

LESSON 6:

Becoming Like Jesus

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- To invite new believers to commit their whole lives to becoming more like Jesus, bringing him honor and praise.
 - To consider the many gifts and blessings we have received.
 - To consider our gift back to God: our whole lives.
 - To consider ways kids can become like Jesus.
- To offer continued assurance of salvation and reinforcement of their understanding of this new life with Jesus.
- To invite each child to commit to a life of becoming like Christ, even when it is not easy.

KEY VERSES:

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7 NIV – “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ... taking the very nature of a servant.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 NIV – “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

INTRODUCTION FOR LEADERS

While life with Jesus is all about a relationship and receiving undeserved grace and forgiveness for our sins, eventually we all realize that there are changes in behavior. This last lesson is designed to help children put this behavior in perspective. Our good behavior does not earn our salvation. It is not our requirement for knowing Christ or following him. Instead, out of hearts of love and devotion to Jesus, we WANT to become like him, honoring him in every way possible by the way we live our lives. Emphasize this incredible relationship of love as the motivation for all that believers do – even during difficult times. Encourage your students to follow after Jesus – always!

Lesson Overview

Welcome, Introduction & Review (10-20 minutes)

Welcome (review, changes discussion)
Prayer

Scripture, Background & Discussion (20-30 minutes)

God's Invisible Gifts (Gift Activity)
Our Gift to God (Scripture & Discussion)
Honoring God (Scripture & Discussion)
How To Become Like Jesus (Scripture)

Bible Story & Discussion (10-20 minutes)

A Bible Story (Jesus Washes Disciples' Feet)

Response & Application Options (20-30 minutes)

Will This Always Be Easy? (Scripture, Discussion)
Something to Do (Journals, Questions, Prayer)

TOTAL TIME: 60-90 minutes

Materials Needed

BASIC SUPPLIES:

(best for settings with non-readers and limited supplies)

- Lesson Outline for Lesson 6
- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 6 student booklet for leader reference
- Bible for leader
- An erasable board and writing supplies OR paper and pen/pencil

ADDITIONAL SUPPLY OPTIONS:

(for settings with students who can read/write and where supplies are more readily available)

- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 6 student booklet for each student
- A Bible or New Testament/Psalms for each student (easy-to-read for children)
- Blank paper or notebooks for journals for each student
- Pens or pencils for each student

Welcome, Introduction & Review

(10-20 minutes)

Welcome (Welcome, Review, Introduction to Lesson)

Materials: *Your New Life with Jesus* student booklet, Lesson 6 (optional)
Pens or pencils for each (optional)

☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Warmly welcome students. Tell them you are glad they have come. Help them to feel at ease. Introduce children to each other if they have not met.
- Remind students of the discussion about God's gifts and purpose from last lesson. **As you thought about it, what did God show you?**
- If possible, briefly share a small part of your own story. Discuss how it took time to discover your gifts and find God's place for you to use them.
- If students are not sure, assure them this is no problem. There are plenty of wonderful things for ALL of us to do (love others, care, pray, etc.) while we are waiting to learn more about God's special purpose for us. He shows us these things in his time.
- Did students write or draw in their journals? Talk about what they have been thinking.
- Do students have questions about life with Jesus? Talk about simple questions. Write others down and plan to discuss these later.

?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

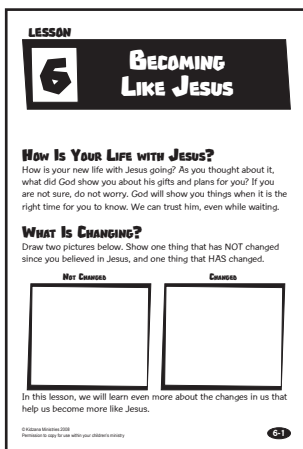
- Ask students about changes in their lives. **What has changed since they believed in Jesus? What has not changed?** Share fun stories, not just serious stories, as you do this. Enjoy your students.
- In this lesson, we will talk even more about changes that take place in the lives of people who follow Jesus.
- In fact, changes are one of the few things that will always be the same for believers. Until we get to heaven we will always be growing and changing. Even old people who follow Jesus are still growing up. Why? There will always be more to do to become like Jesus, our perfect example.

