



# Jesus Promises Rest

*Matthew 11:20–30*



## LESSON GOAL

The child will come to Jesus, take up His yoke, and learn from Him.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Explain why hearing about Jesus' miracles without repenting is dangerous.
- Analyze why Capernaum will be judged more severely than Sodom.
- Tell what Jesus praises the Father for doing.
- Describe Jesus' requirements and promises to those whom He calls.

## KEY VERSE

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." —Matthew 11:28*

## APPLICATION

- Respond to Jesus' miracles by repenting of your sin.
- Praise the Father who reveals Himself to whoever He pleases.
- Come to Jesus when you are weary and heavy laden.
- Take up Jesus' yoke and learn from Him.

## NEXT WEEK

Jesus Rebukes the Pharisees  
*Matthew 12:22–37*

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Introduction

After recording a sampling of Jesus’ miracles in Matthew 8–9, Matthew explores the various reactions the Israelites had to Jesus’ ministry (Matt. 11–12). Some were confused because Jesus did not meet their expectations. Even John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask if Jesus was the Coming One (11:2–3). Others complained that Jesus wasn’t an ascetic prophet like John. They described Jesus as a “glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (11:18). Because they hated His message and the challenge Jesus presented to their self-righteous system, the Pharisees accused Jesus of sinning because he healed on the Sabbath. They also claimed He could do miracles because He was empowered by Satan (Matt. 12). Their response to Jesus was to plan His death (12:14).

The question must be asked why the Jews didn’t respond to Jesus’ message of repentance. In Matthew 11:20–24, Jesus rebukes various cities for not responding in repentance to the miracles He did. The Jews had seen so many miracles and had such strong reason to heed Jesus’ call to repentance that they were going to receive judgment worse than that received by some of the most vile and wicked cities in human history. In Matthew 11:25–30, Jesus reveals the reason why most Jews did not repent. It was because the Father and Son chose not to reveal Themselves. Although the Father and Son have chosen not to reveal Themselves to all, any who wanted to come to Christ did not need to fear being turned away. The passage ends with Jesus’ giving an invitation to “all you who labor and are heavy laden” (12:28).

#### The Son Denounces (Matt. 11:20–24)

No single word should bring more fear than the word “Woe” coming from the lips of Jesus. With that one word, Jesus shows both the intensity of the Father’s displeasure and the danger of coming judgment. Because of their refusal to respond to Jesus’ miracles by heeding His command to repent, Jesus “began to rebuke the cities in which most of His miracles had been done” (11:20). Jesus pronounced two judgments. The first was against Chorazin and Bethsaida. The second was against His home Capernaum.

Jesus began by saying, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida!” Chorazin was a small village a couple miles north of Capernaum, and Bethsaida was the hometown of Andrew, Peter and Philip. Few in Chorazin and Bethsaida would have thought that they were in danger of being cursed by God. But Jesus explained why doom was imminent: “If the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes” (11:21). Chorazin and Bethsaida had stared in awe as Jesus performed miracle after miracle. They had seen their cities cleansed of demons and every

sick, lame and blind man healed. But they had not yet repented of their sin and submitted to God's Son. Jesus must have shocked the cities when he said that Tyre and Sidon, large Phoenecian cities on the Mediterranean Sea, would have responded differently to the Messiah than they had. If those wicked, Baal-worshiping cities had seen Jesus do such magnificent miracles, they would have returned to God and demonstrated their sorrow over their sin by clothing themselves in rough sackcloth and smearing themselves with ashes. Their repentance would have been visible. But because Tyre and Sidon had not seen Jesus do such miracles, Jesus said, "It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you" (11:22). Judgment will be worse for Chorazin and Bethsaida than Tyre and Sidon because Chorazin and Bethsaida did not repent when they saw the Messiah's greatness. Jesus knew that their religious hearts were harder than the pagan cities of Tyre and Sidon.

