

Luke 20:20-40

Toward the Cross (Part 2)

Scripture: Luke 20:20-40

Memory Verse: Luke 20:38 *“He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him.”*

Lesson Focus: The showdown between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders continues in this passage and we will again immerse the kids into the drama with some fun (see last week’s lesson). But we also pray the kids will be drawn closer to Jesus in faith as they watch Him vanquish the bad guys on His way to the cross. *

Activities and Crafts: Mother’s Day Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.

Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Give to Caesar and Give to God Craft

Starter Activity: Uno Showdown

Last week we started off our lesson with a silly “pool noodle” fencing challenge to immerse the kids into this passage’s drama between Jesus and the religious leaders. As the battle continues in today’s passage, consider starting off with a different one-on-one challenge (or see last week’s lesson and host the “pool noodle” challenge again).

We will provide you with some Uno cards (numbers only). * Pick two volunteers to “face-off” toward one another and then have the rest of the class form two equal lines behind each kid. (Or do equal number of boys and girls for a boy vs. girl showdown!) * You will give a card to each of the first two kids and they will flip them over simultaneously. The higher card wins. That kid will stay put while the loser goes to the back of the line (or sits down) and the kid behind him moves up and faces the winner. Repeat for several rounds or until one group has been depleted. If there is a tie between two kids, either give them new cards or have them both be out to keep the game going! *

Afterwards transition into the lesson with some discussion.

Q: What would happen if a kid always seemed to draw the highest card in this game?

A: That kid would be invincible!

This is what we saw last week in our study of Luke as Jesus clashed with the Jewish religious leaders. The religious leaders didn’t do battle with Uno cards (or pool noodles), but they were battling with words over what is true: whether Jesus really is the promised Savior and King! Is He really the Son of God?

Jesus looked invincible last week as He twice embarrassed the religious leaders. But the religious leaders are regrouping and will strike again. Let’s see what happens next!

Bible Study:

Luke 20:20: Now we enter “Round 3” * and remember that this battle is happening in public with all of the crowds watching. See how the religious leaders are scheming and “pretending to be righteous”.

Q: What do you think this means or looks like? A: It’s when you “butter someone up” * with sweet talk to get their guard down. *

Luke 20:21: Give me a break! Did they really think they could fool Jesus? Not only do they look desperate, but they are LYING to try and make Jesus look bad. *

Luke 20:22: Ah, but here is where they really make their move! * The religious leaders think they have Jesus trapped. Let’s talk about why. (**Teachers:** Consider reusing the Uno cards and demonstrate the religious leaders move by “playing” a higher Uno card)

Q: Who was Caesar? A: He was like the “president” of ancient Rome. And the Jewish people lived under Roman or “Caesar’s” authority just like we live under the authority of the US government/police. But the problem was that the Jewish people were not treated well under Roman authority and were looking for freedom from Roman oppression.

So back to the question: If Jesus answered “yes” He would be seen as a traitor and lose the support of the people. But if He answered “no” He would be seen as a rebel and give the religious leaders cause to arrest Him. Either way He loses. What’s He going to do! *

Luke 20:23-24: First thing Jesus does is call them out. You can’t fool Jesus! But then He calmly asks them a question about a denarius which was like a dollar bill. (**Teachers:** Consider pulling out a dollar bill and ask the kids whose image is on it) *

And by their own answer they admit that they use Roman money and so owe to Rome just like we use US government money and owe to our government.

Luke 20:25: Jesus now uses their own answer against them to make His knockout counterpunch! * (**Teachers:** Consider playing an even higher card to impersonate Jesus’s winning move here)

Jesus escaped their trap by giving a true answer that honors both God’s authority and government authority, even if it is the unpopular Roman authority.

Q: How many of you like chocolate ice cream? How many of you like vanilla ice cream? In a way, the religious leaders were trying to get Jesus to pick only one “flavor” so that He would insult the other side. But Jesus brilliantly answers with “swirl”! God is the one ultimately in charge and He has instituted government authority. Therefore, give to both what is due to both! The same rule applies to us today. *

Luke 20:26: They marveled at His answer and kept silent. Jesus wins again! *

Luke 20:27: So far Jesus has been dealing primarily with the Pharisees. Now as we enter the last round of this showdown, another religious group called the Sadducees “enters the ring” to take on Jesus. They are described as those who say there is no resurrection.

Q: What is the resurrection? A: The basic idea that there is life after death! These guys didn’t believe this. They sadly thought that life on earth was all there was. *

Luke 20:28: The Sadducees make their move by referring back to an ancient Jewish law (see **Deuteronomy 25:5**) that helped preserve family lines across generations.

Q: Where does your last name typically come from? A: Your Dad! * Back in Jesus’s day it was so important to keep the family line intact that if a man died without children, the brother was to marry the widow so they could still have kids to preserve the family line.

Luke 20:29-32: The Sadducees now make up this hypothetical story. (**Teachers:** Consider inviting seven boys and a girl up to act this out as you read these verses. Have the first boy approach the girl and have him pretend to drop-dead. Have the second boy do the same and continue on with the others. If you do this, make sure you point out afterwards that there was nothing wrong with the girl!)

Luke 20:33: With this silly story the Sadducees are trying to make belief in the resurrection look dumb. * How is Jesus going to answer this challenge? *

Luke 20:34-36: First, Jesus points out that while God gave us marriage today to sustain human life (thru children), this won’t be necessary anymore in the afterlife.

Q: What would happen if no one had kids anymore? A: While the world would become a very boring place humans would also eventually go the way of the dinosaur! But in the afterlife, people will live forever! Therefore, people will not need to get married and have children for human life to continue. So, their silly story doesn’t apply to the resurrection!

Luke 20:37: Second, Jesus takes them back to a famous passage in the Bible. * In Exodus, the second book of the Bible, Moses meets God in a burning bush. * But God identifies Himself to Moses as the God of his great-great-great-grandfathers who died many years before. The key is that He didn’t say He WAS their God, but that He IS their God! * While they died in faith, they still exist awaiting the future resurrection. *

Luke 20:38-40: Indeed, while all of us will die, our souls will continue on awaiting new resurrection bodies. So, the question isn’t IF we will live forever, it is WHERE (heaven with God or hell away from God)! At this point, even the Sadducees admit defeat. *

Key Point: Two more challenges and two more victories for Jesus. Here’s a simple summary of what we’ve learned the last two weeks: “DON’T MESS WITH JESUS!” And while you might not “mess with Jesus” like these guys did, maybe you’re just “messaging around with Jesus”. * Well, He’s not “messaging around”! He is on His way to the cross to make a way for you to be saved and resurrected to eternal life! He has proven Himself to be who He said He was: the promised Savior and Son of God! Instead of “MESSING around with Jesus”, start “YES-ing” to Jesus! Love Him, follow Him, and honor Him this week boys and girls!

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 20:20-21
What is dishonest
about their question?

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Challenge:
What do you render to
"Caesar" and what do
you render to God?

Read Exodus 3:6
How did Jesus use this
to prove there is life
after death?