♥ PRAYER

- Open with a simple prayer. Ask God to give your students understanding about their lives becoming more like Jesus today.

📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If booklets are available, invite children to draw their answers to the questions, "What has changed?" and "What has NOT changed?" since following Jesus. Discuss these together. Enjoy learning about their lives.
- All lessons are designed to be presented with or without student booklets.
- Leaders may find it helpful to have a copy of the booklet as a reference while leading through the discussion, even if students do not have booklets.
- If using booklets, continue to refer to lesson plans for additional notes, comments, scriptures and questions for students to consider.



Scripture, Background & Discussion

(20-30 minutes)

God's Invisible Gifts (Activity)

Materials: Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)
Erasable board or large paper and writing utensils
Drawings of several large gift boxes on board or paper

☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Show the drawing of the gift boxes to your students. (Draw one box separate from the others and do not write in it during this first section.)
- Remind students about spiritual gifts talked about last week. These gifts are special talents and abilities that God has given to his people. Remember some of these together (evangelist, teacher, pastor, giver, mercy, servant, administrator, etc.).

✍ WRITING/RESPONSE

- There are many other gifts that God has given that are for **EVERYONE**. They are God's best gifts. They are invisible. Start by naming a few, then ask students to help you think of others.

Forgiveness of sin	Salvation	Eternal life
God's presence	Purpose for living	A new family
Prayer (access to God)	His love	His promise to help
Peaceful hearts	His Word	Holy Spirit with us
Kindness	Guidance	Friendship with God
Jesus' perfect example	Wisdom	Etc.
- Write some of these words in the blank gift boxes. Realize that we could never list all the gifts that God has given to us. He is so generous!

Our Gift To God (Scripture & Discussion)

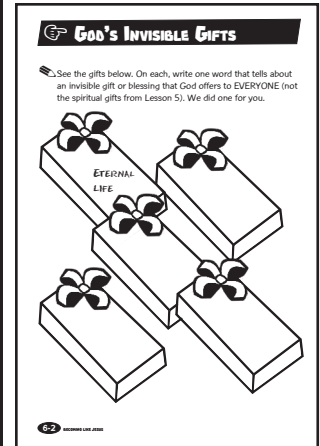
Materials: Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)

📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- As we look at what God has done for us, what do we feel like doing in return?** Giving him a gift back – or even many gifts. **But what kind of gift would be big enough for God, who has given us so much?** Give some time for silence and consideration before moving on. Listen first.
- Read/discuss Romans 12:1.** The best gift we give to God? Our lives.
 In view of God's mercy – because of God's generous love,
Offer your bodies as living sacrifices – give your everyday lives, your obedience, your service to God.
This is your spiritual worship – this offering (gift) of our lives is even better than songs of worship to God; it brings honor to him.
- Read/discuss Mark 12:30.** Another way to say this is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. **Does this leave any part of us out?** No. This means our **WHOLE** lives are given to loving him.
- Recognize the wholehearted commitment. Assure children that this takes place in their everyday lives. ("Living sacrifices" may frighten some.)

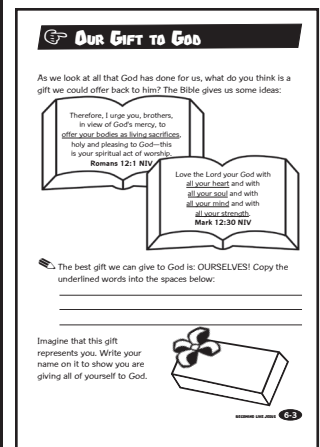
✍ WRITING/RESPONSE

- Show the last blank gift. If students are willing, invite them to write their names inside this box, as an indicator that they want to give their whole lives as a gift to God. Tell children they may do it at any time during the class, or even later, on their own. It is **THEIR** choice.



📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may fill blank boxes with names of God's invisible gifts on page 6-2.



📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the scriptures, listing highlights on page 6-3.

HONORING GOD


The gift of ourselves is not something we give to earn our salvation. We have already received that invisible (but very valuable) gift from God. All the invisible gifts listed on page 6-2 are still ours.

This gift from you, now, is about your response to God's incredible love for you. It is something you do because you love and respect God so much.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV

In just a few words, God tells us that whatever we do is to be for God's glory (to make him famous). That's it. We show our love for him as we do everything for his honor.

