Lesson 10: We Have the Mind of Christ

Overview:

Key Focus: God's Word teaches us Christ's mind.

Bible Story: Healing the Blind Man

Scriptures: John 14:26, Ephesians 4:23–24, Philippians 4:8

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Index cards
- Gift bag
- Hats

Classroom Prep:

- Write each word of the verse on an index cards, or if your group is smaller, put 2–3 words on each card. You will need tape and a chair for each index card. Have music ready to play.
- Write on a paper, "the mind of Christ" and place it in the gift bag.

Engage:

What is something you would love to learn about? Allow each child to share something. **How will you learn about it?** Help each person think about people and resources that could help them learn the topic they chose. **If you wanted to learn to be an airline pilot, would you take classes at a school for cutting hair?** (No.) **If you wanted to learn to be a teacher, would you go to cooking school?** (No.) **The topics you want to learn are best learned from someone who is an expert or who knows that topic. Today's Bible lesson is going to show us another gift we receive at salvation and who teaches us to use it.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. In a large circle, arrange 12 chairs and tape an index card on each chair. Play music while the children walk around the circle. When the music stops, the children who get a seat say their word as the seated children go around the circle and say the verse. Then have all the children standing say the verse. Continue this pattern so the verse is said several times.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

Bible Story:

When you are born, you had to learn everything. You didn't know how to walk, talk, or play. How did you learn to talk? (Possible answers: My parents named things and I repeated them; I pointed and my parents had me practice saying the word; I listened and learned the names of things.) **There is one thing you didn't need to be taught—you didn't need to be taught to sin. Sin came naturally to you because everyone is born with a sin nature that automatically knows how to sin. Before salvation, sin feels normal because your mind did not focus on God or want to follow His ways. But when you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and accept His forgiveness of all your sins—you receive a new gift.** Choose a volunteer to open the gift bag. **Receiving the mind of Christ isn't a surgery or anything that you can see with your eyes. Your spirit inside receives the gift. The mind of Christ doesn't replace your brain. You still have access to your own thoughts. You really have access to two minds with two different thoughts.**

How many of you are learning another language? Allow responses. **When you learn a second language, it doesn't replace the language you used since you were born. Instead, you stop and think about what the word is in the new language. As you practice the language, you don't have to stop and think as long to know what word to say.** Share any experience you have with a second language. **When you learn a new language, you want to learn from someone who lived in that country and has spoken the language for a long time. You want an expert to teach you so you learn correctly and know all there is to know about the language. Christians have the mind of Christ but it doesn't mean they automatically think like Jesus. We want to learn everything we can about the mind of Christ, so we need to go to an expert. God gave us a special Helper who will guide us to know the mind of Christ.** Read John 14:26. **When we say "yes" to Jesus forgiving us from all of our sins, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. God gave the Holy Spirit the job of reminding us what Jesus said and helping us think like Him. You can ask the Holy Spirit to help you know the mind of Christ.**

Before salvation, your mind thought like everyone else's mind that wasn't following God's ways. But when you receive the mind of Christ, you don't want to keep thinking like other people who don't have the mind of Christ. Read Ephesians 4:23–24. **When something is renewed, it is made new. So, if your mind used to think like the world and not like Jesus, it**

needs to be made new so that it thinks like Jesus. For example, before you were saved from your sins, you might have wanted to get even if someone made fun of you. After you were saved, you don't want to think about getting even because you have the mind of Christ and want to think like Jesus about what to say and how to react to a situation.

When Jesus saw a blind man, He knew money might help the man, but healing the blind man would be the best thing for him. When Jesus knew demons were in a person, He knew that making the demons leave was the best thing for the person. When Jesus knew there was a storm, He knew calming the storm was the best thing to do. Jesus always chose to do the best thing that would bring glory to God. Every time Jesus did a miracle or healing—He wasn't trying to get attention on Him—He wanted God to get the glory and people to know about God's love for them. When we use our mind to think like Jesus thinks, we will look for ways to give God glory and tell people about Jesus' free gift of salvation.