Jesus had a similar message of judgment for Capernaum, the city which had become His home when He began His public ministry. While Capernaum thought that it would be "exalted to heaven," Jesus warned that it was about to "be brought down to Hades" (11:23). The city had been blessed by being the location of a multitude of Jesus' miracles, but the city had not responded to Jesus' miracles by repenting. Because of their stiff-necked rebellion, Jesus said that "it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you" (11:24). Sodom, whose very name is synonymous with homosexual depravity, was destroyed by fire from heaven for its wickedness (Gen. 19). There were not even ten righteous men in that city (Gen. 18:32). But Jesus told Capernaum "if the mighty works were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day" (Matt. 11:23). God chose in His sovereignty not do miracles in Sodom. If He had, Sodom would have repented of their wickedness. For this reason, Capernaum was on the precipice of destruction. Although it had been blessed more than any other city in human history, Capernaum refused to repent and follow Jesus. Because of their hard hearts, the people assumed that they were acceptable before God without submitting to Jesus.

### **The Son Praises (Matt. 11:25–26)**

Jesus follows His denouncement of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum by praising the Father for being sovereign over man's salvation and for doing as He pleases. Jesus said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes" (11:25). God the Father is the Lord of heaven and earth. He alone has the right to rule as He wishes. Every sinful man considers himself "wise and prudent." He thinks that he is capable of discerning religious truth, of determining how best to save himself, and of finding his own way to happiness and heaven. Every man who considers himself "wise and prudent" does not deserve to understand "these things"—the things which are true about Jesus and the Gospel. God is perfectly just to judge every "wise and prudent" man by hiding "these things" from them.

But in the riches of His grace, God has not chosen to hide "these things" from all. God has chosen to reveal to some that they are not "wise and prudent" but that they are nothing more than "babes." Unlike those who think themselves "wise and prudent," these spiritual "babes" understand they have no right to salvation, no confidence in their works, and no ability to save themselves. They understand that they are spiritually bankrupt before God. To those who come before God humbly like a baby, God chooses to reveal the truth about Jesus and His miracles.

Jesus explains why the Father has hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes (11:25). The Father did so because it pleased Him to do so. Jesus said to the Father, "For so it seemed good in Your sight." The Father is

righteous and everything He does is righteous. He righteously does what He wants with His creation. It pleased Him not to reveal the Son to all but only to those who are spiritually babes. Jesus neither apologizes for nor regrets the Father's decision. Instead, He praises the Father for every person to whom the Father chooses to reveal Himself. Every spiritual babe is an eternal testimony to God's endless grace.

### **The Son Reveals (Matt. 11:27)**

After praising the Father for revealing the truth about Jesus to spiritual babes, Jesus then identifies Himself as the one who reveals the Father. At the end of verse 27, Jesus says that the only human who knows the Father is the "one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." Jesus is the only one who can reveal the Father for two reasons. Jesus gives the first reason: "All things have been delivered to Me by the Father" (11:27). "All things" refers to just what Jesus says: everything! Jesus has all authority, all power, all truth, all knowledge, all judgment. Everything has been given to the Son by the Father. The Son can reveal the Father because the Father has given permission and authority to the Son to do so. The second reason that Jesus can reveal the Father is that "no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son" (11:27). Only God knows God. Because Jesus is God, He knows the Father perfectly even as the Father knows Him perfectly. Jesus not only knows the Father perfectly but can reveal the Father to whom He wishes. Just as the Father chooses to reveal the truth about Jesus to whomever He wants, Jesus reveals the Father to whomever He wants.

### **The Son Calls (Matt. 11:28–30)**

In Matthew 11:28–30, Jesus reveals the precious truth that He does wish to make the Father known. Because of His authority, Jesus calls men to Himself and gives those who heed his call encouraging promises. Jesus calls those "who labor and are heavy laden" (11:28). To labor means to work to the point of exhaustion. Those who are heavy laden have had a load placed on them which is too heavy to carry. When Jesus calls those "who labor and are heavy laden," He calls people to Himself who recognize that they are incapable of satisfying God's righteous requirements either through their own efforts or by trying to live up to another's religious standard. He promises the weary and heavy laden, "I will give you rest" (11:28). When those who are desperate for righteousness come to Jesus, He promises to give them that righteousness. They will be able to cease their striving and have peace with God.

When Jesus called the heavy laden to Himself, He also called them to submit to Him. Jesus said to them, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me" (11:29). Those who would come to Jesus must be willing to obey both His commands and receive His instructions. Because Jesus is "gentle and lowly in heart" (11:29), His commands and instructions should not be dreaded. Jesus is both Master and Servant. He meekly and mercifully ministers to those who serve Him. Because He is such a gentle Master, Jesus promises those who follow Him, "You will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (11:29–30). Because Jesus gives His righteousness to those who have given up fabricating their own righteousness, Jesus' servants can rejoice in His righteous commands. He has taken the weight they could not bear and freed them to serve willingly. The only place a man will ever rest will be under the yoke of His Lord. For that reason, Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden light.

