

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER LESSONS

ACCEPTANCE:

“LOVING & ACCEPTING EVERYONE”

Read Luke 5:27-32 and Luke 6:27-31.

Questions for discussion

1. Why did the people judge Jesus?
2. What did they think He was doing wrong?
3. What do some of your friends do wrong?
4. Does God love them?
5. How can you be like Jesus and be a “doctor” for your friends when they sin?

Key concepts

When Jesus was on earth, tax collectors were very unpopular because they sometimes made people pay unfair amounts of money in taxes. The Pharisees and teachers of the law started complaining because Jesus was friendly to a tax collector named Levi. But Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick” (Luke 5:31). He said that He came to help the sinners, not the righteous. Jesus does not limit His love. He loves everyone just the same.

We can love and accept others even if we don’t like what they do. It is easy to want to avoid children who often do wrong. The Bible says that we shouldn’t be concerned about what another person is doing, but rather we should be concerned about our own actions because each of us will give an account of himself to God (Romans 14:12).

The Bible also tells us that we should pray for people who mistreat us (Luke 6:28). For example, if a child is not fun to play with because he/she will not share toys, it is easy to reject him/her and choose not to play with him/her. But Jesus would rather that we pray for the selfish child, asking that he/she will learn to share.