We have homework to do so that we can learn how to think and act like Jesus. The Bible is the best source to learn about what kind of thoughts we should have. Read Philippians 4:8. **This verse mentions eight things that we should think about. Let's look at each one and see how it shows we are thinking just like Jesus.**

- ***true* – When something is true, we know it sounds like Jesus because He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." What is something true that you can think about?** (Possible answers: The Bible teaches me how to live, God loves me, I will go to heaven, Jesus died for my sins.)
- ***noble* – When something is noble, it is worthy of respect and honorable. When you go out of your way to help someone else, you are doing a noble thing. Jesus did a noble thing to die for the sins of the world. What are some noble things you can think about?** (Possible answers: helping others, being a hero, watching out for my younger siblings)
- ***just* – When something is just, it is fair and right. The Ten Commandments are a list of just rules that are fair and right. What are some just things you can think about?** (Possible answers: telling the truth, obeying my parents, being kind to my neighbor)
- ***pure* – When something is pure, it is without evil and is innocent. Jesus was pure and without sin, but He chose to take on our sin. What are some pure things you can think about**? (Possible answers: Jesus, heaven, God's love for me, God's Word)
- ***lovely* – When something is lovely, it has beauty from the inside and the outside. King David called the tabernacle of God lovely. What are some lovely things you can think about?** (Possible answers: my baby sister, Jesus, singing praises to God)
- **good report – When something has a good report, it is highly favored and praised. Jesus gave a good report about heaven and preparing a place for us there. What are some things of good report that you can think about?** (Possible answers: helping my friend, staying after church to help clean up the classroom, doing my best, answers to prayer)
- ***virtue* – When something has virtue, it has high moral goodness and integrity. Jesus showed virtue in everything He did. What are some things of virtue that you can think**

about? (Possible answers: Jesus died to take away my sins so I don't have to be punished for them; Jesus left heaven to come to the earth to save us from our sins.)

- ***praiseworthy* – What are some praiseworthy things that you can think about?** (Possible answers: Jesus died for my sins; God loves me and wants to be in relationship with me; the Holy Spirit is inside me helping me.)

The more you learn about Jesus; the more you will think, talk, and act like you have the mind of Christ in you! Lead a cheer for having the mind of Christ!

Bible Story Questions:

- **What gift do you get when you believe on Jesus and accept salvation?** (At salvation, you get the mind of Christ.)
- **How do you explain to someone what the mind of Christ is?** (Possible answer: The mind of Christ helps me know how to think and act like Jesus.)
- **How can you renew your mind to think like Jesus?** (Possible answers: by reading the Bible, listen to the Holy Spirit, think on good things)
- **What are some good things that Philippians 4:8 tells us to think about?** (Philippians 4:8 says to think on things that are: true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy.)
- **When is a time that you showed that you have the mind of Christ in you?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Think about some things you will do this week. What situation would you like to have the mind of Christ to help you?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- In a large open area, have the children spread out and select a volunteer to tag people. Everyone has to hop and when a person is tagged, the person freezes and calls out "I have the mind of Christ. I know …" and name something they learned about Jesus. After they say something, they are no longer frozen. After two minutes, choose a different volunteer. Challenge the children to say something about Jesus that hasn't been said in the first round of play. Continue this pattern as time allows.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Set out a variety of hats. Have the children put on the hat each time you mention something that shows they have the mind of Christ.

  Mind of Christ: I want to help others; I love God's Word; I am kind; I am happy; I obey; I say nice things; I tell people about Jesus.

Not the Mind of Christ: I don't help others; I don't love God's Word; I am mean; I am grumpy; I disobey; I don't say nice things; I don't tell people about Jesus.

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids: ★
  Divide the children into small groups to write down various scenarios that could happen to the children this week. For example, you are at your friend's house and he wants to sneak into his older brother's room and take some of his things. After a few minutes, let each group have a turn reading a scenario to the whole group. Choose a volunteer to respond with an unrenewed mind response, such as you agree to help your friend sneak into the room. Choose a volunteer to respond with a renewed mind response, such as you tell your friend that is wrong and get him to play outside with you. Repeat the process as time allows.

Worksheet:
Read the directions and words in the maze. Guide the children to find the pathway through the maze. Then, have them circle the words below that were along the pathway. Discuss how each word shows a way to renew their minds. On the back of their papers, have them draw or write about how they will act when they use the mind of Christ this week.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I have the mind of Christ.
I will learn from Jesus.
I will think and act like Him.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The world's knowledge doesn't come from God, but from what man thinks and decides is true. When people don't have the mind of Christ, they make choices for their lives without asking or learning from the expert who created them—God! As believers in Christ, we have an unfair advantage because we have the mind of Christ and can think and act like Him. He shows us His plan for our lives and helps us. Encourage the children to make choices this week that show they have the mind of Christ and believe God's Word and act according to it.