### **Conclusion**

The cities in which Jesus did His miracles will receive greater judgment because they did not repent and submit to Him. They did not repent because they were

“wise and prudent” in their own eyes. For this reason, God hid the truth about Jesus from them. But God did not hide that truth from all, although all deserve to have that truth hidden. Jesus praised the Father that it pleased Him to reveal Jesus to those who are spiritual babes, who recognize they are morally deficient and unable to satisfy God’s righteous commands. To these babes, Jesus has the authority to reveal the Father. Any who would know the Father must submit to Jesus’ call and come to Him, take up His yoke and learn from Him. Any who do so will find rest, rather than judgment.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”*  
—Psalm 78:1

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

What happens as Jesus was at a feast talking with some men?

*While Jesus was at the feast a synagogue ruler named Jairus (Mark 5:22) asked Jesus help his daughter. Jairus asks Jesus if He would come and lay His hands on her so that she might live again. So Jesus went with him.*

What happened as Jesus was on His way to Jairus’ house?

*A sick woman found Jesus and thought “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well” (Matt. 9:21). Then she touched Jesus’ clothes.*

What happened after the woman touched the edge of Jesus’ robe?

*The woman was healed. Jesus knew who had touched Him. He had compassion on her.*

What had happened to Jairus’ daughter?

*She died.*

What did Jesus do for the girl?

*Jesus went into the room and took the girl by the hand and told her to arise. Her spirit came back and she was alive.*



### Woe Is Who?

Jesus’ woes were an expression of denunciation and warning. These He proclaimed on Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum which together represented the places where He had performed most of His miracles. He had performed more miracles and preached more sermons in and around Capernaum than any other place. These places were not so much opposed to Him as indifferent. The fate was thus to be worse than Tyre and Sidon and Sodom. These cities, which were renowned for their pagan idolatry and immorality, were completely destroyed by God as a result (Ezek. 28:11-19; Jer. 25:22, 47:4). They had received the greatest revelation and were guilty of the greatest sin, that of rejecting Christ. Ask the children to rate different sins such as lying, murder, disobeying parents, etc. What



about ignoring someone, is this a serious sin? In this week's lesson we will find out that ignoring a certain person is worse than all the other sins combined.



### **Revealing and Concealing**

Jesus revealed the character and will of God perfectly. John says "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made him known." (John 1:18). In the person of Jesus, God gave us a clearer and more comprehensive picture of Himself than ever before. Today we have that picture etched on the pages of the New Testament. The children should realize that God cannot be known apart from the revelation which comes through Jesus Christ His son. Introduce this truth to the children by showing them various objects which are concealed under a cloth or in a box. Have them try to guess what the object is. Describe the object to them. Explain to them that you are the only person who knows exactly what the object is and so only you can reveal it to them. However, Jesus did not come to describe what an object is like, but to introduce us to a person, His Father.



### **Election**

After rebuking those who had not responded to His ministry, Jesus goes on to praise God for His wisdom and sovereignty in choosing who would believe on Him. Here we see clearly that God is sovereign in determining who will know and accept Christ and yet people are still culpable for their rejection of Him. To our modern society, which clambers for equal rights, equal opportunities, and performance-based rewards, this may appear unfair or even unjust. You could maybe illustrate this to the children by handing out some candies to some of the class, but not to everyone. It will not take long before the children begin to question why some children got something and others did not. This provides the perfect opportunity to explain to the children what we all really deserve. God is under no obligation to distribute His grace equally any more than we are obligated to share all that we have equally amongst all. How many ice cream cones, toys, vacations, meals, clothes, etc. have each of the children enjoyed even though there are thousands of children who have no such luxuries.



