

Year 4 Lesson 4. The Joys and the Challenges of following Jesus

Jesus' Mission

Jesus had been given a special mission. When he grew up, he spent a lot of his time teaching - he was a rabbi or teacher. He travelled around Galilee. Sometimes he taught in synagogues or outside on a mountain or beside a lake.



Huge crowds gathered to hear Jesus, sometimes as many as four or five thousand people! Everyone listened to his wonderful teaching about God's love for us.

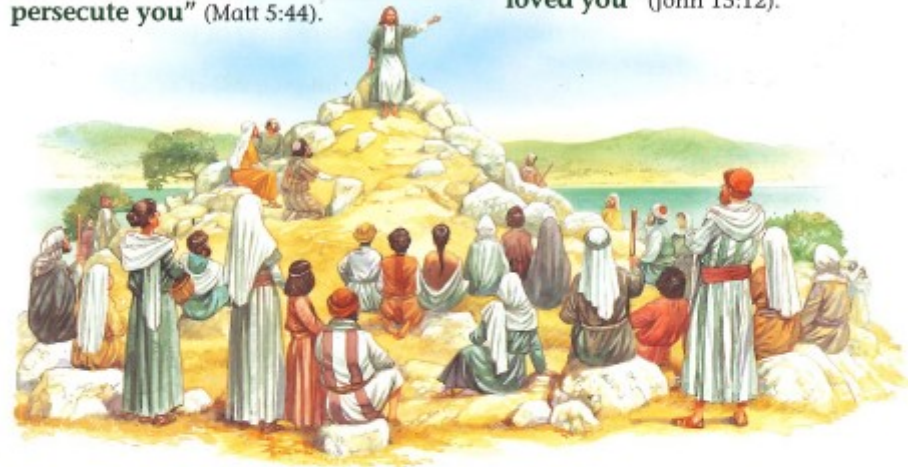
Jesus taught the people that, if they believed in him and followed his teaching, they would live with him forever.

Joys and challenges of following Jesus

Jesus never promised things would be easy if we choose to be one of his disciples. He explained that although we will have difficulties and problems many times in our lives, we can also find happiness and peace. By the way he lived, Jesus gave us an example of loving and helping each other. He knew that there is sin and hatred in the world, so he challenged this by living his life full of goodness and love.

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt 5:44).

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).



Jesus explained that when we help others, we please him very much. He said that whatever we do to others, to people we don't know, even to people we think are not important, we do to him. He said that the time will come when he will say to people who help others,

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father! I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25:34-37).

The ones who truly followed Jesus will then answer him,

"When Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?"

"Jesus will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me'" (Matt. 25:37-40).

Your task today Year 4.

Write a prayer to Jesus about the joys and challenges of following Him.

Dear Jesus, it is a joy to follow you when..... because...

However, it is difficult to follow you sometimes when.....

Please help me to.....