Missions Connection:
Christians should look to Jesus to know what to think about things. God's Word contains the answers to help people renew their minds and find answers for life. Many languages still don't have the Bible translated into their native language. Pray for Bible translators to finish the task of making Bibles that people can read in their heart language (their first language and language they dream in).

Family Connection:
This week help your child recognize when he or she is using the mind of Christ to respond in a way that looks and sounds like Jesus. Point out ways your child could have responded selfishly but chose to think of someone else. Make a chart and keep track of using the mind of Christ. Read the Bible and Christian books together, watch Christian videos, listen to praise music, and talk about how the Holy Spirit shows you how to renew your mind. Celebrate each time your child thinks about something listed in Philippians 4:8.

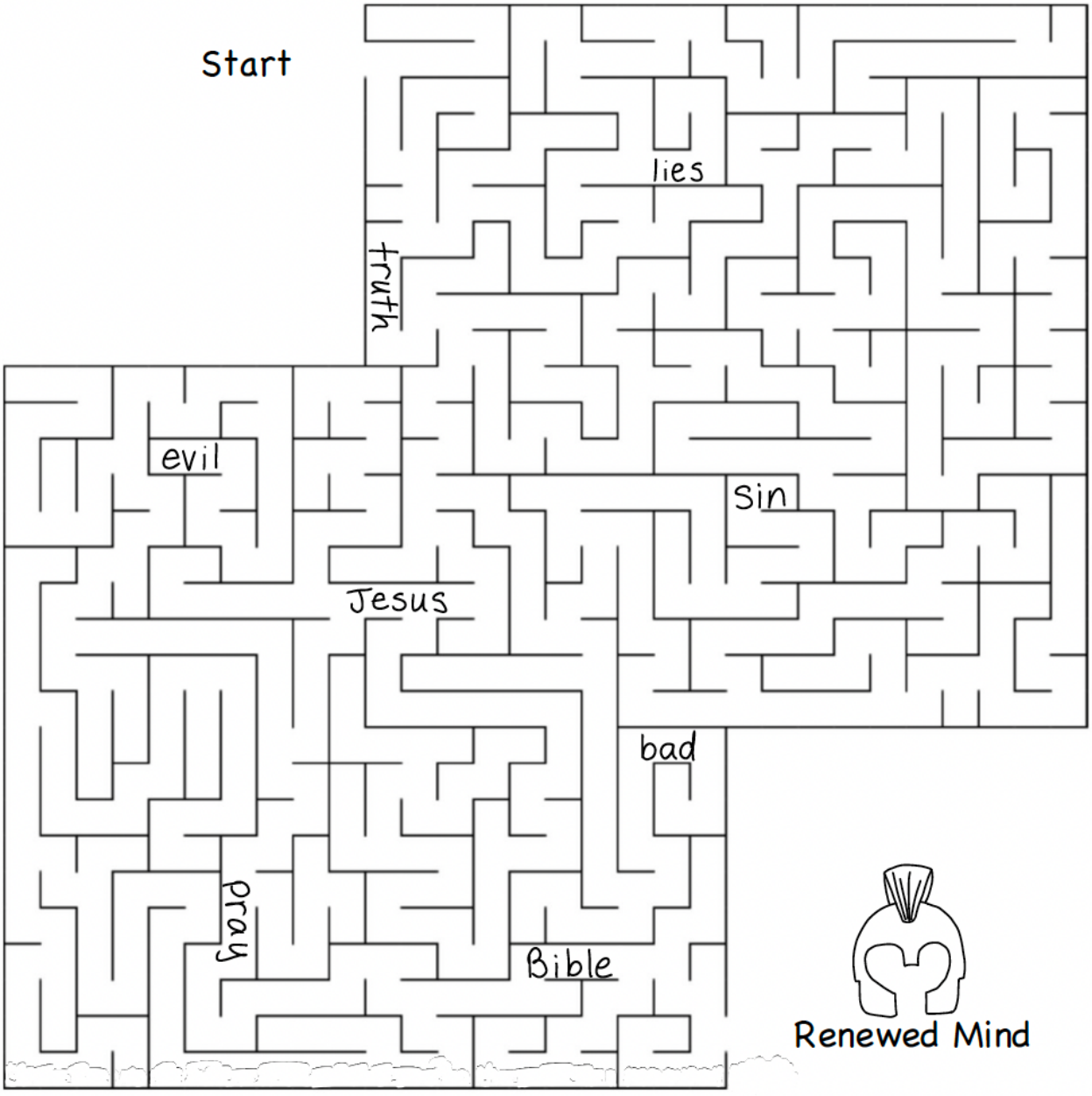
Prayer Points:
Lead the children in this repeat prayer.

