are doing.

**Say I am going to make a sound with something I have in my hand. Listen closely to the sound.** Make sure that the students cannot see what you are about to do next. Take a sheet of paper and tear it in two. Ask the class to name the sound they heard and what was used to make it (*tearing/paper*).

Continue playing the game. Use a variety of everyday objects that make sounds the children will recognize—for example, you could bounce a ball, click a stapler or blow up a balloon. You may decide to clap your hands, snap your fingers, whistle and so forth.

At the end of the game, praise the children for being attentive listeners. **Say You paid attention—you listened closely and you heard correctly.**

Now have the children gather around you. Tell them that once again they are to listen closely, not to the sounds you make, but this time to the words you say. Tell them to use their eyes to look at you and their ears to hear what you say. Then say a sentence and ask a volunteer to say it back to you, word for word. *You might say, for example, We are in Sunday school and we are learning about God's Word or The pastor preaches and teaches God's Word.* Some children may want to make up their own sentences, and then have their classmates listen and repeat the words. Encourage them to do so.

Finally, have the students listen closely to your words, and this time, tell them to *obey* your words. Tell them they will need to use their ears and their bodies. *You might say Pretend to open a book or Go to the other side of the room or Give your neighbor a high five and so on.*

*At the end of this step, tell the learners You are beginning to understand that paying attention and listening carefully are important in order to hear correctly, to understand what is said and to obey commands. That is the way it is with God's Word: he wants us to listen to and understand his Word and do what it says.*

## Early Arrivals



Jesus taught and preached in the synagogues and in the open air. Some of your students may know quite a lot about the stories Jesus told, and where and what he taught. Have them do one of the following:

- Make a large picture of some of the things Jesus mentioned in his stories.
- Make a list of some of the places where Jesus taught and preached.



## Enrichment

Children can make thank-you cards for the pastor and Sunday school teachers. Let each child make a card for a different person. To make a card, fold a sheet of paper in half. Inside the card, have the child write a note to thank the pastor for preaching God's Word or to thank a Sunday school teacher for teaching God's Word. (You may need to provide an example for them to copy.) Sign each card *The Younger Elementary Sunday School Class*. Have the children decorate the cover of each card using markers, stickers, glitter and so on. Collect the cards and deliver them to the appropriate person after class.



## Bible Time

15–20 minutes



### From the Bible

Matthew 4:23a

Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom.

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he **explained** to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.



### Something Extra!

Since one of your goals is to draw the children into the church family, it's important for them to establish a relationship with the pastor. A visit from him this or next week would be most appropriate. He could take time to answer questions, listen to their memory verses and songs, and join them for a time of prayer. If you plan to do this, invite him early in the week, if you haven't already done so.

Gather the children and open your Bible to Matthew 4:23. Help the children find the verse in their Bibles.

We have learned that even as a boy Jesus understood, loved and obeyed God's Word. We have also learned that Jesus used God's Word when he was tempted by Satan.

Today we are going to learn something else about Jesus and God's Word. Listen closely as I read Matthew 4:23. Then tell me what two things Jesus did.

Read Matthew 4:23a (NIV).

Yes, Jesus was *teaching* the people and *preaching* the good news of the kingdom. *Ask* Why do you think Jesus taught and preached God's Word? (*so that people would know about forgiveness of sins, and how to love and obey God*)

Jesus taught God's Word everywhere! He taught it in the synagogues, the place where Jews went to read the Scriptures and pray. He taught God's Word as he traveled from village to village. He taught it as he sat on a hillside with his disciples. He taught it as he visited with friends in their homes. Jesus taught people what to believe about God and how to trust and obey him. And the people listened to what he had to say.

Even after his death and resurrection, Jesus preached and taught God's Word. Turn to Luke 24:13–32 and help the children find the passage in their Bibles.

From these verses we learn that on the day Jesus rose from the dead, two of his disciples were walking from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus (*ee-MAY-us*). As they walked, they talked about the death of Jesus. They discussed everything that had happened.

As they walked along, Jesus came up and joined them—but they didn't realize it was Jesus. They thought Jesus was dead!

"What are you discussing together as you walk along?" Jesus asked them.

"We are talking about Jesus," they said. "Haven't you heard? Three days ago he was crucified—and we had thought he was the promised Savior." The men's voices showed that their hearts were filled with sadness.

Jesus listened as they told their story. Then he said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

Jesus was saying that the men were not trusting God's Word. They were not remembering God's promises.

Now listen closely as I read God's Word. Tell me one thing Jesus did to help his two sad disciples. Read Luke 24:27 (NIV). *Ask* What did Jesus do to help his two sad disciples? (*explained to them what the Scriptures said about him*).

