

Practice What You Preach

Theme Do what you tell others to do.

Scripture- Matthew 23:1-12

Object- None

Video Connection: Saddleback Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVPBnYsJR-A>

Songs- "Love the Lord" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s363IMh64yl>

"Into My Heart" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZi44jdErmM>

"Jesus Love Me" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhHhvn-ZmU4>

"Let's Get a Little Crazy" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnMo6OE1s5o>

Lesson

Lead kids through a couple rounds of Simon Says. In Simon Says, the leader tells kids things to do but they have to listen closely. If you say, "Simon says," then kids do the motion. If you don't say, "Simon Says," kids don't do the motion.

After a few rounds of Simon Says, say: You guys did a great job playing Simon Says. Let's play it the opposite way. You still need to listen to me say, "Simon Says" before you do a motion. But, in this Opposite Simon Says, you will do the opposite of what I say. If I say, "Simon says, 'don't touch your head,' you will do the opposite and touch your head." Let's try this.

Simon says, "don't clap your hands." (Kids should clap their hands because they're doing the opposite thing.)

Say these things for kids to do the opposite:

- "Simon says, 'Stand up.' " (Kids will sit.)
- "Stand up." (Kids should not move.)
- "Simon says, 'Sit down.' " (Kids will stand up.)
- "Simon says, 'Don't pat your head.' " (Kids will pat their head.)
- "Simon says, 'Don't stop patting your head.' " (Kids will stop.)
- "Pat your stomach." (Kids should not move.)
- "Simon says, 'Don't practice what you preach.'" (Kids will be confused.)

Have kids sit down.

Practice what you preach. What does that mean? (Pause.) I think it means that if you tell someone to do something, you need to do it, too. Practice what you preach means don't do the opposite thing that you say. Instead do what you say others should do.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus had something to say about "practicing what you preach." Jesus was talking about the teachers of the law and the Pharisees in the synagogue where people went to worship. Jesus said that everything that they did was done so that others would see them and think how great they were. But they didn't do what they told other people to do. In fact, they did the opposite!

What did Jesus tell us to do about teachers like these? (Pause.)

You might think Jesus would say, "Don't listen to them! You don't have to do what they say." But He didn't. Jesus said, "Obey these teachers and do everything they say. But do not do what they do, because they do not practice what they preach." When it comes to living the Christian life, we need to make sure we do what we say.

Here's a little poem that would be good to remember.

*You can know a lot of Scripture
And have the gift to teach,
But what is more important --
Is to practice what you preach!*

Pray: Dear God, help us be people who do what we say so that others can see the love of Jesus in us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Group Activities

- **DRESS UP RELAY:** Give each team a paper bag or little suitcase with dress up clothes (all the similar and the same number of clothes in each bag. Each member of the team has to run to the bag and put on the clothes and run back to another team player and take off the clothes and the next team member will put the clothes ON! Make sure everyone gets to put on the bag of clothes (shirt, pants, hat, shoes, tie, etc). Make sure to take pictures for the children to see at a later time.
- **PLAYING CHURCH PICTURE:** Have many props with ties, hats, high heeled shoes and scarves, etc for children to each put on one thing at least and take a class picture. Tell the Bible Story while the children wear their dress-up props.
- **POEM CARD:** Give children a small card to fold and stand up in front of their seating area. They can color the card and tape a typed copy of today's poem on the card as a reminder of today's lesson!
- **FELT CHURCH:** Give children different sizes and shapes of various colored felt for children to glue onto a piece of paper and make in the shape of a church. Title the paper felt art as DON'T PLAY CHURCH! Have children tell ways to play church.
- **"SEE" JESUS ART:** Give children paper, scissors, felt pieces for eye brows and eye pupils, etc, to make large EYES and cut out and glue onto a piece of construction paper. Add felt pieces and use markers to make BIG EYES. Use various colored markers to write each word in a different color and write LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN ME.
- **FALL LEAF HEARTS:** Give children some cut out leaves to place in the shape of a heart on a large piece of paper (or altogether for a class project for a bigger heart). Inside the heart shaped by leaves, children can write TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS' LOVE FOR THEM! Cut around the outside of the leaf shaped heart and hang by a piece of yarn!



Jumble

UMTS

3	2		

YEOB

	4		

ARCPHE

				1	

AWL

	5	

HETREAC

					6	

It is hard to be this when
you think you are great!

1	2	3	4	5	6



Words Used

teacher must
obey preach law

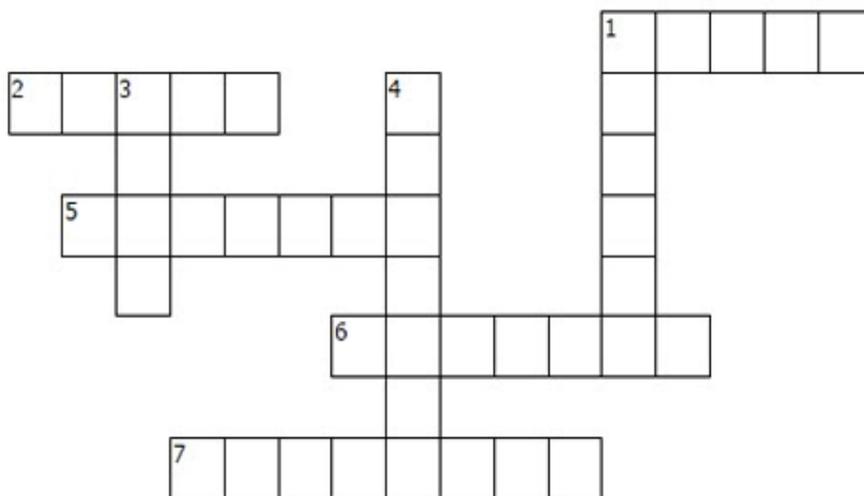


I do what is right.

Practice What You Preach

But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. Matthew 23:3b (NIV)

Based on Matthew 23:1-12 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. To show high respect or esteem for someone
2. A large gathering of people
5. Someone who trains or instructs other people
6. A formal dinner honoring a particular person or occasion
7. Most important, powerful, or famous

DOWN

1. To consider yourself as having no special importance; not proud
3. To do what you are told or expected to do
4. A person hired to work for someone else

CROWD	BANQUET	GREATEST	HUMBLE
HONOR	TEACHER	SERVANT	OBEY

Use fall leaves to decorate the heart. Be careful not to cover up the words. Cut around the outside of the heart and hang by a piece of yarn!