Dear God,
Thank You for giving me the mind of Christ.
Help me renew my mind.
Help me think thoughts that please You.
Help me think about things the way Jesus does.
Help me think on good things.
I ask this in the name of Jesus, amen.

Name _____

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Follow the path showing ways to have a renewed mind.



Circle the words below that guided you on the path to a renewed mind.

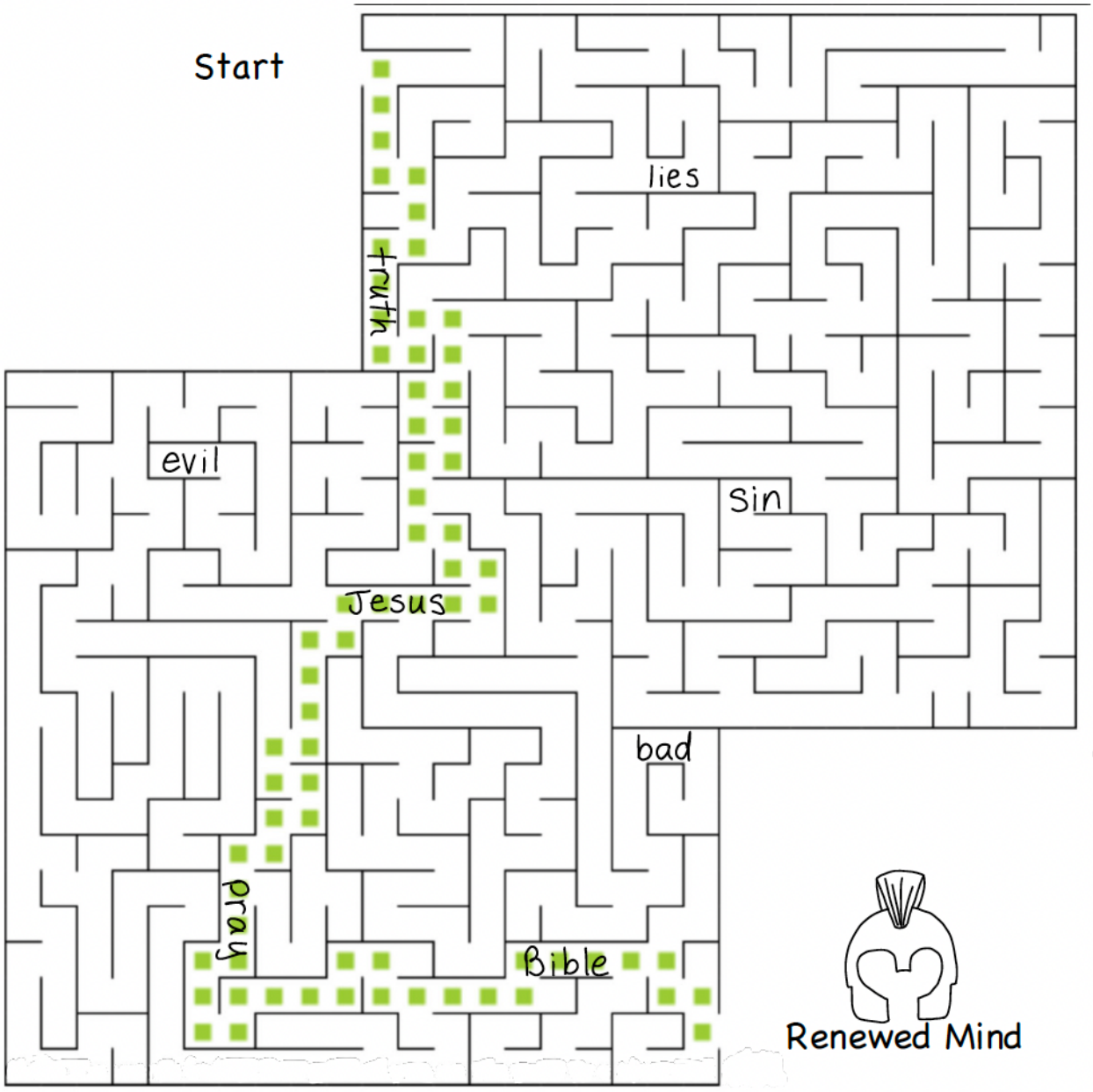
Bible, lies, truth, evil, Jesus, sin, pray, bad

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw or write about how you will act when you use the mind of Christ this week.*

ANSWERS

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