➡ Draw a picture of yourself doing something to bring God glory.




BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read this scripture on page 6-4 and draw a picture of themselves doing something to bring glory to God.

HOW TO BECOME LIKE JESUS

Jesus was the very best example of someone who always honored the Father. He even gave up his life for us in obedience to God.

Can kids become like Jesus? We can never be perfect, like he was. But kids CAN copy his behavior and attitudes. How?

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
Philippians 2:5-7 NIV

➡ Fill in the blank below with an important attitude for becoming like Jesus:
"He took on the very _____ nature of a _____"

➡ What might kids do to serve others? Write some ideas below:



BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may follow these activities with a Bible, using page 6-5.

Honoring God (Scripture & Discussion)

Materials: Bible for teacher (and for every reading student, if available)



BIBLE LOOK-UP

- The gift of ourselves is not something we give to earn our salvation or to make God love us more. We have already received salvation and love from God. The invisible gifts we just listed are still ours, no matter what.
 - This gift from us is about our response to God's incredible love for us. It is something we do because we love God so very much.
- What does it look like when we give this gift to God?**
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.** This verse tells us that we bring glory to God (make him famous) and honor him (show respect) with the way we eat or drink or whatever we do. Again, this takes place in our ordinary, everyday lives. We show our love for him as we do everything to bring honor and glory to him.

?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What kind of actions, behaviors and attitudes do you think will bring God glory (make God famous)?**

kindness	love	serving others
not complaining	doing chores	giving to people in need
praying for others	sharing	helping hurting people
tell others about him	praising him	and more ...
- Discover that any actions children might list as bringing glory to God are attitudes and behaviors that are like Jesus himself, who brought ultimate glory to God. **Is it always easy to do these things? Why or why not?**

How To Become Like Jesus (Scripture)

Materials: Bible for teacher (or for every reading student, if available)

Erasable board or large paper and writing utensils



BIBLE LOOK-UP

- Jesus was the very best example of someone who always honored (respected) the Father. He even gave up his whole life as a gift for us when he died on the cross.
- Can kids really become like Jesus?** Although we can never be perfect like he was, kids CAN copy his behavior and attitudes. **How?**
- Read Philippians 2:5-7. What is the most important way to copy Jesus' behavior?** Fill in the blank: He took on the very nature of a servant. Jesus could have acted like he was in charge of everything and everyone. Instead, he was humble. He behaved like a servant to others, rather than like someone who was in authority.
- What might kids do to behave like servants toward others?** List several ideas on the erasable board.

Bible Story & Discussion

(10-20 minutes)

Bible Story (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet; John 13:3-15)

Materials: Bible for leader (or for every reading student, if available)

Basin of warm, soapy water and towels (optional)



BIBLE READING

- Read the scripture passage aloud to students. Then retell and discuss the story and questions together.
- As you read and discuss the story, you will need to give children a brief explanation of what comes before and after the story.
- Optional: plan to wash the feet of your students, if you wish to fully act out this story. It becomes a very powerful lesson. Give enough time to do the activity and then talk about it together with children.
- Remember, the application of this lesson is not that we literally wash other people's feet. Instead, we are to humbly serve others like Jesus did.

1. Jesus prepared his disciples to lead without him.

- Just before Jesus died on the cross, he celebrated a special meal called the Passover with the disciples.
- He was teaching many lessons his disciples would need to know after he died, rose from the dead and returned to heaven.
- This lesson was one of the most surprising.

2. The disciples needed their feet washed.

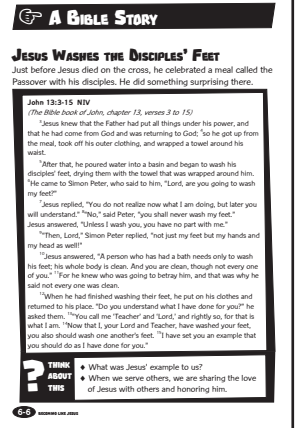
- In Bible days, when people came to visit a home, the lowest servant in the house would have the job of washing the visitors' feet.
- The roads were dirty and dusty. People wore sandals. Their feet always became dirty.
- At the Passover, Jesus and the disciples were in a rented room. They were not in a home, so there was no servant to wash their feet.
- None of the disciples thought of doing this. It was a low, dirty job.

3. Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

- When Jesus saw what was happening, he took off his outer robe, put on a towel, and washed the disciples' feet.
- (Optional: teacher may act this out by wrapping a towel around his or her waist, pouring water into a basin and washing the feet of one or more of the children. If there is time, do this for all children.)
- If a king or president were to come to visit us today, is this what you would expect him to do for us?** No. This is why Jesus' behavior was so surprising to his disciples. He was the ultimate ruler, but he served them with love.
- Finally, Jesus' most incredible act of service was when he died on the cross to forgive our sin.

?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♦ **What was Jesus' example to us?**
- ♦ **How is Jesus' example easy to follow?**
- ♦ **How is his example difficult to follow?**
- ♦ When we serve others, we are sharing the love of Jesus with them and also bringing honor (respect) and glory to him (making him more famous).



BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the Bible story and consider discussion questions on page 6-6.

Response & Application Activities

(20-30 minutes)

WILL THIS ALWAYS BE EASY?

A life of following Jesus and honoring God is the best life ever. But it is not always easy. Some people may misunderstand you or even try to hurt you. Sometimes it will be hard to love others or to do the right thing.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

How can you stay strong following Jesus if troubling times come? Copy the underlined answers from the Bible verse above into the lines below for some Bible advice:

BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, children may read the scripture and list some of the lessons on page 6-7.

SOMETHING TO DO...

WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL

Write a letter to God (or draw a picture). Tell him how you want to honor him now and as you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Remember that God will always be with you and will help you.

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

You may still have questions as you grow in your life with Jesus. Pray and ask God for answers. Also ask another person in God's family to help you find God's answers to your questions.

?

?

KEEP ON PRAYING

Have you decided to follow Jesus with your whole self? It is a simple thing to begin. It goes on for a lifetime. Pray often so you will grow strong in your love for Jesus, forever.

A Bible Verse to Remember

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6 NIV

BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, work through these final activities on page 6-8.

Will This Always Be Easy? (Scripture & Response)

Materials: Bible for leader (or each reading student, if available)

WRITING/RESPONSE

- Will it always be easy to follow Jesus?** No. A life of honoring God and becoming like Jesus is the best life ever. But it is not always easy. Some people may misunderstand us and our love for Jesus. Others may even try to hurt us. Sometimes it will be hard to love others or to do the right things.
- But it is always worth it. Why? Because God is worth it. Because Jesus is worth every bit of praise, honor and sacrifice we can give.

BIBLE LOOK-UP

- How can you stay strong following Jesus, even if troubling times come?**

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and list some ideas:

Throw off everything that hinders us – Get rid of anything in our lives that keeps us from following Jesus with our whole hearts.

Sin that so easily entangles us – Get rid of sinful habits that keep us tangled up and keep us from growing to be more like Jesus.

Run with perseverance – Imagine we are running a race; do not stop or give up.

Fix our eyes on Jesus – If we are tempted to give up, remember Jesus' example; ask for his help; he went through many troubles to go to the cross and die for us; we can follow his example when life is difficult.

Consider him – When we consider Jesus, we find we will not get tired; we will not lose hope; he inspires us to continue following him.

Something to Do: (Journal, Questions, Prayer)

Materials: Blank notebook or tablet of paper (optional)

Pens or pencils

WRITING/RESPONSE

- Invite children to write personal letters to God telling him about how they want to honor him with their lives. They may write words or draw pictures. Invite them to fold these up and decorate them as if they are gifts. Seal the letters and put them away (in their Bibles or other safe places). Children may open these in several months and remember what they said to God.
- If students have journals, they may do this activity in their journals instead.
- Invite children to write other questions. Consider any questions they may be asking this week. How will they find answers? Pray and ask God for help. Find people in God's family to help them.

PRAYER

- Remind children they can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything. Praying to Jesus, often, will help them grow strong in their love for him.
- Is there something we can pray about together?** Pray over each student, asking God to help each to grow strong in his love for Jesus, always.

FRIENDSHIP & CLOSING

- As children prepare to leave, read Philippians 1:6. Remind them that Jesus is the one who helped them start this life of following him. He will be with them. He will help them to keep growing to become more and more like him – making God known and loved throughout the world!