

Luke 13:22-30

Enter Before It's Too Late!

Scripture: Luke 13:22-30

Memory Verse: Luke 13:24 *“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”*

Lesson Focus: For the second week in a row, Jesus challenges us with an urgent message. Last week it was, *“Repent or perish!”*. This week it is *“Enter before it’s too late!”*. This lesson will stress this same urgency and our prayer is that the Lord will use it to open up hearts of kids to strive to enter into abiding relationship with Him!

Activities and Crafts: Narrow Way Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Enter the Gate Craft

Starter Activity: “In the Nick of Time” Video Clips

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship for a quick video that we think will whet their appetites for the lesson. * This video is a compilation of a common movie scene where the protagonist makes it through a closing gate just in the nick of time. We will introduce the video with some discussion:

Q: What does it mean to be “held in suspense”? * A: It is when you feel excited and uncertain about what may happen, especially in movies.

I’d like to share with you a few “suspenseful” movie clips. Some of the clips from these movies you might even recognize. But I want you to pay attention to what they all have in common.

WATCH VIDEO

Q: What did they all have in common?

A: Each one had a character striving to make it through a closing gate, and always just in the nick of time. * (often including his hat!) As you would watch each full movie through the first time, the movie might hold you “in suspense” as you wonder if the character is actually going to make it or not!

Q: What would have happened if these characters just stood around picking their noses?

A: The gate would have shut and they would have been in big trouble!

As we continue in Luke 13 today, Jesus is going to teach us some important lessons which I hope will challenge each one of you to not stand around but to “take action”!

Bible Study:

Luke 13:22: Jesus is traveling from city to city doing something very important: teaching. Look at this page of the Bible and you will notice lots of words in red.

Q: What do the words in red indicate? A: These are the words of Jesus! *

The last several weeks in our study of Luke we have been reading “lots of red”! In these passages, Jesus has been teaching us how we practice our faith in Him. *

Luke 13:23a: As we have seen before, as Jesus teaches, His listeners ask questions. I want to encourage all of you to ask questions too! It shows that you want to learn! * And this person is wondering how many people will be saved * which is interesting, but...

Luke 13:23b-24a: Instead of directly answering the question, Jesus tells the questioner what he actually NEEDS to know! Jesus’s answer teaches him that he should not be asking how many will be saved, but whether or not HE will be saved! *

And Jesus says to be saved we must “strive” to enter through the “narrow gate”.

Q: What does it mean to “strive”? A: It means to be “all-in” or to make every effort!

You might be wondering what this “narrow gate” is. **Read John 10:9.** Jesus says that He Himself is the door or the gate that we must enter! He is not saying that He is an actual door, but using this to illustrate that we can ONLY be saved through faith/trust in Him. *

Jesus says that NOW is the time to strive whole-heartedly to repent and believe in Him. If you were here last week we learned that when we repent and believe, we turn away from sin and turn to God. (**Teachers:** See lesson from last week and consider reminding kids about the “twirl” that we taught them) When we repent and believe we are striving against sin and the world and striving toward God!

But notice that Jesus also says that some will dawdle. They will not sense the urgency to be saved “today” and will seek to enter “tomorrow”, but will not be able to! *

Luke 13:25a: Because there is a time when it will be too late! One day the door will be shut! Remember the video we watched at the beginning? Each video clip showed the character “striving” to enter through the closing gate!

Teachers: To illustrate this further, consider inviting a few kids to act this out for some fun. You and another leader can be holding a large board (as the gate) which you will slowly lower for each kid as they “strive” to enter underneath before it closes. We will have a board available for you if you want to do this. *

Q: But what would have happened if you just stood around? A: The door would be shut!

Boys and Girls: Jesus is urgently pleading with you to repent and believe in the gospel today! If you have been considering this but holding back from going “all-in” for Jesus, make today the day! Tomorrow may be too late!

Luke 13:25b: Look what happens to those who dawdled! They are stuck outside and they are knocking and knocking, but it is too late! Jesus even says to them in red letters, ***“I do not know you!”***

Boys and Girls: This teaches us something else really important. Knowing “about” Jesus is not enough. The question is whether Jesus knows YOU! Let’s illustrate this.

Q: Who lives at the White House? A: The president.

Q: And who is our president? A: Joe Biden. So you all know “about” Joe Biden and where he lives. Very well.

Q: But if you went to the White House and started banging on the door to be let in, what do you think he would say? A: WHO ARE YOU? I don’t know you! Get outta here!

When we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ, we enter into an abiding relationship with Him. We are “all-in” for Him. **Read John 10:14.** * We become His sheep and He becomes our good shepherd that we run after. He knows us and we know Him!

Luke 13:26-27: They claim to know “about” Him, but notice how He describes them: as workers of iniquity or sin. * Perhaps they thought “just being around Jesus” was enough. But they didn’t listen to Him! Otherwise, they would have turned away from their sin and turned toward Him in faith! *

Boys and Girls: You too know a lot about Jesus. So let’s be clear about something. * “Just being around” church, singing songs, and saying prayers, is not what saves you. You also must repent and believe in Him. You must “enter the gate” and become His!

Luke 13:28a: When the door to eternal life with God closes, the door to eternal death in hell opens. Hell is a place of eternal punishment; a punishment we deserve because of our sins and rebellion against the holy God who made us!

Luke 13:28b-30: To answer the original question concerning how many are saved, notice that people from all over will enter! All of these people have one thing in common: not their skin color, not their ability, not their gender, but they were all sinners who turned from their sin and strove to enter into eternal life thru faith in Jesus Christ. *

Key Point: Remember at the beginning of our lesson we watched those video clips and talked about how those movies can “hold us in suspense”?

Well, one thing that you have no need to be “in suspense” over is whether you are saved or not. If you have repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, you have entered the gate! * You know Jesus and He knows you. Continue practicing your faith! One way you can do that is by inviting others to come and enter the gate of salvation too!

If you are not a believer in Jesus or aren’t sure, make today the day! * The gate is still open! But it might not be open tomorrow! * As **John 3:16** says, God loves you despite your sin. Jesus’s death and resurrection paid the price for your sins. Trusting in Him is the only way your sins can be forgiven. Strive to enter the gate today, turning away from your sin and turning to Jesus Christ in faith! *

BRING IT HOME

Read John 10:7-11
What else do we learn about the "gate" in this passage?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
Why does Jesus call the gate "narrow"?

Read Luke 13:24
Why must we "strive" to enter into this gate?