### **What Are You Working For?**

Generally children are usually not as familiar with hard work as are adults. What adult has not literally felt weary and heavy laden? Yet, Jesus was not offering rest from hard work when He invited people to come to Him, but an alternative to an impossible task; the impossible task of earning one's salvation. Jesus' alternative was to rest in Him, to take up His yolk and to learn from Him. Ask the children to name some things that you have to pay for e.g. various toys, going to the theatre, playing sports, video games, etc. Ask them to tell you one or two of their favorite toys or past-times. Did they have to pay for it? More than likely, they were given their favorite toys by a family member and their favorite games involved playing with friends and family. We don't pay for these things; in fact, to attempt to pay for them would be a great insult. We enjoy these things "free of charge" because we have a relationship with the person who gave it to us. In the same way, Jesus said that we cannot pay Him anything in order to get into heaven. He wants to have a relationship with us, for us to become part of His family; He wants to be our father. That means that He will give us everything we need; but it also means that, just like our moms and dads, we have to obey Him.



### **Pride with a Capital “S”**

Pride is focusing on SELF as the beginning and end of all things. It is seeking to serve self, to exalt self, to focus on self in independence from God. The nature of pride means that we often fail to recognize it in our own lives. Give the children a difficult task to perform e.g. to draw something difficult on the board or to put a puzzle together within a time limit or to cut out a complex craft, etc. Tell them that they may not ask for help, but must work on their own. Call them together and ask them how they felt. Did some of them feel frustrated? Did any of them think of helping others? How many of them started complaining? Pride does something very similar: it does not allow us to ask for help, it gets us all focused on ourselves and our problems and we forget about other people, it makes us feel frustrated or want to give up. Pride will always get us into trouble. Have any of the children tried to do something on their own when they should have asked for help? Why did they do this and what happened? In today’s lesson we will see how some people were in big trouble with Jesus because of their pride. They thought that they were so good and so clever that they did not need God’s help.



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### **Needing Help?**

Jesus reveals the pride of men’s hearts who refuse to acknowledge their need and to come to the only one who can help them. This can be well illustrated with a simple skit. Have one teacher pretend to be struggling at home with a plumbing problem. Another teacher can come in saying that he is a plumber. He can show some of his equipment and his qualifications to the class and to another teacher. The first teacher must, however, reject his help and continue struggling on his own. The plumber simply shakes his head, “Call me when you realize that you need help.” Jesus said that we must call upon Him when we realize that we have a problem that we cannot fix on our own—our sin problem.



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### **Hide and Reveal Game**

Before class begins, hide some “treasures” which could be treats or little scrolls with verses for today’s lesson. Let the children search and find them, or make them difficult to find so that you will have to “reveal” where they are with clues or specific instructions. Also, the teacher could reveal the location to one child who could then find the treasure.



### **Take My Yoke Upon You**

Have the children run a relay race. The teacher will be able to use the race as an illustration in the teaching time. Before coming to class, prepare four backpacks (or another type of bag) for the children to carry/hold as they run. Two of the backpacks will be very heavy. You may want to make them so heavy that the kids have to drag them. The other two backpacks can each have a fluffy pillow or a bag of popcorn, anything which will give the bag a shape but still be very light. Divide the children into two teams and have them line up. The first child from each team has to carry/drag the heavy backpack to a marked point, turn around, and bring the heavy backpack back. When they return, they must say “I am weary and heavy laden; give me rest!” When the child says the phrase, take his heavy backpack and give him a light one. He can then run to the pre-marked spot again, turn around, and come back. As soon as he returns, the next child can begin to carry his heavy backpack. The first team whose children run the course with both backpacks wins.



# PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

## Bible Lesson

### Passage Outline

The Son Denounces (Matt. 11:20–24)

The Son Praises (Matt. 11:25–26)

The Son Reveals (Matt. 11:27)

The Son Calls (Matt. 11:28–30)

### Introduction

Have you ever been warned by your Mom or Dad not to disobey them? Maybe you even saw a brother or sister being punished for their disobedience. Then maybe you disobeyed anyway and then Mom and Dad were very angry at you? Well, in today’s lesson Jesus rebukes the people of 3 cities because of their lack of faith even though they saw that He truly was God through His words and miracles. He gave them the opportunity to repent of their sin and trust in Him but they did not. Let’s see what Jesus said to the people in today’s story.



### Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** Why do we find Jesus so upset at the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum in the beginning of today’s lesson?

**Answer:** Jesus was upset with these three cities because they had not responded correctly to His message of repentance. Even though they had seen the many miracles Jesus had done, they had chosen not to be obedient to His instructions. By not repenting of their sin, the Jews in Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum had failed to submit to Jesus as King.

