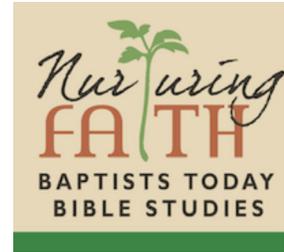


Youth Teaching Resources

December 11, 2016



Season of Advent (November 27-December 25)

Psalm 122 – “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”

Matthew 3:1-12 – “Starving for Hope”

Matthew 11:2-11 – “The Real McCoy”

Matthew 1:18-25 – “The Invisible Man”

Season of Christmas (December 25 – January 1)

Titus 3:4-7 – “Why Christmas Matters”

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Subscribe to *Nurturing Faith* to access the core Bible content for this lesson. Find links and videos related to this lesson.

The Real McCoy

Matthew 11:2-11

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

“Who am I?” is the most important question of your youth’s life right now. A lot of what they struggle with can be related back to trying to figure out this question. One of the things that is hard about this question is that there are so many people other than your youth telling them the answer to this question; even you. As we help our youth find the answer to this question, be patient with them as they try out new answers to this question. Ask questions that are guiding but don’t give a specific answer. Remember, the question is “Who am I?”, not “Who do you want me to be?”

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Before the session begins write the names of several popular people on separate index cards. As each person arrives, tape one of these index cards to their forehead without them seeing the name of the person on their card. Instruct each person as they come in that they are to figure out who is on their card by asking other people for clues. When everyone has figured out who their person is, bring the group together and facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What was challenging about this activity? What is one thing you would have changed about this activity to make it easier?
- 2) Who’s card would you have rather had than your own? Explain your answer?
- 3) Did you have anything in common with the person on your card?
- 4) Have you ever been described as someone you really aren’t? How did that make you feel?
- 5) How does being a person of faith give you a description? Has there been a time when this has ever been taken in the wrong way?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Matthew 11.2-11. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information found in Tony's commentary to answer their questions. When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Why was John the Baptist in jail?
- 2) Do you think John the Baptist is having second thoughts about Jesus? Explain. What is John the Baptist questioning about Jesus?
- 3) Why does Jesus explain to the crowd the importance of John the Baptist?
- 4) What is the paradox that Jesus presents when he describes John compared to those in heaven?

If your group would like to dig deeper in their discussion, share some of the insights that Tony provides in the "Digging Deeper" portion of his commentary. You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Who were the Herods of the Bible?
- 2) What are the different ways that people see Jesus in our world?
- 3) What does the blessing statement of verse 6 remind you of?
How does it relate to the other Beatitudes?

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" if they would like to continue their discussion on this passage. Tony poses the following question to consider as "The Hardest Question": Why was John confused about Jesus as the Messiah?

Transformation

Conclude your session by showing the clip “Is There Something You Want to Hear?” from *Moana*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What does Moana declare she is going to do? Why doesn't her grandmother stop her?
- 2) How does Moana view her grandmother?
- 3) Moana exacerbates, “Is there something you want to tell me?” and her grandmother responds, “Is there something you want to hear?” This is much like an exchange between Jesus and John the Baptist. What does John the Baptist want to hear from Jesus? Does Jesus respond the way that John wants him to respond?
- 4) When has there been a time in your life someone hasn't responded the way you wanted them to? How did you react?
- 5) When has there been a time when your faith has caused you to do something you didn't expect? What was the outcome?
- 6) How does Jesus call us to live knowing that we will be even greater in heaven?

Close with a prayer praising God for the uniqueness that each of us have.