

Lesson Plan for Lesson 9

Jesus' Message and Mission

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 9, “Jesus’ Message and Mission,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each participant; newsprint and markers; a variety of common objects from the home or office, one object for each participant; and a candle and matches.
- Write the following questions on a whiteboard or on newsprint:
What kinds of poverty do young people experience today?
What might be the good news that those people are waiting for?
- Make copies of the handout “The Message of Jesus” (Document #: TX003377), one for each group of three or four.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a prayer that asks for God’s help in participating in the mission of Christ. **Ask** them to find the prayer in the Pray It! “Making the Kingdom Real,” on page 95 in the handbook. **Assign** two participants to each read one paragraph of the prayer. **Begin** and **close** the prayer by leading the group in the Sign of the Cross.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Jesus’ Mission: Proclaim the Kingdom of God

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups of three or four. **Give** each group a sheet of newsprint and a marker. **Tell** them that those who follow Jesus are called to bring the Good News to the poor. **Ask** them to discuss within their group the questions you have written on the whiteboard or newsprint and to have someone in the group take notes on the group’s sheet of newsprint. **Invite** the groups to share their responses with the rest of the class.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the section “Jesus’ Mission: Proclaim the Kingdom of God,” on pages 93–95 in the handbook. The content covers point 1 on the handout “Lesson 9 Summary” (Document #: TX003376).
3. (*Optional*) After the young people have finished the reading, **direct** them to the Reflect question on page 95 in the handbook. **Lead** a discussion on the topic.

B. Jesus Teaches about the Kingdom

1. **Gather** the young people around the objects you have collected. **Remind** them that Jesus often used well-known images to convey the meaning of the Kingdom of God. **Ask** the participants to each



choose one item. **Explain** that they are to silently look at the item they chose and think about an image of God’s Reign. They should then formulate a sentence that begins “The Kingdom of God is like . . .” and complete it with their reason for choosing that item. You may want to offer an example, such as “The Kingdom of God is like a telephone because it connects us to everyone else in the world.” **Ask** them to write their statement down and save it for the closing prayer.

2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “Jesus Teaches about the Kingdom,” “Jesus Lives the Kingdom of God,” and “Jesus’ Miracles: Making the Kingdom Real,” on pages 95–100 in the handbook. The content covers points 2 through 6 on the handout “Lesson 9 Summary.”
3. (*Optional*) After the participants have finished the reading, **direct** them to form groups of three or four and to find the Reflect directions on page 97 in the handbook. **Ask** them to create on a sheet of paper the two lists mentioned in the directions, compare the lists, and be ready to share what they learned.

C. Jesus’ Disciples Share the Mission

Direct the participants to read the section “Jesus’ Disciples Share the Mission,” on pages 100–103 in the handbook. The content covers points 7 through 10 on the handout “Lesson 9 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of three or four. **Distribute** a Bible to each young person and a copy of the handout “The Message of Jesus” (Document #: TX003377) to each group. **Recruit** someone in each group to be the secretary. Make sure that person has a blank sheet of paper and a pen. **Assign** each group one parable or story from the handout.

Explain the task as follows:

- Each group is to read and discuss the meaning of its assigned parable or story by answering the first question on the handout.
 - Then each group should rewrite the parable or story using modern language and situations in light of the second question on the handout.
 - The secretary in each group should record the revised parable or story.
2. **Invite** the groups to present their revised parables to the rest of the class. **Discuss** the meaning of each parable and its modern interpretation and application to our lives.
 3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
 - The parables are stories Jesus told that often had a surprising twist, to shock the people who were hearing them into a new way of seeing things.
 - Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is wherever people are trying to live out God’s call to love and forgiveness in a way that goes beyond the “minimum requirements.”



Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, close by **lighting** the candle and saying, “The Kingdom of God is like a candle, because it burns brightly in the darkness.” Then **invite** the participants to return the item they chose earlier and to share the sentence they wrote. Close by **reading** Matthew 13:51–52.