**LOQ:** According to Jesus, how did the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida compare with the cities of Tyre and Sidon?

**Answer:** According to Jesus, Chorazin and Bethsaida were like Tyre and Sidon in that they had failed to repent of their sin. The only difference between the two was that where Chorazin and Bethsaida had the privilege of seeing Christ’s miracles, Tyre and Sidon had not.

**LOQ:** Even though all four cities had not repented of their sin, why does Jesus choose to rebuke the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida over Tyre and Sidon?

**Answer:** Jesus chooses to rebuke Chorazin and Sidon because they had seen the miracles that had proven Him to be the Messiah. Even though they had seen

these miraculous things, they still desired to live in their sin rather than Jesus. Jesus notes that if Tyre and Sidon had seen the same miracles that Chorazin and Bethsaida had, they would have responded differently by repenting of their sin.

**LOQ:** Why did Jesus say that it would be better for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for Chorazin and Bethsaida?

**Answer:** According to Jesus, Chorazin and Bethsaida would be punished worse because they had been given the special gift of being able to see Christ's miracles. These miracles should have been enough to encourage them to repent of their sin. Since Tyre and Sidon did not have the chance to see these miracles, their judgment would not be as painful as Chorazin and Bethsaida's.

**LOQ:** What city do we see Jesus rebuking after the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida?

**Answer:** Like Chorazin and Bethsaida, Capernaum had failed to respond to Jesus' message of repentance. Even though they too had seen the miracles of Jesus, they chose to not turn from their sins and follow Christ.

**LOQ:** Where does Jesus say that the people of Capernaum are going to be sent?

**Answer:** Jesus told the people of Capernaum that they were going to Hell because they had not repented of their sin. Even though they thought they were heading to Heaven to be with Him, they were really going to be sent to a place where they would be judged forever for their sins.

**LOQ:** What other city does Jesus compare the people of Capernaum to?

**Answer:** Jesus compares Capernaum to a very wicked city named Sodom. Sodom was around thousands of years ago, and like Capernaum, they too were unrepentant of their sin.

**LOQ:** What was the difference between Sodom and Capernaum?

**Answer:** Jesus says that unlike Capernaum, Sodom did not have the privilege of being able to see Jesus' miracles. God had chosen to destroy Sodom for their sin before the time that the Messiah had been sent to earth. Jesus says that if they had seen the same miracles that Capernaum had seen, Sodom would have repented and not been destroyed.

**LOQ:** What does Jesus say about Capernaum being judged for their sin?

**Answer:** Several thousands of years ago, God chose to judge Sodom by sending a fire down from heaven that burned the entire city. Jesus says that Capernaum's judgment was going to be far more painful than Sodom's. Because they had seen the miracles of Jesus, they were held more responsible for responding to Jesus' message of repentance.

**LOQ:** What does Jesus immediately do after rebuking the cities for not repenting?

**Answer:** Matthew records that after Jesus finished rebuking the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum He began to praise God. At this time He thanks His Father for hiding the truth from the wise and revealing it to those who are like babes. Because God had hidden the truth from them, the wise were unable to see their need for Jesus as their Messiah.

**LOQ:** Who was Jesus referring to when He mentioned those who were wise and those who were babes?

**Answer:** The wise men were those who thought they knew how to best save themselves. They thought that by merely keeping God's commands and doing religious things they could earn their way to heaven. Because of their pride and hardened hearts, God chose to keep the wise from understanding the truth about his Son Jesus. Those that were babes were those who, unlike the wise, were humble before the Lord. Like newborn babes, these people knew that they had no ability to save themselves and that they needed someone else to save them. Because of their humility, God chose to reveal the truth about His Son Jesus to them.

**LOQ:** What does Jesus say about why God chooses to reveal the truth to some but not all?

**Answer:** Jesus says that God only reveals the truth to those who are like babes because it pleases Him to do so. Jesus praises the Father for every person the Father chooses to reveal Himself.

**LOQ:** What does Jesus choose to reveal about Himself?

**Answer:** Matthew records that after praising the Father, Jesus identifies Himself as the one who reveals the Father. Jesus alone has the power to reveal God to men for two reasons. First, all things have been given to Jesus. This means that God has given Jesus the power to reveal the truth to men. Secondly, Jesus is able to reveal the Father because He is the only one who truly knows God. Because He is God, He perfectly knows the God. Jesus not only knows the Father perfectly but can reveal the Father to whom ever He chooses.

