
Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2026

Class Curriculum - Back to the Bible

Age - Junior Campers

Thursday - The New Testament

Summary

1. Subject: A summary of the New Testament
2. Scripture: John 3:16, Matthew 22:36-39
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Teach your class a brief summary of the events of the New Testament. This includes the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the formation of the Church.
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Overview

This week's classes will focus on "Back to the Bible". This entails an overview of the Old and New Testaments, as well as the inspiration and inerrancy of scripture. By the end of the week, all campers should be confident that the Bible is the complete and perfect word of God: sufficient for everyone to have an everlasting relationship with God.

Today's lesson will focus on the New Testament. In short, the New Testament is the record of God creating a new and better covenant. God sends His son, Jesus Christ, to earth to live, teach, and die on the cross for our sins. Jesus is not only the Son of God; He is also God Himself. After His death, He is resurrected and shows Himself to His apostles. The events of the New Testament conclude with the formation of the early Church, and many letters that were written by inspired authors to various churches and people.



Story

10-15 minutes

The Prodigal Son

The story of the Prodigal Son is recorded in Luke 15:11-31. In a small way, this story describes the purpose of the New Covenant that God created through Jesus. This story is a parable; it was a story told by Jesus to help us understand that God desires all people to be with Him. Consider using a picture book, a children's study Bible, a skit, or any other means to tell the story. A brief summary is below:

- This story is a parable. It is not about a real person. Jesus told parables often to teach about the nature of God.
- The story begins with a man and his two sons (15:11)
- The younger son takes everything he has, and everything he will inherit, and leaves his father (15:12-13)
- The younger son goes far away and spends all that he has. He wastes all his money on selfish things until he has nothing left (15:13)
- Empty-handed, he tries to find work to do and ends up working with pigs: a dirty and difficult job. Even then, he still cannot afford to feed himself (15:15-16)
- One day, he realizes that he has made a terrible mistake. Even his father's workers are well taken care of. He decides to be a worker for his father instead (15:17-19)
- When he arrives home, his father is so excited that he runs to meet his son. The son offers to be a worker, and says he is not worthy of being treated as a son anymore.
- The father disagrees and gives his son the finest food and clothes, completely restoring him to his place at home.

The father says, "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found" (15:24). This parable, in many ways, summarizes the New Testament. Every person who has sinned has acted like the Prodigal Son. Sin removes us from God and from our place with Him in Heaven. Like the Prodigal Son, sin leads to loneliness and helplessness. The son knew he did not deserve to regain his inheritance and relationship, yet the father gave him both as soon as he came home. Likewise, we do not deserve forgiveness and restoration, yet God offers both. This is the story of the New Testament: how God sacrificed Himself for us that we may become Christians and restore our relationship with Him.

Lesson/Discussion

15 Minutes

Guided Discussion: The story of the Prodigal Son is an image that helps us understand God’s love and desire to be with us. The events of the New Testament record God’s actions of love—the life and sacrifice of Jesus—as well as the path to being with Him. Read **John 3:16** with your class.

Ask, “**What does this verse tell us about Jesus? What does it tell us about God?**” Jesus is the greatest example of love that the world has ever seen. God loved us so much that He was willing to give us His son, so that we may be His sons too. Jesus was equally committed to that love and came to this earth, allowing Himself to be sacrificed for us. In return, God asks for simple things from us.

Read **Matthew 22:36-39** together. These verses tell us to love as God does. To love Him with everything we have, and to love others, too. Ask, “**How can we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind? What does that look like today? How should we love others?**” Provide some practical examples of loving God, like spending time with Him in prayer, reading His word, and working hard to avoid sinful behavior. This may also be a good time to discuss behavior at camp and how your campers should treat the other campers. Connect Matthew 22:36-39 with John 3:16. If we believe in Jesus and His sacrifice, then we should naturally respond by loving God and obeying His commands. If we realize that God also loves those around us, we should love them the same way.

Read **Acts 2:38** together. This verse gives us the pathway to becoming Christians. Once we hear about God’s loving sacrifice, and we believe that Jesus is His Son, we are supposed to repent—change our lives to be focused on God—and be baptized. Once we are baptized, we become Christians. Like the Prodigal Son, we “come home” to God and are welcomed with His celebration.

The rest of the New Testament is the formation of the Church. The main followers of Jesus, the apostles, taught many people about Jesus, and thousands became Christians. God worked through the apostles to teach Christians how to worship and behave. As we read the New Testament, after the Gospels, we should try to be like the early Church.



Activity/Illustration

Song - The Books of the New Testament

A song that teaches about the New Testament is the Books of the New Testament Song. As you sing through this song, point out that there are more books than Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. Romans through Jude are all letters written by apostles and other inspired Christians, and they tell us many things about how to live in a way that pleases God. Revelation, the last book, is a prophecy and it describes how God completely conquers evil.

Song - The Apostle Song

Jesus had 12 followers who were special to Him, called apostles. They followed Him during His life, and taught many people about Him after His death and Resurrection. The Apostle Song helps us to remember their names. To the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”,

Jesus called them one by one: Peter, Andrew, James, and John

Next came Phillip, Thomas, too. Matthew and Bartholomew.

James, the one they called the less. Simon, also Thaddeus.

The twelfth apostle Judas made. Jesus was by him betrayed.

Yes, Jesus called them! Yes, Jesus called them. Yes, Jesus called them, and they all followed Him.

Game - Make The Motion

Split your class into partners. Assign an action to the different acts of worship that the early church practiced (e.g., for prayer: kneeling, bowing your head, and folding your hands. For scripture reading: holding your hands in front of you like a book. For the offering, pulling out your pockets. etc.). Have your campers walk around and mix themselves up. While they are still moving, call out one of the acts of worship. As soon as it is called, they need to find their partner and make the assigned motion together. For competition, eliminate the slowest group and play again until only one remains.

For another round, assign an action to the five steps of salvation: hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized. Play the game again with new calls and new motions.