Yes, Jesus lovingly and patiently explained the Scriptures to

the men. Jesus showed the men that the Old Testament was all about himself, the promised Savior.

When Jesus and the disciples got to Emmaus, the men asked him to have a meal with them. While they were eating together, suddenly God caused them to realize that it was the risen Lord Jesus who was with them! Then Jesus left them.

How excited the men were when they knew they had been talking to Jesus, that Jesus was alive. Their hearts were no longer slow and sad, but filled with love and gladness! They went back to Jerusalem right away to tell the other disciples what had happened. "It is true," they said. "The Lord is risen." Now they understood and believed God's Word.

Jesus preached and taught God's Word, and he wants his church to continue to preach and teach God's Word. Listen to what Jesus said before he left earth to go back to heaven. Turn to Mark 16:15 and help the children find the verse in their Bibles. Read the passage aloud, emphasizing the words *go* and *preach*. Ask **What did Jesus command his disciples to do?** (*go and preach the good news to everyone*)

*Display the picture of the disciple on TA 9. Say* **The disciples trusted and obeyed God's Word. They went everywhere preaching and teaching God's Word.**

*Now show the children the picture of the pastor on TA 9 or a photo of your pastor. And I am so glad that the Lord has given us preachers and teachers of God's Word. What can we do to encourage our pastor?* (*Listen closely as he reads and explains God's Word, and pray for him.*)

*Say* **We can do the same for our Sunday school teachers. Point to yourself, then mention other teachers or club leaders your children might have (or show photos of teachers in your church). We can listen closely to what they teach and pray for them.**

Spend time discussing other practical ways to encourage pastors and teachers. Let the children talk about ways they can help.



## Memory Verse

5–10 minutes

This week, students will review **Psalm 119:9–11** and **John 1:14**. Choose one of the following ways to go over the verses:

1. Have the students review in pairs.
2. Have an adult assistant listen to each child say his or her verses.
3. Write out the words to the verses on different-colored pieces of construction paper and then cut them into puzzle pieces. Hand out puzzle pieces randomly to your students and tell them to find others with puzzle pieces of the same color. Students should work with each other to put their puzzles together, then say the verses for the class.

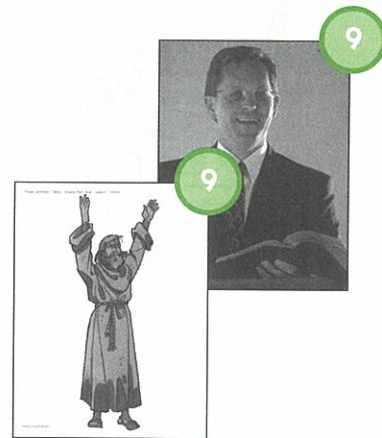
As a special treat at the end of the review time, give your students Bible stickers (purchased from your local Christian bookstore).



## From the Bible

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and **preach** the good news to all creation."



Note: Keep TA 9 for Lesson 13.



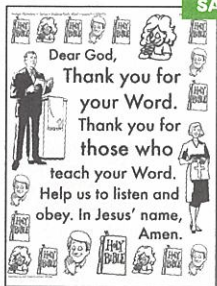
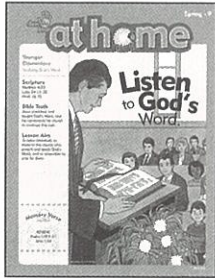
## Optional

Take photos of your church's pastor(s) and other Sunday school teachers and use them in today's lesson. That way, your children will recognize and be able to identify the people in your church.

# 4

## Activities

10–15 minutes



SA 9



### Item to Send Home

- At Home 9*
- SA 9 mini-poster

# 5

## Final Focus

5 minutes

In *At Home 9*, read the titles and directions for the activities.

In *Fill in the Blank*, provide help as needed. Help with reading when the blanks have been filled in. **Answers: I will listen and obey; pray**

In *Figure It Out*, the number of blanks is a clue to each answer. Help with reading, if necessary.

- Answers:**
1. Jesus
  2. people
  3. God's Word
  4. disciples

For the SA 9 mini-poster, read the prayer together and tell the children to color the pictures. Children will take these home at the end of the lesson. Suggest that they put the poster on the refrigerator door to help them remember to pray for those in church who preach and teach God's Word.

If there is time, read the story on the back of *At Home 9*. *Helping Pastor Bob* will get the children thinking about practical ways they can encourage and support the pastor and others who make God's Word clear to them.

Close with a responsive prayer. Tell the children to listen to what you say, then repeat the words after you. Say each phrase or sentence slowly. Give the children time to repeat the words:

**Dear Lord Jesus,**

**Thank you for making God's Word clear.**

**Thank you for those who teach and preach your Word.**

**Help me to listen to your Word and obey it.**

**In Jesus' name,**

**Amen.**