**LOQ:** What does Jesus then invite the people to do?

**Answer:** The Bible says that Jesus invited all those who "labor and are heavy laden" to come Him. By calling those "who labor and are heavy laden" Jesus calls all people who realize that they are incapable of fulfilling God's righteous requirements for salvation.

**LOQ:** What does Jesus promise to those He invites to come to Himself?

**Answer:** Jesus promises rest and peace to those who come to Him. When those who are desperate for righteousness come to Jesus, He promises to give them that righteousness through His death on the cross. They will no longer have to strive to earn God's acceptance for it will already be given to them through Christ Jesus.

**LOQ:** What instructions does Jesus give to those who would come to Him?

**Answer:** Matthew records that Jesus asks those who are weary and heavy-laden to take his yoke upon them and learn from Him. This means that those who come to Jesus must be willing to submit to Him as Lord. They must be willing to obey His commands and receive His instructions. These commands of Jesus are no longer heavy like the law that the Jews in His day were trying to fulfill.

### Summary

In today's lesson, Jesus starts off warning the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum to be careful. These cities in which Jesus did His miracles will receive greater punishment for their sin because they did not repent and submit to Him. They

did not repent because they thought they were wise and that they could earn their way unto heaven. Because their hearts were hardened toward God, God hid the truth about Jesus from them. But God did not hide the truth from all. No Jesus praised God that it pleased Him to reveal Jesus to those who were like spiritual babes. Like newborns, they realized that they were unable to do anything pleasing before God because of their sin and that they needed to depend on someone else to save them. To these babes, Jesus has been given the authority to reveal God the Creator to them. After realizing their need for a Savior, Jesus invites those who are tired and weary to come to Him and find rest. If they would but submit to Him they would no longer have to try to earn their way to God by themselves. From now on they could depend on the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. In order to receive this righteousness, they were instructed to submit to Jesus as Lord and receive the instructions that He desired to give them. Any who would do this would find rest for their soul and would be rescued from judgment.

### Application

Because God is a gracious and merciful Master, His invitation for rest and life still stands today. If God so chooses to reveal His Son Jesus to any one of us, we are called to repent from our sin and turn to the Savior. We, like those of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, are responsible for responding to this message of Christ. In fact, because we have Jesus' life and miracles recorded in the Scriptures, we too are held greatly responsible for our response to Jesus. If we choose to not repent and submit to Him, we will be greatly punished for our sin. If we instead chose to repent and obey His instructions He promises to provide rest and eternal life with Him.

### Presentation Ideas



#### A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lessons.



#### Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



#### Jesus Reveals the Father

As the teacher, bring to class someone that you know fairly well (you could also bring a photo of this individual). You should know this person well enough to be able to tell the class several things about them. Once you have introduced the guest, have the students try to guess several things about your visitor (i.e., their favorite color, Bible verse, or sport). After the children struggle to reveal certain information about the guest, proceed to tell them various things that you know about your friend. Be sure to point out that you are able to reveal these things about your friend because you know each other. Explain that in the same way, Jesus is the only one able to reveal the Father because He is the only one that knows Him perfectly.



#### A Greater Punishment

Pose a situation before the class where two siblings (one is three and the other is thirteen) interact with one another. In this posed scenario, the 3-year-old draws on the wall and gets in mild trouble. Minutes later, the thirteen old older sibling does the exact same thing and writes on the wall. The parents of the family proceed to punish the older sibling for disobeying. Ask the class who of the two siblings probably deserves to be punished more severely. Naturally the older

sibling's punishment should be more severe than the younger's. This is because she has just witnessed her sibling get in trouble for the exact same thing and has a greater accountability. Because of this, the older sibling should know better than to write on the wall. In the same way, Jesus warned Capernaum that their punishment would be far more painful than Sodom's. Even though Capernaum had seen the miracles of Jesus, they continued to remain resistant to Jesus' call for repentance. Since Capernaum had the witness of Jesus' miracles and Sodom did not, Capernaum would be held more responsible for their disobedience.



### Revealed

With the class in front of you, begin to pass a note between you and another teacher. Without letting the class know what you are communicating, continue to read the note back and forth between each other. As you giggle back and forth, pretending to keep a secret from the class, give the other teacher permission to read the note aloud to the class. Explain to the class how none of them deserve to know what it is that you and the other teacher are communicating. Even still, you have given the other teacher permission to reveal your secret that is in the note. In the same way explain how Jesus has been given the authority and permission to reveal the Father.

### Praise and Worship

*O Worship the King*

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*

*My Jesus I Love Thee*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7*

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### "Requirements and Promises"

Materials: copies of "Requirements and Promises" worksheet, scissors, pencils

Directions: Have students cut off the bottom portion of their page. Next have them cut out the sections of Matthew 11:28–30 and have glue the section inside the correct column based on whether they are Jesus' requirements or promises.



### "Jesus Reveals the Father"

Materials Needed: copies of "Jesus Reveals the Father" craft pages, yarn, scissors, glue, crayons, glitter, or other decorations

Directions: Give each child a copy of the craft pages. Instruct the students to fold the "Jesus Reveals the Father" page in half. Help them punch a hole in the left side of the paper where indicated and then help them cut out the keyhole. Next, have the students cut out the pieces from the second page. Then they can glue the "God the Father" title and characteristics of God to the inside of the fold. Punch a hole in the top of the key and attach the key to the paper by threading one end of the piece of yarn through the key and the other end through the punched out hole.

When the children open the page they will be able to read what Jesus reveals to us about God. Discuss that Jesus revealing God the Father was showing who He truly is, and attributes are what is true about God. Students can decorate the craft using crayons, glitter, etc.



### **Responding Responsibly**

Have a teacher or helper dress strangely and then come in, stand before the class and then simply walk out. This can be repeated three or four times with different outfits. Then have the teacher come in dressed normally and ask the children how they had responded to him. What did they think, do, and say? Did they all know who you really were? Why did they respond as they did? What were some of the different ways that people responded to Jesus and His miracles? Did they know who He really was? Why did they respond that way? The teacher obviously intended to make you laugh, but how did Jesus want people to respond to Him? It is important to realize that God will judge us by how we respond to His Word. If we come to Sunday school and simply ignore His Word and His Son; then we will be judged just like the cities in today's lesson.



### **"Jesus promises rest"**

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.

### **Coloring Pages**

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



### **MEMORY VERSE**

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

—*Matthew 11:28*



# Requirements and Promises

To better understand what Jesus is saying in Matthew 11:28–30, cut out the lines of the verse at the bottom of the page and glue them into the correct section based on whether they are Jesus' requirements or promises to those whom He calls to be Christians.

## Jesus' Requirements for those whom He Calls

## Jesus' Promises to those whom He Calls

Come to Me, all who are weary  
and heavy-laden

and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you,  
and learn from Me,

for I am gentle and humble in heart;

and you shall find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.



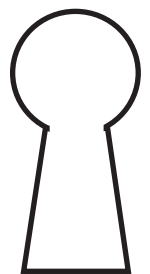
# Jesus Reveals the Father

“...nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

—*Matthew 11:27b*



Use your key to open up and reveal what is inside.



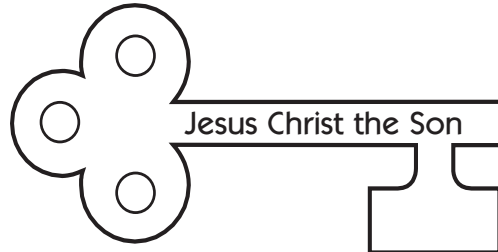


# Jesus Reveals the Father

**All-Knowing**

**Perfect**

**Creator**



**Love**

**Unchanging**

**Creator**

**God**  
**the Father**





# Jesus

*promises*  
**rest**



**Matthew 11:20-30**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** Jesus rebuked the cities who had seen His mighty works but did not \_\_\_\_\_ of their sin.

**2.** List the three cities that Jesus rebuked.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** True or False: These cities would be judged more severely than Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom. \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Fill in the blanks from Matthew 11:28.

“ \_\_\_\_\_ to me, all you who \_\_\_\_\_ and are  
\_\_\_\_\_, and I will give you  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

**5.** Jesus' yoke is \_\_\_\_\_ and His burden is \_\_\_\_\_.





**"Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent."**

**—Matthew 11:20**





**“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” —Matthew 11:28–29**

